

THE LUTHERAN LIGHT

A Letter from the Pastor



Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2, 9-11

Dear disciples of Jesus:

Advent and Christmas Seasons are here. The good news is that the incarnation took place in a concrete moment of history and opened the door to a new spirituality as well as presented a message to the common people, to the ones that were the vulnerable. To this day the incarnation is a challenge to our logic and to our ideas of what should happen. The incarnation is an invitation to see God in a baby in a manger.

That breaks all reason and logic. The older philosophers expressed that the limited is not capable to content the infinite. For a non-believer's point of view what is infinite cannot be incarnated in a limited human body. For that reason, many people deny the incarnation and the meaning of Christmas. According to their view, one marginal baby born in the first century in a poor province of the Roman Empire could not possibly be the full and complete revelation of God.

But we challenge that logic and make a faith statement today, confessing that we believe in the message of the angels and the celestial celebration that said: ¹¹*to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.* Yes, this is the miracle and the wonder of Christmas. The good news that the infinite and eternal God is revealed in our limited human existence.

This is a gift that can be received independently of our social status, age, race, gender, etc. The baby in the manger is a gift that can be received always. You only need to open your heart to receive it. There is not exclusion, there are not requirements, there is only grace, incarnated grace in history. Grace as a powerful spiritual transformation and grace open to all the people. Grace that is redemptive love, grace that is forgiveness of sins, grace that is reconciliation with your enemy, grace that is unlimited, grace that is extravagant, grace that is here for you.

God's incarnation is a gift for you! Have a blessed Advent and Christmas Season.

Your Pastor

The Rev. José Luis La Torre Cuadros.

First Lutheran Church

A Letter from the President

Dec 1, 2025

Dear Family of Faith,

We are coming to the end of another calendar year together, full of optimism and hope for a joyful and happy new year. We send our warmest Christmas greeting to each of you as once again we as a church family prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. These are the Christmas celebrations we would like to share with you. Please join us.

Live Nativity-Sunday, Dec 21 at First Lutheran Church 5-7 pm. All are Welcome to this Family Friendly event-refreshments will be served

Worship schedule

Advent Wednesday Soup and Service at St Paul's Lutheran in Artois at 5 pm

Sunday Advent Services: Nov 30 and Dec 7, 14 & 21 at First Lutheran in Orland at 9 am

and at St. Paul's Lutheran in Artois at 11:00 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Dec 24

at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Person at 7 pm

First Lutheran Church - In Person & Live Stream-Facebook-Website, YouTube at 9 pm

This year we continue to enjoy many of our activities in person and with our technology for worship and meetings. This has resulted in increased participation for many who are not always able to attend worship.

Volunteerism is alive in our congregation as we proceed with activities and projects that benefit our church and community. The Orland Pantry continues distributing food to those in need. Volunteers have contributed hundreds of hours to committees like Building and Grounds, Worship and Music, and Education, and to projects maintaining and improving our church grounds and facilities. We had a very successful confirmation program this year which was completed in June by several young people in the congregation. We have a very active Bible study and a popular art class creatively titled "Art & Soul" (days and times listed elsewhere in this newsletter).

Your steadfastness in your faith and giving has blessed many in our church and community. We encourage you to prayerfully consider an additional Christmastime gift to your church. Contributions may be made by mail using the enclosed Christmas envelope, online (www.orlandlutheran) or via text FLC\$25 to 73256. Mailed contributions must be postmarked by Dec 31 to receive contribution credit for 2025.

We worship Jesus Christ, who was once the baby of Bethlehem, and bring our gifts like the wisemen: *And when they entered the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasure chests, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. MATTHEW 2:11*

We thank you for your service and giving. May the Lord continue to bless you this Christmas season.

Paul Griffin, President

Cindy Batchelder, Treasurer

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
A Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Here we are approaching advent as I write this greeting. It is a wonderful time of year, full of hope and promise with much to reflect on and look forward to. I do look forward to the time of fellowship with many of you at our advent soup suppers and worship at St. Paul's. Check your calendars. This past year was full of blessings and some sadness to be sure. St. Paul's had another successful Octoberfest which will help us pay for two new AC units that need to be replaced as they were original to the building (over 60 years) as well as being able to support local aid programs. We appreciate the support of all who worked and attended. Two of the highlights for me of this past year were the classes conducted By Pastor Jose-Luis and Pastor Phil. The first was a review of our catechism and the second has been concentrating on Luther's writing concerning the Reformation. We are blessed to have these two men lead us in these studies. There will be another class in the spring. Any suggestions for a topic? Please consider attending. All are welcome and cookies and coffee included. Bible study continues to be well attended in Orland on Tuesdays. More cookies and coffee too. Doug and Paul do such a good job of leading us through the scriptures for the following Sunday. It has been a high point in my week. St. Paul's will be holding our January meeting after church on January 11 after church with a potluck. We will be planning our budget and events for the year. In our Liturgy we have in the past sung a melody inspired by Psalm 51. "Create in me a clean heart O Lord and renew a right spirit with in me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy Holy Spirit from me " May the Holy Spirit be with you all this holiday season.

Spike Schonauer

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Join us in celebrating the wonder and joy of the season through song!

Glenn Chorale

Magnificat

Sunday December 7, 2025

3PM ~ ORLAND MEMORIAL HALL

\$15 General ~ 12 & Under Free With Adult

Visit our website for more information about our community choir



Prayer Requests

*Katy V, Joe W, Gary M, Nelia and family, Audry J, Patricia,
Kathy & Harold vB, Samantha W, Tyler W, Diane K, Joyce,
Maite & Eric T, Mo C, Nancy M, Jeannette S*

Bible Study

*Hosted by Doug Boone &
Paul Griffin
Tuesdays at 10 AM
At
First Lutheran's Hall*



Art & Soul

Wednesdays 1-3 pm***

***Art and Soul will Resume on September 17 after Summer break. Please don't stop drawing and creating this month. Post your work so we'll all learn from each other. Call with questions.

Glenys 530-680-5653



December Birthdays



1 Merry Goings, Larry Reimers

2 Sharon Rios, David Tompkins

3 Nelia Fox. Peg deReus

8 Everett German

9 Linda Pickett

12 Lilita Olberg,

Nichlas Polley

16 Bob Goings,

Krystina Testerman

18 Karen Osborn

21 Debbie Carter

22 Pastor Phil Zabel

25 Angie Hillyard

27 Bill Krueger

29 Leanne Hinton,

Cindy Jacobson

30 Wayne Meisner

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls are lovingly made by a team of knitters and crocheters who make them with prayers for folks who need extra support or care at challenging times. If you know someone who might benefit from a prayer shawl, please contact Connie Boone at (530-717-0997) or leave a message at the church office.

Worship at First Lutheran Church

Worship Roll	<i>Dec 7</i>	<i>Dec 14</i>	<i>Dec 21</i>	<i>Dec 28</i>	
Pastor	<i>Jose Luis</i>	<i>Jose Luis</i>	<i>Jose Luis</i>	<i>Jose Luis</i>	
Lector	<i>Diane K</i>	<i>Paul G</i>	<i>Jackie S</i>	<i>Karen T</i>	
Prayers	<i>Connie</i>	<i>Connie</i>	<i>Connie</i>	<i>Connie</i>	
Slide show	<i>Jill</i>	<i>Frances</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Gary</i>	
Gathering Hymn	<i>Hark, the Glad Souhd</i>	<i>Awake& Greet the New Morn</i>	<i>The Angle Ga- briel from Hea</i>	<i>1-Good Chris- tian Friends</i>	
Hymn of the day	<i>Comfort, Com- fort Now My</i>	<i>Christ, Be Our Light</i>	<i>Savior of the Nations</i>	<i>2- What Child is This</i>	
Sending Hymn	<i>Prepare the Royal Highway</i>	<i>Peop0le Look East</i>	<i>Canticle of Turning</i>	<i>3-Away in a Manger</i>	<i>4- The First Noel</i>
First Reading	<i>Isa 11: 1-10</i>	<i>Isa 35:1-10</i>	<i>Isa 7:10-16</i>	<i>Isa 63:7-9</i>	
Psalm	<i>72:7,18-19</i>	<i>Luk 1:46b-55</i>	<i>80:1-7,17-19</i>	<i>148</i>	
Second Reading	<i>Rom 15:4-13</i>	<i>James 5:7-10</i>	<i>Rom 1:1-7</i>	<i>Heb 2:10-18</i>	
Gospel	<i>Matt 3: 1-12</i>	<i>Matt 11:2-11</i>	<i>Matt 18-25</i>	<i>Matt 2:13-23</i>	

Worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volunteer 1	<i>Susan T</i>	<i>Janet W</i>	<i>Lenus</i>	<i>Spike</i>	
Vol. 2 Flowers	<i>Natalie T</i>	<i>Susan T</i>	<i>Kathy vB</i>	<i>Janet W</i>	
Gathering Hymn	<i>Comfort Now My Peop0le</i>	<i>Come O Pre- cious Ransom</i>	<i>The Advent of Our God</i>	<i>Good Chris- tian Friends</i>	
Hymn of the day	<i>On Jordan's Banks</i>	<i>Kark the Glad Sound</i>	<i>Savior of the Nations</i>	<i>It Came Upon a Midnight</i>	
Sending Hymn	<i>Rejoice Rejoic Believers</i>	<i>Prepare the Royal Hiway</i>	<i>Once He Came in Blessi</i>	<i>The First Noel</i>	

Worship at First Lutheran Church

Worship Roll	<i>Jan 4</i>	<i>Jan 11</i>	<i>Jan 18</i>	<i>Jan 25</i>	
Pastor	<i>Jose Luis</i>	<i>Jose Luis</i>	<i>Jose Luis</i>	<i>Jose Luis</i>	<i>Jose Luis</i>
Lector	<i>Diane</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Jackie</i>	<i>Karen</i>	<i>Gary</i>
Prayers	<i>Connie</i>	<i>Connie</i>	<i>Connie</i>	<i>Connie</i>	<i>Connie</i>
Slide show	<i>Jill</i>	<i>Frances</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Gary</i>	
Gathering Hymn	<i>I-Go Tell It On the Moun- tain</i>	<i>Shall We Gather at the</i>	<i>Arise, Your Light Has</i>	<i>The Strong Word</i>	
Hymn of the day	<i>2-It Came Up- on a Midnight</i>	<i>As With Glad- ness Men of</i>	<i>Spirit of Gen- tleness</i>	<i>Will You Come & Follo</i>	
Sending Hymn	<i>3-Of the Fa- thers Love Be</i>	<i>The Spirit Sends Us</i>	<i>We Are Marching in</i>	<i>I Want to Walk as a Chi</i>	<i>Jan 4 –4 Hark the Herald</i>
First Reading	<i>Jer 31:7-14</i>	<i>Isa 42:1-9</i>	<i>Isa 49:1-7</i>	<i>Isa 9;1-4</i>	
Psalm	<i>147</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>40:1-11</i>	<i>27:1,4-9</i>	
Second Reading	<i>Eph 1:3-14</i>	<i>Acts 10:34-43</i>	<i>1Cor 1:1-9</i>	<i>1Cor 1:10-18</i>	
Gospel	<i>John 1:1-9,10- 18</i>	<i>Matt 3;13-17</i>	<i>John 1:29-42</i>	<i>Matt 4:12-23</i>	

Worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volunteer 1	<i>Susan T</i>	<i>Janet W</i>	<i>Lenus</i>	<i>Bob R</i>	
Vol. 2 Flowers	<i>Lynda F</i>	<i>Myrna L</i>	<i>Rachelle M</i>	<i>Beth N</i>	
Gathering Hymn	<i>Let All Togeth- er Praise Our</i>	<i>Bright & Glo- rious is the Sky</i>	<i>All Praise to You O Lord</i>	<i>Earth & All Stars</i>	
Hymn of the day	<i>Rejoice, Rejoice This</i>	<i>From God the Father</i>	<i>Brightest & Best are the</i>	<i>Hail to the Lord Anointed</i>	
Sending Hymn	<i>Hark the Har- old Angels Sing</i>	<i>With the Lord Begin Your</i>	<i>Songs of Thankfulness</i>	<i>Lord Dismiss Us with Your</i>	

Happenings @ First

Food Pantry

Distribution Mondays 10-12, Wednesdays 3-5

Commodities

December 19th, January 16, 2026

(Food arrives the day before)

Green bag days

Second Saturday of every even month

LIVE NATIVITY

December 21, 2025

5 – 7 PM

First Lutheran Church

***Enjoy Christmas music, singing carols, festive
snacks & fellowship***



January Birthdays

3 Noel Schmidt

5 Tyler Batchelder

Connie Boone,

6 Leilani Heath,

Bill Salinas

8 Avry Davis

10 Mike Millar

13 Shirley Varner

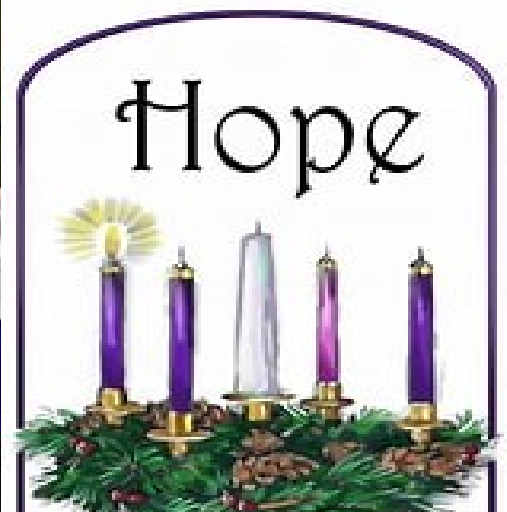
14 Ann Butler

16 Karah Turnbull

26 Travis Tompkins

30 Bailie Davis

31 Dillon Millar





First Lutheran Church
19 Colusa Street
Orland, CA 95963



«Name»

«Address»

«City», «State» «Zip»