

September  
2025



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



# Rummage Sale

## Tierrasanta Lutheran Church

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

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



We are not accepting large furniture donations. Donations are received beginning August 31st thru 5:30pm on Thursday, September 4th. **\*\*HIGH END MEN'S CLOTHING** at clearance prices! Early Sale Monday (9-1-25) from 9-12pm AND **Family and Friends Shopping** on Thursday (9-04-25) from 5-7pm. Please see our rummage sale queen - Joni Incrocci with questions or if you'd like to volunteer in any way. 619-709-4800.

## 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**





## The Adult Sunday School Class, Also Known as Conversations,

is moving to Wednesdays from 6:00 to 6:45 beginning September 10. The plan is to have a GRACE meal from 5:30 to 5:55 and then have our meeting following. Bill Stephenson will continue to be the teacher/facilitator and has spent the summer developing 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](mailto:stephenson2789@gmail.com) or by phone: 619-388-9125.

## Prayers & Squares

August found the Prayers and Squares/Quilting Ministry hard at work. Have you seen the growing stack of Lutheran World Relief quilts on the back table in the sanctuary? Check it out; we have currently made 39! We are working feverishly and we hope you will join us to layer and add ties on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, our annual day of service known as "God's Work, Our Hands."

We have been blessed with two additional quilters to our Saturday family. We welcome Victoria (daughter Lilia) and Rachel!

Please note: we will NOT have our usual Prayers and Squares on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of September. You know that is reserved for the Rummage Sale (Sept 6<sup>th</sup>). Our meeting will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup> from 9-12 in the Fellowship Hall.

Remember any donations should be made to "**Quilting Ministries**" so we can fund Linus and LWR supplies in addition to Prayers and Squares.

August quilts were for: **Ashley Ligon**, *sponsors: the Holt family; the Alt family*, *sponsor: Donna Burton*.





## GRACE Night Returns on September 10th!

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! Check on line 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.

We'll kick off the season with BBQ burgers and hot dogs, watermelon, and a special dessert from Audrey Russell. IYKYK!

Interested in joining the team? Please contact Gretchen Veihl at [gretchen.veihl@gmail.com](mailto:gretchen.veihl@gmail.com)

Hope to see you there!



## God's work. Our hands.



## September 7, 2025

### ELCA DAY OF SERVICE - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

We will have opportunities for everyone!

Tying Lutheran World Relief Quilts,

Assembling the Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Clean up at Fiesta Island

For our children - making hand-prints, decorating a quilt square or decorating cards to send to our shut-ins.

A light lunch will be served at 11:30am.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to sign up for the activity of your choice.

Please see Rhea Fogg if you have questions [rheafogg@att.net](mailto:rheafogg@att.net)



**Prayer Group** Bring your own cup of coffee. Join us for half an hour in the TLC centrum **September 13 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, Donna Roberts, Audrey Russell, 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 September 9th.**

## **Crossways Bible Study Starts**

**September 10th & 11th:** 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 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

## **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.

**Confirmation Orientation is set for Wednesday, September 10th at 6pm.**

**Classes** will resume on September 10th at 6pm. Do you have a baptized 7th or 8th grader that you would like to sign up? If you would like to enroll your child, please contact the church office at 858-560-8688 or email [info@tierrasantaluthera.org](mailto:info@tierrasantaluthera.org)

**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!



**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 sign up 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!

**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!

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

## September Birthdays

2nd	Liz Merryman
3rd	Doren Reese
4th	John Michel
5th	Angela Martin
8th	Sharon Burdette
15th	Catherine Gerding
17th	Ed Schmidt
22nd	Derry Pence
25th	Carol Schmidt
26th	Carol Bruns
27th	Mikaela Norum
28th	Marva Drake
29th	Wayne Duke
30th	Barbara Allison Carol Lee

## September Anniversaries

6th	Alan & Bretta Lutze
9th	Jerry & Lorraine Rian
10th	James & Amy Morketter
11th	Dave & Della Schweitzer
15th	Kurt & Kathy Northfield
24th	Howard & Doren Reese

*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!

Since it is Aug 15 as I compose this (on my phone with my index finger)....

How is your summer going? To look at the "Good News from TLC" 'blurb' that just popped up on my email, there is no reason to be bored, with all the opportunities at our church for worship, fellowship, and projects to help & serve our church family and the community.

It's true in the TLC music area as well! As year 2025 moves soon into the 'history' category, the 8:30 choirs are looking to begin rehearsals again soon. By the time this article is published, each choir Handbell & Singing choir will have rung or sung at least once for the New Fall season.

We've had a fun 10 weeks or more of hearing individuals from our choirs sing or play solos or duets.

Thanks to Bill Dudley, Claudia Murphy, Cassandra Brown, JoAnn Saenz, Bill Stevenson, Gabby Sparks, John Michel, Carol Bruns, Randy Frater, SoYoung Green, for your willingness to serve in this way! We're enjoying the musical talents God gives to you and to others who have yet to have a turn.

## For the Fall Rehearsals:

If we have enough who are available (there are cruises, campouts, other tours still to work around) — our FIRST Wednesday rehearsal will be August 27th .

6:00 pm ringers (Centrum)

7:15 pm singers (former Library)

**Wednesday Sept. 3** — NO rehearsal, as the church gets ready for "Hi Holy Rummage Day Sale", filling our practice areas with things I know you will wanna buy.

**Wednesday, September 10**, Rehearsals will RESUME regularly at the above times.

Always glad to receive new singers or ringers! "THINK ON THESE THINGS", as the Bible & one of our anthems plea! We know you can't always get there, but it's good to grow spiritually and musically with people who would like to try it!

The MONTHLY Sunday 8:30 am Schedule of "who does what & when" will still look mostly like this:

1st Sunday - Singers

2nd Sunday - Singers

3rd Sunday - HB Ringers

4th Sunday- Both Choirs

5th Sundays - TBD

Thoughts while it's still August for BFrater: We have birthdays & anniversary's as always- not going to list them as it's already somewhere else in this publication, BUT August 16th is/was Bonnie & Tom Brown's 50th, and you'll hear (or will have heard) "Trumpet Tune" by Clarke as the organ prelude (Bonnie came down the aisle to that), and Randy Frater singing "O Perfect Love", a wedding hymn normally sung 'back then'. Blessings of course to ALL celebrating August special personal occasions! (Congregational hymns are chosen to try to point toward the Word we read each week. There's always hope that there are a few that you like! . However, once in a great while when an occasion "hits the BIG one", we enjoy reflecting that in a Prelude or special music. Each week of Worship of our Savior is always meant to be a BIG one, though! (God is our Great Listener!) We hope to aid in your worship as we move into Fall.

Signing off for now! Have a wonderful Fall Season of Worship at TLC everyone!

Betsy Frater

858-444-0930

[bwfr8r@gmail.com](mailto:bwfr8r@gmail.com)



# Military Outreach Updates

The beginning of the school year and with it MOC's fall Children's Clothing Fair. This Clothing Fair has been providing gently used children's clothing to military families for over a decade. Through this bi-annual outreach over 1000 military families have received "new" clothes for their growing families. Most of you reading this TLC newsletter are very familiar with the clothing drive, and so, to paraphrase Officer Joe Friday, we now give you "just the facts . . .".



Please Donate: Gently used clean clothing – infant to teen sizes. Donation boxes will be at TLC and the Murphy Canyon Chapel from Sept. 8 – Sept. 22.

Sort and Fold: September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30 – noon in the TLC Fellowship Hall.

Set-up: September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 4:00 at the Murphy Canyon Chapel (MCC), 3200 Santo Rd.

Clothing Fair: September 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am- noon at MCC.

The donations and volunteer help we have received over the past 11 years have brought smiles to countless children. We hope to continue with successful clothing drives this school year. Thank you for your continued support!

A brief update on our outreach to military families attending Hancock Elementary. Last month MOC members supported the Hancock "Meet and Greet" for children and their parents. As part of the experience, an area was provided where the families could speak with San Diego groups offering services to the military community. MOC was one of about 10 organizations invited to present information. We spoke with many parents about TLC's various children's ministries, MOC ministries and our services for the Murphy Canyon community. (We also handed out a lot of candy, pencils, pencil sharpeners, coloring books and colors.)

Additionally, beginning on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, MOC will assist in the distribution of food bags through Feeding San Diego. MOC will partner with Tierrasanta Kiwanis in the bi-monthly distribution.

Finally, a quick note on MOC's Fall Military Appreciation Food Drive. Turkey sponsorship coupons will go up in the foyer in October, with the drive-through food bag distribution on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. More details to follow.



MOC meetings are held at TLC and are open to all. If you have an hour please join us either in person or on ZOOM. Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Beckie (619) 204-4596, Marcia (619) 206-5790 or Wayne (858) 740-1068.

Oh, one last thing – can you name the television series that featured Officer Friday (without googling)? Kudos to you!





# Preschool

Tierrasanta Lutheran Church

Our Summer Fun program was a hit. We camped, went to outer space, we were pirates on the high seas, swam with fish in the ocean and did all things water, including tie dying our own beach towels to use after we played in the sprinklers and had water races.

Preschools meet and greet was a great opportunity for the new parents to meet each other, for the children to meet and make new friends, familiarize themselves with the classroom and get to know their teachers. Meeting the teachers prior to their first day of school is beneficial for children; because of meeting us prior, when they

arrive at TLC Preschool, we aren't complete strangers to them, and they feel a little more comfortable being left with us for the first time.

We are looking forward to a year full of learning, love, laughter, playing, and of course, FUN!!!

Blessings  
Melissa Vargas  
Preschool Director

## Greetings!

It has been a fantastic summer for Kids Ministry at TLC. As we conclude our "Light Up the Summer" series of family events at TLC, I look back in gratitude for all the work put in by our amazing volunteers. On 8/3, we had a fun-filled day of smiles and laughter at our "Games Day" event, which featured some great carnival-style games that were enjoyed by all. This was a great follow-up to our "Water Slide Day" last month! Finally, we had a chance to gather together for a special "Movie Night" this past Saturday and had a fantastic time. On Sunday 8/24, we did a "Blessing of the Backpacks" for our students, and each were given a special TLC backpack tag to carry with them as they return to school!

Also, **Wednesdays** just got even more fun for Kids Ministry at TLC! Our Wednesday schedule now includes our **Kid's Choir** rehearsal from 4:30-5:10 for ages 4-10 (we got to welcome some new members this month!), as well as our all-new **Family Wednesday Worship** time from 5:10-5:30pm in the sanctuary. We've had tons of fun singing and dancing to kid's worship songs and listening to a special message each week! Following each FWW service, we will be gathering for pizza for the new couple weeks from 5:30-6 in the fellowship hall.

Finally, on Wednesday September 10th, our 5:30pm pizza time will be replaced with... you guessed it... the return of our amazing GRACE Night meals! This year, we plan to include a new "**Kid's Craft & Play Zone**" in the fellowship hall during our GRACE Night fellowship, where kids have a place to color, craft, learn, and smile. 😊

Thank you all for your continued support of Kids Ministry at TLC!

Tylor Green  
Kids Ministry Coordinator

# Facilities Corner Report for August 2025

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. However we do anticipate that the DOFE budget will most like need to be increased next year since as our facility ages more repairs are required, such as the parking lot repair below.

We are still working 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. We gave a proposal to Pastor Gary for the work to give 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 probably not until 2027 but we need to start putting money aside for it in 2026. We are still waiting for a response from the 7DA council.

One of our big concerns is thick tall brush adjacent & only 1 foot from the fence that is City property and needs to be removed before the upcoming fire season. We met with City representative Mario Parra several months ago, but nothing has happened yet. I recently sent a request for an update from Mario and will try to set up a meeting with him soon as possible.

Gophers and/or ground squirrels continue to be a problem and are borrowing in the preschool area and in front of the offices. Our current plan is to fill in the holes with concrete.

We had a good turnout at our August workday with 10 volunteers, which include Ed's grandsons Owen and Hudson, accomplishing all 6 planned work items.

The Chain Gang still desperately need new young blood (meaning men between 18-65) to join the team (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 included the following: (1) Replaced all the boards on front bench near the Memorial Garden; (2) Replaced the top of the little Library & repainted the whole cabinet; (3) Removed the tree in the backyard of the Orozco house; (4) Disposed of old batteries in the work room; (5) Added a new light fixture in the Preschool bathroom; (6) Inspected & tightened down Playground structure bolts.

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. The lawns in front of the church and Youth Building look green and beautiful.





## Food Pantry

At the June 2024 Congregational Meeting, the congregation voted to support the installation of the Food Pantry in support of Zoe Silverstro and Lilah Prazen's Girl Scout Silver Award project. Zoe and Lilah's concept included "We hope the church lets us place the pantry on its property and helps get people to donate nonperishable food. Congregation support for installation of the pantry was unanimous, but we are not doing well with keeping the pantry stocked. The Pantry, installed in September of 2024 at the east side of the parking lot, is frequently empty.

The congregation's help is requested in keeping the pantry stocked with donations of nonperishable food items. Simply open the doors and add non-perishable food items. Thank you.



## Dear Friend of TACO,

We are reaching out with urgency today. Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) is facing a critical moment. Right now, we only have enough funds to cover about one month of operations.

The need in our community continues to grow at an unprecedented pace. Three years ago, 385 people used TACO's address to receive their mail for essential documents like IDs, benefits, and medical correspondence. Today, more than 1,400 people rely on us for this lifeline. Our social worker is booked with clients every day, helping individuals navigate housing, benefits, and other urgent needs. At the same time, more and more individuals are coming to our meal services, showers, and social support.

Meanwhile, costs have skyrocketed while donations have dropped:

- Three years ago, a case of eggs cost \$32, and we needed 2 cases for breakfast. Today, eggs are \$69 per case, and because of growing demand, we now require 4 cases each week.
- Our food banks, which once provided proteins and other commodities, no longer have these critical items available for our meal service.

To keep TACO running each month, it costs \$27,000. In July, we received only \$5,481 in donations. This shortfall has already forced us to cut staff hours, even as the demand for services continues to climb.

Despite these challenges, TACO remains committed to serving over 250 people at each of our community meals, ensuring no one is turned away. But without immediate help, we risk cutting back the very services that so many depend on.

We urgently need your support to keep TACO strong. Your gift today will help us continue providing meals, dignity, and hope for our unsheltered and low-income neighbors in Downtown San Diego.

Please consider donating today. Every dollar makes a difference. Together, we can meet this moment and ensure that TACO remains a place of compassion and stability for those who need us most.

With deep gratitude,

Deacon Margy Schmitt Ajer

Board President

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO)

Lorena Galligan

TACO Director

DONATE: [CLICK HERE](#)