

THE LUTHERAN LIGHT

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ORLAND

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ARTOIS

Pastor José Luis La Torre Cuadros.



He is Risen! Alleluia!

Dear disciples of Jesus:

Can you imagine what that first Easter Day was like? It was a miracle! It was a new world coming to life! The celebration of the resurrection has continued for all these years proclaiming to the whole world that Jesus was dead, he was buried and is now risen from the dead! That is why when we think of Easter, we think of things being full. Easter is fullness, fullness of joy and happiness! Easter is fullness of life; abundant life coming from the risen Lord to bless us and renew us. For that reason churches are full on Easter Sunday. That is why Alleluias are sung again, praising God for the great miracle, the great victory of life over death. But in opposition to this great fullness of life, we have also emptiness. Something is empty: the tomb is empty. Jesus is not there, the tomb is empty, death has been destroyed. We celebrate our fullness of life and the emptiness of all deathly powers. We celebrate our fullness of abundant life and the emptiness of deathly oppressions. Yes, God is filling us this Easter Season with blessings and eternal life. At the same time, this Easter Season God is proclaiming to the world the emptiness of death, pain and sorrow, because God is bringing abundant life to be lived with joyful hearts and renewed spirits.

Blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter my dear congregation!

He is risen and we have hope. Amen.

Your Pastor, The Rev. José Luis La Torre Cuadros.



LETTERS FROM THE PRESIDENTS

A Message From First Lutheran's President

We are almost halfway through the season of Lent, and I hope each of you has been successful so far in refraining from indulging in whatever you have chosen to do without (maybe chocolate), or in doing what you have resolved to do (maybe pray more or read the Bible). For some, Lent might be a second chance to recommit to some of those New Year's resolutions we began breaking around the beginning of February!

Thanks to all of you who attended First Lutheran's annual congregational meeting on February 2nd. It was a very well-attended and successful meeting during which we covered a number of important matters, including the election of new members to the church council. An installation ceremony for new council members is scheduled for the Sunday service on March 30th.

Part of our discussion at the congregational meeting covered the state of the church's finances. As I mentioned during the meeting, the church council will be keeping a close eye on the church's revenue and expenses over first several months of 2025. The month of January resulted in a net loss of about \$4,000. But January is usually a challenging month for giving since it follows the Christmas season, during which many households have engaged in a bit deficit spending. I had suggested at the meeting that an average increase of about 15% in contributions would likely be enough to allow us to cover the expenses anticipated in our 2025 annual budget. Giving picked up a bit in February following our request. This was an encouraging sign and resulted in a February which was roughly break-even. We will closely monitor the church's income and expenses over the next few months and keep you apprised of the financial situation. I intend to update you on the issue in the June/July newsletter, at which time we should also have the financial data for the months of March, April and at least part of May.

Enclosed with this edition of The Lutheran Light is an envelope intended for special gifts some of you may wish to make to First Lutheran Church during the Easter season. The envelopes we sent out at Christmas were met with a very positive response. We want you to know that we deeply appreciate the support the recipients of this newsletter gave the church during the Christmas season. Easter comes late this year, on Sunday, April 20th, which is twenty days later than last year. I won't bother to explain how the date of Easter is determined and why it can be twenty days different from one year to the next - let's just say it's complicated. But if you're interested, you might want to ask Doug Boone, who seems to have a full command of the subject. Just be prepared to be there awhile.

The good news is that those extra twenty days give us time to prepare for First Lutheran's Easter brunch. Last year the brunch was downsized and wasn't open to the community. This year we are resuming our tradition of inviting the whole community to join us for brunch in our fellowship hall. Brunch will be served from 7:00 - 11:00 Easter morning. Please bring your appetites!

I wish you a blessed Easter season.

God's Peace, Paul Griffin



Welcome Spring!

A Message from St Paul's President

As I write this, I see on my calendar that today is the first day of Spring. Winter is officially over, although my phone tells me its in the high 30's. But more importantly we are in the season of Lent, a time of reflection and prayer as we look forward to the glorious promise of Easter. Even though we all may have moments of anxiety and even fear in the world we live in, we must hold fast to the promise that our Lord has made. In the readings assigned for the third Sunday in Lent we will read from Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians " No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing, he will also provide a way out so that you will be able to endure it." And from Psalm 63, "My spirit is content ...when I remember you upon my bed and meditate on you in the night watches. For you have been my helper and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice."

At this time, I would also like to express my appreciation to Pastor Jose Luis and Pastor Emeritus Phil for leading us in a review of Luther's Small Catechism. Their knowledge, experience and comments, as well as the free ranging discussion from those attending have meant a lot to those who have been able to participate. The cookies and coffee have been good too ! Doug and Paul's Tuesday morning bible study has been another opportunity for me to grow in my faith and understanding of God's word. I would encourage anyone to attend whenever you can. Attendance has been good but there is always room for more and the perspective you might bring. It is always a free ranging discussion....and more good cookies!

Lent and Easter are so important in our liturgical year and an opportunity for us all to pray, reflect and celebrate together.

"Spike" Schonauer

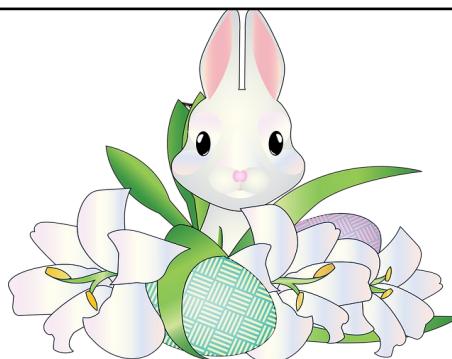
Easter Offering

Giving a special offering on Easter Sunday is an outward expression of our inward solidarity with the Resurrection—a reminder of the new beginnings we all experience.

As we celebrate the incredible gift of salvation through Jesus' death and resurrection, let's also consider how we can respond by giving to God a Special Easter Offering.

Happy Easter!

*Easter
Breakfast At
First Lutheran*



*Easter Sunday
7AM to 11AM*

First Lutheran Church

Worship Role	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27	
Pastor	Jose Luis	Jose Luis	Jose Luis	Jose Luis	
Lector	Diane	Paul	Jackie	Karen T	
Prayers	Connie				
Musician	Erika	Erika	Erika	Erika	
Livestream	Morgan & crew	Morgan & crew	Morgan & crew	Morgan & crew	
Slideshow	Jill	Frances	Paul	Gary	
Gathering Hymn	<i>In the Cross of Christ I Glory</i>	<i>All Glory, Laud & Honor</i>	<i>Alleluia Jesus is Risen!</i>	<i>All Hail the Power of Jesus</i>	
Hymn of the Day	<i>Lord, Whose Love in Humble</i>	<i>My Song Is Love Unknown</i>	<i>Jesus Christ is Risen Today</i>	<i>Now the Green Blade Rises</i>	
Sending Hymn	<i>Let Us Ever Walk w/Jesus</i>	<i>Thru the Night of Doubt & Sorr</i>	<i>Thine is the Glory</i>	<i>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</i>	
First Reading	<i>Isa 43:16-21</i>	<i>Isa 50:4-9a</i>	<i>Acts 10:34-43</i>	<i>Acts 5:27-32</i>	
Psalm	126	31: 9-16	118:1-2,14-24	118:14-29	
Second Reading	<i>Phil 3:4b-14</i>	<i>Phil 2:5-11</i>	<i>1Cor 15:19-26</i>	<i>Rev 1:4-8</i>	
Gospel	<i>John 12: 1-8</i>	<i>Luke 22:14-23:5</i>	<i>Luke 24:1-12</i>	<i>John 20:19-31</i>	

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Worship Role	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27	
Pastor	P. Jose Luis	P. Jose Luis	P. Jose Luis	P. Jose Luis	
Volunteer I	Janet W	Lenus de	Spike S	Patti R	
Vol. 2—Flowers					
Musician	Erika	Erika	Erika	Erika	
Gathering Hymn	<i>My Song is Love Unknown</i>	<i>All Glory, Laud & Honor</i>	<i>Jesus Christ is Risen Today</i>	<i>Christ the Lord Is Risen Today</i>	
Hymn of the Day	<i>Glory Be to Jesus</i>	<i>Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes</i>	<i>Hallelujah! Jesus Lives</i>	<i>He is Arisen! Glorious Word</i>	
Sending Hymn	<i>Come to Calvary's Holy</i>	<i>Jesus, I Will Ponder Now</i>	<i>Now All the Vaults of Heaven</i>	<i>Good Christian Friends, Erjoice</i>	



Bible Study

Hosted at First's Hall

Tuesdays 10 AM

Led by Doug Boone and Paul Griffin



Prayer Requests

Gary M, Patricia, Katy V, Jackie S, Audrey J

Harold & Kathy vB, Roni W, Samantha W, Tyler W, Joyce, Lucy,

Warren & Nelia F, Dianne, The Turnbull Family, Mo C

Joyce, Tyler W, Maite & Eric T, Joy Williams

Confirmations Classes

Sundays 2:30 pm @ First Lutheran thru May 25th

Confirmation date is June 8th

Catechism, Cookies & Coffee

Mondays @ 10:30am

thru April 7th @ St. Paul's Lutheran, Artois

Sunday Service at First Lutheran 9:00 AM

Sunday Service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church 11:00 AM

Lenten Meditation & Soup

Wednesdays March 12th thru April 9th

5 PM Soup—6 PM Worship @ First Lutheran

Worship at First Lutheran Church

Worship Role	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25	
<i>Pastor</i>	<i>P. Jose Luis</i>	<i>P. Jose Luis</i>	<i>P. Jose Luis</i>	<i>P. Jose Luis</i>	
<i>Lector</i>	<i>Dianne K</i>	<i>Paul G</i>	<i>Jackie S</i>	<i>Karen T</i>	
<i>Prayers</i>	<i>Connie</i>	<i>Connie</i>	<i>Connie</i>	<i>Connie</i>	
<i>Musicians</i>	<i>Erika</i>	<i>Erika</i>	<i>Erika</i>	<i>Erika</i>	
<i>Live Stream</i>	<i>Morgan &crew</i>	<i>Morgan & crew</i>	<i>Morgan &crew</i>	<i>Morgan &crew</i>	
<i>Slideshow</i>	<i>Jill</i>	<i>Frances</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Gary</i>	
<i>Gathering Hymn</i>	<i>At the Lamb's High Feast</i>	<i>Holy God We Praise Your</i>	<i>Blessing, Honor & Glory</i>	<i>O Sons & Daughters</i>	
<i>Hymn of the Day</i>	<i>Christ Is Alive Let Christians S</i>	<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i>	<i>The Strife is O'er, the Battle</i>	<i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i>	
<i>Sending Hymn</i>	<i>Love Devine, All Loves Excelling</i>	<i>This Joyful Eastertide</i>	<i>Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!</i>	<i>Now All the Vaults of</i>	
<i>1st Reading</i>	<i>Acts 9:1-6(7-20)</i>	<i>Acts 9:36-43</i>	<i>Acts 11:1-18</i>	<i>Acts 16:9-15</i>	
<i>Psalm</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>67</i>	
<i>2nd Reading</i>	<i>Rev 5:11-14</i>	<i>Rev 7:9-17</i>	<i>Rev 21:1-6</i>	<i>Rev 21:10,22-2</i>	
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>John 21:1-19</i>	<i>John 10:22-30</i>	<i>John 13:31-35</i>	<i>John 14:23-29</i>	

Worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>P. Jose Luis</i>	<i>P. Jose Luis</i>	<i>P. Jose Luis</i>	<i>P. Jose Luis</i>	
<i>Volunteer 1</i>	<i>Lenus</i>	<i>Spike S</i>	<i>Patti R</i>	<i>Ernie P</i>	
<i>Vol. 2—Flowers</i>	<i>Janet W</i>	<i>No flowers</i>	<i>No flowers</i>	<i>No flowers</i>	
<i>Organist</i>	<i>Erika</i>	<i>Erika</i>	<i>Erika</i>	<i>Erika</i>	
<i>Gathering Hymn</i>	<i>Awake, My Heart With Gladness</i>	<i>I Know that My Redeemer Lives</i>	<i>The Strife is O'er</i>	<i>Praise the Savior, Now & Evr</i>	
<i>Hymn of the Day</i>	<i>Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!</i>	<i>The Lord's My Shepherd</i>	<i>Good Christian Friends,</i>	<i>Rejoice, Angelic Choirs,</i>	
<i>Sending Hymn</i>	<i>Come, You Faithful, Raise the</i>	<i>Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead</i>	<i>Make Songs of Joy</i>	<i>Hallelujah! Jesus Lives</i>	



April Birthdays

1 Isla Ogilvie, 2 Lorraine Williams, 3 Jim Cauthon, Paddy Turnbull,

4 Jennifer Sharp, 7 Clay Jacobson, 14 Dan Peterson, Darla Testerman,

Scott von Bargen, 20 Jeff Jacobson, Ron Osborn, 22 Charlie Williams, 27 Nicolas La Torre,

Scott Batchelder, 28 Dale Askeland Jr., 29 Kaden Byker,

30 Kelly Testerman, Sandy von Bargen

HAPPENINGS AT FIRST

Food Pantry distribution Mondays 10-12 Wednesdays 3-5

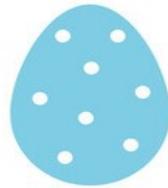
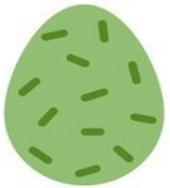
Commodities — April 18, May 23, June 20, July 18

(Food arrives the day before)

Green Bag days—second Saturday of every even month

Pantry Board Meeting 2nd Wednesday @ 12:00 each month

3rd Sat. Senior boxes go out @ 8 AM done by 9AM



May Birthdays

1 Gen Mattice, 6 PJ Davis, 7 Ron Goings, 15 Taylor Goings, 16 Lynette Rhodes,

Ruby Testerman, 20 Enid Earl, Lorraine Reimers, 23 Jim Peterson,

24 Angie Salinas, 36 Samantha Bautista, 29 Eric Testerman,

31 Eugene Taylor





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