



## *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 2020**

**Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Who am I?

What am I doing here?

If you could peel back the layers within the battle of sinner/saint that is within me you would find a guy that is driven by kindness and friendship. Jesus is very clear

about priorities. I am supposed to love God with everything that is in me and love you as I love myself.

Being a forgiven, fallen human being my curse is that I love myself most of all. But being baptized in Christ, Jesus' love can flow through me to you as I serve you in humility and dependence on God.

Who am I and what am I doing here? I am a pastor that wants Jesus' love, word and sacraments to move through me to you.

I'm here for you and outside of Sunday morning some of the services that I offer in no particular order: stupid Dad jokes, listening and talking, counseling and prayer, Bible Study, shared meals and hopefully other assorted acts of kindness.

In closing, I love you!

Pastor Scott Ganas





**First Lutheran Church  
SONshine House Preschool**



Greetings Church Family!

What a blessed season of celebrating our Lord Jesus Christ, Our King, Our Savior, Emanuel! We hope that you all had a wonderful Advent, Christmas and upcoming Epiphany celebrations?! As we enter a New Year there is so much to reflect and be thankful for. I'd like to first welcome Pastor Scott Ganas and family, we are so blessed to be gifted with a new Pastor who already has brought wisdom and joy!

Thank you to Pastor Frese for attending, serving and leading during the Advent festivities and service program. Thank you for the delicious soup and sandwiches for Advent service. The parents continue to talk about how yummy the meal was! Thank you to our church family members who helped with set up, clean up and ushering during the program.

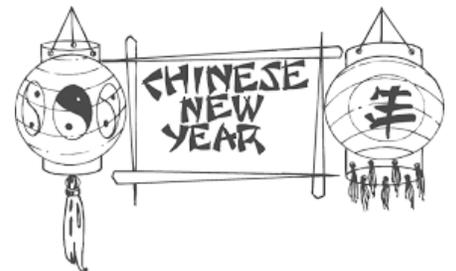
As a celebration for the school, we had Santa come and visit we had such a good time seeing our children excited! Many gave hugs, smiled and told Santa what they wanted for Christmas! A special thank you to our "Santa/Mr. Tom G" for bringing so much joy!

The staff also enjoyed our Annual Staff Dinner! We had a delicious meal together at Lucille's Smoke House restaurant! The food was so good that most of us were too full to finish and so the following day we also had a great lunch (leftovers!). Our teachers sacrifice so much, giving a 110% to this ministry and without them we would not be SONshine House Preschool. Forever grateful and thankful to such an amazing group of women!!



Looking ahead we have many exciting things coming up. This year the District is offering a combined workshop with Directors and Pastors; the discussion will be led by our own President, Pastor Mike Gibson, who will be speaking about "Intentional Outreach to Preschool Families!" How awesome! Looking forward to learning, worshipping and fellowshiping alongside our leadership. Please keep this workshop in prayer, as it is our goal to live out the Great Commission every day! We have such an opportunity at our schools being an on-campus mission field and we ask the Lord's guidance and wisdom as we share the love of Christ to our families.

As I end with our school being a mission field for outreach I strongly encourage and invite you to attend our Chinese New Year luncheon on January 24th from 11:30 to 12:15. Please come and join in on the festivities, sit with families, share stories, invite them to worship with you on Sunday, make those connections and develop relationships. This is the time!!



May God's grace, peace and blessings be with you all this New Year, Happy 2020!

Christ's Servant,  
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:** Jo Tschopp

**Greeters:**

Jan. 5 Hazel Bencoter  
Jan. 12 Jean Hyland, Betty Nelson  
Jan. 19 Connie Kean  
Jan. 26 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:**

Mission Development Team, Wednesday, January 8, 10:45  
Board of Directors, Wednesday, January 15, 1:15  
Round Table Friday, January 17, 10:00 a.m.  
District Conference for Pastors & Preschool Directors Thursday, January 23, Costa Mesa  
SONshine House Chinese New Year luncheon Friday January 24, 11:30-12:15 Congregation is invited.  
Friends in Deed January 25, 8:15 a.m. meet at church to volunteer at the food pantry  
Voters' Meeting, Sunday Jan. 26, 11:00, a light lunch will be served.  
Load van with items for Friends in Deed Food Pantry Wednesday, January 29, 10:45  
Preschool Chapel each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.  
Tuesday Night Bible Class: Each Tuesday beginning Jan. 7, 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



**January Birthdays**

Jan. 8 Rachel Whitcher  
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](mailto:jo@tschopp.org) or (626)355-9433.

**Pastoral Care:** Pastor Scott Ganas (951) 795-8162 [sganas19@yahoo.com](mailto:sganas19@yahoo.com)  
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](mailto:jo@tschopp.org)

# Burn the Mortgage!

During December we were able to make an additional payment of \$170 towards the principal of our loan. Now our loan balance is \$246,528.78. We have received some additional gifts in December toward this debt reduction, which will be noted in the next newsletter. One family has pledged \$100 monthly for the mortgage reduction; this is above their current giving. We thank God for gifts large & small. If you would like to contribute to this effort please indicate on your check or envelope.



## Generous Giving

The church has received, from a member, a contribution of \$20,000 to the General Fund. We give praises to God for this very substantial gift.

## Friends in Deed

Friends in Deed is an interfaith organization that provides supportive services to meet basic human needs, so our homeless and at-risk neighbors can rebuild their lives. This pantry has received grants and certificates of commendation for their work with the financially challenged residents of Pasadena and surrounding areas. Not only does the Pantry provide food items but they also provide a woman's shelter and counseling to help clients avoid homelessness. You can read more at their website. <http://friendsindeedpas.org/fid/>



First Lutheran has been contributing to this food pantry for three years. At first we collected food and then we began to send volunteers monthly to unload, sort, stock shelves and anything else the staff needs. Our group is known for their friendly spirit as they work together and don't need much guidance because they have been doing it regularly for so long.

January is generally a cold weather month think of some foods you like to eat in the winter and toss them into your shopping cart the next time you do your grocery shopping.



## Tuesday Bible Study

This group celebrated the New Year with a luncheon on December 31. Exactly at noon they toasted the New Year and enjoyed some New Year's antics and traditions twelve hours before the midnight hour. They are looking forward to resuming their study of the Old Testament book of First Samuel. Some of the members of the group have been attending for years and others for only a few months. Newcomers are always welcome, no previous Bible knowledge necessary to join. Call Oscar Tschopp for further information: 626 355-9433.

## Madge Kraus

The church has been informed that former teacher at First Lutheran, Madge Kraus, passed away on October 2, 2019. Both students and families loved Madge



**Mission Development Team**

The Mission Development Team is looking forward to working with Pastor Ganas as he joins us planning ways to reach out to our neighbors and the community. The November 30 meal and program was wonderful as we welcomed approximately 100 people, some from long ago. When Pastor Hartman asked former students to stand over 50% of the attendees stood. What a testament to the importance of a Christian education. Here are five of some of the written comments:

- I was part of a faculty that was close knit and had tremendous fun together. These fine people are still friends today.
- Baptized all 3 children at FLCTC.
- I was blessed here for 47 years with such wonderful group of people & many ministers – I’ll always remember.
- I had attended the school for 5 years (1971-1976), I’ve had great memories, and friends. First Lutheran School had given me a great foundation to my education. It’s been great re-acquainting with old friends again.
- I was warmly and lovingly welcomed since day one I stepped into this congregation. God’s love was felt in the way people accept newcomers. May God’s blessings continue to be poured through you all.

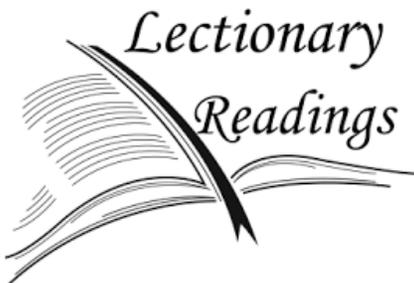
**Voters’ Meeting**

According to our constitution First Lutheran is to conduct at least two voters’ meetings, one in January and one in June. Our January meeting will be after the Bible Class at 11:00 on January 26. The budget for 2020 will be presented as well as reports from our various ministries. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and become involved. A light lunch will be served.



**Reading the Lectionaries**

Notice that the Old Testament readings, as in December, continue to wander through Isaiah, all of them foretelling future events, The Gospel readings from Matthew tell of the visit of the Wise Men, the baptism of Jesus, and Jesus beginning his ministry. The John passage focuses on John the Baptist and the first disciples.



**Old Testament**

Jan. 5        Isaiah 60:1-6  
 Jan. 12      Isaiah 42:1-9  
 Jan. 19      Isaiah 49:1-7  
 Jan. 26      Isaiah 9:1-4

**Epistle**

Ephesians 3:1-12  
 Romans 6:1-11  
 I Corinthians 1:1-9  
 I Corinthians 1:10-18

**Gospel**

Matthew 2:1-12  
 Matthew 3:13-17  
 John 1:29-42a  
 Matthew 4:12-25



# Borchard Prayer Letter

Papua New Guinea

December 2019



**SONshine House will celebrate on Friday, January 24 from 11:30-12:15; please plan to join the students, staff and families in the parish hall. The food is always tasty and an adventure for us.**

## Little Free Library



Our Little Free Library is one of over 90,000 libraries located around the world. First Lutheran’s library can be found on the world map that shows Little Libraries in 90+ countries. Millions of books are exchanged annually through these libraries, increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds. This non-profit organization is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They have received numerous commendations and awards. The stated goal of Little Free Libraries is to inspire a love of reading, build community, and spark creativity by fostering

neighborhood book exchanges around the world. If you have books you would like to share with our neighbors please leave them in the Little Free Library or give them to Jo Tschopp, she will stamp them with a Little Free Library motto “Always a gift never for sale, or Take a book, share a book.” You can check out the selection of books already in the Library and after reading one return it to share with others. You could even write a note in the book explaining why you liked or didn’t like the book.

## Church Signs for the New Year

- “Start Your Year With God. He Makes All Things New.”
- “Let God Bring Solution In Your New Year Resolution”
- “New Journey, New Beginning, Same God”
- “God Desires Daily Commitments, Not Yearly Resolutions”
- “May All Your Troubles Be As Short As Your New Year’s Resolutions”
- “New Year Promises? God Never Breaks His.”
- “Trust An Unknown Future To A Known God”
- “Changing Calendar...Unchanging God!”
- “May God’s Amazing Grace Be Upon You In 2020”
- “God’s Timing Is Perfect”
- “The New Year Brings New Challenges, Jesus Brings New Life”
- “It’s Never Too Late To Begin Again”
- “Your Year May Change, But God Is Still The Same”
- “Wise Men Still Seek Him”
- “Exercise Daily, Walk With The Lord”
- “God Promises A Safe Landing, Not A Calm Passage”

# Happy New Year



# Borchard Prayer Letter

Papua New Guinea

December 2019

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you for praying! Ruth Snyder was able to go with me on this trip. We arrived in Papua New Guinea on October 13 and left on November 13. It was such a blessing to have her be with me in PNG! When we were at my home in Ukarumpa she bought the fruits and vegetables at the outdoor market and groceries at the store. Besides all the delicious meals she cooked for the two of us, she also prepared the noon meals for the group when we were working on the consultant's check of Ipili Scripture. No one went away from those meals hungry! I value her friendship, and her willingness to listen to my venting about frustrations. Many people were blessed by her caring presence, and her prayers for healing. And traveling is so much easier when you are not doing it alone. Thank you, Ruth!

### *Our Work with the Translation Consultant*

Three Ipili people travelled from their home in the Ipili area to the translation center at Ukarumpa. Lutheran Evangelist Amos Takayu has been to Ukarumpa several times, but it was the first visit for Pastor Patemo Kolape of the Christian Apostolic Fellowship and Ms. Lely Kesa of the Seventh Day Adventist church. These three people, along with translators Pastor Mandita Kunuma, his daughter Margret Mandita, and I worked with translation consultant Pastor Yauko Kasave on the Ipili translation of the book of Ruth, and the first five chapters of Exodus.



*Mandita, Amos, Janet, Lely, Margret, Patemo, and Yauko*

Margret said that during the consultant check tears came to the eyes of the Ipili people as they read about the pain the people of Israel experienced in Egypt. She commented that they had read this Scripture before in Melanesian Pidgin, but it hadn't brought out their emotions like hearing it in their own language. She was excited about the difference that having God's Word in your own language makes!

### *Looking Forward to 2020*

***Pray for wisdom for the translation team as we continue working on the translation of Exodus.***

Mandita is planning to go out to the Ipili area in January to work on building the house/office out there. When he was there in September, he was able to buy most of the building materials but couldn't do much building because of a death in the family living next door. ***Pray that he will be able to make good progress on the house during this next trip.***

Margret is expecting a baby in March! ***Please ask the Lord to keep her and the baby safe and in good health and pray for her and her husband as they await the birth.*** I am planning to return to PNG sometime during April/May. The focus on this trip will be to work with Mandita and Margret on the team check of Exodus chapters 10 through at least chapter 14, and possibly beyond. The translation team is hoping that when Mandita is in the Ipili area that he will be able to identify a potential new translator to join the translation team. We're thinking it would be good to have such a person work with us the next time I am in PNG so we can decide whether he or she might be a good addition to the team. ***Please pray that the Lord would guide Mandita in this matter.***

***Please continue to pray that God would send someone to take over as advisor for the Ipili work.***

Your Partner in Bible Translation

*Janet*