



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.

April 2020 Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Things First from Pastor

We are looking at the major parts of our liturgical service.

Part One: Invocation, God's time and place not ours.

Part Two: Confessions and Absolution, our sins given to God and then we receive absolute forgiveness and the righteousness of His Son, Jesus Christ.

And now this month, Part Three: The public reading of scripture, Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and then the Gospel.

The Bible is "God's Word" not "words". The Bible is one book with parts, and these parts are connected by the one author, the Holy Spirit using various personalities and various contexts.

The lectionary was compiled centuries ago to give a sampling of particular themes running through the various sections of the scripture.

Hearing the Word of God and seeing the unity of scripture produces faith!

Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Second Things Second from Pastor

During this global pandemic, we are instructed to keep a safe "social distance" from our neighbors of six to eight feet when we need to leave our house for "essential services."

Romans 13:1

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."

Each of you must be guided by the Word of God and your conscience to determine when to leave your house for essential services.

As your pastor, you should know what I've decided in subjecting myself to the "governing authorities."

One: As long as the Lord keeps me healthy, it is my privilege to preside over Sunday worship service. The Lord has blessed us with a large sanctuary and with our size, we are able to practice social distancing. Communion, passing the Peace and physical contact with anyone other than family is discouraged, and we want to insure everyone's safety.

Two: We will continue with Sunday School classes because we can maintain "social distances."

Three: I will attend meetings that I consider essential, but I will keep a safe distance.

My cell phone: (951) 795-8162 is available for you at any time.

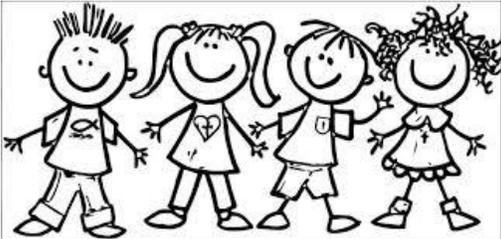
May God bless you and keep you safe. Nothing will ever separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus!



**First Lutheran Church
SONshine House Preschool**

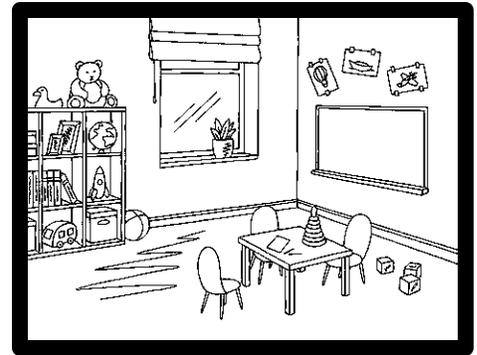
Hello,

I want to take the time to formally introduce myself. My name is Elvia Ibanez. I became the new director of SONshine House on March 16, 2020. I am very excited to get to know all the beautiful families that make up SONshine House. A little about me: I'm married and have a two-year-old son. He makes life so exciting for us. Our son is the reminder of the magic of each day. Children are truly God's blessing.



My passion for early childhood started very young for me. It was my kindergarten teacher that made me want to work in this field. Fast forward a couple decades, I was the student, the nanny, the teacher, the parent and now director. I have seen early education in many different settings and observed what each one needs. I plan to bring that experience and edge here to SONshine House.

I acknowledge all the changes you all have gone through these last couple months. My heart is with you. Unfortunately, due to the spread COVID-19 we closed our doors for 2 weeks. Though it was a tough choice to make, I felt it was important to prioritize the health and well-being of our children. After some prayer I found the silver lining. God truly gives us challenges we can handle. I am excited to share, we have used this opportunity to clean, organize and recharge for the return of our children. Exciting changes are coming.



We will be building an online community for parents to engage. We will be having a monthly newsletter, as well as sending weekly updates. From curriculum, monthly themes, changes and announcements. Making sure our families feel connected. More than ever now, a reminder of unity through God's work.

While I am settling into my new role, I invite you to stop by and get to know me. I will be conducting walkthroughs to get to know each student and family personally. I ask you, if you have any spare time during morning drop off, let's chat a little. My goal for SONshine is to create a school environment of respect, friendship, and community. We will strive to create a place where our children will grow, learn and thrive.

Lastly, I want to say I feel honored to serve SONshine House Preschool. This will be a loving place for all.

Sincerely,
Elvia Ibanez

SONshine house Preschool Director
eisonshinehousepreschool@gmail.com



April 2020



Ushers: Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, Don Lammerts

Altar Guild: No Communion until further notice

Greeters:

- April 5 Hazel Bencoter
- April 12 Jean Hyland & Betty Nelson
- April 19 Connie Kean
- April 26 Hazel Bencoter

Worship Times:

First Lutheran Church English Worship 8:30; Bible Class & Sunday School 9:45 a.m. – 10 45 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church: Taiwanese Worship 11:00 a.m.

Banner Church 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Generations Church 10:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Gatherings:

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship – still pending based on circumstances

Board of Directors April 13, 1:30 p.m. Fellowship Room

Friends in Deed Saturday, April 18, 8:15 a.m. meet at church to volunteer at the food pantry

Friends in Deed Wednesday, April 29, 10:45 a.m., load the van with food items to deliver to food pantry

Round Table Friday, April 24, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday Prayer Group, 9:00-10:00 a.m. contact Jo Tschopp for location



April Birthdays

- April 25 John Miller
- April 25 Susan Swanson

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 Jo Tschopp at jo@tschopp.org or (626)355-9433.

Pastoral Care: Pastor Scott Ganas (951) 795-8162 or
Board of Directors Chairman, Jo Tschopp (626) 355-9433.

Electronic Newsletter: Let Jo Tschopp know your email address if you would prefer to receive your monthly newsletter via email. jo@tschopp.org



Thrivent Choice Dollars

First Lutheran began participating in Thrivent Choice Dollars in 2011. Through the years members and friends of First Lutheran have designated \$40,707 to the congregation. Many thanks to those of you who have participated in the Choice Dollars program this year. If you are a Thrivent member and do not know how to designate your Choice Dollars you can contact your agent, Thrivent Financial, or Jo Tschopp.

Burn the Mortgage!

In March 2020, First Lutheran sent in \$691 as a principal only payment to Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Since we began the “Burn the Mortgage” campaign in October 2018, we have sent in principal only payments totaling \$14,943.88. The Board of Directors has been designating any extra rental money and special donations to help pay off the church mortgage. When we started this effort, the loan balance was \$315,469.27; and our monthly obligation is \$5028. Our current balance is \$232,012.53. If you would like to contribute you can indicate on your check or offering envelope “Mortgage Reduction.”

Friends in Deed

The Friends in Deed Food Pantry in Pasadena is as busy as ever. Because of the health crisis, they are no longer allowing customers inside the store, but are filling bags with food items to be given to the people as they check in. Please continue to share your bounty with the economically challenged. Any food that you like would probably be something that they like. What is especially appreciated are simple foods easily prepared, such as pudding mixes, soups, stews, canned chili, pastas, and canned meats.

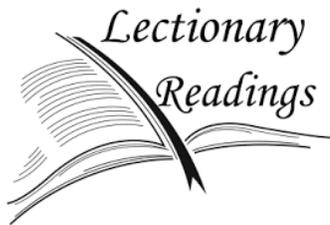


Mission Development Team

Because of the health crisis facing our nation the Mission Development Team has to cancel the Major Leaguers event on April 9, the presentation by Pastor Frese on April 23 regarding Disaster Preparation, and the May 2 reunion celebration of 75 years of ministry. At our next meeting, we will be discussing ways to reach out to our members and the community during these difficult times.

Newspapers for Boy Scouts

For decades First Lutheran has been collecting used newspapers for the Boy Scouts. The Scouts maintain a collection bin at the north end of the parking lot next to the former ball shed. Please consider contributing your folded, not rolled, newspapers weekly to the collection bin. It is most helpful to put the newspapers into a paper, not a plastic, bag and bring them weekly. Catalogs are also accepted in paper bags. Cardboard is not accepted with the newspapers. Funds for this recycling project are used by the Scouts to enhance their programming.



Reading the Lectionaries

You will enjoy reading the lectionaries for April as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles, and the Gospel

Old Testament / First Reading

Apr 5 Isaiah 50:4–9a
Apr 9 Exodus 12:1–14

Psalm

Psalm 118:19–29
Psalm 116:12–19

Epistle

Philippians 2:5–11
Hebrews 9:11–22

Gospel

John 12:20–43
John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Holy Thurs

April 10 Isaiah 52:13–
Good Friday 53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 4:14–16;
5:7–9

John 18:1–19:42

April 12 Acts 10:34–43

Psalm 16

Colossians 3:1–4

Matthew 28:1–10

Easter

April 19 Acts 5:29–42
April 26 Acts 2:14a, 36–41

Psalm 148

Psalm 116:1–14

1 Peter 1:3–9

1 Peter 1:17–25

John 20: 19–31

Luke 24:13–35

A Prayer During Times of a Pandemic shared by a member

May we who are merely inconvenienced, remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors, remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home, remember those who must choose between preserving their health, or choose between making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no place to go.

May we who are losing our marginal income in the tumult of the economic market, remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for quarantine at home, remember those who have no home.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9123 Broadway
Temple City, CA 91780

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL

April 2020

[]

[]

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH and SONSHINE HOUSE PRESCHOOL

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

Office Phone: (626) 287-0968

SONshine House Preschool: (626) 285-3380

Website: <https://firstlutherantc.org/>

Presiding Pastor: Scott Ganas

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP Sundays 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE STUDY 9:45–10:45 a.m. each Sunday