

# August 2025



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



## VBS Operation Kid-to-Kid

Thank you, thank you, thank you! The parents and children of June's Vacation Bible School and members of our TLC church congregation were able to fill three large baskets of school supplies for the San Diego Center for Children! A special thank you goes to Donna Parham for delivering those supplies to the center on Armstrong Street.

You're all awesome!!! 😊



## Prayers & Squares

Your Prayers and Squares Quilters remain hard at work during this summer. No hiatus for us. We are concentrating on layering and binding the Luther World Relief Quilts. The stack is growing in the sanctuary on the back table. Check it out. At last count, we had 18 completed, but six more in the pipeline. Amazing to think they are almost all made with Donated Fabric.

We thank Ginny Pence for cutting and bundling the "kits" for us to make the 60x80 inch tops !

Linus quilts are also on the back table under the starry blue wall quilt. They are on the left of the same table and look so cozy and cute. Doren and Linda Bixler just delivered a stack of these children's quilts to Ursula, our Linus contact. She gets them distributed to children in need at Rady's, in foster care and in other crisis situations.

Did you notice a change of quilts behind the choir corner. Jo Vromen is the behind-the-scenes sewer and hanger of all the beautiful wall quilts within the sanctuary. Why not tell her your favorite of the four??

August will host **THREE** Prayer and Square work days since we will skip the Rummage Saturday in September ! **Mark your calendars....August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.** Still 9-12 in the Fellowship Hall. The more, the merrier. Always lots to do and great fellowship, too.

*On the cover: Jessie Wallace and Joanna Poh on a quilting Saturday.*



## Home Build Opportunity:

Hi everyone,

My name is Matthew Hall, and I'm excited to share a special opportunity with you all.

Since I was 12 years old, I've been crossing the border into Tijuana, Mexico, to help build homes for families in need. What started as a mission trip with my family and our church through Amor Ministries back in 2015, quickly became something much more meaningful to me. Every trip reminds me how blessed we are—and how close, just 40 minutes away, people are living in drastically different conditions. Seeing these different perspectives has encouraged me to give back in whatever way I can.



During my time at San Diego State University, I joined a student organization called *Tijuana Home Build*, where I've continued to participate in home builds every year—sometimes even multiple times a year. Our group partners with a non-profit called *Casas de Luz* (Houses of Light), led by the incredible Kathy Faller, who's been doing this work for over 20 years. Kathy and I have grown close over the years, and when I asked her if she'd host a new build

for my home church—she said yes without hesitation.

I grew up here in Tierrasanta, all 22 years, and when Pastor Bohdan approached me with his aspirations of leading the church in a home build, I jumped at the opportunity. I put Bohdan and Kathy in touch, and we've confirmed a date for our build! **Nov 22-23.**

This is a powerful opportunity to step outside our comfort zones, work together as a community, and serve those who truly need it. If you've never done something like this before, I encourage you to come. It's humbling. Eye-opening. And incredibly rewarding.

With gratitude,  
**Matthew Hall**





**Prayer Group** Bring your own cup of coffee. Join us for half an hour in the TLC centrum **August 9th 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, Marianne d'Arnaud, Ellen Mize, Vicki Hansen, Donna Roberts, Audrey Russell, Brandi Vadis, Frank Fogg, Carol Bergdahl, and the Velasquez family at the death of Christophe.*

**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!

## Social Ministry Updates

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

**T.A.C.O.** Meal Service at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran on Mondays (November 10)

**Lutheran World Relief School Kit Project**  
(monthly school supply donations ongoing - see below)

**San Diego Blood Bank Bloodmobile,**  
Sunday October 12

**ELCA Day of Service Sunday,** September 7

**ELCA Good Gifts, Reverse Advent Calendar**  
(food drive)

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

## LWR School Kits

During **August** we will be collecting:  
Crayons - the 16 or 24 count boxes  
Spiral notebooks - 70 page, wide or narrow ruled.

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 try to abide by the directives set out by LWR when purchasing your donations.

## 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  
-No rehearsal on Wednesdays after each performance. Please contact Children's Coordinator Tylor Green!  
[tgreen@tierrasantalutheran.org](mailto:tgreen@tierrasantalutheran.org)

## Blessings of the Backpacks & Electronic Devices

Bring your backpack or tablet or computer to receive a special blessing on **Sunday, August 24th** (blessings at both services). **Stay after the 10am service for a delicious ice cream social.**

**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.

**Electronic Giving** TLC has electronic options for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. One program is called **VANCO** and you can signup for it as a single payment or a recurring payment. Another Giving Option electronically is available on the **TLC website**. On our home page, look for the drop down option called "Giving" and click on it. ( <http://www.tierrasantalutheran.com/giving>) You will be directed on how to give. Please contact Elizabeth in the church office for the form or more information. Thank you!

**Sunday Nursery Attendant Needed:** We are looking for additional workers for the Sunday nursery room during services. This is a paid position from 8:30am-11am on Sunday mornings. We need two qualified people per Sunday and we rotate the schedule. Please contact Elizabeth in the church office if you are interested. 858-560-8688

**TLC'S Little Free Libraries** Their purpose is to provide FREE books to children who visit our campus. The upper LFL, located between the Education Building and the playground focuses on independent readers while the second LFL, located near the TLC Giving Garden, focuses on toddlers and emerging readers (picture books). If you have gently used children's books - anything from classics to graphic novels - please consider donating them to our LFL's. Donations are always welcome! Let's keep our kids reading all through the summer. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Marcia Abbott, mabbott08@gmail.com. Thank you!

## August Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> Suzanne Till  
Jocelyn Bays  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ruth Cleveland  
5<sup>th</sup> Larry Lacroix  
6<sup>th</sup> Carol Aguilar  
7<sup>th</sup> Sherrill Moore  
8<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth Nadeau  
11<sup>th</sup> Brandon Balmaceda  
14<sup>th</sup> Richard Veilh  
15<sup>th</sup> Donna Burton  
17<sup>th</sup> Howard Reese  
18<sup>th</sup> Marcia Abbott  
24<sup>th</sup> Delaney Roberts  
27<sup>th</sup> Theresa Stowinsky  
Nicholas Ponczka  
28<sup>th</sup> Linda Moeller  
29<sup>th</sup> Jim Gay  
31<sup>st</sup> Pat Mudd  
Dan Spencer  
Lauren Taylor

## August Anniversaries

9<sup>th</sup> Thom & Ginny Van Benthuisen  
Rick & Jo Vroman  
10<sup>th</sup> Richard & Amanda Ness  
Dan & Chris Spencer  
13<sup>th</sup> Sandra & Andrew Taylor  
16<sup>th</sup> Tom & Bonnie Brown  
26<sup>th</sup> Claudia & Tom Murphy

*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.*



# Hello TLC Family!

As it DOESN'T say in that old tune by the Mamas and the Papas ..... "All the leaves are GREEN ..... and the sky is Blue" - that's from sitting here in my recliner, looking in my back yard at this writing ....

Some would say 'replace that fence!' "Maybe next year" - is what the Frater budget says.

August music is our topic of course. Hope our regular musical group members, all the rest who are considering joining (Handbells and Voices) have a calendar handy to jot down August 27 as the Wednesday we begin our Fall '25 rehearsal season. BFrater is keeping the same Wednesday schedule:

6:00 -7 pm for Handbells (centrum)  
7:15- 8-15 pm for Singers ( Multi purpose Room - formerly the Library)

Monthly schedule for the two groups at the 8:30 Traditional Service (Beginning in September) :

1st and 2nd Sundays: Singers

3rd Sundays: Handbells

4th Sundays : Both

5th Sundays: TBD

Thanks to Pastor Bohdan, to Elizabeth, to the sound, video, screen and online crew, to our musicians for their faithfulness and gas miles. Thanks to you all who choose to give glory and praise to God here at TLC at the Traditional and the GO services! Blessings to Tylor & Soyoung on the beautiful sounding new Kid's Choir! All Praise to our God who is our best friend and most supportive Listener!!

This tune popped into my head (someone remind me who sang it):

" Summer's here and the time is now -- for Dancin' in the Streets (or recliners if that's what's working for you)! "

Blessings,  
Betsy Frater (858-444-0930;  
[bwfr8r@gmail.com](mailto:bwfr8r@gmail.com)



# Military Outreach Updates



Can you believe it's almost fall? No eye-rolling please, but yes, MOC has its date for the Fall Children's Clothing Fair and it's September 25<sup>th</sup>. It's almost two months away, an eternity for sure, that gives everyone a little time to start looking through closets and dresser drawers (or under beds) for any children's clothing that could be donated to this outreach to help local military families provide clothing for their growing children. **MOC will begin collecting new and/or clean, gently used children's clothing starting September 8<sup>th</sup>.** This semi-annual ministry event is 100% dependent on the generosity of our church community to pass on children's clothing, or to spread the word to neighbors, friends and relatives. Everyone's help is needed to shine a light on the clothing needs of our military children.

Speaking of bright lights shining, TLC's light was shining brightly this past spring. First, with a most generous response from our congregation, MOC was able to assemble and distribute 90 food packages to local military families. Twenty awesome volunteers packed food bags, wrote out "Thank you for Your Service" cards, and distributed food packages and Commissary gift cards. Heartfelt thanks to all who helped MOC provide for these 90 families.

The food distribution took place 2 days after the airplane crash in Murphy Canyon housing. Many families who received a food package that day had been affected by the crash in some way. Some of those who received packages were taking their bags to displaced families. Which leads to a second light of generosity.

The TLC Crash Response was . . . AMAZING! Through your support over \$9000 was raised to help families directly affected by loss of their home, household goods and/or vehicles. We are thankful for all who responded with checks, anonymous cash donations, online contributions, and our very generous gardeners at the TLC Giving Garden.

Hancock Elementary administrators identified 7 families in immediate need of assistance. VISA debit cards totaling \$7100 were purchased and given to Hancock for distribution through Principal Irene Hightower. Additionally, with the approval of Carolyn Behling and the Giving Garden, the remaining \$2000 was donated to S.T.E.P. (Support the Enlisted Project), which offered to match crash response donations. The \$2000 TLC donation became \$4000 that will benefit crash victims with their longer-term needs such as vehicle assistance, housing and financial training. All crash response donations to S.T.E.P. will be used exclusively for military families affected by the crash.

Your contributions have already made a difference by providing essential supplies to families in need. Your generosity helps us extend our reach and better serve our military neighbors. THANK YOU, all our shining lights.

If you are interested in being a part of MOC, we would love to see you at the next meeting, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall. You can also contact Beckie (619) 204-4596, Marcia (619) 206-5790 or Wayne (858) 740-1068 for more information.



# Rummage Sale

Tierrasanta Lutheran Church

**SEPTEMBER 6**  
**7AM-11:30AM**

**DONATIONS RECEIVED**  
**AUG. 31-SEPT 4**



The Annual TLC Rummage Sale is on September 6th. We are not accepting large furniture donations. Please contact Joni Incrocci if you have questions or would like to volunteer to help. 619-709-4800.



# Director of Facilities & Equipment July Council Report

The 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.

As previously discussed, we are trying to work with the 7th Day Adventist to address the deteriorating asphalt at the entrance area to the parking lot that is used by both churches. The plan is to replace the asphalt in that area with reinforced cement that will withstand the heavy use it gets. Last month we gave Pastor Gary a proposal for the work that he could take to the 7DA Council and that resulted with a meeting with one of their Council members who is a General Contractor, and he agree the work needs to be done, but not immediately. We are hoping that we can put the work off until 2027 but we need to start putting money aside for it in 2026. Discussion on the proposal, timing, etc. will continue until an agreement is reached.



We are currently in a struggle with gophers and/or ground squirrels that are borrowing in the preschool area and in front of the offices. Thus far it's "Critters 3, Maintenance Team 0". We tried humane traps to catch and relocate, then tried gassing the critters, and lastly tried to flood the tunnel complex they have in the outside area and under the church, yet they keep returning. Anyone with any experience with getting rid of these critters, we glad accept inputs on how to swing the tide to our side.

Regarding maintenance completed, though many of the Chain Ganger were out on vacation enjoying the summer, we still had 9 members make the 19 July Chain Gang workday and were able to accomplish most of the assigned task. Those items are listed along with other issues address over the last month below.

We desperately need new young blood (meaning men between 18-65) to join the Chain Gang (who's average age is 74). We meet on Saturday morning once a month (normally the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat from 8:30-10:30 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.

Maintenance accomplished in addition to this month's Chain Gang work day include the following: (1) Sprayed weeds throughout solar panel area; (2) Replaced broken swing seat & reseated rubber mat under the swing in east play area; (3) Repaired leaking children's toilet; (4) Replaced broken motion sensor light in preschool restroom; (5) Replaced worn cover for the Church BBQ; (6) Repainted small TLC sign at entry of parking lot.

Randy Frater has done an outstanding job of maintaining the lawns, the irrigation systems, & spraying the weeds that have been springing up all around the church property. The lawns in front of the church and Youth Building look green and beautiful.

## **Accomplishments for the Chain Gang Workday on July 19<sup>th</sup>:**

1. Trimmed tree branches that overhang Memorial Garden & storage shed.
2. Trimmed bushes near Pre School area.
3. Weeded & trimmed bushes near flag pole, transformer area
4. Weeded area between Youth Building & Church & behind Youth Building
5. Weeded front area between parking lot & the street
6. Trimmed bushes on western side of the parking lot
7. Clear off the area behind and alongside the dumpster compartment.
8. Weeded areas in parking lot islands

**Peace and Health to All,**

Ed Holler, Director of Facilities and Equipment

**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**  
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