

The Messenger

February 2024

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

God's Covenant Promises During Lent

This year during the five Sundays in Lent, the readings and sermon each week will focus on the five covenants God made to the Jewish people before the birth of Jesus. At first, this might seem to you like a strange choice for Lent. When people usually think of Lent, they imagine sacrifice, repentance and self-denial not covenant and promise. However, if we look at one of the biblical stories that gave birth to the season of Lent, a focus on covenants during Lent makes a lot of sense. Moses, Elijah and Jesus all fasted and prayed for forty days to prepare themselves for the work that was ahead of them. When Jesus was tempted during his forty days of fasting and prayer, he had to rely on the promises of God.

There are 3 temptations that are mentioned in the gospel of Luke and Matthew during Jesus' temptation, each luring Jesus to test and prove the promises of God, or to forsake those promises for the offer Satan was presenting. Each time, Satan uses passages from scripture to try to convince Jesus to do this - to test or abandon God's promises - and yet Jesus doesn't fall for such trickery and holds fast to the Word of God, remaining steadfast through these repeated trials throughout those 40 days in the wilderness.

In times of uncertainty or trouble, temptation or trial, it is the sure and reliable promises of God that help sustain us. Together we'll revisit the stories of God's covenants throughout Lent because it is the promises of God that help us during our own most difficult times. Any acts of sacrifice or self-denial we may take up during this season may help to ground us in those promises, practicing restraint, leaning into simplicity, and having another reason to remember our faith throughout each day. And yet, may you stand firm in knowing that God's promises remain just as sure, just as faithful, regardless of our own action or inaction. Rather you give up caffeine this Lent or not, God will still be just as steadfast.

We are God's children, imperfect, tempted, flawed, and beloved all at the same time. Nothing you could ever do or fail to do will change that. We do not need to put God to the test because we already know that God, and God's promise, are sure, true and eternal. This Lenten season, I hope you'll join me as we reflect upon God's promises, and what they mean for us as we journey once more towards the cross, and towards the new covenant established in the death and resurrection of Christ our risen Lord.

In Peace,

Pastor Cole



Pastor Cole's Newest Baby Chicks

February 2024 ✦ Birthdays, Anniversaries & More

~ Birthdays ~

Nicole Rutherford	2/6
Grace Buchan	2/6
Bonnie Little	2/6
Matt Gordon	2/7
Peyton Rennie	2/7
Heidi Works	2/7
Hannah Lawrence	2/8
Joel Hoffmeister	2/9
Charla Rayl	2/9
Ethan Greco	2/11
Marilyn Person	2/11
Levi May	2/14
Brent Davies	2/15
Logan Martello	2/17
Reaghan Mulligan	2/18
Jennifer Berschauer	2/20
Hallie Stohler	2/23
Kristen Greco	2/25
Lisa Ellis	2/26
Linda Butkus	2/27

~ Anniversaries ~

Pat & M'Liz Kelly	2/4
Pablo & Nancy Gonzalez	2/6

In Loving Memory

Joe Llamas
August 19, 1929 - January 24, 2024

We don't mourn as those without hope and we remember the promise of life, even life everlasting through our Lord Jesus Christ!



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024
8:30am - 10:00am

Drive-thru "Imposition of Ashes"
(gate near church office)

6:00pm - Ash Wednesday Worship
Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion.

Midweek Lenten Worship - Wednesdays at 6:00pm
February 21 & 28 - March 6, 13 & 20
(Our Midweek Lenten Special Offering will go to support Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences)



Each midweek service, Pastor Cole will be taking us through stories from the book of Acts. These stories talk about how the Spirit alters our perspective, transforms our communities, and consistently blazes a trail ahead of us. Each week will focus on a different way the Spirit alters us.

In addition to this, Pastor Cole will also be leading us in a collaborative art project. During each midweek service/soup supper there will be an activity that adds to the art project.

Altered in Witness

2/14 Ash Wednesday • Acts 1: 6-11

Altered Through God's Creativity

2/21 • Acts 2:1-13

Altered on the Edge of Belonging

2/28 • Acts 8:26-40

Altered Alongside Our Enemies

3/6 • Acts 9:1-22

Altered by Disruption

3/13 • Acts 10: 1-16, 34-35, 44-47

Altered through Stories We Don't Trust

3/20 • Acts 12:6-17

Soup Supper



**Wednesdays
in Lent**

Wednesdays ✦ 6:30pm following Lenten Worship

February 21 & 28 - March 6, 13 & 20

Please bring a soup or side dish to share.

Youth and Family by Bob Cooper
Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Where Are All of the Young People?

As I look around the sanctuary on any given Sunday, I notice that our congregation, like many others, seems to be filled with mostly adults. Now, there is certainly nothing wrong with adults being in worship, of course there are adults in worship, we make up the largest portion of the congregation. But wait, one need only turn around and look up during worship and you will see a wonderful group of youngsters ranging from elementary school aged kids to thirtysomething young adults worshipping in the choir loft! They are up there with me running the sound board for the sanctuary, running the sound board for the live stream, running the video switcher for the live stream, and worshipping alongside their other youth group friends. You can also see them serving refreshments after worship and helping with what else may be needed.

This is a wonderful way for the youth to not only serve the congregation, but also to learn more about their Lutheran faith tradition. You see, the kids are not just sitting there on their phones and “putting in time” so that their parents stay off their backs, no, they are engaged, participating in the liturgy, and following the flow of worship because they are responsible for all that is said and seen in worship.

It may get a little loud up there sometimes (they are kids and teens after all) and they are not above throwing down a paper wad during the passing of the peace to get the attention of someone in the pews, but they are always reverent and respectful of the worship experience, just watch as they come down to receive communion.

We are blessed with a group of young people that not only come to worship, but invite their friends to come as well, that is called “Evangelism” and is what puts the “E” in ELCA!

This evangelism is not restricted to Sunday worship, in fact most of the youth that come to our weekly middle and high school youth group meetings do not have families that are members of Our Savior’s, they are here at the invitation of their OSLC friends and of course, the moving of the Holy Spirit.

I look forward to Sunday worship each week as it is yet another chance to spend some time with God as well as his beautiful youngsters.

See you upstairs,

Bob Cooper
Director of Youth and Family Ministry



YOUTH EVENTS

February 4 - Sunday

Confirmation Class 11:00am, FR
HSYG 6:30pm, YR

February 7 - Wednesday

MSYG 6:30pm, YR

February 11 - Sunday

Souper Bowl of Caring
No HSYG

February 13 - Tuesday

Gilchrist House 6:00pm

February 14 - Wednesday

Ash Wednesday
No MSYG

February 18 - Sunday

HSYG 6:30pm, YR

February 21 - Wednesday

MSYG 6:30pm, YR

February 23-25 - Friday-Sunday

High School/Middle School Winter Retreat
@ El Camino Pines

February 25 - Sunday

Preschool Sunday

HSYG 6:30pm, YR

February 28 - Wednesday

MSYG 6:30pm, YR



From the Music Team...

**George got back from Brazil just before newsletter deadline,
so Pastor and Sharon collaborated on the article below:**

But before we start, a major THANK YOU to Dick, Greg, Ben, John, Danika, and Sharon for keeping our services musical for the last six weeks or so. Your talents and dedication to Our Savior’s are AMAZING.

Last month we talked a bit about **Liturgy** ([oslcnewsletter202401.pdf](#) ([oursaviorsonline.net](#))) and suggested that you pour yourself out when you come to worship and let God work within you. This might manifest itself in actually singing at an audible level or looking for God’s grace in a hymn that you do not particularly care for.

This month we are going to talk about the **Liturgical Calendar**. The liturgical calendar or year consists of the cycle of seasons. This article will be focused on what we as Our Savior’s do. Each season or feast day has an associated color. In addition, the liturgical calendar determines when feast days are observed, and which portions of Scripture are read in a three year cycle.

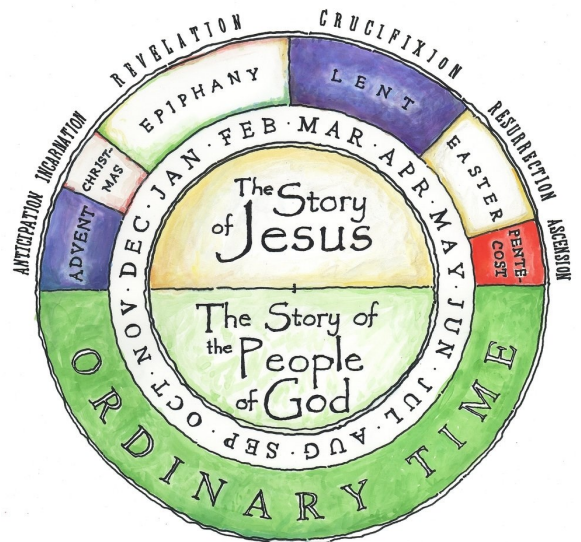
There are six major seasons of the church year. We start with Advent, then go to Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost (the Season of Pentecost is also known as Ordinary Time). There are also feast days sprinkled throughout the year. Christmas, Baptism of our Lord, Reformation, All Saints, and Christ the King are all considered “feast days.”

There are seven different liturgical colors associated with our liturgical calendar. The colors are intended to remind us of the significance of each season. They are blue, purple, white, green, scarlet, gold, and red. Below is a simplified table of the colors, what the color is intended to represent, and when the color is used in the church year. If you want to see more, page 9 of the green hymnal in the pew racks lists the colors and what color is associated with which day of the year.

Liturgical Colors

Color	Representation	Time in the Church Year Used
Blue	Hope/Anticipation	Advent
Purple	Repentance	Lent
White	Purity, Innocence, Joy	Christmas, Easter, and Festival Days (All Saints, Transfiguration, etc.)
Green	Life, Hope, and Anticipation	The Seasons of Epiphany and Pentecost
Scarlet (Deep Red)	Passion	Palm Sunday & Maundy Thursday,
Gold	Purity, Light, Glory, Joy	Easter Day
Red	Love, Blood, and Fire	Pentecost, Reformation

We have paraments and banners that match the colors of the seasons with the exception of Scarlett (which is a red, so we use red or purple depending on the day as allowed by the hymnal) and gold (which we use white which is an alternative specified in the hymnal). Pastor’s stoles also follow the liturgical colors. We invite you as we end Epiphany (green), celebrate the Transfiguration (white), and enter Lent (purple) to take notice of the paraments on the altar and lectern, the banners in the narthex and Pastor’s stoles.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR SAVIOR'S

MANNA

Manna Bible Study - February 2024
at 1:00pm in Pastor's Office
Tuesday - February 6, 13, 20 & 27
All are welcome!



Men's Breakfast
Saturday
February 10, 2024
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.

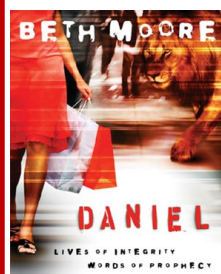


OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

Weekly
Walking Group

Tuesdays @ 8:00am
Bonnie Little's house.

Please call the church office for
address and any questions.
(949) 492-6164 - oslsec@sbcglobal.net



Women's Bible Study
"Daniel"
by Beth Moore
February 6 & 20
9:30am-11:45am
Founders Room
(1st & 3rd Tuesday each month)

Do you have old large "Duplo" style blocks?



We need some for our Lenten collaborative art project! We will be collecting blocks in the church office. You can also bring them on Sunday morning and leave them in the Narthex.



First (Early)
Communion Class
Sunday
March 10 & 17
12:00pm - 1:00pm
Sign-up in the
Narthex

Our Savior's will be offering First Communion Classes on Sunday, March 10th and 17th from 12:00pm - 1:00pm. Each class is necessary and one or more parent/guardian needs to attend with the child.

First Communion will be celebrated during Maundy Thursday Worship on March 28th at 7:00pm. The targeted age is 3rd grade; but there is always a great variety of ages. Please talk to Pastor Cole or Bob Cooper if you have any concerns regarding 'readiness' or participation.

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex or you can call the church office at (949) 492-6164 or email OSLCsec@sbcglobal.net. Baptism is considered a prerequisite for Holy Communion; please let us know if we need to talk about Baptism as well!

First Communion will be celebrated
on Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7:00pm

Readings During Lent



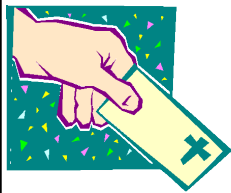
2/18 1st Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17 ✦ Noahic Covenant

2/25 2nd Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 ✦ Abrahamic Covenant

3/3 3rd Sunday in Lent
Exodus 20:1-17 ✦ Mosaic Covenant

3/10 4th Sunday in Lent
2 Samuel 7:12-17 ✦ Davidic Covenant

3/17 5th Sunday in Lent
Jeremiah 31:31-34 ✦ New Covenant



**OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL REPORT
DECEMBER 2023**

Offering	Dec 2023	FY July-Dec
Unrestricted Gifts	\$22,265	\$120,490
Budget	\$28,583.34	\$177,419.96

Our members and visitors continue to be faithful in their stewardship. We collected 78% of our December budgeted amount. Fiscal year to date we have funded 68% 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!

The Social Concerns Ministry thanks you for your benevolence gifts given in December 2023 over and above general giving.

- ◆ ELCA World Hunger: \$240
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity of OC: \$52
- ◆ Lutheran Social Services: \$40

Your generosity is so appreciated!



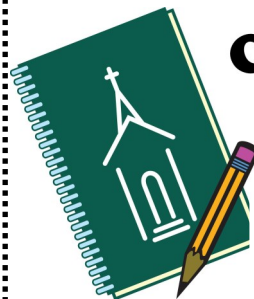
**Souper Bowl of Caring 2024
Sunday, February 11th**



San Francisco 49ers vs Kansas City Chiefs

**Vote for the team you want to win by bringing in canned soup or a cash donation. There will be three soup pots to collect donations:
one for team 49ers,
one for team Chiefs
one for team commercials.**

All soup and cash will be donated to Family Assistance Ministries.



**Church Council
Notes
January 2024**

- ◆ Lenten services are with us soon. February 21, 2024 will be our first soup supper at 6:30pm immediately after service. Will meet in kitchen.
- ◆ Danika is planning a concert in March with Jana Alayra.
- ◆ Our youth are planning some activities for the spring.
- ◆ Pastor Cole continues to work on a new website for the church.
- ◆ Confirmation classes are progressing and are at the halfway point.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lola Davies
Council Secretary

*Next council meeting will tentatively be on
Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 6:30pm*



To donate electronically Venmo us at OurSaviorsSanClemente
When asked please don't select "Purchases".

Thank you!



Save the dates
June 10-14, 2024

VBS

Vacation Bible School
Ages 3-10

Stewardship

For some of us the new year has flown by (I cannot believe tax season is already here) and others cannot wait for January to get over (I am DONE being cold).

The Lenten season begins this year on Valentine's Day. Pastor Tom from the Synod jokingly asked at the recent council meeting if Pastor was going to mark foreheads with a cross or a heart. My two cents either one is fine, it is out of God's love for us that he sent his son to die on the cross. Lent for me is a time of reflection both internally and externally. Our Savior's is a pillar in San Clemente and is known for providing great education/fellowship opportunities for children/youth, great music, and a loving and caring community. We have seen positive changes in our attendance on Sundays and activities are picking up. I ask you to reflect on how you have helped with those positive changes and how you can help keep the positive trends going. Non-monetary ways you can do that are 1) invite someone to a service or probably easier, one of our activities, 2) continue to warmly greet visitors, 3) tell people about the youth programs and 4) volunteer to help.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is coming to Our Savior's

Why has Our Savior's decided to do this? - This year FAM, who normally supports a San Clemente VITA site, could not support the site and Sharon Williams asked if Our Savior's could help. Our Savior's will be helping families and people in need save money by not having to pay to get their taxes done, ensuring low-income families get all the credits they deserve, and supporting our community. If it is God's will, several new people will be exposed to and learn about Our Savior's and the awesome church and preschool that we are. Note, we will be getting a stipend from United Way for allowing our facility to be used.

What are the hours? - VITA will be on site, accepting clients on Fridays and Saturdays 9:00am -1:00pm. This starts February 2 and goes on to April 6. (April 12 and 13 will be for pickup only.) We will have volunteers on site from approximately 8:00am to 2:00pm and clients 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Will there be issues with VITA being on site on Fridays conflicting with the preschool? - No, VITA clients and volunteers will only be in the church office and our parking lot outside the fence on Fridays.

How can I help? Volunteer -There are greeters that simply make people feel welcome and guide them through the paperwork. Having a greeter frees up tax preparers to prepare taxes. We do serve Spanish speaking clients. Most of our tax-preparers do not speak Spanish. It would help tremendously if we had 1 or 2 interpreters. You do not have to commit to every week or both Fridays and Saturdays. You do have to read a document, take a short quiz, and complete a certificate. As a volunteer you can get your taxes done for free (16 hours of volunteering min.) [You do not have to be under the \$64K.] **Spread the word.** There are flyers in the Narthex. We do have a goal of preparing three hundred returns. If your child had a summer job, had withholdings and you want them to learn about taxes have them do their return with VITA. If you only receive Social Security but want to make sure the IRS has your current information, do your return with VITA. **You can also pray for the clients, tax preparers and site coordinators.** You think talking about money in church is tough, taxes are right up there.

What are the criteria to use this program? VITA sites offer free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including:

- People who generally make \$64,000 or less
- Persons with disabilities; and

Limited English-speaking taxpayers

Examples of folks that may make less than \$64k, but do not qualify for the VITA program are if they have employees or they have foreign accounts. We also do not do other state's returns. There is also a program for those making less than \$79K a year called My Free Taxes. [MyFreeTaxes by United Way | MyFreeTaxes](#). So, if someone comes in and is out of scope for VITA but meets the MyFreeTax criteria, we will have a computer available for them to do it through My Free Taxes.

How do people make appointments? People can go to <https://go.oncehub.com/OSLC> and directly make an appointment (you need an email to use this option). The QR Code will also take you directly to the appointment site. You can call (888) 434-8248. If you have specific questions, you can send an email to OSLCVITA@gmail.com or talk to Sharon Williams.





February 2024

February is the month we celebrate love! Our color of the month is red, the shape is a heart, and the character trait is caring. Some of the ways we will be incorporating these into our curriculum are:

- Science- making frozen baking soda fizzy hearts (pouring vinegar on them to make them fizz).
- Math- measuring ingredients for cinnamon/red cloud dough and using the cloud dough in our sensory tables
- Art- red and white golf ball painting, mixing the two colors by shaking a box with golf balls to mix them to make pink.
- Dramatic play- mail delivery/postal workers (practicing delivering Valentine's Day cards to their classmates)
- Book- "Love from The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle
- Language- Caring, love, delivery, mail, family, Valentine, heart, red and Cupid
- Music- "Valentine's Day Songs for Preschoolers and Kindergarteners" By Kiboomers

**Registration is opening in February for the 2024-2025 school year.
Please mark your calendars:**

- February 5: registration opens to church members**
- February 6 - 8: registration opens to current preschool families**
- February 9: registration opens to the public**

All registrations are first come, first serve. Please return the completed registration packet to Amy via email or in the registration form basket which will be located in the church courtyard Monday, February 5 - 9.

If you would like to have a registration packet emailed to you, please email a.rivas@oursaviorsschool.net, preschool families will be receiving a hard copy of the packet in their child's bucket Monday, February 29th and Tuesday February 30th.

Please email me with any questions!

Best Wishes,

Amy Rivas,
Preschool Director



School
www.facebook.com/osls.sc



Kid's Page - February 2024



CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

- a. We
- b. Above all,
- c. My command is this:
- d. And over all these virtues put on
- e. Greater
- f. See what great
- g. There is no fear in



- 1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12
- 2. has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13
- 3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18
- 4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8
- 5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1
- 6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19
- 7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14

Answers: a 6, b 4, c 1, d 7, e 2, f 5, g 3

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Church

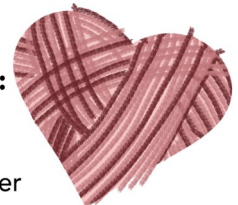
www.facebook.com/oursaviorsonline



Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help

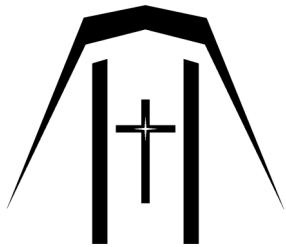


What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.

February 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>			1	<p>2 <i>Happy Groundhog Day!</i></p> 	3
<p>4 <i>World Hunger</i></p> <p>9:30 Worship 11:00 Confirmation Class 6:30 HSYG</p>	5	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 OWLs Walk 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Manna Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 MSYG</p>	8	9	<p>10</p> <p>8:00 Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>11 <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i></p> <p>9:30 Worship No HSYG</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>8:00 OWLs Walk 1:00 Manna Bible Study 6:00 Gilchrist House</p>	<p>14 <i>Valentine's Day</i></p> <p>Ash  Wednesday</p> <p>8:30 Imposition of Ashes 6:00 Worship No MSYG</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 Church Council Mtg</p>	16	17
<p>18</p> <p>9:30 Worship 6:30 HSYG</p>	<p>19 <i>Church Office Closed</i></p> 	<p>20</p> <p>8:00 OWLs Walk 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Manna Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 Lenten Worship 6:30 Soup Supper 6:30 MSYG</p>	22	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:30 Worship, Preschool Sunday 6:30 HSYG</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>8:00 OWLs Walk 1:00 Manna Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:00 Lenten Worship 6:30 Soup Supper 6:30 MSYG</p>	29	<p>High School/Middle School Winter Retreat Feb 23 - Feb 25</p>	



Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School

200 Avenida San Pablo • San Clemente • California • 92672

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JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30AM FOR WORSHIP



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