



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.

February 2020 Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship, Life and the Invocation

I am writing a series of monthly articles on the parts of the liturgy and the effect it can have on our lives.

The first part that we will be looking at: The Invocation.

God asks us to love HIM with our whole heart.

As sinners, we love ourselves with our whole heart.

Therefore, we naturally have an attitude towards "my life," "my time," and "my plans moment by moment,"

The Invocation: "In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," is establishing that worship is God's time, not our time. We surrender our time over to Him to hear His Word, to speak to Him in prayer, to sing our praises to Him, to confess our sins to Him, and to hear from Him that we are forgiven in Christ alone.

The Invocation sets us apart by placing us, the church, in sacred time within sacred space. Beginning the week in the worship of God in His Kingdom sets our hearts on Him for the coming new week.

Next month we will look at confession.

Love,

Pastor Scott



**First Lutheran Church
SONshine House Preschool**

February 2020

Dear Church Family,

Happy New Year again...the school had a fabulous celebration on January 24th celebrating the Lunar New Year or Chinese New Year! We had hoped to see more of our church family in attendance and we encourage all of you to join in on these ministry opportunities! The students sang 3 songs and sang Jesus Loves Me chorus in Mandarin. We normally only have a few performances a year and this was an additional one that I think was a fun and special treat! We also enjoyed a wonderful meal and a great time of fellowship. The best part was introducing our new full time pastor, Pastor Scott Ganas, to our families. He is already beloved with His energy, charm and care for the children, families and staff. The school looks forward to the many upcoming events! Watch for future announcements and we will see you there!

Blessings in Christ to First Lutheran Church, the Board and its members. As the Preschool Director it has been a pleasure serving you and it has been a gift I will cherish. It is always hard to say goodbye or to understand the whys, but we have a loving and faithful God who provides all our needs. Although my journey has ended here at First Lutheran Church and Sonshine House Preschool I am excited about the leader the Lord will bring up and what amazing and awesome things He will continue to do for the future of the church and its ministries.

To say it has been a privilege or honor is really an understatement, because truly there are not enough words to express my gratitude, my appreciation, and my thankfulness to how this church community has impacted me and transformed me. I am forever grateful for all the love, support and prayers that I received from each one of you during this journey. I am equipped and ready for where the Lord takes me next and I credit this church community for the training I was able to receive while serving in this ministry. When I came to this school it was just a job, but over a short period of time it became a passion, a joy, a ministry where we see God's work at hand, a blessing, a family, a cherished and valued place that I called home.

Thank you all....

“All things work together for good to those who love God” and we are blessed!

Christ Servant,

Jill Vidal



February

Ushers: Craig Boehne,
Altar Guild: Jean Hyland,
Greeters:

Dave Lassanske, Don Lammerts
Betty Nelson

Feb. 2 Hazel Bencoter
Feb. 9 Jean Hyland, Betty Nelson
Feb. 16 Connie Kean
Feb. 23 Norma Boehne

Worship Times:

First Lutheran Church English Worship 8:30; Bible Class & Sunday School 9:45-10:45
Grace Lutheran Church: Taiwanese Worship 11:00
Banner Church 10:00-3:00
Generations Church 10:15-2:15

Gatherings:

Mission Development Team Wednesday, February 5, 10:45 Fellowship Room
Board of Directors Wednesday Feb. 11, 1:30 Fellowship Room
Major Leaguers Thursday, Feb. 13 1:00 Fellowship Room
Friends in Deed Saturday Feb. 22, 8:15 a.m. meet at church to volunteer at the food pantry
Friends in Deed Wednesday Feb. 22, 10:45 load the van with food items to deliver to Friends in Deed
ASH WEDNESDAY, February 26, 12:00 worship, soup & sandwich after the worship service
Round Table Friday, February 28, 10:00
Preschool Chapel each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Class: Each Tuesday 11:00-12:00 Fellowship Room
Saturday Prayer Group, 9:00-10:00 a.m. contact Jo Tschopp for location
German School 9:00-12:00 on Saturdays



February Birthdays

Feb. 12 Tom Grabowski
Feb. 27 Connie Kean

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

Burn the Mortgage!

The Board of Directors continues to be very intentional about paying down the mortgage. In 2019 \$11,840.38 in extra principal was paid. Members and friends of First Lutheran are contributing with one-time gifts and some with a monthly commitment. Some of the extra principal money was from additional rental receipts. We still owe \$241,657; a year ago the amount due was \$301,266. We are praising God for the progress. If you would like to contribute to this effort please indicate on your check or envelope.

Generous Giving

Recently First Lutheran received a generous gift of \$500 from a former member.

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
GENEROUSLY

Friends in Deed

Exactly 4676 pounds, that's more than 2 tons, of food items were donated in 2019 by church members to the Food Pantry in Pasadena. We've already started 2020 by collecting 339 pounds in January. It is so simple when you are shopping to toss into your shopping cart a few extra items. When I deliver the food I'm always impressed by the number of volunteers working and the number of people waiting for their turn to select items to take home. When you donate food items it allows the financially challenged to use their limited financial resources for rent, transportation and other necessities.



Bee a Sweetheart

The Major Leaguers of First Lutheran Church
Invite you to a complimentary VALENTINE LUNCHEON!

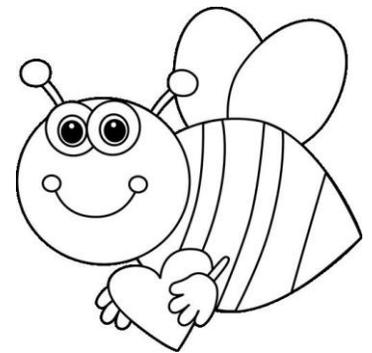
February 13th, 1 p.m.

Guest Speaker Pastor Ken Frese

“The Christian View of Aging”

Invite your friends and neighbors!

RSVP required: 626-287-0968 by 02/06/2020



Tuesday Bible Study

If you like history and lots of action stories with heroes you will enjoy the Tuesday Bible Study group as they delve into the early history of Israel and the beginning of the kingly line. We will read exciting and unbelievable stories of faith and reliance on God. All levels of Bible knowledge are welcome as we study the two Old Testament books of Samuel. This group meets on Tuesdays from 11:00-12:00. Call Oscar Tschopp for further information: 626 355-9433.





Mission Development Team

The Mission Development Team appreciates the knowledge and guidance of Pastor Scott as they plan activities and outreaches into the community. Christine Geltz, Pastor Scott and Jo Tschopp attended the recent Preschool in-service in Costa Mesa and came away with ideas for integrating SONshine House into the church ministry and into the community.

SONshine House celebrated Chinese New Year with a fun luncheon attended by Pastor Scott and Jo. The children’s singing was very special, especially singing, “Jesus Loves Me” in English and Mandarin.

Some future activities include the Major Leaguers February 13 luncheon with Pastor Ken Frese presenting, “The Christian View of Aging.” Flyers will be passed out at the senior luncheons in the park and also in the neighborhood of First Lutheran.

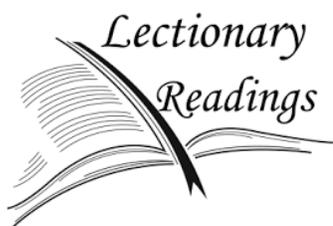
Ash Wednesday and the other Lent services will be held at noon with a soup and sandwich lunch followed by worship. Publicity will include the neighborhood.

On April 23 Pastor Ken Frese will be with us presenting information about “Disaster Preparedness.” We will again invite the community and our neighbors. On Saturday, May 2 another 75th Anniversary Celebration Dinner inviting former students, staff, and members. A drive-in movie night inviting the community is planned for May. On Saturday, September 26, President Mike Gibson of the Pacific Southwest District will join us for a gathering. A community yard sale is in the planning stages.

Join this eager and enthusiastic group, their next meeting is Wednesday, February 5, 10:45.

Voters’ Meeting

At the January voters’ meeting Pastor Scott presented a plan to help facilitate ministry with a one-year commitment of \$24,000 to hire a part-time church administrator and web-site designer/weekly updater. Funding for the two positions will come from the savings account. A balanced budget was passed; reports from the various groups were given as we enjoyed a light lunch prepared by Vickie Trepanier.



Reading the Lectionaries

You will enjoy reading the lectionaries for February as they travel to various books of the Old Testament and Epistles. The Gospel reading from Luke continues the Epiphany theme of revealing Jesus as the Son of God. The Matthew passages give us some of the first teachings of Jesus as he begins ministering to the people.

Old Testament

Feb. 2 I Samuel 1:21-28
Feb. 9 Isaiah 58:3-9a
Feb. 16 Deuteronomy 30:15:20
Feb. 23 Exodus 24:8-18

Epistle

Hebrews 2:14-18
I Corinthians 2:1-12
I Corinthians 3:1-9
2 Peter 1:16-21

Gospel

Luke 2:22-32
Matthew 5:13-20
Matthew 5:21-37
Matthew 17:1-9