



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.

March, 2020

Publication of **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**



Worship, Life, Confession, and Absolution

Last month we looked at the Invocation that establishes our welcome of God's time and place, and not our time and place.

This month, we move from Invocation to Confession. Once again, we battle our pride and our love for ourselves. We do not hide from God that we have a sin nature and that we fall short in our thoughts, what we say, and what we do.

We take ownership of our nature, knowing the price Jesus paid for our forgiveness. We confess known sins and unknown sins, knowing that God is perfect and holy, and we realize that we do not share His attributes.

The words of Absolution are spoken by a believer standing in for God. Absolution conveys the Words of God's forgiveness. Absolution is not only forgiveness, but also the assurance of alien righteousness filling the confessing believer.

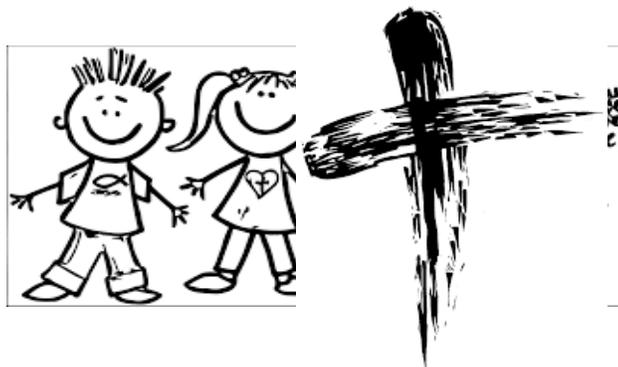
1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor Scott

SONshine House Preschool

Jill Vidal, our beloved preschool director, decided to take another path and is no longer with us. Alicia Mora is currently our interterm director. Alicia has been with SONshine House for four years and is a vital part of this ministry. We are interviewing candidates for the position of director and hopefully we will soon have a permanent director.



The Board of Directors considers this position to be very important to our ministry into the community. First Lutheran was formed 75 years ago with the mission to educate children. We still value that mission. Many of the preschool students come from Christian families who are members of churches that do not have a preschool. They want a Christian education for their little ones. The families that are not Christian have chosen to have their children receive a Christian education. The families have gifted us with their most precious treasure, their children, and we take seriously our responsibility to provide an excellent God-pleasing program. Currently there are 40 students enrolled with a waiting list for one of the classes.



Friends in Deed

Our loyal and hard working group of volunteers remains faithful about traveling to the Friends in Deed Food pantry every fourth Saturday morning. This enthusiastic group is composed of Dave Lassanske, Sharon Corey, Judy Gunther, Norma Boehne, Don Lammerts, Marta Lovasz, Kathy Janetzke, and Brett Ottem.

Church members contributed 438 pounds of food during February. We should be able to collect even more than that because March has five Sundays. During the month of March think about boxed and canned meals that a low-income family would enjoy. Don't forget staples such as flour, sugar, and oil. In talking to the director of the food pantry I learned that many of their clients are elderly and single. The pantry itself is very well organized and staffed with friendly volunteers to assist clients. The economically challenged are registered and then allowed to shop for a certain number of items in differing categories.

Mission Development Team

This adventuresome team is planning some spring and summer activities emphasizing our 75th Anniversary Celebration. On March 7 three of the members will be journeying to Orange Lutheran High School to attend a gathering interested in "Joining Jesus on His Mission." On Thursday April 23 Pastor Frese will return to talk to members and the neighborhood about preparing for disasters. This is a reach out to our neighbors.

In May we want to have another get-together with former members, students, and staff. Please turn in names and addresses for our database. Many people at the November gathering indicated they want to come back again. Also planned for May is a drive-in movie night for the community. An old-fashioned ice cream social is scheduled for June. Join us as we meet on Thursday, March 5, 10:00.





Ushers: Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, Don Lammerts

Altar Guild: Renee Errickson, Sharon Corey

Greeters:

March 1 Hazel Benscoter
March 8 Jean Hyland, Betty Nelson
March 15 Connie Kean
March 22 Norma Boehne
March 29 Jo Tschopp

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:

Lent Worship Wednesdays March 4, 11, 18, 25, 12:00 noon followed by soup & sandwiches

Mission Development Team Thursday, March 5, 10:45 Fellowship Room

“Joining Jesus On His Mission” Saturday, March 7, Lutheran High Orange

Board of Directors Tuesday, March 17, 1:30 Fellowship Room

Friends in Deed Saturday, March 21, 8:15 a.m. meet at church to volunteer at the food pantry

Round Table Friday, March 27, 10:00

Friends in Deed Wednesday, April 1, 10:45 load the van with food items to deliver to Friends in Deed

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

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

German School 9:00-12:00 on Saturdays

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

Lent Worship

The Ash Wednesday worship service in the Fellowship Room was well received with people attending because they prefer a day service rather than night worship. The worship series will be focusing on some of the important trees of the Bible. Can you think of some Biblical trees? How about the oak at Ophrah where God called Gideon to lead an army? There are the “Good Trees Bearing Good Fruit, & Bad Trees Bearing Bad Fruit.” You won’t want to miss these messages to prepare us for the glories of Easter on April 12. Each Lent service is Wednesday at noon with soup and sandwiches following.



Lutheranism 101

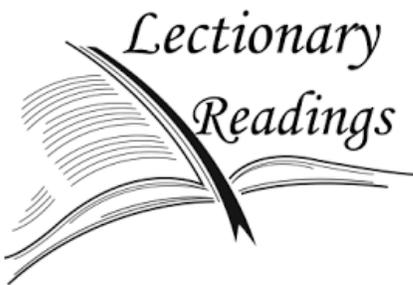
Have you ever wondered what the Lutheran church teaches or perhaps you want to review the basic tenants of the faith you confessed during your confirmation classes? You will have that opportunity after Easter Sunday on April 19 as Pastor Scott leads the adult Bible class through the book Lutheranism 101. The class is designed for long-time members of the Lutheran church and newcomers to faith. It will be held from 9:45-10:45 in the Fellowship Room.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice Dollars expire March 31. You must renew the distribution of your Choice Dollars every year. Your Choice of a prior year does not carry over. There are two ways to direct your Choice Dollars. Go to <http://www.thriventchoice.com> or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Choice Dollars" at automation.

Burn the Mortgage!

We continue to make additional principal only payments towards our church mortgage. In February \$587.50 was sent as a principal only payment. Our monthly obligation is \$5,028; currently the balance of the loan is \$236,895.20. The maturity date is March 21, 2025. The more donations received earmarked for mortgage reduction the sooner we will pay off the loan and be able to use the \$5,028 for ministry. We are very thankful for the progress being made.



Reading the Lectionaries

The Old Testament readings from Genesis tell of the Fall of man into sin and then the calling of Abram to become God’s chosen people. In the Exodus passages God’s chosen people are grumbling against Him and Moses. In the Isaiah verses the prophet complains that the people fail to acknowledge and give glory to God. The vision of Ezekiel in the Valley of Dry Bones gives us a hope for the future. You will learn much about the ministry of Jesus as you read the Gospel selections. The first reading from Matthew tells how the devil attempted to get Jesus to sin. Reading and studying the lectionaries during the week helps me understand and appreciate more deeply the Sunday worship.

Old Testament

March 1 Genesis 3:1-21
March 8 Genesis 12:1-9
March 15 Exodus 17:1-7
March 22 Isaiah 42:14-21
March 29 Ezekiel 37:1-14

Epistle

Romans 5:12-19
Romans 4:1-8; 13-17
Romans 5:1-8
Ephesians 5:8-14
Romans 8:1-11

Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11
John 3:1-17
John 4:5-30
John 9:1-41
John 11:1-53



Borchard Prayer Letter

Papua New Guinea

January - February 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

Introducing Lely Kesa

Lely Kesa was one of the Ipili people who came to help us with the consultant check of the book of Ruth and the first five chapters of Exodus. For many years she was a primary school teacher at a Lutheran school in the Ipili area. In fact, she was Ipili translator Margret's teacher one year! Since leaving teaching she has been working to help women in the Ipili area in various ways. She is very enthusiastic about Ipili people learning to read their own language, and especially has a heart for teaching women. After the Ipili team asked her to come help us with the consultant check she was asked by a women's group to fly to the capital of PNG to attend a conference taking place at the same time as our consultant check. So, when she first arrived at Ukarumpa she said that maybe she should leave early to go to that conference. But as the days passed she became more and more convinced that helping with the translation was more important than going to the conference. Praise the Lord!

When she first came to Ukarumpa she requested a copy of the Ipili New Testament since she had not seen it before. After comparing the Ipili New Testament with the Melanesian Pidgin Bible she said that the Ipili was very good and very accurate. That was good to hear! During her time at Ukarumpa Lely, Margret, and I met with people in the literacy department to talk about literacy in the Ipili language. As a result of this discussion Lely, Margret, and Amos Takayu have applied to attend a literacy course in June/July 2020. Lely bought the book for that course, as well as another book, and hopes to come up with a literacy plan before the course starts. *Please pray for Lely as she works on that literacy plan.*

Pray for Pastor Mandita

Please pray for Mandita, one of our Ipili translators. He was very sick during December, but, praise the Lord, he is now doing well. *Please pray that he continues to be well.* During January he has needed to stay at Ukarumpa in order to get his children into school for the new school year that starts in February. After that perhaps he will be able to go to the Ipili area to work on building the house/translation office out there.

Pray for Margret

Margret has been frustrated with her computer lately. I suspect that a lot of us can identify with that feeling! She has been having difficulty working with Paratext which is the computer program that we all use to work on translation. She has also been having difficulty because the computer she has been using is new to her, so she needs to learn some different ways of doing some things on this new computer. *Pray for wisdom for her, and for those who are helping her with the computer problems. And please continue to pray for her and her baby which is due in March.*

My Next Trip To Papua New Guinea

I plan to make my travel reservations in February, aiming to leave for PNG on April 3, and to stay there until the middle of May. I plan to work with the Ipili team to get at least Exodus chapters 9 – 14 ready for village checking. I'm hoping that we will be able to get even more chapters done. We're looking for a committed young Christian who could come to work with us while I am in PNG. If things go well that person might eventually join the translation team. *Please pray that the Lord will guide Mandita and Margret to the right person.*

During February and March I plan to concentrate on doing the first advisor check of the Ipili translation of Exodus chapters 15-21, and possibly work on chapters 22-28. *I've asked Margret to give her input on chapters 15-21, so pray that her computer will cooperate so she will be able to get that done.*

Your Partner in Bible Translation, Janet Borchard