



## SHARING THE LIGHT

*The mission of First Lutheran Church is to grow together in Christ through Prayer, Worship, and Education and to spread the love of Christ to our community.*

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February 2021 Publication of **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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### Reading through the Bible

Have you ever thought about reading through the Bible in a year? Maybe you have thought about it, and that's as far as you got. Or maybe you tried it once, and you bogged down and gave up.



I admit that it can be tough. I had, only, read through the whole Bible once in a year, and that was as a part of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First Lutheran, Venice. That year a group of us committed to doing it together, so we had group support, which helped. But doing it all by yourself, as I just said, can be a tough go. I know, because I had tried it a couple of times and gave up each time.

But there are real advantages to doing it, as I have found out this year. With all of the conflict and problems in our country, something (or Someone?) prodded me to commit to reading through the Bible on my own in 2021, and I am glad I did. Using the reading plan that I will discuss in just a moment, it only takes me about 20 minutes a day, and as of the end of January I am doing great and really enjoying myself!

I look forward to it every day for several reasons. For one thing, I get in touch with the Big Picture of what God is doing in our world. We worship and serve a big and wonderful God, and reading through the whole Bible gives me a sense of the sweep of God's great plan of salvation. But I also get in touch with the intriguing details of God's activity too. By reading through the entire Bible I discover things in it that I never knew were there: little stories and insights that light up my mind and heart.

Most important of all, reading the Bible in this way puts me directly in touch with God through the Holy Spirit. The 20 minutes a day I give to this project are special times when I let God tell me whatever he wants to through his Word. I don't pick what I am going to read: God does, and God always has something relevant to tell me every day. These 20 minute reading periods also strengthen me for facing the problems and conflicts of today's world.

If you are going to attempt it, it's important to have a good reading plan, and the plan I am using is the best one I have run across. With this plan you read a portion of the Old Testament every day, a part of the New Testament, a Psalm (or part of one), and some verses from Proverbs. It's a good mix (like a good meal), and it builds a pleasing variety into every session. You can download this free reading plan from [OneYearBibleOnline.com](http://OneYearBibleOnline.com).

Psalm 119:105 is a famous verse of the Bible. It says "[God's] word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path". I pray that in whatever way you read the Bible, may God's Word be a powerful lamp that sheds the light of God's truth and love on your path during the year ahead.

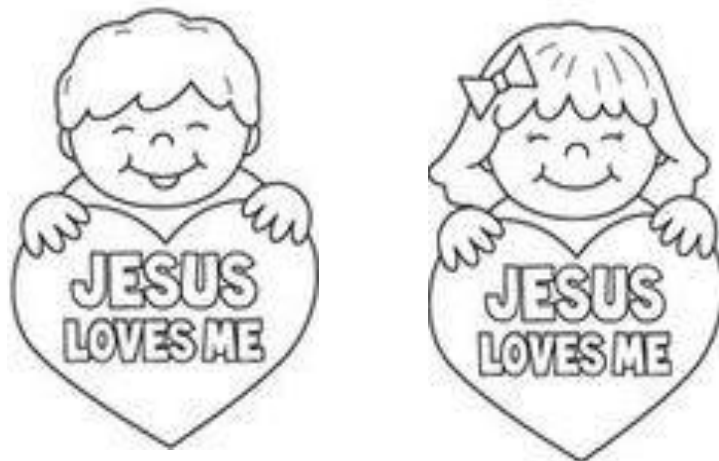
Happy reading!  
Pastor Ken Frese

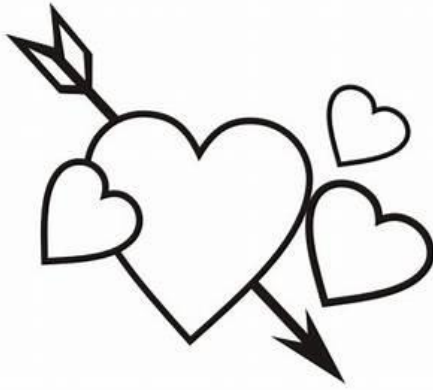


**First Lutheran Church  
SONshine House Preschool**



As of January 29<sup>th</sup> 2021 due to lack of attendance, Sonshine House Preschool will close its doors to in-person care. Plans to reopen will depend on COVID-19. The Zoom classes that have been going on since April 2020 will continue. Zoom classes are held five days a week, and are forty-five minutes per day. Since September we have had ten families on Zoom each month.





# February 2021



## **Gatherings:**

Mission Development Team, Sunday, February 7, 11:00 a.m.

Board of Directors, Sunday, February 14, 11:00 a.m.

Ash Wednesday service, February 17, 1:00 p.m. after the luncheon at 12:00 p.m.

Major Leaguers is cancelled until further notice.

Tuesday Bible Class, every Tuesday 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Room

Saturday Prayer Group, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. This group is, currently, meeting via the telephone. Let Jo Tschopp know if you want to participate.



## *February Birthdays*

*Tom Grabowski*

*February 12*

*Connie Kean*

*February 27*

## **Not receiving email special announcements and/or prayer requests??**

If you are currently not receiving emails and would like to be included please share your email address with Church Administrator at [firstlutherantc@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutherantc@gmail.com) or call: (626) 287-0968 and leave a message.

**Pastoral Care:** Pastor Kenneth Frese at: (310) 398-3741 or  
Board of Directors Chairman, Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613.

**Electronic Newsletter:** Let the Church Administrator know your email address if you would prefer to receive your monthly newsletter via email at: [firstlutherantc@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutherantc@gmail.com).

# Burn the Mortgage!

We praise God for the gifts totaling \$1,486 in January to retire the church mortgage. The remaining balance stands at \$172,229. Slowly but surely this debt is being reduced. When we started to intentionally pay off the mortgage by making principal only payments, in addition to the monthly payment, we owed \$315,469. Members and friends of the congregation have contributed gifts monthly, occasionally, or one-time gifts. Thanks to all who have participated. It is easy to designate your gift by writing on your check or envelope “debt reduction.”



## **Friends in Deed**

First Lutheran began contributing to the Friends in Deed Food Pantry in 2017. Members have monthly consistently donated food items and sometimes cash to this outreach. Before the pandemic, volunteers would work one Saturday a month. I consider it a privilege to be able buy food to help a financially challenged family. Everyone needs to eat, if the pantry helps them with some food items the family can dedicate their scarce funds to pay rent, buy gas, and pay utility bills. Many of the recipients of this aid are senior citizens on a very limited budget, while others are the working poor, each has a story and a need.

## **Worship Anew**

A number of years ago First Lutheran published information about Worship Anew, a Lutheran Sunday worship service on DIRECTV Channel 377. Recently, a former member told me how meaningful the program has been for herself and others in her family. You can view the weekly TV program at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday. If you have a computer, you can watch it at any time by visiting the Worship Anew site. The worship service is filmed at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



## **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

It is the time of year for members of Thrivent Financial to think about directing their Choice Dollars to First Lutheran. If you have Choice Dollars to direct you have until March 31 to select a ministry and direct your dollars. Please don't lose the opportunity to designate those dollars. Some designations are small, some larger, all are appreciated. Since 2011 First Lutheran has received \$41,323. You can designate via phone or computer. Your Thrivent agent can help you or let Jo Tschopp know if you are having difficulties.

### **Saturday Prayer Group**

This small group continues to pray via phone on Saturday mornings. Currently, they are focusing on the Community Prayer Box, the intentional monthly outreach to the neighborhood, our nation, and our communities. Let Jo Tschopp know if you want to join us at: (626) 355-9433



*Psalm 102:17 He will answer the prayer of those in need. He will not turn from their prayer.*



### **Annual Year-End Statements**

Financial Statements have been mailed. If you do not get a statement or if there is a problem, please contact Kathy Janetzke at: (626) 796-1626. If there is no answer, please leave a message and I will return your call.

### **Mission Development Team**

On January 24, seven members and friends of First Lutheran delivered a monthly invitation to our defined neighborhood of approximately 170 residences. The invitation included information about the upcoming “Chalk It Up to Love” community activity and information about the March 18 Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by the Board of Directors. Have you recently noticed the church’s front yard sign? Some repair work



has been done and we are changing the sayings more frequently. The Little Free Library and the Community Prayer Box are active, maintained, and a reach-out to the neighborhood. Join us as we meet and plan ways to serve God here in our neighborhood. We are following Pastor Frese’s proposal, “To establish First Lutheran Church as the care and spiritual center of the church’s immediate defined neighborhood.”

## First Lutheran Presents "Chalk It Up to Love" –

### A Community At-Home Chalk Festival



We're reaching out to Temple City residents and FLC members and alumni to celebrate Valentine's Day with us by making chalk illustrations on their own driveway of things that are inspiring, positive or special, all because of love. And thanks to Thrivent Financial, First Lutheran will supply the chalk for free.

Participants just need to register with [cgeltz@firstlutherantc.org](mailto:cgeltz@firstlutherantc.org) by Saturday, February 6 at 5 p.m. to pick up their free, personalized chalk kits at the church office from February 8 to 12 between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

(We are following COVID-19 social distancing rules, so please wear a mask.) Out-of-town participants should register but are welcome to use their own chalk.

The four competition categories are: 1) Residents (individuals and families), 2) Resident Students (ages 12-18), 3) Resident Children (12 and under), and 4) current and past FLC members and alumni of First Lutheran School and SONshine House Preschool.

The top three winners in each local category will receive \$25 gift certificates from Temple City restaurants. Out-of-town members and alumni will receive gift certificates redeemable at their location. First Lutheran will buy these gift certificates with sponsorship by Thrivent Financial. (This is a win-win for community residents and also for local small businesses.)

For prize consideration, participants should take two photos of their art (one of the art alone and one of the art with the artist(s)) and send them to [cgeltz@firstlutherantc.org](mailto:cgeltz@firstlutherantc.org) by February 14 at 11 p.m. Then we'll announce the winners on Friday, February 26. For more information, contact Christine Geltz at [cgeltz@firstlutherantc.org](mailto:cgeltz@firstlutherantc.org) or (626) 483-0560.

Invite your friends and neighbors! Why put on a Valentine's community Chalkfest? Chalk it up to love!!



### Tuesday Bible Study

This small group continues to meet on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Room practicing social distancing and wearing masks. We have followed David from being a shepherd boy, a giant-killer, a war hero, friend to Jonathan, servant to King Saul and then King of Israel. We, now, move into David's middle age and his challenges as a parent and the lessons we can learn from this great Bible hero. All levels of Bible knowledge are welcome. For further information contact Oscar Tschopp at: (626) 355-9433.



# Borchard Prayer

Papua New Guinea

January 2021

Dear Praying Friends,

When Mandita was in the Ipili area from July through September 2020 some Ipili people gave money to help with building the translation office/house there. Mandita sent me this expression of their thanks:

*“On behalf of all the Ipili people we want to thank Janet Borchard and those in charge of Lutheran Bible Translators, USA. Along with the prayer groups and partners you pray and help us by giving money, and so we think of you as parents of our faith. You have given us many things such as the Ipili New Testament, audio Bibles, memory cards, Faith Comes By Hearing Proclaimers, and the Jesus video. Now we see that a building has been built in the Porgera district, and so now we rejoice and thank you very much.”*



*Margret and her baby boy Terry  
picture by Adam Boyd*

In my November prayer letter I told you that I was hoping to be able to work with Mandita and Margret on the team check of Exodus chapters 10-14. I am thankful that we were able to work together several times during November using the Skype program. There were two times when the internet connection from Ukarumpa was broken for several days at a time, but otherwise I was very pleased with working over the internet.

The next step is for Mandita to look at comments that Margret and I have put in chapters 15-21 of Exodus, and to make any needed changes in those chapters. Then I will go through his changes to see if there are any more places where the meaning is not yet correct. At that point those chapters will be ready for the team check. ***Please pray for wisdom as we do this work.*** Besides going through Mandita’s changes in Exodus chapters 15-21, I plan to continue working on the first advisor check of Exodus chapters 35-40.

There are two verses in Exodus chapter 13 that we still need to finish. They are verses 9 and 16 which both present similar difficulties. In the ESV version verse 9 says “And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt.” There are several parts to this verse, and we need to make sure that all the parts are in the translation, and that the relationships between those parts are correct and clear. It seems like when we fix one part another part gets messed up.

Margret has gone out to the Ipili area to take care of a family land issue. While she is there she hopes to show the Ipili videos to people. She also plans to work on increasing awareness of the translation work among the people by showing them how we use the Paratext computer program to do the translation. She plans to be there through January. *We have heard that there is a lack of food in the Ipili area, so ask the Lord to provide for all her needs, and for the needs of everyone there.*

*Pray that Mandita will make good progress on the translation in January.* He wants to go to the Ipili area to do more work on the translation office/house. I'm guessing that he will want to go in February after he gets all his children into school for the new school year. He has a list of things that he would like to do on the house. *Ask the Lord to give him and me wisdom about what items should be done on the house.*

I am hoping to go to Papua New Guinea sometime in 2021, and to stay there for several months. When I go depends on the coronavirus, and what the clinic doctors at Ukarumpa in PNG say about my going there.

Like me, I'm sure that all of you are looking forward to a time when life can get back to being more normal. How blessed we are to know that our lives are in the hands of our loving Lord!  
Your Partner in Bible Translation,

*Janet*

### **Correspondence**

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Cell: 541-513-8193  
Email: Janet.Borchard@LBT.org  
or  
ja.borchard@gmail.com

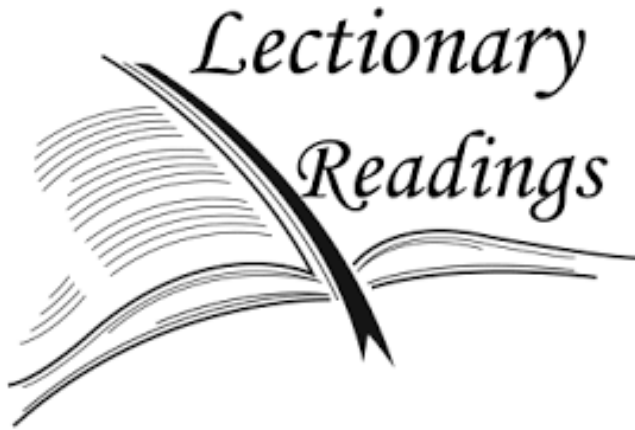
### **Contributions**

Lutheran Bible Translators  
PO Box 789  
Concordia MO 64020  
LBT of Canada 137 Queen St. S.  
Kitchener, ON N2G 1W2  
Designate: *Borchard Ministry*



**Lutheran Bible  
Translators**





### Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for February as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles, and the Gospel during the Transfiguration of our Lord to the several weeks in Lent.

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
February 7	Isaiah 40:21–31	Psalms 147:1–11	1 Corinthians 9:16–27	Mark 1:29–39
February 14	2 Kings 2:1–12 or Exodus 34:29–35	Psalms 50:1–6	2 Corinthians 3:12–18; 4:1–6	Mark 9:2–9
February 17 Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12–19	Psalms 51:1–19	2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10	Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21
February 21	Genesis 22:1–18	Psalms 25:1–10	James 1:12–18	Mark 1:9–15
February 28	Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16	Psalms 22:23–31	Romans 5:1–11	Mark 8:27–38

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Temple City, CA 91780

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MATERIAL**

*February, 2021*

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**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

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Website: <https://firstlutherantc.org>

*Rev. Kenneth Frese, Pastor*

*Elvia Ibanez, Preschool Director*

8:30 a.m. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Holy Communion every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays only

9:45 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE STUDY

Every Sunday