



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.

January 2019

Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The New Year holiday is one of my favorite times of the year. I love to look forward to what God will provide for the future. I'm so glad He tells us that He will always provide but doesn't give the details, we learn to trust. The new year waits to be filled with God's blessings and challenges.

I challenge you to look backwards to January 2018 and reflect on your or your loved ones health challenges. Both my husband and I faced some health issues, a dear nephew died, a very best friend was called to glory, because of health issues we require more assistance for maintaining our home.

My flesh and my heart may fail,

but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:26 (ESV)

After thinking of your health challenges reflect on how you were able to "get through it." If you are like me, you take a day at a time; waking up to another day, asking God for guidance and help. Some days are better than others, some days are filled with discomforts and burdens. And yet, God provides: ²⁸ *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.* Matthew 11:28-30 English Standard Version (ESV)

The reason I love to look back is I can see God's provision and then I wonder what He will do in the new year. As Chairman of the Board of Directors I reflect back to the past months; we have had plenty of challenges that seemed to be overwhelming but to God nothing is overwhelming. Precious members have passed to heaven; other dear ones have weathered tremendous health challenges. Our pastor retired, we welcomed Foothill Preparatory School, we said good-bye to our Mission Director Stella Yau, we weathered a deficient budget and God was with us.

What will 2019 bring? We don't know but we know that God will be with us desiring us to grow spiritually strong, to serve, to love, to give deeply of our time, talents, and treasures. Challenge yourself this year, resolve to let God use more and more of your time, talents, and treasures. Resolve to pray regularly for your board of directors, the preschool families and staff, the many volunteers, and the future ministries here at First Lutheran.

³³ *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

³⁴ *"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Matthew 6:33-34 English Standard Version (ESV)*

The new year waits to be filled with God's blessings and challenges.

Jo Tschopp

Chairman, Board of Directors



First Lutheran Church SONshine House Preschool

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! What a wonderful and blessed Holiday season! The preschool participated in Advent service performing the story of Jesus's birth. We are so thankful to all who attended and for supporting the school. We also had a fun time caroling after the service. The neighbors were joyful seeing us and were such a blessing to be a part of it. We also want to thank our church family for providing such a wonderful Advent meal for our preschool families. It was a wonderful gathering and time of fellowship.



As we head into the new year there is much to do! Coming up is our Jog-a-thon fundraiser on January 18 at 10:00am. Please feel free to come and cheer on our students. Last year's bike-a-thon raised money to replace all our sand toys and supported supply purchases throughout the year such as new swings.

Our Big Event for 2019 will be our participation in the Camellia Parade. It has been a few years since First Lutheran has taken part in the parade and so we need your help! This is new for us as a staff and would appreciate the help, support and any suggestions on how to make the most of this city event. Our hope and goal are to get the name of First Lutheran and SONshine House back into this great community. As a church and ministry, we have a lot to offer so let's join together and take advantage of this opportunity! Please contact Jill if you can offer your services and if you'd like to participate. All are welcome and bring your family along too! The parade is a short 1-mile walk down Las Tunas and the more people the better so hope to see all our church family there!



Entering a new year allows time to reflect on the past, as director for 3 years there have been many downs and ups, but the Lord is faithful and "Oh so good!" Amen?! So please continue to pray for us and for this ministry to grow so that we can continue to share the love of Christ and bring all glory to Him!

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Blessings in Christ,
Jill Vidal
Director

Therefore
if anyone
is in Christ,
the new creation
has come:
The old has gone,
the new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17

January

To
God
be the
GLORY
Great Things He Hath Done!

Ushers: Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, Don Lammerts

Altar Guild: Regina Li-Armijo, Jo Tschopp

Greeters:

Jan. 6 Hazel Bencoter
Jan. 13 Jean Hyland, Betty Nelson
Jan. 20 Connie Kean
Jan. 27 Norma Boehne

Readers:

Rick Swanson
Hazel Bencoter
Rick Swanson
Christine Geltz

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:

Friends in Deed Jan. 2, 10:45 loading the Tschopp van with food items to deliver to Friends in Deed

Board of Directors, Jan. 16, 11:30 a.m.

SONshine House Jog-a-thon Jan. 18 10:00 a.m.

Preschool Chapel each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday Night Bible Class: Each Tuesday beginning Jan. 8, 7:00-8:30 Fellowship Room

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

Friends in Deed Jan. 26, 8:15 a.m. meet at church to volunteer at the food pantry

Voters' Meeting, Sunday Jan. 27, 11:00, brunch will be served.

German School 9:00-12:00 on Saturdays



January Birthdays

Jan. 8 Rachel Witcher

Jan. 9 John Daly

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 Albert Chai (626) 823-3040; Deacon Mark Flath (661) 305-4650; 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

Friends in Deed:

We praise God for the members who have been shopping and contributing food items for the Friends in Deed Food Pantry in Pasadena. Since January 2017 people have faithfully been bringing in grocery items. Several members were determined to bring the 2018 total pounds to at least 4000 pounds.



Looking at the boxes and bags at the back of the church it looks like they have achieved their goal. The items will be weighed and loaded into the Tschopp van on Wednesday, Jan. 2 at 10:45. Let Jo Tschopp know if you are available to help.

Don't forget to add a few items to your shopping cart. For January let's focus on foods for cold weather and the pantry's most needed items; peanut butter, canned tuna, canned chicken, cereal, rice, cooking oil, sugar, and flour. If you would like to help the pantry sort and stock items, mark your calendar for Saturday January 26 meeting at the church

at 8:15 to carpool to Pasadena. For further information contact Jo Tschopp 626 355-9433.

Tuesday Night Bible Study:

Beginning January 8 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. this group will meet to study God's word recorded in the letter which Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia. In Galatians the Holy Spirit talks to us about the daily subtle temptations to abandon the Gospel of grace. The book addresses current life situations from a Christian perspective. All levels of Bible knowledge are welcomed. Contact Oscar Tschopp for further information. 626 355-9433.



New Year's Resolution:

Some members have made a commitment to read the weekly lectionaries (Bible readings) during the week before worship on Sunday. These will be printed on a card for members to take home along with a three-ribbon bookmarker. Deacon Mark Flath has challenged us to bring our Bibles with us to church to add our notes.



	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Jan. 6	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 13	Isaiah 43:1-7	Romans 6:1-11	Luke 3:15-22
Jan. 20	Isaiah 62:1-5	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Jan. 27	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:16-30

Saturday Prayer Group:

For years First Lutheran has had a Saturday prayer group which meets weekly to pray for the congregation, for individuals, our government, and many other causes. This past year we have been especially focusing on our neighborhood. Please consider joining us to offer prayers of praise, thanksgiving, supplication, and special requests. Sometimes we meet inside the church, sometimes we meet at a home, and sometimes we walk the neighborhood praying for individual homes. Please contact Jo Tschopp for further information and location.



Voter's Meeting:

Our constitution calls for two voters' meetings a year, one in January & the second in June. Please plan to attend on January 27 at 11:00; a light lunch will be served. The major item of business is the presentation of the budget for 2019. Reports will be given and opportunities for members to ask questions about ministry and activities at First Lutheran.



Offering Envelopes



Offering envelope boxes for 2019 have been distributed. If you have not received a box or if you would like a box please contact Kathy Janetzke at 626 796-1626.

Financial Gift:

Recently the church received a monetary gift from the estate of Keith White in the amount of \$62,861. Keith's Living Trust documents specified that a tithe of his estate would be given to First Lutheran. We praise God for this generous gift.

Flower Chart:

The new 2019 Flower Chart is in the narthex waiting for members to sign up to donate \$45 to purchase a flower bouquet for the altar. Please make your check out to First Lutheran LWML. Members can specify the date that they want the flowers to be displayed. For further information you can contact Kathy Janetzke at 626 796-1626.



GOT BOOKS?
GET SOME • GIVE SOME



Little Free Library:

The neighbors are using our Little Free Library. We would love to have some more book donations. Do you have some good fiction or interesting non-fiction that you would like to share with others? Also appreciated are children's books, they seem to be very popular with our library users. If you have some books you would like to donate please give them to Jo Tschopp or Kathy Janetzke. The purpose of the Little Library is to share with our neighborhood, and develop a feeling of community. There are a number of people who walk past the church on a daily basis.