



## *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.*

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May 2020

Publication of **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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### **From the Pastor's desk**

#### ***Actively waiting***

One of the lesser forms of discipline meted out by my parents was the infamous command, "Go to your room!" My childhood bedroom many decades ago provided a few options to pass the time. Homework, reading, playing solitary games, listening to my transistor radio, (if I had any "battery life" left), and finally the last resort: lying on my bed, staring at the ceiling and thinking.

There was a difference between voluntarily being in my room and waiting to be released from my punishment. I was in the same room, yet I experienced two different sensations, freedom, or punishment.

The Lord has sent many of us into detention; he has sent us to our "room." I pray that each of us experiences the freedom that is in Jesus Christ to read and meditate on the Word of God. May the Lord bless us with the thoughts of people that will inspire us to pray for them. May he grant us enjoyable conversations over the phone with friends and family. May each of us realize that life right now can be a retreat of freedom and not an experience of punishment.

Blessings,

Pastor Scott



**First Lutheran Church**  
**SONshine House Preschool**



I hope that this update finds you all well. It seems like we are all semi adjusting to our new normal. From our last update, we are still closed. We hope/pray we can reopen once the safer at home order is removed. So far, we suspect it will be May 15, 2020 but as we know, things are changing every day. I did create a survey asking our families if they had a return date in mind. Out of the 14 families that answered the survey, 13 have said that they will wait until the order is removed to send their children back to school. We are still surveying our families hoping to get more information.

Moving onto our online Zoom community. We are in midweek for Week 3. Things are going smoothly. Some changes that went into effect this week was that we separated the Zoom class from one combined class into two classes. We have a total of three teachers working our Zoom classes. It has been amazing to see the dedication these teachers are putting into their distance learning.



The teachers and myself had a faculty meeting yesterday. We were able to touch base. So far, only one has heard back from unemployment. This really has me praying that we can qualify for the paycheck protection loan. During this process, I have been able to see how much our teachers are willing to grown and learn. The Payroll Protection plan was turned in by hand. We are so thankful for that gesture. I am trying to call our Credit Union and see if our application is trucking along. Let's all pray we get the answer we are hoping for. Praying that for the next update, we have those exciting news to share. Blessing to all.

Sincerely,  
Elvia Ibanez

SONshine house Preschool Director  
[eisonshinehousepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:eisonshinehousepreschool@gmail.com)



# May 2020

## **Gatherings:**

Board of Directors May 12, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday Prayer Group, 9:00-10:00 a.m. This group is, currently, meeting via phone. Let Jo Tschopp know if you want to participate.



## ***May Birthdays***

May 10	Rick Swanson
May 12	Renée Errickson
May 24	Dan Novak

**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 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!**

Currently our mortgage loan balance is \$226,983. That means in fewer than six months we will owe approximately \$196,000. When we began making extra principal only payments in October of 2018 the loan balance was \$315,400. Thanks to donations big and small we are truly making progress. Some members have indicated they plan to donate some or part of their income tax returns and government stimulus checks. We praise God for our church property, our members, and the blessings God has bestowed on First Lutheran. If you would like to contribute to the mortgage reduction effort you can indicate on your check or offering envelope "Mortgage Reduction."

## **Stewardship**

Long-time members of any church have heard sermons, read information and listened to pleas for financial assistance. You may have heard that stewardship involves not only financial gifts but also supporting the kingdom of God here on Earth with our talents and time. Our time, talents, and treasures are sometimes called the three T's. Please consider how God wants you to use your time, talents, and treasures as you age. A sizable portion of First Lutheran's budgeted income comes from renting our facilities however the financial crisis caused by the virus has affected our renters who are asking for relief from their rental contracts. Our income has dropped because the preschool has closed and our faithful and generous members do not have the opportunity to place their offering envelopes into the offering plates because worship services have been canceled. We thank the members who are sending, via mail, their offering envelopes. The church U.S. mailbox is checked daily and considered a safe way to contribute your financial gifts. Contact Kathy Janetzke or Jo Tschopp if you have questions.



### **From the Chairman of the Board of Directors**

During this unprecedented time in history the Board of Directors decided not to hold worship services until further notice. Members will be notified when worship will resume. Pastor Scott Ganas is still preaching; the weekly sermons are available on his Facebook page. Some of the LCMS churches nearby have the capability to video their services so that the viewer can see the pastor, go through the confession, absolution, and the entire liturgy. You can even join in singing the hymns and responses as the words are on the screen. Currently, we do not have the expertise or the equipment to video a complete worship service. At the last voters' meeting in January the congregation voted to allocate funds to extend our technology capabilities. We have had difficulties finding someone to assist us. Please let me know if you know someone who might be interested in a part time job of maintaining our website and helping the church to provide worship services for members during this crisis and the future. The Board realizes that some members are not connected to the Internet but we do feel an urgency to make progress towards using technology to enhance and further the ministry to our members and the community. Please let me know your thoughts and ideas regarding using technology. Jo Tschopp (626) 355-9433

### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

A payment of Thrivent Choice Dollars totaling \$411 was recently deposited into First Lutheran's banking account. A big thanks is extended to the members and friends who designed First Lutheran to receive their Choice Dollars. Since 2011, First Lutheran has received \$41,118 from the Choice Dollars fund. If you are a Thrivent member and earn Choice Dollars, you can choose many different worthy causes in which to donate. For further information, you can talk to your agent or Thrivent's main office.



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## Friends in Deed

For 126 years the Friends in Deed Food Pantry has been serving the most vulnerable in the community. The staff and volunteers offer their services with compassion and dignity. It was a painful decision to make, but, because of the COVID-19 crisis, the pantry closed for two weeks. They are ready to re-open Tuesday, April 28. The collected items that members have donated will be taken on Friday. The recipients, during the virus crisis, will not be allowed in the store but will receive prepared bags of groceries to be picked up in the parking lot. Please continue to support this inter-faith ministry in Pasadena by purchasing grocery items to donate.



## Mission Development Team

This group of mission minded people are eager to get back together to reschedule and plan activities to reach out to the community. They continue to gather information for the database of former students, staff, and members. If you have contact information, please pass it to Jo Tschopp. (626) 355-9433, [jo@tschopp.org](mailto:jo@tschopp.org).

## Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for May as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles, and the Gospel

<u>Old Testament / First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
May 3 Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
May 10 Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60	Psalm 146	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
May 17 Acts 17: 16-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
May 24 Acts 1:12-26	Psalm 68:1-10	1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
May 31 <i>Pentecost</i>			
Num. 11:24-30	Psalm 25:1-15	Acts 2:1-21	John 7:37-39





# Borchard Prayer Letter

Papua New Guinea

April 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

*Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." James 4:13-15 NIV*

I'm sure that we can all identify with this Scripture passage because of recent events. I had planned to write this prayer letter a couple of weeks ago to tell you that I had made my reservations to go to Papua New Guinea for six weeks, leaving the USA on April 17. But then on March 8 my dad, Lester Kunkel, had a major stroke. The artery going to the left side of his brain was blocked. The doctor told me that they could try a risky treatment, but since dad was 92 years old and not strong, this treatment was probably not the wise thing to do. So, dad was sent home to the memory care facility where he had been living, and put on hospice. He lived for nine days, and died on March 17. I grieve, but also rejoice that he is home with Jesus, and my mom, his parents, and siblings. This is a picture of the two of us taken at the facility's new year's party.



This was all happening right during the time that concerns about the coronavirus were ramping up. I'm so thankful that the memory care facility allowed me to visit dad right up to the end. As the days went by it became more and more clear that my planned trip to PNG would have to be cancelled so that is what I have done. It is a time of waiting for many of us. It is disconcerting to feel like things are out of my control. But then, they never were actually in my control, were they?

Now that both my mom and dad are in heaven I am free to go to PNG for a longer period of time, once I am able to go. My current permit for working in PNG expires at the end of October, so I will need to either be there before then or stay in the USA until after the permit is renewed. We'll see what the Lord has planned! **Pray that I will leave the future in His hands, the best hands for it to be in.**

In the meantime I will continue to work on the advisor check of the Ipli translation here in the USA, and Mandita and Margret can continue to work on the translation in PNG. **Please ask the Lord to protect the people of PNG from this virus, and that a cure can be found soon.** Recently as I have been going through chapters 15 – 21 of Exodus I have been putting notes to myself saying things like "check this with the team" so I could go over a particular issue with Mandita and Margret when we would sit down together. Now I want to go back to those places in the translation and put in notes to them about these things. That way they can work on it without waiting for us to be together. After I finish putting those extra notes in I'll work on the advisor check of other chapters. Lord willing, we'll have a lot more chapters ready for the team check once we get together.

**Please pray for Margret:** I found out that her baby is due the first or second week of April, instead of March as I had previously been told. She was planning to go to the hospital in the larger town of Goroka because the baby was not in a good position for birth. **Pray for all of Mandita's family.** He emailed me recently that some men had attacked his family. He is afraid for their lives. **Please pray that the Lord will protect all of them.**

Your Partner in Bible Translation,

*Janet*