



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.

September 2021 *Publication of* FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Church family:

So much is going on in America and around the world! Wars, rumors of war, viruses, stress, and conflict just to name a few.



What does the Bible say about these times?

Psalm 2:1-3

**2¹ Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
2² The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,
3³ “Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us.”**

Man attempts to govern, control people and circumstances, what is the Lord's response?

Psalm 2:4

**4⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision**

God rejects man's attempt to control and govern ourselves, we will always be in trouble acting out of our own resources. God laughs at the futility of governing anything without His leadership.

The last line of Psalm 2 gives us the truth to live by: “Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.”

All things work together for good for those of us who are in Jesus!

Love,
Pastor Scott



September 2021

Ushers Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Greeters: September 5 Hazel Benscoter
September 12 Pat Caballero
September 19 Connie Kean
September 26 Norma Boehne

Gatherings:

Mission Development Team, Wednesday, September 1, 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Rm

Load the van for Friends in Deed, Friday, September 3, 8:30 a.m.

Taco Night, Saturday, September 18, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mission Development Team walks the neighborhood, Sunday, September 12, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Times, September 5, 8:30 a.m.
September 12, 8:30 a.m.
September 19, 8:30 a.m.
September 26, 8:30 a.m.

Major Leaguers is cancelled until further notice.

Tuesday Bible Class, every Tuesday 11:00 a.m. to 12:00p.m. in the 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.



September Birthdays

<i>Norma Boehne</i>	<i>September 11</i>
<i>Craig Boehne</i>	<i>September 13</i>
<i>Christine Geltz</i>	<i>September 29</i>

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 admin@firstlutherantc.org, or call: (626) 287-0968 and leave a message.

Pastoral Care: Pastor Scott Ganas at: (951) 795-8162 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: admin@firstlutherantc.org.

Burn the Mortgage!

Only four more months until the end of the year to move the church mortgage balance below \$100,000. At the end of August, the balance is \$128,028. Each month we pay \$5028 plus extra principal only donations received. In August we sent in \$447 for a principal only payment. Just think how the congregation can use \$5000 monthly for ministry rather than for the mortgage. Our congregation is wonderfully blessed with this property and for more than 75 years we have used it to minister to others, we are ready for more years of ministry but some ministry takes money.



Friends in Deed

In July, members and friends of First Lutheran contributed 857 pounds of food items to help the financially challenged people of the surrounding area. We haven't yet weighted the contributions for August, but much has already been stashed in the collection area. The Pantry provides food assistance to low income and no-income families. Many of the households are made of the working poor, senior citizens, people with disabilities, some on fixed income, and some experiencing homelessness. Approximately 400 households made up of about 1,000 people per week are being helped. Much of the food distributed comes from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Trader Joe's Ralphs, Grocery Outlet and others, which provide fresh produce and meat. Also, very important are the donations of food from the community. Churches, synagogues, schools, local businesses, groups and individuals all contribute, sharing and showing compassion to those in need.

Worship At Home Opportunities

If you are not able to attend our weekly Sunday worship you can listen via radio to the Lutheran Hour sermon at 8 a.m. on station KBRT AM 740. Also available for the Temple City area is KKLA 99.5 FM at 1:30 p.m. each Sunday.



Another opportunity is to watch and participate with Worship Anew at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday using Direct TV, Channel 377. If you have a computer, you can view the program at any time by going to the Worship Anew website. This program is filmed at Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne and includes choirs and a short liturgy with confession and absolution.

Mission Development Team

This team of creative thinkers does not get discouraged even when no one from the neighborhood shows up for the family film night. We had one family group from Azusa, another from Montrose and the show went on. Vickie Trepanier learned how to use a borrowed commercial popcorn machine and Jo Tschopp learned how to connect the right cords to the correct outlets from the computer to the projector, and then to then sound! And, here is the encouraging part of this effort. About a week later, a neighborhood lady of Pat Grabowski's came knocking on Pat's door expressing her appreciation for our monthly distributions, which let people know that there is a church down the street that is reaching out to the community and she wants to come to our planning meetings! That is just one story, those of us who are walking and distributing each can tell of a positive experience from comments about the flower bulbs to hellos and thanks for the information.



Here's how the congregation can help; come to the Taco Night on Saturday, September 18, 5:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. The taco man promises an ample and delicious meal including drinks, choice of three meats and sides. We will be setting up tables and chairs outside and have some activities planned. Help us meet our goal of serving 50 meals for only \$8 each. For October, we will be hosting Trunk and Treat, Sunday October 31 in the parking lot. Call Jo Tschopp for further information at: (626) 355-9433

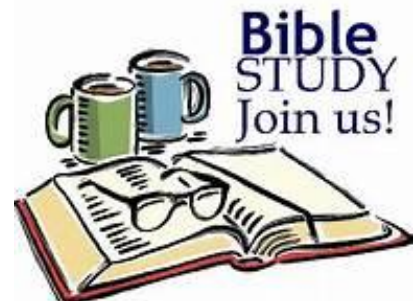


Saturday Prayer Group

Join us via phone as we pray for our congregation, our neighborhood, and many, many other concerns. When we finish our hour, we feel invigorated and fortified for another week of living, guided by God. Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Contact Jo for further details at: (626) 355-9433.

Tuesday Bible Study

This faithful group is now entering into the section of Matthew that tells the passion story. We will be studying the events leading up to the historical event of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. No Bible expertise needed, just a willingness to meet on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. For further information call Oscar Tschopp at: (626-355-9433)



Little Free Library

Recently, we have had many of our children's books taken by neighbors. I like to think the books have found new friends. Reading improves literacy and connections. I am eager to read to my grandchildren a beautifully illustrated book I found in the box. Please share books you have by putting them in the library or by giving them to Jo Tschopp.



Community Prayer Box

We continue to check our community prayer box daily. The Saturday prayer group prays the requests for several months in their weekly prayers. People that are on the prayer chain also pray. Someone, recently, asked me if we had ever received a note in the prayer box saying that his or her prayer request had been answered. The response to that question is no, we have never received a follow-up note, and no one has left

their contact information. God asks us to pray and He does the follow-up.

Philippians 4:6-7 – do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Members and friends of First Lutheran, who have in the past purchased products from Thrivent Financial, are often eligible to direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars to our congregation. Please check with your agent or call Client Services at: (800) 847-4836.



You can also call Jo Tschopp for further information at: (626) 355-9433. Since 2011, First Lutheran has received close to \$42,000 in Choice Dollars.



Children's Sunday School Mission Project

A big thanks to the members and friends of the congregation who contributed to the Sunday School mission project. This is the third year that the class has filled backpacks with school supplies. This amazing group of four students ranging in age from first grade to ninth grade has used their offerings and monetary gifts to purchase 32 string backpacks filling them with specific school supplies. The filled backpacks, then, go to Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry in Mexico. This ministry has built 12 churches and helps to support them. LBCM also supports a Bible Institute with two campuses, one in Tijuana and the second one in San Luis Rio Colorado in the state of Sonora. ESL classes, sewing classes, after school programs, and even house building, are part of this ministry. Angels Wings is their child sponsorship program. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, contact Jo Tschopp for further information at: (626) 355-9433.



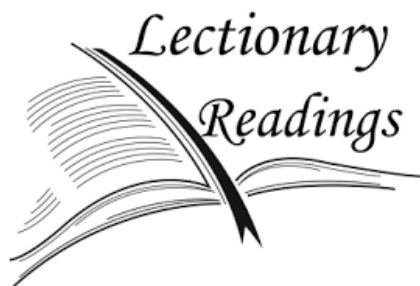
Preschool Teachers Needed

Are you a preschool teacher or do you know someone who would like a job teaching at SONshine House? Our preschool closed at the end of January due to low enrollment, and is ready to reopen. Three Open Houses were recently held and we feel that we have enough families interested in enrolling to make it financially viable. However, our current staff, because of childcare challenges are unable to work in the early morning or after 3:30 p.m. We need teachers available to work in the early morning and late afternoon. This is a wonderful opportunity to share Jesus with children and parents. The required 12 units of early childhood education are a requirement. For further information, contact jtschopp@firstlutherantc.org or kjanetzke@firstlutherantc.org



The Lutheran Hour was first broadcast in October 2, 1930 and continues on the air today, making it the world’s oldest continually broadcast Christ-centered radio program. To listen: go to LHM podcasts: <https://www.lhm.org/podcasts/> 24/7, go to: <https://www.lhm.org/> in our LLL district

- 8:00 a.m. Costa Mesa KBRT 740 AM;
- 1:30 p.m. Glendale KKLA 99.5 FM; and
- 7:00 a.m. Sirius – XM Family Talk131.



Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for September as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, New Testament (Epistle), and the Gospel:

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
September 5	Isaiah 35:4–7a	Psalm 146	James 2:1–10	Mark 7:24–37
September 12	Isaiah 50:4–10	Psalm 116:1–9	James 3:1–12	Mark 9:14–29
September 19	Jeremiah 11:18–20	Psalm 54	James 3:13–4:10	Mark 9:30–37
September 26	Numbers 119:4–6, 10–16, 24–29	Psalm 104:27–35	James 5:1–20	Mark 9:38–50



Borchard Prayer

Papua New Guinea

August 2021

Dear Praying Friends,

It Is the Lord's Work!

Near the end of the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans he shared some prayer requests: "I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company." (Romans 15:30-32, ESV) I'm quite sure that when Paul asked the believers in Rome to pray that he would be able to come to them he did not think that God would answer their prayers by having him arrested and transported to Rome by Roman soldiers! God does answer our prayers, but not always, or should I say not often, in the way we are expecting.

I know that the Lord is in charge of the Ipili language work, but I tend to have my own ideas of what I think should happen, and when and how it should happen. But things rarely happen the way I think that they should. You'd think that by now I would have learned that God does things in His own way. Right now, I'm realizing that I need to put the Ipili work in the Lord's hands, and to leave it there.

Mandita and Margret in the Ipili Area

During April and May a difficult situation came up between Mandita and Margret which kept Margret from doing language work. Through prayer and by meeting with church leaders the situation was eventually resolved and Mandita and Margret were reconciled. ***Please pray that they will be able to work well together, and that the relationships in their family will grow stronger.***

At the end of June Mandita travelled to the translation center at Ukarumpa so I was able to skype with him and Terry Cirre. Mandita reported that he has made good progress on closing in the ceiling and walls of the house/office. He plans to do more work on the house in the coming months.

His efforts to encourage people to use the Ipili Scriptures has been more challenging. Fighting between clans is going on in several parts of the Ipili area which makes it difficult to safely travel to those places. He told me that the police were planning to go to the Paiela district to deal with fighting there, and that he planned to go with them to show videos and to sell audio Scriptures. I just heard from him that he was able to go to the Paiela district and sold 30 audio Bible players there.

He told me that enemies of the Gospel are making it difficult to do the work of encouraging people to use the Scriptures. One need is for church leaders to practice reading the Scriptures so they will be confident to read them in church services. ***Ask the Lord to open the way for Mandita and Margret to visit people to help them to listen to and read the Ipili Scriptures.***



Mandita With a Box of Audio Bible Players

My Health Challenges and Plans for Going to Papua New Guinea

The past several months I've had some digestion problems and difficulty with sleep. I'm doing better now but I feel that I need more strength and stamina. One medical test that I had in June needs to be repeated in December. This made me wonder if I should postpone my trip to Papua New Guinea. I decided that it will make more sense to plan on going to PNG after the beginning of the year. ***Please pray for good health, strength, and stamina for me, and for Mandita and Margret.***

I will continue checking the translation on the computer. I hope to be able to talk to Mandita and Margret sometime so we can discuss the Ipili project. Mandita, Margret, and I all appreciate your prayers for the Ipili work. The Ipili work is in the Lord's hands.

Your Partner in Bible Translation,

Janet

Correspondence

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Lutheran Bible Translators

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DATED MATERIAL

September, 2021

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Website: <https://firstlutherantc.org>

Rev. Scott Ganas, Pastor

Elvia Ibanez, Preschool Director

8:30 a.m. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Holy Communion every 1st & 3rd Sundays only

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

Every Sunday