



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 2020 *Publication of* **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

From the Pastor's desk

Unity

Who are you going to vote for?
How much longer should we wear masks?

What do you think of the protests / riots?

Should we defund the police?

Decisions in the kingdom of man often create divisions.

There are divisions in the church regarding many issues, the word “protestant” comes from the words: “to protest”.

There were so many factions in the Corinthian church that God asks the question,

“Is Christ divided?”

1 Corinthians 1:13a (ESV)

The answer, of course, is that our Lord Jesus Christ has united all Christians into the Church, “The body of Christ.”

As we move through the times of division, we hold the eternal promises in our heart that “It is finished.” We will be perfectly united in glory forever. For now, the joy of the Lord is our strength because all things will work together for good for those of us in Christ. God bless you!

Amen.
Pastor Scott



**First Lutheran Church
SONshine House Preschool**



Hello Members.

As every month, I continue to pray this newsletter finds you all well and healthy. August has been an exciting month for us. We picked up our enrollment by having two more children. There have been more expressed interest within the last couple weeks from families that want to enroll their children with our school. In addition, I have been hosting virtual tours for these families. Currently, there have been a show of interest for three families to join us starting in September. This would mean that we will be running two classrooms then. God willing, we will continue to have families that are interested in joining our school.

Thank you to all the members that have been kind enough to donate the paper rolls, crayons and notebooks. We will be using all that for our Zoom classes in September.

Looking forward to next month's update.

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



September 2020

Gatherings:

Mission Development Team, Thursday, September 10, 10:00 a.m.

Board of Directors, Tuesday, September 15, 12:30 p.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.



September Birthdays

September 5

Geri Novak

September 11

Norma Boehne

September 13

Craig Boehne

September 29

Christine Geltz

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!

Yeah! Our loan balance is below \$200,000; it stands at \$198,662.56. Thanks to the consistent and faithful donors to the “principal only” fund we were able to send \$800 during August to bring our loan due date even closer. When the mortgage is paid in full we will have more than \$5000 monthly for mission 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.



Friends in Deed

Wow! Church members donated six hundred seventeen pounds of grocery items to the Friends in Deed Food Pantry during July and August. Because of the pandemic, many people have been more financially challenged than previously. The pantry has seen a big increase in the number of families they service. It is an easy task for us to toss into our shopping carts a few items each time we visit our local stores. The need is great. Thanks to all the people who continue to support the pantry month after month.

Bible Study

This small group of faithful Bible students is learning that today’s challenges of everyday living are not that different from the challenges faced by God’s people hundreds of years ago. In the next few weeks the group will be following David, the future King of Israel, as he again escapes from King Saul and undergoes dangerous military encounters. We will see that the downward spiral of a man’s life is often swift and unforeseen but God is always ready to be our Rock, our Fortress and Salvation. 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. Join us on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. Contact Oscar Tschopp for more information at: (626) 355-9433.



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.





Mission Development Team

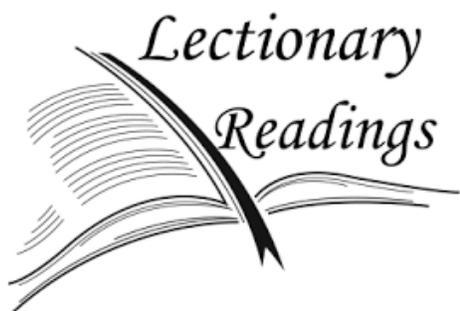
At the beginning of August this team met and shared many ideas that could be implemented even during the pandemic. We are researching the idea of a neighborhood newsletter, encouraging members and neighbors to be present on Wednesday evenings. Research is being done to repair the big church sign on Broadway. At the present time, it is difficult to change the message because of needed repairs. We are also excited about having a chalking activity, and a painted rock project. Those are just a few of our creative ideas. Join us for our next gathering, Thursday, September 10, at 10:00 in the Fellowship Room. Social distancing and masks are used. Contact Jo Tschopp for more information at: (626) 355-9433.

Little Free Library

We've recently received and added some different adult and children's books to our Little Free Library. The box is full and we have more to add when those are taken. It seems the pandemic has encouraged people to read. Donations of books are always welcome. Don't forget to let Jo Tschopp know you have a donation so that she can stamp the Little Free Library logo inside the books.



Major Leaguers – This event has been cancelled until further notice.



Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for September as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and the Gospel ...

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
September 6	Ezekiel 33:7-9	Psalm 32:1-7	Romans 13:1-10	Matthew 18:1-20
September 13	Genesis 50:15-21	Psalm 103:1-12	Romans 14: -12	Matthew 18:21-35
September 20	Isaiah 55:6-9	Psalm 27:1-9	Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30	Matthew 20:1-16
September 27	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	Psalm 25:1-10	Phil. 2:1-18	Matthew 21:23-32



I will always cherish the memories I have of visiting Gerry and Mina Good in their lovely home on Fourth Street in Alhambra. Because Gerry had difficulty walking, Mina would always greet me at the front door, but after I entered the living room, Mina's warm greeting would soon be followed by Gerry's. Although most people would consider Gerry "old" – he was in his 90's when I knew him – he never struck me that way. His face was always youthful in its energy and enthusiasm, and he always spoke with a liveliness that belied his age. His mind was alive, too, and he never failed to keep up his end of a conversation. In short, even though his body wouldn't work for him the way it used to, Gerry always struck me as being a happy person. As a result, I came away from our visits happier, too.

I only knew Gerry briefly for a short period of his long life, but my impression was that a couple of things made him the happy person that he was. For one thing, he was happy because of the beautiful, strong, and loving woman he married and the children they had together – along with the grandchildren that would follow later. Even after many years of married life, you could tell that Gerry loved Mina, and he delighted in talking about their courtship. This sailor lands in New York and not only sweeps this beautiful New York girl off her feet, but he keeps up their relationship after he sails away – and finally he is able to convince her to sail together with him for the rest of their lives. It's a great story, and a true story, too.

Another thing that made Gerry happy was his love for his country. He had seen America "from sea to shining sea", and he loved every inch of it. Gerry was proud of being an American, and as many people know, he served his country with distinction in the US Navy during World War II. He was actually onboard the USS McCook when it took part in the Normandy Invasion of Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and Gerry told me that the time he and his shipmates spent waiting silently offshore for the invasion to begin was probably the scariest time of his life.

A third thing that brought Gerry happiness was his faith in God and his membership at First Lutheran Church of Temple City. Gerry and Mina were married in Mina's church in New York, and being active in church was an important part of their life together. Gerry told me about his enjoyment in ushering at First Lutheran, about members of the church I didn't know, and about how he missed being able to attend church services in recent years. But what was most important about church for Gerry was that Jesus Christ was present there in Word and Sacrament. When Gerry, Mina, and I prayed together, read from God's Word, and shared in the Sacrament of the Altar, I could see the happiness that came to him from the presence of God in his life.

Eternal happiness is God's great gift to a faithful Christian, and I know Gerry Good is enjoying that happiness now. I know his family will miss him, his church family will miss him, and I too will miss him. But we can all thank God that Gerry's last journey was a happy one, with the happiest of all destinations.

Pastor Ken Frese

Gerry Good passed to heaven on August 21, 2020



Borchard Prayer Letter

Papua New Guinea

September 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

I want to bring you up to date on how things are going in Papua New Guinea. In May the translation center was able to start opening up. Training was developed about the virus for people who live outside of the center, so once Ipili translators Mandita and Margret took this training they were allowed to go onto the center to work on the translation. This meant that we could communicate using email. As a result, I learned that Margret had given birth in April to a baby boy that she named Levi.



Consultant Yauko with Mandita and Amos During Consultant Check Last Year

Soon after the center opened up Mandita told me that he wanted to go to the Ipili area to build the translation office/house there. I was able to arrange for money to be put into his bank account so he could make that trip. He went to the Ipili area in late June and plans to stay about two months. In late July he sent a message to me saying that he needed a little more money for the house, so I had more money sent to his account so he could finish that work. I also included money he needs for living expenses, and for travel back to Ukarumpa. ***Please pray for safety for him and for others working with him on the house, and pray for safe travel when he goes back to Ukarumpa.***

Coronavirus in Papua New Guinea

The number of known coronavirus cases stayed very low for a long time. One thing that helped the situation was that the PNG government has stopped most flights going into the country, and people on flights that are allowed into the country are required to be quarantined for two weeks upon arrival. Unfortunately, in July some cases were confirmed in the capital city of Port Moresby. At the point that I am writing this letter in August cases in Port Moresby have gone up significantly, and some cases are now being reported in other parts of the country. ***Please ask the Lord to have mercy on the people of Papua New Guinea.*** We in the Ipili team are concerned that if coronavirus cases develop near the translation center people living outside the center will once again not be able to go onto the center, so we are trying to prepare ahead of time for that possibility. Fortunately, since they now have electricity at Mandita's house, Mandita and Margret will be able to continue working on the translation, but communication will be more difficult if they cannot go onto the center. Sending our translation work to each other will also be a challenge.

Continuing on with Translation Work

I'm hoping that eventually Mandita, Margret, and I can start using Skype, or some other program, to work together. This will only be possible if they are able to work at their translation office at the center. If we can set this up I'm thinking that we might be able to work together several days a week for a couple of hours each day. This way we could make progress on the team check of Exodus even while I am here in the United States. ***Please pray that we will be able to set up the needed technology, and that it will work for us.*** Even if we are unable to do this long distance team check at this time, there is plenty of work for us each to do on the translation of Exodus. I am currently working on the first advisor check of chapters 29-34, and Margret is working on the Melanesian Pidgin back-translation of chapters 37-40. When Mandita returns he will be able to go through Exodus starting at chapter 15 to look at my notes and edit the translation. As he finishes chapters Margret will be able to edit her back-translation, and then once I receive their work I will be able to work on my second advisor check of those chapters. ***Please pray for us all as we persevere in this work!***

Longer term plans are still uncertain. I am thinking that I might be able to go to Papua New Guinea sometime next year. We'll see what the Lord has in mind! In the meantime we will do what the Lord puts before us to do each day.

Your Partner in Bible Translation,
Janet Borchard

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

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DATED MATERIAL

September, 2020

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

Office Phone: (626) 287-0968

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