



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.

May 2019

Publication of **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

We are now in the “Great Fifty Days” from Easter to Pentecost. We completed the days of Lent and now continue to celebrate Easter until the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Each month of the church year has special commemorations of various saints of the past, people who defended the faith. In this month’s newsletter you will find two commemorations of past members. Below are a few of the Lutheran Church’s commemorations for May. I hope you find them interesting. I challenge you to underline a few words or information that speak to you. You will find my thoughts on page 4. I’ve copied these biographies from Synod’s Worship Library; the information is at the bottom.

May 2: **Athanasius** was born in Alexandria in Egypt in A.D. 295. He served as a church leader in a time of great controversy and ecclesiastical disagreements. At the Council of Nicaea in 325, he defended Christian orthodoxy against the proponents of the Arian heresy, which denied the full divinity of Jesus Christ. During his 45-year tenure as bishop of Alexandria, Athanasius wrote numerous works that defended the orthodox teaching. His enemies had him exiled five times; on two occasions he was almost murdered. Yet Athanasius remained steadfast and ended his days restored fully to his church responsibilities. The Athanasian Creed, though not composed by Athanasius, is named in his honor because it confesses the doctrinal orthodoxy he championed throughout his life.

May 4: **Friedrich Wyneken, Pastor and Missionary**

Friedrich Wyneken is one of the founding fathers of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, along with C.F.W. Walther and Wilhelm Sihler. Born in 1810 in Germany, he came to Baltimore in 1838 and shortly thereafter accepted a call to be the pastor of congregations in Friedheim and Fort Wayne, IN. Supported by Wilhelm Loehe's mission society, Wyneken served as an itinerant missionary in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan, particularly among Native Americans. Together with Loehe and Sihler, he founded Concordia Theological Seminary in 1846 in Fort Wayne, Ind. He later served as the second president of the LCMS during a period of significant growth (1850-64). His leadership influenced the confessional character of the LCMS and its commitment to an authentic Lutheran witness.

May 21: **Constantine, Emperor, and Helena, his mother:** Constantine I served as Roman Emperor from A.D. 306 to 337. During his reign the persecution of Christians was forbidden by the Edict of Milan in 312, and ultimately the faith gained full imperial support. Constantine took an active interest in the life and teachings of the church and called the Council of Nicaea in 325 at which orthodox Christianity was defined and defended. His mother, Helena (ca. 255-329), strongly influenced Constantine. Her great interest in locating the holy sites of the Christian faith led her to become one of the first Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land. Her research led to the identification of Biblical locations in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and beyond, which are still maintained as places of worship today.

May 24: **Esther:** Esther is the heroine of the biblical book that bears her name. Her Jewish name was Hadassah, which means "myrtle." Her beauty, charm, and courage served her well as queen to King Ahasuerus. In that role she was able to save her people from the mass extermination that Haman, the king's chief advisor, had planned (2:19--4:17). Esther's efforts to uncover the plot resulted in the hanging of Haman on the very same gallows that he had built for Mordecai, her uncle and guardian. Then the king named Mordecai minister of state in Haman's place. This story is an example of how God intervenes on behalf of his people to deliver them from evil, as here through Esther he preserved the Old Testament people through whom the Messiah would come. Jo Tschopp



**First Lutheran Church
SONshine House Preschool**

May 2019

Dear Friends,

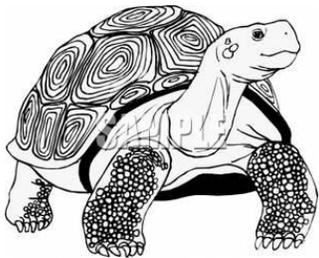
Greetings, we are into the last few months of this school year! It is hard to believe how quickly the time has gone.

We enjoyed in many fun activities this past month and look forward to the next.

We would like to thank Pat and her Major Leaguers team for a wonderful luncheon. Our staff was able to participate, enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship with church members. We appreciate opportunities to connect with our church family.



We celebrated Easter with our annual Egg hunt, but we took time to remind our students about the sacrifice our Lord made so that we can be saved! As a school we rejoice in the risen King and praise God for our many blessings. Our staff also enjoyed a day off to spend with family on Good Friday.



As we enter May and the last few weeks of school we are preparing for our end of school performances and our Pre-k graduation. Save the date! June 21 at 10:30, please also join us for a luncheon to celebrate our students and graduates! Hope to see you all there.

Looking ahead we will be having a Cinco de Mayo parade, Teacher appreciation week, Parent/Teacher conferences and a walking field trip to the Grabowski's to see the tortoises!

We are thankful everyday for God's blessings and for the opportunities to serve Him in ministry and in community. We take pride to be part of such an amazing District that is intentional in sharing the love of Christ. Please continue to pray for us!

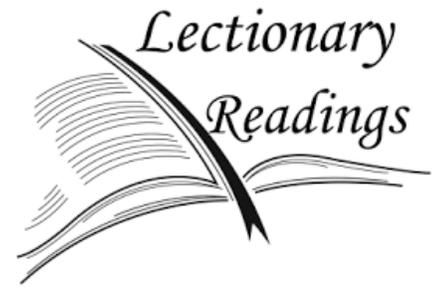
Blessings in Christ,

Jill Vidal
Director

"If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ." Galatians 1:10

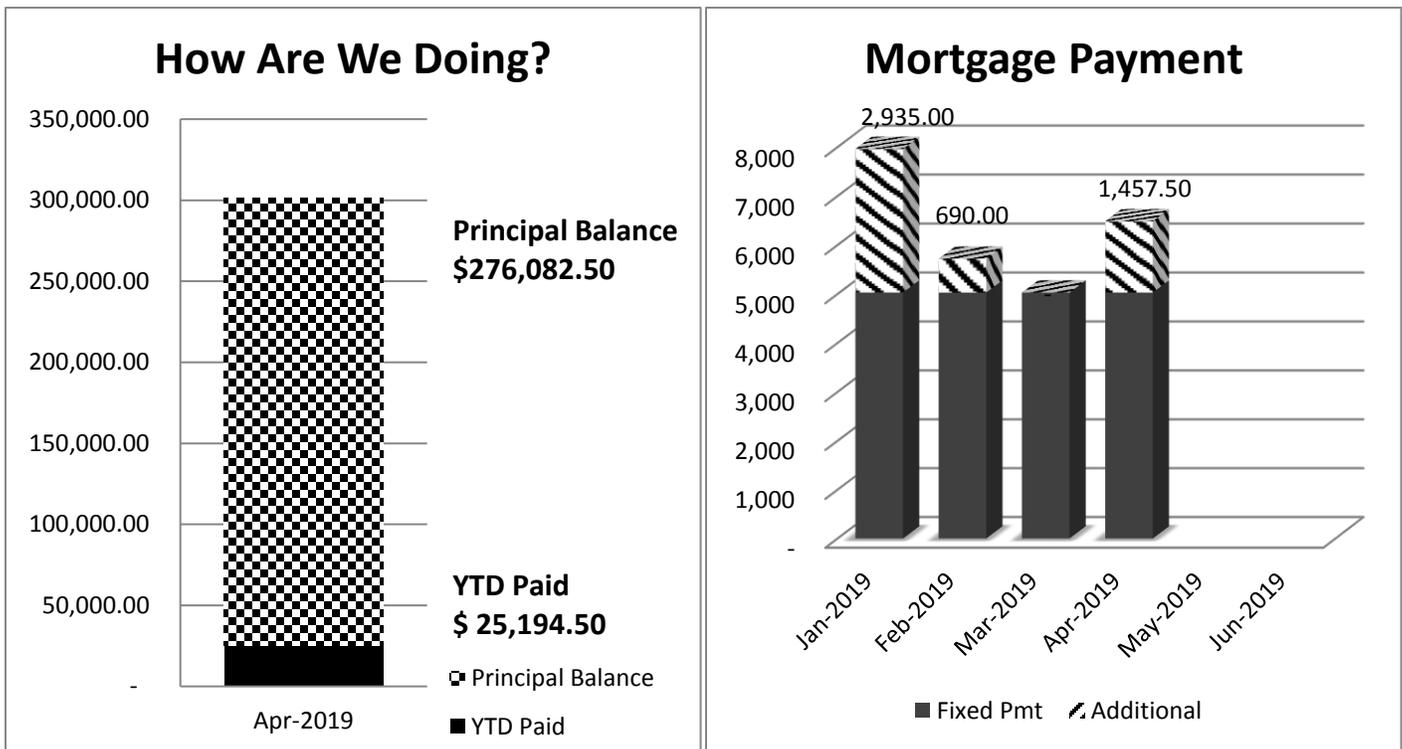
Reading the Lectionaries:

During the Sundays after Easter the Lectionaries replace the Old Testament reading with readings from the New Testament Book of Acts. This ancient tradition dates back to the early Church celebrating the “Great Fifty Days” from Easter to Pentecost. The church will be dressed in white during this time until the celebration of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit to hundreds. Notice also that the Epistle readings are from Revelation, as we contemplate the end-times. The human author of Revelation is John who writes while in bondage on the island of Patmos. Notice that the Gospel readings are all taken from the book of John, an eyewitness to the life of Christ. Enjoy reading these passages during these Great Fifty Days!



	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
May 5	Acts 9:1-22	Revelation 5:8-14	John 21:1-14
May 12	Acts 20:17-35	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
May 19	Acts 11:1-18	Revelation 21:1-7	John 13:31-35
May 26	Acts 16:9-15	Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27	John 16:23-33

Burn the Mortgage!



We are making progress. Last month’s principal balance was \$282,568. During April \$1457.50 was donated by members in addition to their regular offerings. If you add all the additional donations you will find that we have taken one month off of the mortgage. Praise God! Some people say that all we have is a gift from God, He gives to us and we are given the task to use the gifts wisely. Money and possessions are referenced in the Bible more than 800 times.

Philippians 4:19 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Blessings Continue

Recently First Lutheran received \$3,398.40 from Erna Maron's Memorial Fund from the "In Faith Community Foundation." Erna set up the memorial fund before her death in 2004. We praise God for this gift and the past yearly gifts and the gifts in the years to come.



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Recently Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice program directed \$1031 into our bank account. Since 2011 First Lutheran has received \$40,492. If you are a Thrivent member you can designate your Choice Dollars to our account. Thank you to the members and former members who have contributed. For further information contact your Thrivent agent or Jo Tschopp.

Little Free Library:

One of my favorite Bible verses is Matthew 7:7-8. ⁷ *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."* ⁸ *For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."* God sometimes uses people to answer our prayers. In last month's newsletter I wrote that our Little Free Library needed some appropriate adult fiction and children's books. Rachel Whitcher went shopping and has donated a big stack of beautiful children's books. Rachel currently lives in Glendora and takes public transportation to regularly volunteer at SONshine House.



Remembering Barbara Klawiter

Barbara, a woman of strong faith passed away on April 11, she was born on March 8, 1933 in Itasca, Illinois. Barbara was raised in Aurora, Illinois, and attended Emmanuel Lutheran School and the local high school. She attended Concordia Teachers College in River Forest Illinois and taught in Lutheran schools in Illinois and California, and also Adult High School in Alhambra. Barbara earned two Masters degrees from Cal State University, Los Angeles. Barbara is survived by her husband John of 66 years, three sons, one daughter, four grandsons and ten great-grandchildren. John and Barbara's son, Pastor Dave Klawiter, officiated at the private family service at Rose Hills.

Thoughts Regarding the Commemorations from Page 1:

I hope you read and contemplated the stories of the saints remembered on page 1. These are my thoughts.

Athanasius – Alexandria in Egypt was a bastion of Christianity. Athanasius remained strong, while persecuted. He relied on God.

Friedrich Wyneken – I'm impressed that one of our church fathers was a missionary among Native Americans.

Constantine, Emperor, and Helena, his mother – I wonder how old Helena was when she made the pilgrimage to the Holy Land? Was she a senior citizen? Because I've visited the Holy Land three times I'm particularly captivated by the fact that an older woman of her time period studied and then traveled. I have visited the sites that she located.

Esther: I have to admit that the book of Esther isn't one of my favorites. Esther becomes queen by winning a beauty contest, thus avoiding becoming part of the king's harem. The book reads like a novel and depicts palace intrigues. However, Esther does save the Jews in captivity and her festival of Purim is celebrated yearly even today.

Update on the Special Projects:

In May of 2017 the Board of Directors adopted a list of giving opportunities for members to support financially in addition to their regular tithes and offerings. In December of 2018 the good news was shared that the projects were fully funded. One of the first projects completed was to remove two dying trees in the front yard on Broadway. A tree leaning dangerously onto the playground was trimmed. The front doors of the church were repainted. Security cameras for the preschool, the outside of the school and the church have been installed. Stained and worn carpet was removed and replaced with a laminate floor in the classroom used for Sunday School. The Fellowship Room was painted; the carpet was removed and replaced with laminate flooring. The chairs in the Fellowship Room were reupholstered. Yet to be scheduled will be the replacement of the church carpet and painting the fences and gates on Noel and Broadway. If you haven't seen the "new look" of the Fellowship Room be sure to visit it.



Friends in Deed:

First Lutheran has some loyal supporters of the food pantry in Pasadena. Some members buy food or household items to donate. Others give their time as volunteers to unload, sort, and package items every fourth Saturday. We all need to go shopping for groceries. It is so easy, and actually enjoyable, to choose items to put into the cart to give away. Many of the clients who visit the pantry are senior citizens living alone on a limited budget. One of the reasons that the pantry receives many donations from markets is that the facility is so well run and makes an effort to help people who are on the verge of becoming homeless. They have a stellar reputation in the world of non-profits that help the poor.

Tuesday Night Bible Class:

After taking a break during Lent the Bible Study Group on Tuesday night has resumed. They are studying the book of Galatians and applying the lessons to the challenges of daily life today. If you desire to develop the habit of digging into God's word and the fellowship consider joining this group which meets from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room.



Contact Oscar Tschopp (626-355-9433) for further information.



Saturday Prayer Group:

This group uses a prayer sheet to help them focus on special requests and needs. The group prays for our congregation, our neighborhood, our nation, and causes around the world. Prayers of praise and scripture are emphasized as they respond to answered prayers and current situations. Call Jo Tschopp 626 355-9433 for

further information and location.

The group meets at 9:00 a.m.; we really do believe that prayer does change things.

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.



May



Ushers: Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, Don Lammerts

Altar Guild: Jean Hyland, Betty Nelson

Greeters:

May 5	Hazel Benscoter
May 12	Jean Hyland, Betty Nelson
May 19	Connie Kean
May 26	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:

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

Load the van for Friends in Deed Wednesday May 1, 10:45

Friends in Deed Trip Saturday, May 18, 8:15 a.m.

Load the van for Friends in Deed Wednesday, May 29, 10:45

Tuesday Night Bible Study 7:00-8:30 in Fellowship Room

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

German School 9:00-12:00 on Saturdays



May Birthdays

Rick Swanson, May 10

Renee Errickson, May 12

Dan Novak, May 24

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. If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Chain & commit to pray for the requests contact Jo.

Pastoral Care: Please contact Pastor Ken Frese (310) 398-3741; or Board of Directors, Jo Tschopp (626) 355-9433.



Borchard Prayer Letter

Papua New Guinea

March 2019

Dear Praying Friends,

Pastor Mandita's Trip To The Ipili Area

Pastor Mandita has returned from the Ipili area back to the translation center at Ukarumpa. While he was in the Ipili area he was able to get work done on the house/office. He also worked on the village check of the translation of the book of Ruth with some people, but fighting and other difficulties kept him from doing as much work as he would have liked. That work will have to be finished during a later trip. He also sold several audio Bible players, and SD cards containing the Ipili videos and Scripture.

A Change Of Plans

In my last letter I told you that Mandita, Margret, and Ipili support person Terry Cirre were planning to drive out to the Ipili area in February to show Ipili videos, and to sell those videos and audio Scripture. That trip has been postponed. One reason is that my truck, which they were planning to use, needs some repairs before they can use it for such a long road trip. The Ukarumpa auto shop has ordered some parts for the repairs. The new plan is to try to make the trip in April. ***Please pray that they will be able to make this trip in April.***

Biblical Exegesis Course

Since the February trip did not happen Margret was able to take a three week Biblical exegesis course at the Ukarumpa training center. Exegesis is the study of a text to discover the meaning of that text. Most of the other participants in the course have taken other translation training courses which Margret has not been able to take. The course was a challenge for her, but in spite of that she did well, and is excited about what she has learned. I am excited about how this course will help her in her translation work.

Translation Is Teamwork

In the next few months we will be concentrating on moving Exodus chapters 1 – 8 farther along in the translation process. In January I finished the first advisor check of those chapters. As part of that check I wrote the meaning in English. When I found places where I think the meaning is not correct I wrote notes in the computer program for Mandita and Margret. As I have been doing this check I have been pleased to find that sometimes Margret has discovered an issue before I found it. I am very pleased with the translation work of Mandita and Margret. They are both dedicated to doing an accurate translation that is also good, natural Ipili.



My Trip to Papua New Guinea in May/June

I have made reservations to fly to Papua New Guinea in early May. I will be flying down to California to attend my granddaughter's graduation from Concordia University in Irvine. Then I will fly on from there to PNG. I will be in PNG for a month to work with Mandita and Margret on the translation. While I am there I am hoping that we will be able to get chapters 1 – 8 of Exodus ready to be village checked. When I was there in October we went through chapters 1 – 2 so those two chapters are in pretty good shape. We still need to do a lot of work on chapters 3 – 8, but the work goes much faster when we can sit down together to work through it. ***Please pray for all of us as we prepare for our time together.***



Thank you for your prayers and financial support which keep this work going.
Your Partner in Bible Translation,

Jamet