

May 2026



**TERRA SANTA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
"SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE, SERVING GOD'S CHILDREN,  
TRANSFORMING LIVES, MAKING DISCIPLES"



**Easter Sunday at TLC. Worship. Brunch. Egg Hunt and Fellowship**





## **Thank you to those that donated to the Easter flower and Memorial Garden Fund:**

Marcia Abbott in loving memory of her sisters; Renee Adams and Joni Neas in memory of Dwight Adams; Nancy and Chris Carter in memory of Nancy's father George Roleder; Judith Chapman in loving memory of Dennis Chapman; Sandra Courtney in memory of Bill and Gwen Drulak, and Cliff and George Coleman; Stan and Elizabeth Duffield in loving memory of Bill and Sula James and Bill and Marie Duffield; Craig Ellinghausen in memory of Harold and Evelyn Ellinghausen; The Heishman family; Duke and Carol Sobek in memory of Gladys Morrison and Frank P. Sobek; Shelley Hyatt in memory of Joan Hyatt; Claudia Murphy and Charlotte Palmer in memory of Homer Palmer and Jean Murphy; Derry & Ginny Pence in memory of Grace & Ray Olsen; Diane Raines in memory of Hank and Frank Podhradsky; Norm and Beckie Ryan in memory of Norma Ryan and Nadine and Jim Schroeder; JoAnn Saenz in memory of her father William Frenzel; Val and Dick Spencer in memory of Margaret Mongulla; Jim and Bernie Tomsovic in memory of both of their mothers; The Willhite family in memory of Grandma Peggy.





Carol Stephenson reads to the children after their choir practice on Wednesdays. This was their 8th book together. Catch Carol on Wednesday at 4:30pm.

## Prayers & Squares

The ladies of Prayers and Squares Quilting Ministry were so happy to celebrate their 29<sup>th</sup> year with a cake between services on April 26<sup>th</sup>. What a successful ministry we have enjoyed. We have touched over 1,000 lives with the gift of a Prayer Quilt. We are truly humbled.

So, is your calendar marked for Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> the famous Patriots' Day parade in Tierrasanta? Your precision drill team will be marching and displaying the red, white and blue quilts made for Wounded Warriors at Naval Medical Center. It is a fun morning and we hope to see you clapping as we pass by along Tierrasanta Blvd.

You are always welcome to sponsor a quilt for friend or family in need of prayer. Always check with the recipient for their agreement and prayer requests—no surprises. Call the church office to arrange the quilt selection.

The ONLY May meeting will be May 5<sup>th</sup>. Remember the parade at 10 AM on the third Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

April Prayer Quilts were dedicated for: Kathleen Flynn, sponsors: Ed and Ann Holler; Troy Green, sponsors: Mary Streightiff and Carol Bruns; Marlene Holt, sponsors: the Holt family.





**The TLC Giving Garden** hosted a special potluck on April 11th. Everyone brought a dish to share and there was seed/seedling/produce swapping.

If you are interested in learning more about the TLC Giving Garden, you stop by anytime or reach out to Carol Newcomb at [csnewcomb66@gmail.com](mailto:csnewcomb66@gmail.com)



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

Last year the Social Ministry Committee collected items to make personal care kits to be distributed by Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

This year we will be gathering supplies to make school kits to be assembled on the ELCA Day of Service in September. As always, LWR has very specific directions for each kit. With 80 years of experience, they know what ships well and what is universally useful. They also try to maintain consistency so each child receives the same items and no one child is left out. Please abide by the directives set out by LWR when purchasing your donations.

**During the month of May** we will be collecting erasers and pencil sharpeners. Guidelines are as follows:

**Erasers** – 2-½” school eraser

**Pencil sharpeners** – small, hand-held pencil sharpener

## TLC Food Pantry

Thanks to everyone who has been stocking the pantry! **There is a big turn-around on items;** a definite indication that it is **well used**. Keep up the great work stocking the pantry with nonperishable food items. Simply open the doors and add non-perishable food items. Thank you so much for your generosity. It's making a difference in people's lives.

## Adult Sunday School on

**Wednesday nights!** Wednesdays from 6:00 to 6:45 pm. Each class stands on its

own, so you can decide each week whether or not to attend. Each class session stands on its own so whether you attend on occasion or every week, you will find it to be a time worthwhile.

In the month of May, these are the topics we will discuss in May:

1. Visions of a Peaceful Heart
2. Jealousy
3. Expectations
4. You Don't Have to Know Who You Are
5. Hope Restored

Contact Bill Stephenson if you'd like to join via zoom.

Questions? Contact Bill Stephenson at [stephenson2789@gmail.com](mailto:stephenson2789@gmail.com) or 619-388-9125. Zoom is available upon request but you must be a member of Zoom to gain access. Just go to its website to join.

**Lunch Bunch** will be May 22nd at 11:30am. If you are a retired TLC member or friend, this luncheon is for you! Please RSVP to Jan Beck, Karen Miles or Kathy Stewart. **This will be the last Lunch Bunch until September!** We're also looking for new helpers come September. Please let Elizabeth in the church office know if you'd like to help.

## Pacifica Synod Assembly 2026, June 20 on ZOOM.

**We need a female voting member to participate with Pastor Vadis.** Thank you to Bill Stephenson who volunteered to be our male voting member. Please consider attending and let Pastor Vadis know.

## Congregational Meeting May 17, 2026 at 11:00am

To approve Changes To The Youth Building  
And Funding

Voting members are encouraged to attend.

## Military Outreach Committee

Food insecurity. A “politically correct” description of people going hungry. It’s a problem in the wealthiest country in the world. A condition that predates our hunter-gatherer ancestors. In Matthew 25:35 -40, Jesus identifies himself with the hungry and emphasized feeding the hungry as a core command. In Matthew 14:16, he instructed his disciples to feed the crowd in the feeding of the 5000, saying “you give them something to eat.” How can we carry out this command? Can we do this by helping feed local military families? MOC thinks so!

Once again, this congregation has touched our hearts and shown its steadfast support for our local military families. With the help of a super donor, our prayers were answered and our monetary goal was exceeded. While we all are impacted by the current economic environment, the military families, especially lower enlisted, find it harder to make ends meet.

Although our goal was set for 120 food packages, we will be serving over 150 families this spring. MOC sends its most heartfelt thanks to all who have so generously supported this ministry.

If you would like to provide further support to the food drive effort, on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall we can use help packing the food bags. Additionally, if you can help with the food distribution, please meet in the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Help us show our military neighbors that we appreciate the sacrifices they are making for each of us. If you have questions, please contact Marcia (619) 206-5790 or Wayne (858) 740-1068.

Remember the Children’s Clothing Fair? It’s been a couple months, but it’s never too late to give TLC members and their family and friends a huge communal hug and Thank You! We had 90 families shop for clothing, meaning approximately 229 children received “new” clothing! More than half of the shoppers were first time participants! We are now down to a few boxes of clothing in the attic for next fall.... but more on that in August.

Thank you to all who donated to the S.T.E.P Baby on Board drive for newborn and infant supplies. For the baby shampoo, wipes, ointment, diapers, and the mystery item in the amazon box, we are extremely grateful.

We have one more month in this school year helping with food distribution at Hancock and Miller Elementary Schools. If you interested in this outreach for the 2026 – 2027 school year, please contact Beckie (619) 204-4596.

Our next meeting will be on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, with ZOOM available for remote participation. If you are interested in MOC or have questions about this ministry, please contact Beckie, Marcia or Wayne.

We are blessed to have the opportunity to help feed and clothe our young military families. This ministry is further blessed to have the support and generosity of TLC members who have consistently shown compassion to our local military neighbors. Thank you.



## Facilities Corner— April 2026

Our DOFE team continues to work hard on items that need to be done around the church. The priority of DOFE has been on keeping the church buildings & landscape looking good, addressing issues as they arise, and doing preventive maintenance to avoid future problems.

The Chain Gang Workday was held on Saturday, April 18th, with a turnout of 14 volunteers.

The main effort was focused on clearing out the large amount of brush on the west side of the preschool playground area & also the shrubs along the north side of the playground fence.

We successfully cleared out a tremendous amount of brush on the west side of the preschool playground fence, significantly reducing a potential fire hazard to our main church building during fire season. Mulch was spread around the front and west side of the youth building.

Preparations have begun to place two new storage sheds & one existing shed behind the youth building on the north side. Sheds will be located next to the wall & in spaces between the three windows.

One of our new Chain Gang members, Jake Hageman, is lending his electrical expertise to help us address various electrical issues throughout the campus. These include removal of the fluorescent light fixtures along the west and north walls of the sanctuary and doing the rewiring necessary to install new uniform LEDs, troubleshooting and replacing a broken fixture in the youth building, replacing a electrical parking lot light, and looking into a few other minor issues.

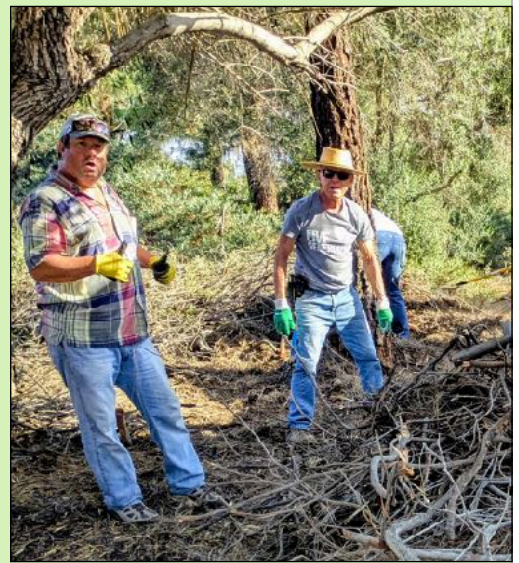
**Other Accomplishments Include:** (1) Cleared Sacristy drain; (2) Church roof leak repair underway by Juan Gallardo; (3) Gate to the dumpster fixed with chain added to help keep open & closed; (4) Fixed side door by kitchen so door would open & close from outside; (5) The toilets in the woman's bathroom were recently checked & verified to be working correctly; (6) A pad has been completed in preparation for the installation of a new shed behind the youth building. (7) replaced light bulb in front roll of sanctuary canned lights, (8) removed fountain glass plants on west side of youth building, and (9) repaired 2 broken lifetime tables

**Landscaping :** Randy Frater continues to do an outstanding job of maintaining the lawns, the irrigation systems, & spraying the weeds that have been springing up all around the church property. Randy has made arrangements with a contractor to repair the irrigation system leak adjacent to the south end of the memorial garden.

### **Volunteers for the Chain Gang workday:**

We are making some progress in getting some new younger Chain Gang volunteers, but we still need some more “younger” volunteers to join the team.

If you are interested or have questions, contact Ed Holler, Wayne Duke, or Mike McCann.



*(Pictured on the cover are some members of the Chain Gang)*

## Hello TLC Family!

Hope you all were happy to celebrate the great High Feast of Easter this past April (& continuing, as of this writing). Many thanks to ALL soloists and “blendables “ (my term for singers who blend beautifully with others to make our rich sound), & to our handbell ringers and that make music in the 8:30am and 10:00am musical groups! Pretty sure it’s safe to say that we all worked hard (even though what we instrumentalists do is called “playing”).

The same gratitude goes to our guest Easter & Holy Week instrumentalists: Bill Dudley, Maxel Brown, Toni and Ever Aguilar, who provided so much enhancement.

Are you surprised that we are STILL celebrating Easter? Yes, Easter continues for several more Sundays even into May!

May... about which this article is based.... continues in our worship services with more Easter Alleluia’s and stories of Jesus appearing to people after His resurrection. In May there will be three more “Sundays of Easter”, ending with Ascension readings.

Also in May, (May 3) our dear Confirmands will wear their white robes with red carnations, and the Pastor will ask the Holy Spirit to ‘stir them up’ with Spiritual blessings, after they make their faith statements to all of us! We in the singing choir enjoyed our “RAP the Bible books” challenge from these kids, and... a tiny bit like their parents... feel a nice connection with these young people, having gone through that challenge with them. As several of my aunts and uncles used to say... “ Bless your Hearts”, dear Confirmands, and may all of our faith journeys continue!

In May, music will be “geared” toward The Feast of Pentecost (5/24), Holy Trinity Sunday (May 31), as well as readings for Ascension Day (Thursday May 14) . We hope you will be uplifted and edified by your worship at TLC! Hope we ‘hit’ some of your favorite hymns and anthems in our efforts!!

Choirs will continue to meet during May on our Wednesday evenings! What a blessing lately to have our numbers increase a bit in BOTH choirs!! We’ll gladly add YOU to the list of music makers if you want !! As always, it’s [bwfr8r@gmail.com](mailto:bwfr8r@gmail.com), or 858-444-0930 as my mobile.

Blessings during May Easter Sundays, and on thru High Feasts of Ascension, Pentecost, and Holy Trinity!

Betsy Frater

**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.

**Wish List:** We have purchased from Greene Music a Yamaha Clavanova Digital Piano for the church (and a dolly). It has authentic sounding piano and organ sounds (Concert Grande, Bosendorfer, Studio Grand; for the organ: English Organ, Italian Organ). We are looking for donations to cover the \$6179.46 price. Please mark your donations “piano”. Thank you.

## 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 June 2.**

**Prayer Group** Bring your own cup of coffee. Join us for half an hour in the TLC centrum **May 9th** each month, please leave any prayer requests in the notebook on the high table in the foyer.

**Saturday each month, please leave any prayer requests in the notebook on the high table in the foyer.**

**Prayers of the Faithful** Prayers of God's strength for those TLC members in assisted living facilities: *Reid Bixler, Barbara Berg, James Vadis, Marianne d'Arnaud, Ellen Mize, Frank Fogg, Mike George, Barbara Vann, Anastasia Balmaceda, and Mary Peters.*

## High School Graduation

**Quilts** will be dedicated and given to our graduating high schoolers on June 7th.

## 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!

**Bible Study** Wednesdays at 7:30pm and Thursdays at 10am. **We are reading Gospel Parallels, and will focus on the study of Jesus by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.** Class will also be available on Zoom. meeting ID: 858 9929 9447; password: biblestudy

## College Graduate in your house?

Please contact Elizabeth in the church office and let her know who is graduating. We're announcing graduates in the June newsletter.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

2nd Becky Phillpott  
4th Lily-Lani C. Granadosin  
6th Michelle Heishman  
7th Heather Colby  
10th Nathan Herich  
Sandra Courtney  
11th Ken Clay  
12th Don Peters  
14th Bretta Lutze  
Janice Taylor  
16th Thom Van Benthuisen  
17th Iris Morketter  
19th Dianne Gerberich  
23rd Matthew Herich  
24th Tony Colson  
Ann McCann  
Mike George  
Allen Stowinsky  
25th Cameron Bays

29th Christian Balmaceda  
30th Sharon Romel  
31st Kurt Northfield

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

1st Betsy & Randy Frater  
2nd Tim & Pam Kantrud  
5th Richard & Gretchen Veihl  
6th Rex & Kathy Warburton  
24th Howard & Nancy Gray  
29th Richard & Valerie Spencer

*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.*



*Pictured about are some of our Preschool children looking at ladybug larvae in our garden.*

# KIDS'S CHOIR



## WEDNESDAYS AT 4:30PM

- For Kids ages 4-10 years old!
- Performances are the 1st Sunday of the month at 10am.
- Join the fun, make new friends, and learn about music.
- Everyone is welcome!

Contact: [eduffield@tierrasantalutheran.org](mailto:eduffield@tierrasantalutheran.org) or  
[tetianapiano@musician.org](mailto:tetianapiano@musician.org)  
**Tierrasanta Lutheran Church**  
858-560-8688

Hello...

How are we already nearing the end of another preschool year?! Time really does fly when you're having fun. While we'll miss our friends who are off to Universal Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten (big kids already!), we're excited to welcome new friends and explore new classrooms.

Our classroom is buzzing with life and anticipation this spring! The ant farm is a constant source of fascination as the children watch the tiny tunnels grow and change day by day. Nearby, our painted lady chrysalises hang quietly, building excitement as we wait for them to emerge into beautiful butterflies. The ladybug larvae have also captured everyone's attention—wiggly, unusual, and not quite the "real" ladybugs the children are eagerly hoping for just yet! Alongside all of this, our spring peeper frog, who we've cared for since it was a tiny tadpole last spring, continues to be a special part of our classroom family. Every day is filled with curiosity, wonder, and lots of hopeful questions as we observe these amazing creatures grow and change together.

We hope you enjoyed the Preschool Showcase and BBQ! The children and teachers worked very hard practicing their songs, preparing the art show, and getting the classrooms ready for you. We're so glad you were able to see a small glimpse of the lively and joyful environment that makes our preschool so special.

Please keep us in your prayers as we navigate all these exciting changes ahead!

Melissa Vargas  
TLC Preschool Director



**VBS**  
**Save The Date**  
**June 22-26, 2026**