



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.

October 2020 *Publication of* FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's desk

Sickness ... Cure

This year between COVID-19 and the fires, we are very mindful of staying safe and being careful about our health.

There's a deeper sickness ...

Psalm 32:3-4 (English Standard Version)

³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Over the years, a Christian Surgeon noticed that people of the same age and background were different on the inside when he opened them up in surgery. He researched their background and found their lifestyle had a tremendous impact on the vitality of their bones, muscles and organs!

He found a trend with those who had "healthy insides". They were people of faith and prayer.

Psalm 32:5 (English Standard Version)

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

During these difficult times, may God bless you with a vibrant life of Confession and the peace that surpasses all understanding at the receiving of Absolution.



Love,
Pastor Scott



**First Lutheran Church
SONshine House Preschool**



Hello Members.

Happy October! As this year progresses, we are all getting used to our new norm in our daily habitude. God truly made us all resilient, and taught us on how to help our neighbor whenever possible. The preschool has been resilient during these last couple months, as well.

We opened up with less children enrolled in our preschool, but held onto the hope of growth dearly. As we approach October, we have nine students attending our Preschool in person, and 11 distant learners attending via our Zoom sessions. In addition, we have two prospective in person students and a distant learner that may potentially join us in October.

I want to express a huge “thank you” to all of our members who have contributed with paper rolls, magazines, and egg cartons. We have all that we need at this point.

As always, I pray for all of our community members your health and well-being. Looking forward to next month's update.

In His Name,
Elvia Ibanez
SONshine house Preschool Director
eisonshinehousepreschool@gmail.com



October 2020

Gatherings:

Board of Directors, Tuesday, October 20, 12:30 p.m.

Mission Development Team, Thursday, October 15, 10:00 a.m.

Round Table, To be determined

Major Leaguers is cancelled until further notice.

Tuesday Bible Class, every Tuesday 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Room

Saturday Prayer Group, 9:00-10:00 a.m. This group is, currently, meeting via the telephone.

Let Jo Tschopp know if you want to participate.

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 Church Administrator at firstlutherantc@gmail.com or call:

(626) 287-0968 and leave a message.

Pastoral Care:

Pastor Scott Ganas (951) 795-8162 or

Board of Directors Chairman, Judy Gunther (626) 833-5613.

Electronic Newsletter: Let the Church Administrator know your email address if you would prefer to receive your monthly newsletter via email at: firstlutherantc@gmail.com.

Burn the Mortgage!

Thanks to extra donations in September we were able to send a principal only payment of \$393.16. Our monthly payment of \$5028.23 was also made and we now have a loan balance of \$193,902. Please think and pray about helping the church to pay off this mortgage so that the \$5000 monthly loan payment can be used for Kingdom Work. To contribute to the mortgage fund, in addition to your regular faith giving, you can write on your envelope the amount designated for the “Burn the Mortgage” campaign.

Sunday School Backpacks



For five years the children's Sunday School class has used their offerings to purchase backpacks and school supplies. Recently **Pastor Ramon Contreras from Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry** picked up this year's 20 filled backpacks. In the past the

students themselves filled the backpacks and learned about charity and the needs of others. Photos were taken so that the students can see the results of their offerings.



Friends in Deed

Amazing! During the month of August congregation members donated 636 pounds of food items for the Friends in Deed Food Pantry. The Pantry has been serving the homeless and at-risk communities since 1894. Currently, they provide food to more than 400 households per week (approximately 1,000+ people). By providing food the families can focus on their rent and other monthly necessities. The households are made up of "working poor" individuals, senior citizens and people with disabilities on fixed incomes. Think about adding a few items to your cart each week as you shop.



Tuesday Bible Study



This group, meeting each Tuesday at 11:00 a.m., has just finished the study of the Old Testament book of First Samuel. Now, they are ready to tackle the book of Second Samuel, which tells the story of David's ascent to the throne. God truly was David's strength and shield in both good and bad times. Studying Second Samuel will help us to grow in our faith and knowledge that God is also our strength and shield. At the end of Second Samuel David says: "The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue." This is the Word that we

will be studying – God's Word. No previous Bible study is necessary. Because we are a group of less than ten participants we can meet in the Fellowship Room. We practice social distancing, and wear face masks. Contact Oscar Tschopp for more information at: (626) 355-9433.

Mission Development Team

With the COVID-19 restrictions for gathering the Mission Development Team has been brainstorming ideas to reach out into the neighborhood. They continue to research using postal mail and mailing lists. The changeable front yard sign is scheduled for maintenance to make it easier for members to change the message more frequently. We are learning how to post the weekly chapel services for



SONshine House. The challenges are the sound and the amount of time needed to download the electronic file to Facebook. The families of the preschool receive the weekly chapel through an app that goes out to them. Children's Bibles, appropriate for preschool families, will be given to each family as they enroll. A letter will be included to encourage families to use the Bibles in family devotions. We have noticed that neighbors are utilizing our parking lot and field for exercise. The Mission Development Team is trying to reach out to them via signs and our presence. Chalk Coloring and Rock Painting are two activities that are being planned to involve the neighborhood. We would like to reach out to our neighbors by having a prayer mailbox for specific prayer requests from them. People will be able to drop in prayer requests and be assured that someone is praying for them. Please join us at our next meeting on Thursday, October 15 at 10:00 a.m. Contact Jo Tschopp for more information at: (626) 355-9433

Thrivent Choice Dollars



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Since 2011 members and friends have directed \$41,118 Choice Dollars to First Lutheran. If you have a Thrivent product, please

check your statements or contact your representative about your Choice Dollars. Sometimes members forget that the undirected Choice Dollars are forfeited if not used. The Thrivent Choice program was put into place to encourage benefit members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes an amount of its charitable grant funds. Contact Jo Tschopp at: (626) 355-9433 for further information.

Saturday Prayer Group

The Saturday Prayer Group is, currently, meeting via a phone conference call at 9:00 a.m. each Saturday. During this time of crisis within our nation, it is comforting to agree together in prayer, knowing that God does hear and answer prayers according to His will. Join us and experience God’s peace and joy. Call Jo Tschopp at: (626) 355-9433, for more information.



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.

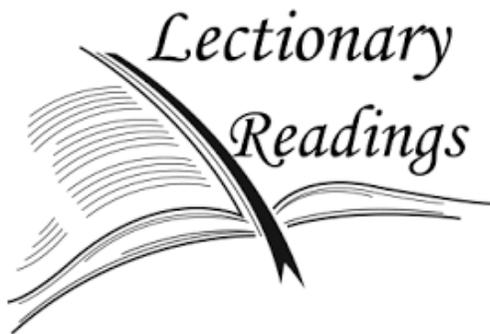
⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Psalm 50:15

¹⁵ And call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

Psalm 102:17

¹⁷ He will answer the prayer of those in need. He will not turn from their prayer.



Reading the Lectionaries

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

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
October 4	Isaiah 5:1–7	Psalm 80:7–19	Philippians 3:4b–14	Matthew 21:33–46
October 11	Isaiah 25:6–9	Psalm 23	Philippians 4:4–13	Matthew 22:1–14
October 18	Isaiah 45:1–7	Psalm 96:1–13	1 Thessalonians 1:1–10	Matthew 22:15–22
October 25	Revelation 14:6–7	Psalm 46	Romans 3:19–28	Matthew 11:12–19



Borchard Prayer Letter

Papua New Guinea

October 2020

September 17, 2020

Dear Friends at First Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for your faithful support of Lutheran Bible Translators. I certainly appreciate your partnership in the Ipili translation work. Ipili translator Mandita is currently in the Ipili area working on building the translation office/house up there. He hopes to be able to finish the house this month, and then he plans to return to his home near the translation center at Ukarumpa. **Please pray that the work will go well, and that he and others working with him will be kept safe.** The other Ipili translator Margret recently had to go to the town of Lae which is on the coast, but a few weeks ago she returned to Ukarumpa so she is back to working on the translation.



Lely Janet and Margret – November

For many months the number of coronavirus cases in Papua New Guinea were quite low. Now recently the numbers have gone up quite a bit, with most of the cases being in the capital city of Port Moresby. **Pray that the people of Papua New Guinea will be kept safe from the virus.**

I continue to work on the advisor check of Exodus chapters 29-34 here in Springfield, Oregon. I also plan to work on the key biblical terms in Exodus chapters 15-34 to make sure that we are translating those terms consistently. I'm hoping that once Mandita returns to work on the translation that we will be able to work together using Skype. That way we will be able to make progress on the team check of Exodus. **Please pray we will be able to make arrangements to work together in this new way.**

Janet Borchard

Lutheran Bible Translators

Millions of people don't have the Bible in their own language. Many speak a language that is not written down. Lutheran Bible Translators puts God's Word in their hands.

Email: Janet.Borchard@LBT.org or ja.borchard@gmail.com
Mailing Address: 650 Harlow Rd., #139, Springfield, OR 97477 Home: 541-726-2889; Cell: 541-513-8193. **LBT mailing address: PO Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020**

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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DATED MATERIAL

October, 2020

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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SONshine House Preschool: (626) 285-3380

E-Mail: firstlutherantc@gmail.com

Website: <https://firstlutherantc.org>

Rev. Scott Ganas, Pastor

Elvia Ibanez, Preschool Director

8:30 a.m. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Holy Communion every 1st & 3rd Sundays only

9:45 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE STUDY

Every Sunday