



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.

August 2020 Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's desk

Suffering and Surrender

We are all suffering and we understand that God is all powerful and allowing these events to unfold. In light of this time of suffering, let's see what God says:

Romans 8:18 (English Standard Version)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Suffering and our eternal hope

Christians suffer with an eternal hope that Jesus will complete our redemption in the next life. For now, we suffer and struggle living in a fallen world against all sorts of enemies.

Suffering of our work

Our response to our earthly enemies is love, prayers, and the witness to the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our response to our spiritual enemies is to pray for help and perseverance for the sake of the body of Christ, the church.

Suffering and our refining

We live in a time of suffering and our faith is being severely tested.

1 Peter 1:6–8 (ESV)

⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials.

⁷These have come so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory

What is revealing to you about your faith during this time of suffering?
How are you praying for your faith to grow?

Let me close with one of my favorite prayers:

Father forgive me,
Lord Jesus help me.

Amen.
Pastor Scott



**First Lutheran Church
SONshine House Preschool**



Hello Members.

As always, I continue to pray that this email finds you well and healthy. The preschool went through a lot of changes for the month of July. Earlier in July, we had seven children enrolled in our program. Unfortunately, we were made aware of a COVID positive case in late July. Because of this, we had to close the preschool down for a mandatory 14 days. However, we are so thankful none of our teachers were affected. I truly believe that our efforts in cleaning and limiting exposure help us get ahead. We are, now, open once again. We are beginning August with a hopeful heart. We only have three returning children at this moment, but we have interest from new families. Our Zoom families keep returning every month with interest of a full year of Zoom session. We are contemplating with the ideas of, potentially, offering a full Zoom school year and what that would look like.

I look forward to next month's update to see where we are in the spirits. I have faith that with God's blessings, we will do great things at SONshine house.

Looking forward to next month's update.

In His Name,
Elvia Ibanez
SONshine house Preschool
Director

eisonshinehousepreschool@gmail.com



August 2020

Gatherings:

Mission Development Team, Thursday – August 6, 10:00 a.m.

Board of Directors, Tuesday – August 18, 1:30 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, 9:00-10:00 a.m. This group is, currently, meeting via phone.

Let Jo Tschopp know if you want to participate.



August Birthdays

August 3

Pat Grabowski

August 4

John Klawiter

August 12

Margaret Markham

August 15

Don Lammerts

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 or (626) 287-0968 and leave a message.

Pastoral Care:

Pastor Scott Ganas (951) 795-8162 or

Board of Directors Chairman, Judy Gunther (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.

Burn the Mortgage!

After we make the August mortgage payment, our loan balance will be below \$200,000. We thank Mr. Ambrose Chan, our bookkeeper, for negotiating with Lutheran Church Extension Fund to lower the interest rate on the loan. Now, with the modification, we are paying 4% rather than the previous 4.5%. The pay-off date is edging closer, thanks to all who are contributing towards the extra principal payments.

Friends in Deed

First Lutheran has been supporting the Friends in Deed Food Pantry for more than three years. The Pantry provides food assistance to low-income and no-income families in the Pasadena/Altadena area. The households are made up of “working poor” individuals, senior citizens and people with disabilities on fixed incomes, and those experiencing homelessness. By providing food the families and individuals are more able to direct their limited funds towards rent and other monthly necessities. Please toss some of these “most needed” items into your shopping cart: canned chicken, cereal, rice, cooking oil, flour, sugar, chili, beef stew, dry beans, pasta, oats, shelf stable milk or powder, spaghetti sauces, and soups. The Pantry relies on the LA Regional Food Bank and the generosity of individuals, groups, congregations, and local businesses to keep their shelves stocked.



Bible Study



This group is studying the Old Testament book of I Samuel every Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. The human characters in Samuel experience the struggles of life just as we face daily challenges. As the chapters of the book unfold God works through the events and people, giving us lessons and examples that we can apply to our lives. No previous Bible knowledge is needed, as we gather practicing social distancing and wearing a face covering. Contact Oscar Tschopp for further information at: (626) 355-9433.

Saturday Prayer Group

This group has been meeting via phone conference calls during the virus pandemic. What a joy to join together in prayer for our nation, the world, individuals, and our congregation. To agree together in prayer is very powerful, God promises to listen and to respond to our petitions. Going through the praise, silent confession, thanksgiving, and intercession brings God's peace and power to the problems and challenges we face daily. Let Jo Tschopp know if you would like to participate at: (626) 355-9433.



Mission Development Team



Participation in this group is always open to those who are interested in serving our congregation and reaching out into the community. The current team members have been challenged to search the web for ways to minister and reach out during the pandemic. You can join us as we gather on Thursday, August 6, 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Room, social distancing and face coverings required. Contact Jo Tschopp

for more information and to let her know that you will be attending at: (626) 355-9433.

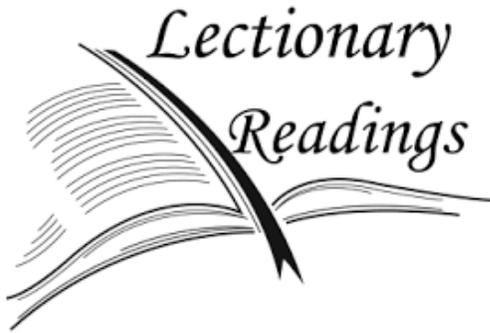
Little Free Library

Our Little Free Library has been given an infusion of adult fiction books from the estate of Cindy Crump. You can find some of her books in the Little Library. Certain neighbors have contributed various children's books. During this virus time people are turning to reading. If you have some books you would like to donate please let Jo Tschopp know and she will make arrangements to have them picked up. Before the donated books are put into the Little Library they will be quarantined for 7 days, which is a recommendation of the American Library Association.



Major Leaguers

This event has been cancelled until further notice.



Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for August as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles, and the Gospel

| | <u>Old Testament</u> | <u>Psalms</u> | <u>Epistle</u> | <u>Gospel</u> |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| August 2 | Isaiah 55:1–5 | Psalms 136:1–9 | Romans 9:1–13 | Matthew 14:13–21 |
| August 9 | Job 38:4–18 | Psalms 18:1–16 | Romans 10:5–17 | Matthew 14:22–33 |
| August 16 | Isaiah 56:1, 6–8 | Psalms 67 | Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32 | Matthew 15:21–28 |
| August 23 | Isaiah 51:1–6 | Psalms 138 | Romans 11:33–12:8 | Matthew 16:13–20 |
| August 30 | Jeremiah 15: 15–21 | Psalms 26 | Romans 12:9–21 | Matthew 16:21–28 |

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

August, 2020

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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E-Mail: firstlutherantc@gmail.com

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