

The Messenger

May 2024

Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School ▪ San Clemente, California
"Inspired to Love, Encouraged to Think, and Sent to Serve"

Often times when I've gathered together with family members shortly after the death of a loved one - in those first minutes and hours after someone has passed away - there is often a beautiful, sacred time of simply being together. Sometimes that togetherness is done in silence, or through hugs, tears, and hands held. Other times those moments are filled with storytelling. We remember the person who's brought us together. We laugh and cry and smile through our grief, and dwell in those moments when there's nothing else to be done. There are no lifesaving measures to give. No doses of medication to track or appointments to run off to. Eventually there will be a funeral to plan and burial arrangements to be made, but now is not yet the time for those either. There's nothing to be done, and so we do what is most right - simply be together.

I've been reflecting on how Our Savior's is dwelling in a similar kind of sacred time after tragedy, though under very different circumstances. The Sunday after Easter, we awoke to find out that our sanctuary building had been set on fire. While the firemen and police were at work, and while the flames were being extinguished and the sanctuary was filled with thick smoke, our normal rhythm and practices were put entirely on pause. Though worship was canceled last minute, there was still a small group of worship leaders who were already present, and others who didn't get the message and came to worship unknowingly. In those early hours after tragedy, when nothing else could be done, we did the only thing we could do: we worshipped. We prayed. We sang along with acoustic guitar, and then laughed about all the fire-themed hymns we wouldn't be able to sing for a while. Others who got the memo and were not there in person joined us in prayer, in lament, and in those ways were united with us in the body of Christ. We knew there would be much to do in the days and months ahead, but in that moment, our job was to be the church together, and that we did.

Ever since the fire, so many people within and outside of the church have asked what they can do to help. People have offered to help clean, paint, work with the insurance company, and donate both items and funds to help replace what was lost. In all honesty, I have been overwhelmed (in the best possible way) with the support and offers of help we have received from preschool families, community members and other churches near and far. Times like this remind us all of the incredible community we are blessed with. For all of the ways in which you each have reached out, prayed, offered or given support in so many ways, please accept my sincerest thanks.

The difficult part of receiving these offers and asks for how folks can help is that sometimes there's not a clear or easy answer. Right now, professionals from the remediation company are handling most of the dirty work, removing carcinogenic soot, asbestos, and other dangerous things we couldn't safely do ourselves. Experts in church furnishings are tediously working to restore and reupholster our pews. Insurance representatives are working through the paperwork and spreadsheets keeping track of the many assessments, contractors, and expenses. We're thankful for the many, many people and companies at work to restore our worship space, but that leaves us with an interesting conundrum: What do WE do? How can we help? Because especially when tragedy strikes, our human and our Christian instinct is to serve others - showing love for our neighbor and our community through action. This is a wonderful gift! And yet, the part we often forget to talk about is what to do when there's nothing to be done.

We are dwelling in the in-between time. The time when there often isn't much to do, though that day will certainly come. But for now, our job is to do what community does best - to be together. To love, support, be present with, and be praying for one another. Our job is to show up, to continue proclaiming the Gospel,

Continued on next page

breaking bread, repenting and forgiving, and giving glory to God in this and every circumstance. We don't need a sanctuary to be able to do that. We are the church - you, and I, and the many other wonderful, faithful people who have been on this journey with us.

Come and join us. Right now, that's the greatest way you can help. There may be a time where we can all roll up our sleeves and help clean or paint, but for now the most important things we can do is be together, especially in worship. Come join us as we give thanks to God for God's faithfulness to us thus far. Come join us as we smile and laugh and sing and praise God in all circumstances, defiantly hopeful for the future God is leading us into, even and especially in the face of trials.

Worship will be this and every Sunday. For now, we gather outdoors in the courtyard. There's plenty of seating at the picnic benches, or lawn chairs are also welcome. See you Sunday.

In Peace,

Pastor Cole

thank  you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We would like to acknowledge some of our preschool parents set-up a "gofundme" page to help support Our Savior's fire loss. We thank you for your support during this unfortunate time.



*You are invited to the
Ordination and Installation
of
Deacon Daneen Pysz*

*Sunday - May 5, 2024 @ 5:00pm
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
33501 Stonehill Dr.
Dana Point, CA 92629*

Reception to follow @ 6:00pm



**May 19th is Pentecost Sunday
9:30am**

Be sure to wear RED to worship on Sunday, May 19th to help us celebrate the day of Pentecost!



Sunday ~ May 19, 2024

9:30am Worship

Rite of Confirmation

Join us on Sunday, May 19th at the 9:30am worship service as we celebrate the Rite of Confirmation. May God bless all of our Confirmands!

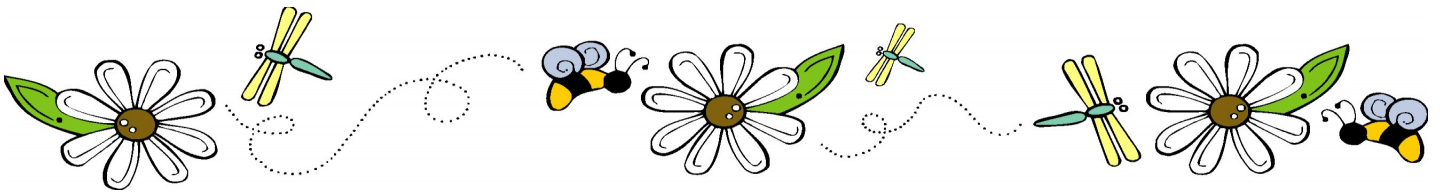
Congratulations to our Confirmation Class!



**ANNUAL
MEETING**

JUNE 23, 2024 | 9:30AM

Please plan to be at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday June 23rd held following our 9:30am worship service.



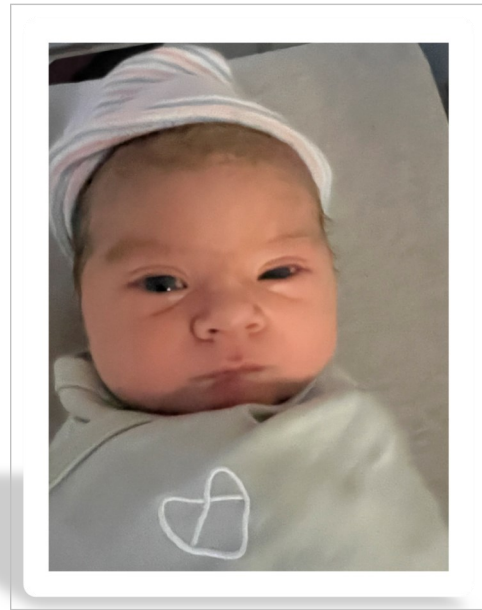
May Birthdays, Anniversaries & More

~ Birthdays ~

Peter Davies	5/3
Liz Derdzinske	5/6
Eric May	5/7
Dave McKee	5/8
Myla Pert	5/8
Laura Rasor	5/9
Bruce Quade	5/12
Alan Tsuma	5/14
Gay Bemoll	5/17
Richard Scarfe	5/17
Anna Berschauer	5/19
Wendell Person	5/21
Natal Vergara	5/23
Tomas Vergara	5/23
Bob Berschauer	5/26

~ Anniversaries ~

Michael & Marlene Fitzhugh	5/1
Jerry & Debbie Cloninger	5/8
Joel & Carol Hoffmeister	5/10
Howard & Sally Sharp	5/18
Bob & Loretta Cooper	5/25
George & Lisa Ellis	5/27
Alan & Norma Harkness	5/28



*Congratulations to Peter & Elizabeth Lewis
on the birth of their son
Oliver Gabriel Lewis!*

*Born April 27, 2024
9lbs 2oz*



Joseph Reyes Llamas
August 19, 1929 - January 24, 2024

**Please join us for a memorial service to
celebrate the life of Joe Llamas.**

**We will gather together at
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 11:00am**

**A reception & lunch
will follow the service.**

**In lieu of flowers donations may be made to
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
in loving memory of Joe Llamas.**

Youth and Family News

by Bob Cooper - Director of Youth and Family Ministry

What a Difference a Month Makes

On Sunday, April 7, 2024, as I was on my way to worship, I was surprised to see several fire trucks on the street just above the church. I said a little prayer for the first responders as well as those that were being responded to. As I pulled into the church parking lot, I could see a Battalion Chief's vehicle in our lot which I assumed was there as a command vehicle for a staging area. Growing up in a fire household none of this seemed unusual, I know how emergency responders operate. Then I got to the sanctuary, the smell of smoke was strong, stronger than I expected at such a distance, then I attempted to enter the sanctuary through the patio doors. This is what I saw.



It was very surreal, and it took me a second to process what I was seeing. As you probably know by now, we were the victim of an attempted arson attack, fortunately the structural damage was minimal, but the smoke...

Obviously, we could not worship in the sanctuary and sent home most of those arriving for worship that morning. Then something wonderful happened, those that stayed gathered in the parking lot/playground, I found a guitar, and we held a brief improvised worship right then and there. While it was not a large number, only a dozen or so, it spoke volumes as to what a church is, a body of believers focused on praise and worshipping the almighty God that looks over us in all things. As the song says, "a church is not a building" and we have proven that over the past few weeks as we have begun worship service on the patio.

It will be several months before we are back to "normal" but don't let that keep you away, the church does some of its best work when faced with adversity, I look forward to seeing what the Holy Spirit has in store for our "church".

On another note, we are moving forward with our summer plans including VBS which takes place the week of June 10 - 14, we are seeking volunteers to help with this, if you are available that week in the morning hours, please let me know and we can set you up with some joyful duties.

We are also planning a 3-day, 2-night service trip down into Baja - June 20 - 22, 2024, to serve those in need. If "South of the Border" service sounds like your thing, let me know, space is limited so don't wait too long.

Peace,

Bob Cooper,
Director of Youth and Family Ministry



May 1 - Wednesday

MSYG 6:30pm, YR

May 5 - Sunday

Confirmation 11:00am, YR

HSYG 6:30pm, YR

May 8 - Wednesday

MSYG 6:30pm, YR

May 12 - Sunday

No HSYG Mother's Day

May 14 - Tuesday

Gilchrist House 6:00pm

May 15 - Wednesday

MSYG 6:30pm, YR

May 17-18 - Friday & Saturday

Confirmation Retreat @ Luther Glen

May 19 - Sunday

Confirmation Sunday

Preschool Sunday

HSYG 6:30pm, YR

May 22 - Wednesday

MSYG 6:30pm, YR

May 26 - Sunday

No HSYG - Memorial Weekend

May 29 - Wednesday

MSYG 6:30pm, YR



From the
**MUSIC
DIRECTOR**
MAY 2024

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

The little things that we do in a daily life, may they all be a direct worship to Jesus.

George Freitas
Music Director

YOUTH & FAMILY BAJA TRIP ✦ June 20 - 22, 2024
Sign Up Today at <https://tinyurl.com/3adu3khf>

**Make a difference in the lives of children and families in Mexico
and join CLC on an upcoming Baja Trip.**
Youth and Family trip is for ages 6th grader and up.
Youth & Family 2 night stay at Door of Faith and 3 local projects
(\$150 pays for room & board, 2 meals and 3 Baja projects)



Worship and Celebration ✦ May 2024

In my new position as Council chair of “Worship and Celebration”, I have had several conversations with members of Our Savior’s about our “worship”. These conversations led me to some questions.

These are a few that came to mind...

What is worship???

We **worship** on Sunday mornings and at seasonal services. Our **worship** services include songs, prayers, Scripture readings, sacraments, a message/homily and???. This led me to another series of question...

What are **worship** songs?

We sing to praise God. We sing to **worship** God. We sing to thank God. We sing to join in community as one voice in our **worship** services. This led me to another question...

Why do we pray together out loud?

The Lutheran church is considered a liturgical church. But, what does that mean?

I found this article that explained, “Liturgy” comes from the Greek word meaning, “Work of the people.” And if you’ve ever been to the Sunday service of a liturgical church, then you understand the sense in which **worshippers** at those churches *do* work. Liturgical churches are pretty darn participatory: everyone’s always standing up, sitting down, or kneeling; the

congregation prays together out loud; everyone comes up to the front rail to receive communion. At most Protestant churches, the congregants mostly just sit there, watching and listening. During service at a liturgical churches, though, people get (relatively) *busy*.”

(*Crosswalk.Com*, 25 Oct. 2011, www.crosswalk.com/blogs/john-shore/what-is-a-liturgical-church.html#google_vignette.) This led me to another question...

What does our **worship celebrate**?

During the season of Easter, we celebrated the risen Savior. We sang songs with “Hallelujah” loud and proud.

The next season of the church year is Pentecost. During the season of Pentecost, we will celebrate the Holy Spirit and the work that that Spirit does in our lives and through our lives.

As the song says,

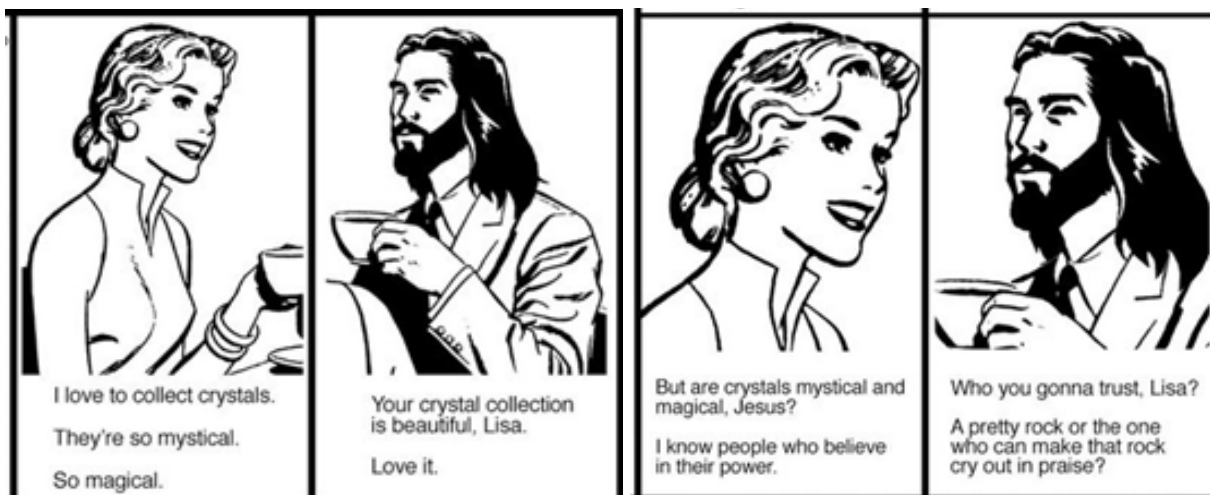
*We are the church
The body of our Lord
We are all one people
We have been restored.*

And that about sums it up.

In His service,

Karen Skipper
Worship and Celebration

COFFEE WITH JESUS - *Speaking of praising...*



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR SAVIOR'S

GRADUATION
SUNDAY
WE HONOR YOU

**June 2, 2024 at
9:30am
Worship Service**

Do you have a graduate this year from High School, College, Tech School or the Military? We would love to help you honor that special graduate on "Graduate Sunday," June 2nd at 9:30am outdoor worship. If you have a picture of your graduate to share please email or bring to the Church office by Thursday, May 23rd with a brief description of where they are graduating from. We will invite the graduates to come forward during the worship to receive a blessing from the congregation.

MANNA

**Manna Bible Study
in the Church Office**

Tuesdays* in May 7*, 14 & 21
May 7 Manna will meet at 11:00am
Manna will not meet on May 27th

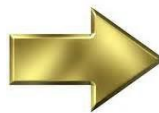
Newcomers are always welcome!



**Saturday
May 11th
8:00am - 9:30am**

Meet in the kitchen...

You are invited to join us for a Men's Breakfast, Bible Study and Fellowship at OSLC. Pastor Cole will be preparing this month's breakfast.



**If you are interested in
volunteering during
Vacation Bible School**

June 10-14

**please contact Bob Cooper at:
B.Cooper@oursaviorsonline.net
or call or (949) 492-6162 x 226.**



JUNE 10 - 14

9:00 AM - Noon

**Our Savior's
Lutheran Church**

**Register at:
oursaviorsonline.net**

Mother's Day Dessert Potluck Sunday ~ May 12th at 10:30am



Please join us as we celebrate the special women in our lives on Mother's Day - Sunday, May 12th after service. We will serve coffee and tea, along with homemade treats to honor these remarkable women.

Please bring a homemade treat or family favorite dessert to share, everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there!

Nicole Rutherford,
Fellowship Ministry

Supplies Needed for the Making of Quilts for Lutheran World Relief



During the months of May, June & July we are requesting monetary donations for the purchase of quilting supplies. In October of this year, we will celebrate the "Blessing of the Quilts." The quilts will then be taken to Red Hill Lutheran Church where they will be sent to LWR for distribution throughout the world.

When donating, please make checks payable to Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Be sure to include "LWR kits" on your memo line or envelope. Or you may use the QR code. Thank you for your help.



New Member Class in June

There will be a new member class in June (date to be determined). If you are interested in membership please talk to Pastor Cole or contact the church office at (949) 492-6164 or oslsec@sbcglobal.net. We will find a date that works for everyone.



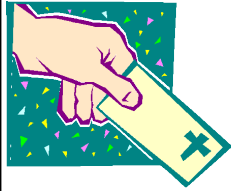
Seeking COUNCIL Members

Have you ever thought about serving on the church council? We are seeking new people willing to serve who are generally supportive of the mission and ministries of the church. If this is something you are interested in, please talk to Pastor Cole or any current council member.



Have a fun event idea?

I would love to hear about it! As I have recently been appointed Chair of Fellowship on our Church Council, I would like to thank those who have brought ideas forward and I encourage everyone to continue to share their event ideas with me. While my family is new to Our Savior's, we have already felt a warm-welcoming embrace. If I haven't met you yet, I look forward to meeting you soon. I am excited to serve in this role and look forward to creating some fun memories for us all! Nicole Rutherford, Fellowship



**OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL REPORT
MARCH 2024**

Offering	March 2024	FY July-Mar
Unrestricted Gifts	\$19,768.10	\$172,176.01
Budget	\$28,583.34	\$257,249.98

Our members and visitors continue to be faithful in their stewardship. We collected 69% of our March 2024 budgeted amount. Fiscal year to date we have funded 67% of the approved budget. We truly appreciate your dedication to Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We continue to be prudent in our spending.

Thank You For Your Stewardship!



Church Council

Notes

April 2024

- Because of fire/smoke damage to the Sanctuary and Founders Room, church service will be held on the patio until repairs are complete.
- The American flag and Christian flag will be displayed in the Narthex after Sanctuary repairs are complete.
- Council vote for new music equipment deferred until Sanctuary repairs are complete.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lola Davies
Congregation Council Secretary

Next Meeting - Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 6:30pm



The Social Concerns Ministry thanks you for benevolence gifts given in March 2024 over and above general giving:

- ◆ **ELCA World Hunger:** \$139
- ◆ **FAM:** Soup, Diapers, Wipes & Egg Cartons
- ◆ **LRCC:** \$220 (Feb & Mar Midweek Lenten Worship)
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity of OC:** \$10
- ◆ **Lutheran Social Services:** \$40

Your generosity is so very much appreciated!

thrivent®

Are you a Thrivent member?

If you're a Thrivent member you are able to designate a portion of Thrivent's profits as "Choice Dollars" to eligible nonprofits like Our Savior's! Every year you are able to designate these choice dollars to Our Savior's at no cost to you. This free Thrivent membership perk is available annually and is a use it or lose it way to help support our church. You can log into your Thrivent account to direct your Thrivent choice dollars to Our Savior's today and every year.

Church

www.facebook.com/oursaviorsonline



To donate electronically
Venmo us at [OurSaviorsSanClemente](https://www.oursaviorsanclimente.org)
Thank you!



May 2024

Wow! What an amazing school year it has been! We are looking forward to spending this month revisiting our students', "Favorite Things" that they have done throughout the school year. Each class will be choosing their favorite Math, Science, Art, Music, Books, and Dramatic Play curriculum that they enjoyed. It is a fun and educational way to reflect on the school year.

In addition to our "Favorite Things", we will be incorporating ocean, beach, summer, and pirates into our curriculum.

Save the Dates:

- ◆ Teacher Appreciation Week: Monday, May 6 - Friday May 10
- ◆ Mother's Day Tea: Thursday, May 9 and Friday, May 10
In your child's classroom from 8:45am - 9:00am
- ◆ Preschool Graduation: Wednesday, May 15 at 5:00pm
The ceremony has been moved to the blacktop, please bring a low-back chair.
Pizza and Kona Ice will be served after the graduation.
Please reach out to Amy to order a Cap and Gown and/or to RSVP.
- ◆ Preschool Sunday: Sunday, May 19 at 9:30am (in the patio)
- ◆ End-of-the-Year Parties: Thursday, May 30 and Friday, May 31.
Your child's teacher will be reaching out for more information.
- ◆ Last Day of School: Friday, May 31, all students are dismissed at 12:00pm
- ◆ Summer Camp #1: June 3 - June 7 from 8:00am - 12:00pm
- ◆ VBS: June 10 - June 14
- ◆ Summer Camp #2: June 17 - June 21 from 8:00am - 12:00pm
- ◆ July: Closed for cleaning.
- ◆ Summer Camp #3: August 5 - August 9 from 8:00am - 12:00pm

Best Wishes -

Amy Rivas,
Preschool/Infant Center Director



Preschool
www.facebook.com/osls.sc

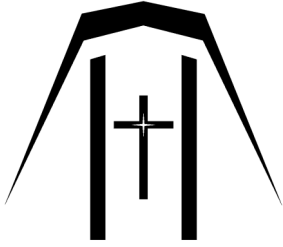




2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><i>Holy Communion</i></p>  <p><i>Served every Sunday</i></p>	 <p><i>First Sunday of the month</i></p>	<p><i>1</i></p> <p>6:30 MSYG</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i></p>	<p><i>4</i></p>
<p><i>5 World Hunger</i></p> <p>9:30 Worship 11:00 Confirmation Class 6:30 HSYG</p>	<p><i>6</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>8:00 OWLs Walk 11:00 Manna</p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p>6:30 MSYG</p>	<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>8:00 Men's Breakfast @OSLC 11:00 Joe Llamas Memorial</p>
<p><i>12</i> </p> <p>9:30 Worship 10:30 Mother's Day Potluck No HSYG</p>	<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>8:00 OWLs Walk 1:00 Manna 6:00 Gilchrist House</p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p>6:30 MSYG</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>6:30 Council Mtg</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>Confirmation Retreat @ Luther Glen</p>	<p><i>18</i></p>  <p>Confirmation Retreat @ Luther Glen 10:00 Synod Regional Gathering @ Gloria Dei</p>
<p><i>19</i></p>  <p>Pentecost Sunday</p> <p>9:30 Worship, Rite of Confirmation, Preschool Sunday 6:30 HSYG</p>	<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p>8:00 OWLs Walk 1:00 Manna</p>	<p><i>22</i></p> <p>6:30 MSYG</p>	<p><i>23</i></p>	<p><i>24</i></p>	<p><i>25</i></p>
<p><i>26</i></p> <p>9:30 Worship No HSYG</p>	<p><i>27</i></p>  <p><i>Church Office Closed</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>8:00 OWLs Walk Manna will not meet</p>	<p><i>29</i></p> <p>6:30 MSYG</p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31</i></p>	



Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School

200 Avenida San Pablo • San Clemente • California • 92672

**The Messenger
May 2024**

"Inspired to Love, Encouraged to Think, and Sent to Serve"

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30AM FOR WORSHIP



Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page	1 & 2	What's Happening @ OSLC	7
Annual Meeting, Pentecost Sunday	2	What's Happening cont.	8
Birthdays, Anniversaries, Joe Llamas Memorial	3	Financials & Council News	9
Youth and Family News, Youth Calendar	4	Preschool News	10
From the Music Director, Baja Trip in June	5	May 2024 Calendar	11
Worship and Celebration, Coffee with Jesus	6	In this Issue	12

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