



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.

September 2019

Publication of **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

We Are Joseph

The last 14 chapters of the Book of Genesis tell the story of Joseph, son of Jacob. This story has many interesting twists and turns, but one of the high points is Joseph's leadership as second-in-command to Pharaoh, the ruler of the Egyptian empire. Using the gifts that God had given him, Joseph directed the people to save enough grain during seven years of abundant harvests so that they had enough to last them during seven subsequent years of famine. In other words, God used Joseph to prepare for a major life-threatening emergency, and Joseph faithfully followed God's lead.

We are facing a similar situation today. The best seismic scientists in the world are telling us that Southern California is long overdue for a devastating earthquake. According to the best estimates, at least 1800 people will be killed in this quake; 53,000 people will be seriously injured; about a quarter of a million people won't be able to live in their homes; and there will be over \$200 billion in property damage. Both the LA County Fire Department and the LA County Sheriff's Department are telling us that we need to be prepared to be without water, gas, electricity, grocery stores, and police and fire protection for at least two weeks to two months.

Like Joseph we confront a major life-threatening emergency worse than any we have experienced in our lifetimes, and like Joseph God is giving us the time and the opportunity to prepare. For this we have lots of resources at our disposal, such as websites like ShakeOut.org and the Community Emergency Response Team classes taught in Temple City and other communities. But most of all, we have the resources of our faith! We can prepare not only to take care of ourselves but also to take care of others at a time of great need. By God's grace, we are Joseph – prepared and ready to serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Ken Frese



EARTHQUAKE EARTHQUAKE

Joseph preparing for the famine.



**First Lutheran Church
SONshine House Preschool**

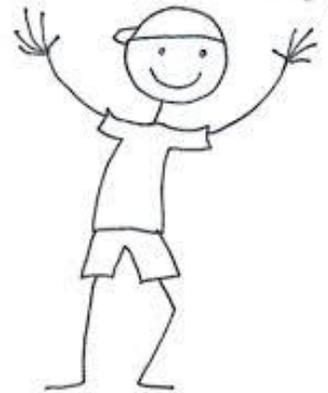
September 2019

Dear Church Family,

We have officially ended summer and our New Fall 2019-2020 has begun! We are so excited for all the upcoming events this year and hope to see all of you! Thank you for our church family that attended our end of year Luau party we always appreciate your presence.

As we look forward there are a few important dates coming up. We will be having our Back to School night next week, please pray for our teachers who will be going over the new school year with our parents. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful team this year! I'd like to introduce our staff so that you can keep them all in your prayers. Our Cherubim class teachers are Ms. Enedina, Ms. Erika and Ms. Maha, they support our 2's age group. Angels class teachers are Ms. Laura and Ms. Jazmine and they support our 3's age group. Lastly is our Archangel class teachers Ms. Amy and Ms. Grace who support our pre-kindergartners. Every Monday I have the pleasure of doing devotional and prayer time with our lead teachers. As a Lutheran school and as Christians may we always be intentional in being in His word and uplifting our requests in prayer!

Back to School

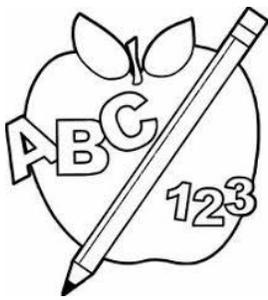


Another important date coming up is our Back to School Sunday Service. We have invited our students and their families and hoping with good attendance the children will be able to sing a few songs they have learned during Chapel time with Mrs. Jo Tschopp. I encourage all our church family to be intentional in introducing yourself, making conversations and connecting to our parents. First Lutheran Church is our home so let's make our families feel welcomed! I'm excited that we will be able to bring church and school together, as God has blessed this ministry may we continue to do His works for His glory! Amen!

Blessings in Christ,

Jill Vidal, Director





September



Ushers: Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, Don Lammerts

Altar Guild: Sharon Corey, Renee Errickson

Greeters:

September 1	Hazel Bencoter
September 8	Jean Hyland, Betty Nelson
September 15	Connie Kean
September 22	Norma Boehne
September 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:

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

Friends in Deed Trip Saturday, September 7, 8:15 a.m.

Mission Development Team, Sunday, September 8, 11:30

Death... Then What? September 10, 17, 24, and October 8, 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Room

Round Table, Friday, September 13, 10:00

Back to School Worship Service followed by brunch September 15, 8:30 a.m.

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

Load the van for Friends in Deed Wednesday October 2, 10:45



September Birthdays

- Geri Novak September 5
- Norma Boehne September 11
- Craig Boehne September 13
- Christine Geltz September 29

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.

Be Informed:

If you are interested in what is happening at the monthly Directors' Meetings, the monthly financial reports, the reports from SONshine House, the Round Table and other congregational activities you can find the reports in a binder located in the church office. The notebook is updated monthly. Kathy Janetzke or Jo Tschopp can direct you to it.

Back to School Worship Service

Our morning worship service at 8:30 on September 15 will have a “Back to School” theme with our preschool students and families participating. You won’t want to miss seeing and hearing preschoolers singing about Jesus. Invite your friends to this joyful service. Help publicize this service in our neighborhood; we want to welcome our neighbors as we begin celebrating our 75th anniversary. After the worship service brunch will be served in the Fellowship Room.



Mission Development Team

This enthusiastic group is dreaming and implementing plans. They reviewed the worship time survey and decided to remain with the 8:30 worship service for now but survey the congregation yearly. They are researching ideas and changes to the church website. Recording the pastor’s weekly sermon and putting it on the website is a goal that is being worked on. Making door hangers for passing out to the neighborhood is being considered. Fellowship meals after the worship service are being planned, the first one is scheduled for September 15. Also being researched are movie nights targeting young families. Christine Geltz is working on a logo for the 75th anniversary. On October 31 the congregation will join with SONshine House to sponsor Trunk and Treat for neighborhood Halloween fun. The preschool Advent presentation will be December 18 with soup and sandwiches at 5:00 followed by worship at 6:00 p.m. This year the congregation’s Advent soup and sandwiches will be at noon with worship at 1:00 p.m. Pastor Ted Hartman will be with us on December 1 to participate in the 75th anniversary kick-off, the worship will be followed by a Thanksgiving brunch. Team members are beginning to compile a data list of former members and alumni. Please join this eager and excited team at their next meeting, on Sunday, on September 8, 11:30.



Burn the Mortgage!

In August the amount of \$1326 was sent to Lutheran church Extension Fund as a principal only payment in addition to our monthly loan payment. Our goal is to pay off the mortgage sooner than our projected six year time period. With our extra principal only payments amounting to \$11,552 we are making progress. Join others in wiping out this debt by donating some extra income you may have that is unexpected or unbudgeted. The Board of Directors is using creative ways to find funds that are unrestricted and applying them to the mortgage. For example if a renter wants to rent the facilities for additional time we apply the extra fees to the mortgage. The current balance of the loan is \$264,395.83.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you have a Thrivent account you may have Choice Dollars available to designate to First Lutheran Church. Since 2011 First Lutheran has received \$40,492. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars. Choice Dollars are based on insurance premiums; contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. If you do not know if you have Choice Dollars to direct or don’t know how to do it please call your Thrivent agent.



Death... Then What?

When death happens, there are always questions. Why now? Why her? Why him? Why me? Where is God? What's it going to be like when I die? What happens when I take my last breath? This study will look at God's answers to these questions of death. Join us on Tuesdays September 10, 17, 24, and October 8 in the Fellowship Room from 11:00-12:00 noon. Each week we will view a video, read from the Bible and discuss the material from a study guide. Contact Oscar Tschopp for further information. (626) 355-9433



Friends in Deed:



The Friends in Deed Food Pantry is situated on the corner of Los Robles and Washington Blvd. in Pasadena. The two-story structure is owned by the non-profit organization and is celebrating 125 years of helping low income and homeless people. The first floor of the building houses the "store" where the registered clients can come in and select a certain amount of items to take home. They are allowed the privilege of "shopping" for things that their family can use. On the second level is a women's day room where the women can shower, rest, do laundry and receive help. The motto for Friends in Deed is "Doing together what we can not do alone." First Lutheran has been participating in this ministry for three years. Congregation members contribute food items and also volunteer at the facility every fourth Saturday. Thank you for helping those in need. I was amazed today. I arrived to deliver the August collection of **395 pounds of food items** and saw about 20 people waiting to enter the store. A few ladies were waiting along the side of the building to enter the women's room. Find out more about this ministry by visiting their website, www.friendsindeedpas.org

Sunday School Backpacks

Our Sunday School class has assembled 30 backpacks filled with school supplies. Many thanks to the congregation members who donated funds and supplies. During the year students bring offerings and we also use those funds to purchase the pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks, scissors etc. This year the backpacks will be taken to Pastor Ramon Contreras of Lutheran Baja Concerns Ministry in San Diego. This ministry helps support numerous small congregations, pastors, and people. One of the Sunday School's parents has enjoyed purchasing school supplies for several years. She recently thanked me for the opportunity to generously help others. She feels blessed to live in the U.S.A. and that her quality of life is better than in her previous country. Another generous donor, is a single young woman, who also enjoys giving liberally to this mission project. The ministry also provides an opportunity for a person to "adopt" a child with a monthly donation of \$35 which is used to help "your child" attend school and participate in school and church activities. Let Jo Tschopp know if you are interested in this "Angels Wings" program of monthly financial aid to a needy student in Baja. She will share her experience with the program.





Little Free Library

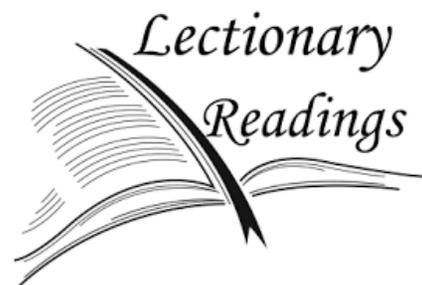
Our neighbors are using the Little Free Library located on the front lawn of SONshine House. Books are being shared and donated. You can locate our library on the Little Free Library worldwide map. There are five libraries on the map in the Temple City zip code area. Please share your book treasures with others. You can give them to Kathy Janetzke

or Jo Tschopp. We like to stamp the logo inside the books indicating they are “always a gift never for sale.” Congregation member Rachel Witcher continues to donate newly purchased children’s books. Regina Li-Armijo donated used children’s books before moving to Canada. Especially desired are good adult fiction and children’s books.

Reading the Lectionaries

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sept. 8	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-35
Sept. 15	Ezekiel 34:11-24	1 Timothy 1:5-17	Luke 15:1-10
Sept. 22	Amos 8:4-7	1 Timothy 2:1-15	Luke 16:1-15
Sept. 29	Daniel 10:10-12, 12:1-3 Matthew 18:1-10	Revelation 12:7-12	

You will particularly want to attend church on September 29 to celebrate St. Michael and All Angels. Each of the readings for that day is about angels. The church paraments will be white signifying perfection, purity, holiness, respect and reverence. White is used for festival days of the Church Year, especially the seasons of Christmas and Easter. In the Old Testament reading Michael the archangel is spoken about. In the Revelation passage Michael and his angels are fighting against the dragon, Satan. In the Matthew selection God tells us that angels are always watching over believers.



St. Michael and All Angels

For centuries Christian churches have celebrated St. Michael and All Angels on September 29. Michael the archangel is mentioned in the Book of Daniel (12:1), as well as in Jude (v.9) and Revelation (12:7). Daniel portrays Michael as the angel who leads the battle against the forces of evil. The angel Gabriel is known as God’s messenger and delivers the good news to both Elizabeth and Mary in the New Testament that they are to experience miraculous births. A third archangel named Raphael is described in the apocryphal Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) Book of Tobit. The three archangels are the only angels named in the Bible but there are numerous Bible accounts of angels and their ministry among God’s people. I love teaching this refrain to Sunday School and chapel children: “All day, all night, angels watching over me my Lord. All day, all night, angels watching over me!” If you want a fun research project find out about the cherubim and seraphim. Entire books have been written about angels.



Borchard Prayer Letter

Papua New Guinea

August 2019

Dear Praying Friends,

Village Testing Trip to the Ipili Area

Thank you for praying for the Ipili language work. In my last prayer letter I told you that Pastor Mandita and Margret were planning to make a trip to the Ipili area. While they were there they worked with some men to go through the Ipili translation of the book of Ruth, and the first eight chapters of Exodus. They reported to me that this work went well, and that they received good feedback for improving the translation. Since returning from that trip Mandita has been putting the needed changes into the translation. I will be checking the changes to make sure that the meaning is still correct. Then Ruth and Exodus 1 – 8 will be ready to be checked by a translation consultant.



Pastor Mandita and Margret

My Next Planned Visit to Papua New Guinea

Speaking of a translation consultant, we now have a consultant lined up to check these portions of the Ipili translation. Yauko Kasave, a Papua New Guinean who is an advanced trainee consultant, will be doing the checking. At least I think he will be doing it. We still need to confirm that he will be able to do it. ***Please pray that that all the arrangements for the consultant will go well.*** We are hoping to do this checking the next time I am in Papua New Guinea. I am tentatively planning to go around October 6 and stay until about November 15. ***Pray that we will be able to make all the arrangements so we can do the consultant check during that time.*** We will need to have a couple of Ipili people who have not worked on Ruth and Exodus come to Ukarumpa for the checking.

Besides doing the consultant check during my visit, I'm hoping to go through Exodus chapters 9 – 14 with Mandita and Margret. I am currently working on my second advisor check of those chapters. Mandita is going through chapters 15-21 of Exodus to improve that translation. Once he does that work I will do my first advisor check of those chapters to make sure that the meaning is correct. I will also be writing the meaning of the Ipili in English. Margret will be writing the meaning of Exodus chapters 22 – 28 in Melanesian Pidgin. This not only helps me to understand the meaning of the translation, it also helps her to see which parts of the translation need to be improved. In addition to that work, she will compare the translation of Exodus chapters 29-34 to the Melanesian Pidgin Bible to find any places where the Ipili meaning needs to be corrected. ***Please ask the Lord to give us all wisdom as we work on these various steps of translation.***

My Visit to the Lutheran Bible Translators Office in July

In July I went to the Lutheran Bible Translators office for meetings with various people. One of the things that we discussed was the future of the Ipili language work. I am thinking to retire in the next two to four years. When that happens it will be challenging for the Ipili translation work to continue unless someone else becomes the translation advisor. ***Please ask the Lord to send someone to do this work. It would be good if someone joins the work soon so that I can orient the person or people to the work.***

Your Partner in Bible Translation,
Janet Borchard