



October 2025

TIERRASANTA LUTHERAN CHURCH

**"SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE, SERVING GOD'S CHILDREN,
TRANSFORMING LIVES, MAKING DISCIPLES"**

Be Part of the TLC Tijuana Home Build!

Build Weekend: November 22–23, 2025

Location: Tijuana, Mexico

Led by Matthew Hall & Kathy Faller | Contact:
matthew.c.hall02@gmail.com | (858) 263 9860

As we move into October, our first-ever TLC Home Build in Tijuana, Mexico, is just around the corner—set for the weekend of November 22–23, 2025.

Whether you want to join the build team or support the project financially, your participation will help provide a safe, secure home for a family in need—just 40 minutes across the border.

It's a unique opportunity to serve with our hands and hearts while sharing the love of Christ in a very real and tangible way.

What to Expect:

The project will take place over two days, and no building experience is required. We'll meet early Saturday morning at the church and caravan to the build site in Tijuana. We'll work alongside the family to build everything from the walls to the roof, windows, painting, and more. All tools and materials are provided, and safe overnight lodging is included.

Want to Help? Here's How:

If you haven't signed up yet, there's still time! Please get in touch with me if you or someone you know is interested! A valid passport is required to participate.

If you're unable to attend the trip but would still like to support the effort, we would be grateful for your donations.

We've set a fundraising goal of **\$10,000**—because that's all it takes to gift a family in need a new home and new hope.

To donate financially:

Online: Visit the church website and include a note:
"Tijuana Home Build"

In person: During the offering, simply write *"Tijuana Home Build"* on your donation envelope

Every contribution helps cover the cost of building materials, housing, and food—and brings us one step closer to handing a family the keys to a safe, stable home.

— Matthew Hall



The Adult Sunday School Class, Also Known as Conversations,

is on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 6:45pm. The plan is to have a GRACE meal from 5:30 to 5:55pm and then have our meeting following. Bill Stephenson will continue to be the teacher/facilitator and has developed a curriculum, titled, **24 AND Me: A DIVINE DNA SEARCH FOR RELATIVES FROM THE BIBLE**. The purpose and intent of the curriculum is to discover how we might be related to various characters that pen the pages of the Bible. Is it possible that some of their DNA may be running through our veins? Can we examine the behavior of various biblical characters and perhaps see how we may be related to them? Such as: Methuselah, Sarah and Hagar, Moses, David, Jezebel, and Solomon, to name a few. Everyone is welcome to attend. Each class stands on its own, so you can decide each week whether or not to attend. It will also be Zoomed if requested in advance. But please contact Bill if you have further questions or clarification. He can be reached at stephenson2789@gmail.com or by phone: 619-388-9125.

Prayers & Squares

The push is on to complete as many Lutheran World Relief quilts as possible. This article is being written in mid-September and we have 62 ready to go. The “ingathering” will be October 20th. Ginny Pence will discuss how the quilts are used around the world with the Confirmation Class on October 8th. Say a prayer for her and the class as they help layer and put in ties on that night. Have you seen the growing stacks of quilts in the back of the sanctuary? We think they are a sight to behold !

Prayers and Squares is foremost a Prayer Ministry, but we help with Linus quilts for children, High School graduation quilts, patriotic quilts in May and “Welcome Baby” blankets for newborns. We are never bored because of the diversity of our projects. Any donations should be made to “QUILTING MINISTRIES” for this reason. We also cannot believe the amount of donated fabric that comes our way from many different sources.

Our October meetings will be the 4th and 18th. Please join us as the Spirit moves you.

For information on dedicating a quilt, please contact our Church administrator Elizabeth at 858-560-8688. Elizabeth will direct you to a member of P&S ministry to help you go through the process of dedicating a prayer quilt.





Preschool

Tierrasanta Lutheran Church



Preschool is off to a great start. We have 14 new students that joined us this year and 10 returning students. A handful of the new students are siblings of previous students; we love having families return to us with their younger children. To us, that means they trust us and were happy with the TLC Preschool! September is mostly spent talking about rules, getting to know our new friends and teachers, and learning indoor/outdoor routines. Early in September, we celebrated Grandparent's Day by inviting grandparents to join us for a song sung by the children, a read aloud of Llama, Llama, Gram & Grandpa, muffins, coffee, and juice and some time for fellowship. We had at least 20 grandparents or a special family member if grandma and grandpa couldn't make it in attendance both days. I would say it went very well! Next up is our first field trip of the school year and we are heading to Pinery Pumpkin Patch.

Many Blessings,
Melissa Vargas

GRACE "God's Work. Our Hands."

We had a lot of hands show up for the ELCA Day of Service on Sunday, September 7.

Thanks to the generous donations of school supplies and the many workers on Sunday, September 7 we were able to assemble **225 school kits** for Lutheran World Relief. The assembly line hummed along as each kit was packed with four notebooks, a ruler, crayons, scissors, eraser, pencil sharpener, five pencils, and five pens, all packed in a drawstring backpack. We also layered and tied eight quilts for Lutheran World Relief while kids worked on coloring squares for additional quilts. Both the quilts and the school kits will be dedicated in October before being placed on a truck headed for the LWR warehouse in Baltimore and then on to places in need all around the world. Your generosity and willingness to help will make a difference in an individual's life who will feel God's love through your effort.

While we were busy with school kits and quilts, more hands were busy cleaning up the beach at Fiesta Island. "God's work" includes taking care of our environment and making it better for the community. Way to go TLC!



ELCA Sunday, “God’s Work, Our Hands” Thank You!

As Ginny Pence reported in her report, it was a glorious day of fellowship for all that helped with our ELCA Sunday outreach activities. I want to thank all of you that helped out with the quilting, the assembly line for the school kits, the beach clean-up and with our children while they used their artistic creativity making quilt squares. A special thank you to our leaders, Ginny and Derry Pence, Ian Brown, and Cathie and Ray Gerding. Without you, this day full of work and smiles could not have been done. Hugs to all of you!

Rhea Fogg

Director, Social Ministry



Prayer Group Bring your own cup of coffee. Join us for half an hour in the TLC centrum **October 11th at 9 a.m.!** Hope to see you then! Saturday each month, please leave any prayer requests in the notebook on the high table in the foyer.

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Prayers of the Faithful Prayers of God's strength for those TLC members in assisted living facilities: *Reid Bixler, Barbara Berg, James Vadis, Anita Vadis, Marianne d'Arnaud, Ellen Mize, Donna Roberts, Brandi Vadis, Frank Fogg, Carol Bergdahl, Donna Parham at the death of her brother David Dillberg and Nancy Carter and family at the death of her father.*

Tuesday Morning Bible Study is held at the Denny's Restaurant at 9898 Mira Mesa Blvd at 8am. We use the Serendipity Bible, and copies are provided. We will be reading the Gospel. Pastor will buy breakfast for anyone attending the first time. All are welcome!

Linus Layering
Join us at 9am on the first Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall as we work to create beautiful Linus children's quilts for those in need. **See you October 7th.**

Crossways Bible Study
Please join Pastor Vadis on Wednesday at 7pm or Thursday at 10am as we read and study the Bible cover to cover. You can also watch on Zoom:
Bible Study
if the hyperlink doesn't work here is the zoom information:
meeting ID: 858 9929 9447
password: biblestudy

Social Ministry Updates

The following activities for Social Ministry are on schedule for this year:

T.A.C.O. Meal Service at 1st Lutheran on Mondays (November 10)

San Diego Blood Bank Bloodmobile,
Sunday October 12

ELCA Good Gifts, Reverse Advent Calendar
(food drive)

Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry (LBCM)
Rice and Beans, and Sock Drives in December

New Members Class is scheduled for November 9th at 11:30am. Please contact Elizabeth in the church office if you are interested in attending. New members will be received on Sunday, Nov. 16th.



On September 28, 2025 Johnny Izaiah Dumas received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at Tierrasanta Lutheran Church.

The Golden Circle is a TLC designated fund which allows Pastor to provide financial support for specific needs, which may be local, within our congregation, in our community or further afield, to include Ukraine. The Golden Circle is not supported by our budget or General Fund but relies on designated contributions.

The TLC Kitchen Coffee Cupboard is getting bare. Please consider donating DECAF and also REGULAR coffee. You can leave it in the kitchen on the counter. Thank you for your consideration.

Fellowship Director - Interested in being on council? Enjoy planning social events? We need you! The Fellowship Director position is open and if you are interested, please contact Pastor Vadis.

Data Entry Volunteer: Would you be interested in helping in the office inputting data for our giving statements? Please contact Elizabeth in the church office or Pastor Bohdan.

Wish List for 10am We are looking for special offerings for the acoustic guitar we purchased for our GO Band musicians. The guitar cost \$3,340.70 and we've raised \$1,395.00 to date. Please consider giving. Please mark your donation "guitar". Thank you for your consideration.

Live Nativity Meeting is Sunday, October 5th at 11:30am. The event is scheduled for Saturday, December 6th. Join us in the fellowship hall and get involved.



October Birthdays

1st Chris Romel
Ginny Van Benthuyssen
2nd Tim Kantrud
Katriya Vander Schaaf
3rd Pete Hovde
Gretchen Veihl
Carol Stephenson
5th Donna George
8th Nathan Thunder
10th Kendall Roberts
12th Chris Carter
18th Jackson Riley
20th Howard Gray
25th Jan Beck
26th Libby Garrett
Samantha Johnson

Larissa Thunder
27th Mike McCann
28th Al Balmaceda
Pastor Bohdan Vadis

October Anniversaries

2nd Troy & Gloria Green
9th Norm & Beckie Ryan
15th Richard VanderSchaaf &
Somjai Rungtanakrit
18th Craig & Ruth Loucks

If you have a birthday or wedding anniversary that isn't on our monthly list, please let Elizabeth in the church office know. We certainly want to send you best wishes for your special day.

MOC October

This time of year, you can't escape pumpkins. We're drinking pumpkin spiced latte, eating pumpkin in everything and decorating with pumpkin motifs. The Military Outreach Committee (MOC) is also thinking pumpkin. . . and turkey. . . and dressing and Thanksgiving! Although the Military Appreciation Food Drive is November 22nd, the turkey coupons are up in the church foyer, and we are preparing for this annual outreach. Every coupon taken means a local military family will receive a Commissary gift card for the main dish of their choice and a food package with the fixings for a holiday meal. With your help, MOC hopes to serve more than 100 local families. As we begin to think about our family and friends and all we are blessed with in our community, please remember these families, many very far from their home, and help make their Thanksgiving holiday a little brighter.

On September 22nd, MOC hosted its fall Children's Clothing Fair at the Murphy Canyon Chapel. Thank you to all who donated clothing and/or their time. Your assistance is very much appreciated. You are what makes this outreach a success. More details to follow.

MOC is continuing to assist in the Hancock Elementary food distribution. In September and October, we helped distribute approximately 340 bags to the predominately military community. MOC will volunteer the 1st Wednesday of each month, handing out bags that continue fresh produce and shelf stable food provided by Feeding San Diego. If you are interested in helping, please contact Beckie at (619) 204-4596.

There is more Hancock news! On September 11th and 12th, MOC, along with Tierrasanta Kiwanis members, were privileged to help hand out new bicycles and helmets to all 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade children. The bike giveaway was sponsored by The San Diego Padres Foundation, which also provided bikes to Miller Elementary.

For most of these children, this was their first bike. The excitement and joy on the school campus were contagious.

We all will remember the big smiles on their faces. Much appreciation to Linda, Jessie, Bernie, Norm, Barbara, Gretchen and Rick for wheeling out those 300 + bikes!

Finally, is it too early to plug in a few words about Christmas events? If Costco has its Christmas decorations out, then I have permission. First, MOC will again support S.T.E.P (Support the Enlisted Project) Adopt a Family and Children's Toy Drive. MOC will sponsor a junior enlisted family by purchasing gifts for each family member. We will provide details on how you can donate toys or adopt a family in our November newsletter article. Second, MOC will be promoting Wreaths Across America and will provide information on how you can sponsor wreaths at Miramar National Cemetery or other national cemeteries in the next newsletter.

If you are interested in MOC and would like to attend a meeting, either in person or remotely, the remaining 2025 meeting dates are October 1st, November 12th and December 3rd. We meet in the fellowship hall at 3:00 pm and hope to see new faces as we close out more than a decade of supporting and serving local military families.



PRAYERS PIZZA AND PUMPKINS

Calling all kids!

Join us for a special time after church for lunch,
pumpkin painting and prayers.

October 19, 2025 | 11:30 AM

Please R.S.V.P. to the church office.

Pumpkins will be provided.



First Communion Class Sunday, Oct 26th at 11:30am. Directly following the 10am service. For all children of our congregation age 3rd grade or older who have not yet been instructed in the benefits and meaning of Holy Communion. One or both parents are required to attend this class with their child. First Communion will be celebrated on November 2nd.

Godly Play - Sundays during the 10 am worship service

Godly Play for children in grades Pre-5. Through stories and play, we explore the wonder of God's love. Parents—please pick up your child in the Youth building at 11:15 am. We do not release children without a parent or adult family member.

Kids Choir Fun! For kids ages 4-10 years old!

-Performance every first Sunday of the month -Rehearsals Wednesday at 4:30 in the sanctuary
Please contact Children's Coordinator Tylor Green! tgreen@tierrasantalutheran.org

Family Wednesday Worship! Join us each Wednesday afternoon at 5:10pm for a kids message and special music for the **entire** family. We're headed over to GRACE NIGHT afterwards. See Tylor Green, our Children's Ministry Coordinator if you have questions or would like to get involved.
tgreen@tierrasantalutheran.org



Decorate Your Car! Help With Crafts! Decorate Cookies!

All Help Is Needed And Appreciated!

Please Contact Elizabeth in the church office 858-560-8688
or Tylor Green, Children's Ministry Coordinator: tgreen@tierrasantalutheran.org

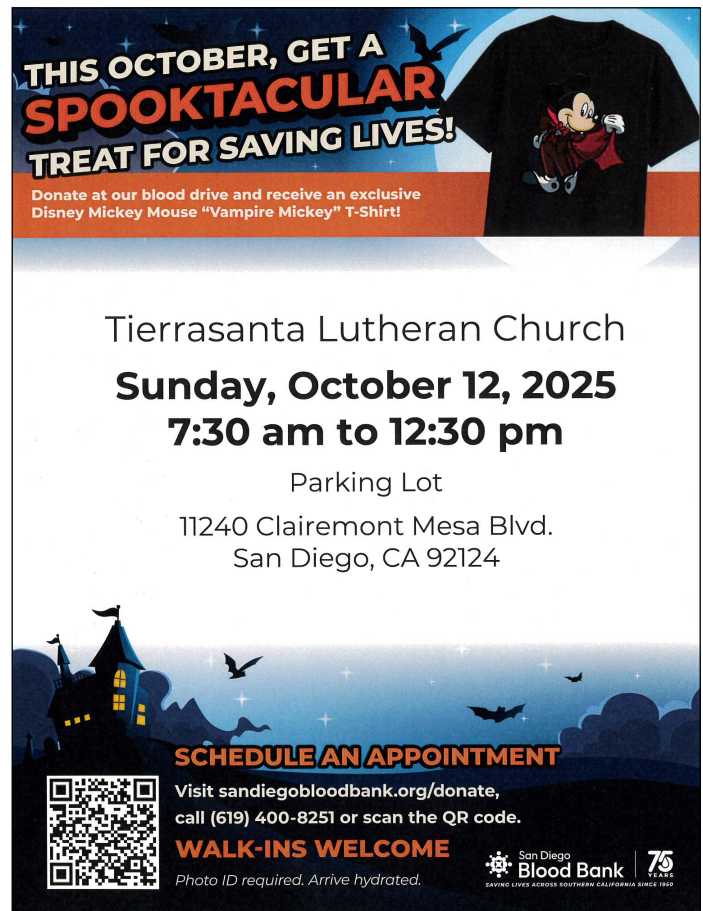
SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK BLOOD DRIVE!

Sunday, October 12, from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm. San Diego Blood bank is coordinating another blood drive here to provide much-needed blood supplies for our community. Remember photo ID required and arrive hydrated!

Donate blood at our drive and get a limited edition pair of halloween themed socks! Sign up today on line, in the narthex. **Walk-ins welcome.**

GRACE NIGHT Invite family and friends to Grow Relationships Around Christ's Example! Join us each Wednesday for a great meal served up by the GRACE Night Team. Dinner served from 5:30-6:30 pm. \$2 per person or \$5 per family. In addition to our Individual and Family Dinner Deals, we're introducing a Season Pass! [Click here](#) for details. Donations at the door are also welcome. Also new this year is a Kids Zone where crafts and activities will be set up for the kiddos. On October 8th we're serving up: A **BASEBALL THEME NIGHT—wear your favorite jersey—hot dogs, garlic fries, popcorn, watermelon; Audrey's desserts!**

Interested in joining the team? Please contact Gretchen Veihl at gretchen.veihl@gmail.com Look for the weekly menu updates!



THIS OCTOBER, GET A
SPOOKTACULAR
TREAT FOR SAVING LIVES!

Donate at our blood drive and receive an exclusive
Disney Mickey Mouse "Vampire Mickey" T-Shirt!

Tierrasanta Lutheran Church
Sunday, October 12, 2025
7:30 am to 12:30 pm

Parking Lot
11240 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92124

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT
Visit sandiegobloodbank.org/donate,
call (619) 400-8251 or scan the QR code.

WALK-INS WELCOME
Photo ID required. Arrive hydrated.

San Diego Blood Bank | 75 YEARS
SAVING LIVES ACROSS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1950

Secret Prayer Partners Needed! Please consider being a secret prayer partner for one of our confirmands this year. We need a few more volunteers. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know our youth. Curious about what it entails? Contact Elizabeth in the church office or Pastor Bohdan.



Lunch Bunch in October - we will make it an 'Oktoberfest' with grilled brats and all the fix'ins. We kicked off September with a Mexican feast and Matthew C. Hall was our guest speaker sharing details about the Tijuana Home Build project that will be happening on November 22.

Pictured to the left is Claudia Murphy, Charlotte Palmer and Elizabeth Duffield.

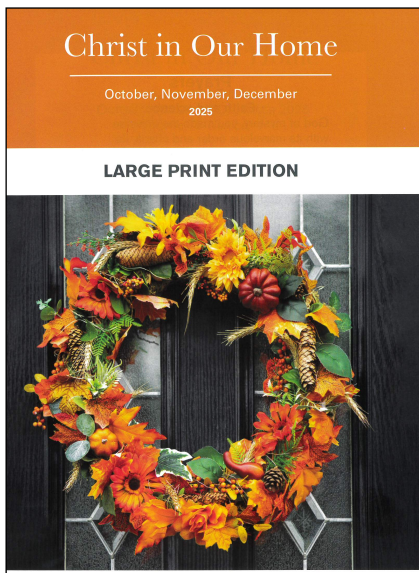
Facilities Corner Report

Thankfully we are finally through our yearly battle with weeds and enjoy the respite until next Spring. With key members of the maintenance team not available due health issues or vacations, actual maintenance accomplishments were minimal. This was also impacted by a low turnout for the Chain Gang with only 5 members being able to make the September workday. Work completed included servicing the two mini-splits to address issues found in last month's semi-annual PMS, doing repairs on the fellowship hall door crash bar, and the Chain Gang's trimming of the oleanders behind the church building and those between the east lawn and mulched area, and the trimming the lower portions of the pine trees east of the youth build (some branches extended over the play area and could be potential be consider a safety issue). As to landscaping, Randy continues his stellar work on the lawn and brown/yellowish spots in the lawns, that is his efforts to rid the lawns of weeds and hopefully fill-in with new grass growth with the help of the fertilization he has done. He has also put in new soil and Spanish Lavendar in the columbarium planters.

Other maintenance efforts included trying to get the city to address the acacia and trees to the west of the parking lot/preschool due to it being a fire hazard and to trim the trees along the canyon that could be a safety issue to the Giving Garden. We are still in discussions with the 7th Day Adventist regarding a joint effect to redo the entry to the parking lot in cement in 2026/2027. We are looking ahead at needed work for 2026 and getting estimates for the 2026 budget. Lastly, though not a "maintenance" issue, the Chain Gangs was active in supporting the set-up and takedown of the rummage sale.

Lastly, in order to continue to maintain our campus as we all desire, the Chain Gang desperately needs new members to augment a team whose average age is at least 74. We meet on Saturday morning once a month (normally the 3rd Sat from 8:00-10:30 am) to address church landscape and maintenance tasks. By signing up, you are not promising to be there every month but to make it a priority to be there when you can. If you are interested or have questions, contact Ed Holler, Wayne Duke, or Mike McCann. The next Chain Gang Workday is on Saturday, Sept 18th.





CHRIST IN OUR HOME

the quarterly devotional encourages you to live out your faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day. The October through December edition is available now in the narthex.

Hello TLC Family!

My, how quickly a month goes by and pretty soon we're lookin' at the TENTH month in 2025— -- which still feels like a "brand new" year to BFrater here. Is this (time flying) my 'punishment' for dreading all the Christmas music prep that has reached the "GET ON IT!!!" yet again?? (still relieved that last year is over!)

Any 'dread' is really about music anthem decisions—- we have quite a few very nice anthems for Choir and Handbells. Keeping some, switching out others, trying a new one—- when THESE music decisions are made, AND when we find out who all can be with us this year, trying to stay / get healthy, arranging any extra rehearsals— — well it's all a part of a music leader's work.

Mostly it is so much fun here at TLC, almost 'gush worthy', working with sweet, funny, talented people to put music together for our worship services and programs! It's good to pray at our Wednesday rehearsals to our Lord: with gratitude for His gift of music, and to ask for inspiration, energy, and health/ healing and God's blessing over it all.

Back to the topic: October.

This month of Fall Sundays will have hymns and anthems pointing (with inspiration from the Readings) to healing (St. Luke day 10/18), peace (St Francis of Assisi day, Oct 4), and one of my favorites for music— Reformation Day 10/31). I don't think any of these dates are Sundays (just don't quite want to get off my chair and look) but music hymns like "A Mighty Fortress", "Healer of Our Every Ill", "When Peace like a River", may be among the music offerings for October.

Thinking about trying one of the choirs for a season? My info: bwfr8r@gmail.com; 858-444-0930.

Blessings on all your October 'Festing!'

Betsy Frater

PS: We musicians continue to pray for people in our own music groups who have become ill or needed surgery, in the 2025 summer and fall, as well as those in the rest of the congregation. How wonderful that God welcomes our praises and petitions!

TLC NEWSLETTER
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Please join us at 8:30am on Sundays or at 10am for In Person Worship
Or on Facebook Live.
Godly Play is at 10:10am on Sundays.

Tierrasanta Lutheran Church
TLC Office: 858-560-8688
Web Site: www.tierrasantalutheran.org
TLC Pre-School: 858-292-7446

(On the cover: the Mock family and friends working hard during the ELCA Day of Service)