

THE LUTHERAN LIGHT

A Letter from the Pastor



Dear disciples of Jesus:

We are in the Season after Pentecost! Yes, what happens after Pentecost Sunday?

Pentecost is a day of promises fulfilled. The promised Spirit of God was poured out. The baptized have become “children of God” and “joint heirs with Christ.” By the power of the Spirit, we have seen the face of the Father in his only begotten Son and been saved by him. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The Day of Pentecost was a special day for worship. The feast of Pentecost marked the end of the Easter season for Christians and commemorates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus after his Ascension to the Father. We remember for this reason Jesus’ words of promise: *the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you (John 14, 26).*

The Church of God that begins on Pentecost, which we read in the second chapter of Acts received the mission of preaching the *Good News of the Kingdom of God* to all nations. This is the reason why the gospel was proclaimed to the whole world in different languages; and this is the reason why we need to be a missionary church.

On Pentecost Season, Christians around the world need to remember that the Pentecost experience of fire and tongues was a gift to enlighten the Christian community giving them the courage and the wisdom to proclaim the gospel in words and deeds. So, Pentecost was not an end but a beginning, it was not the destination but the point of departure.

The Risen Christ said to the disciples hiding in fear. “*Peace be with you,*’ Jesus says. *‘As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.’ After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and added, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” (John 20:19-23).*

The Pentecost season is a reminder that we celebrate the reality that we are God-breathed beings, living beings that breathe the air and the smell of God’s creation. Our experience of the Holy Spirit marked just the beginning of the journey. Summer is coming and I invite each of you to enjoy the light and the warm and to be a witness of Jesus for the salvation of the world. This is a good time to continue inviting your family and friends to be active disciples of Jesus and to celebrate Jesus’ presence with each of us every Sunday blessed by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Have a blessed Summer.

Your Pastor,

The Rev. José Luis La Torre Cuadros.

First Lutheran Church

A Letter from Steve Elliott

ONE THING I LOVE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

By Steve Elliott

Since I am neither pastor nor president, the range of topics for this article was wide open. I decided I wanted to write about “What I Love About Our Church.” But, since there are so many things I love about our church, I decided I had to narrow the scope to “One Thing I Love About Our Church.”

First, A little background: Neither Jill nor I were born Lutheran. Neither was Luther — so we’re in good company! Jill and I consider ourselves “holy catholics,” as we profess every week when we recite the Creed, members of the Body of Christ, the Church Universal. As a couple we have attended many different churches. Sadly some of the churches we have visited over the years have conducted themselves like exclusive, members-only clubs. Membership is always “Jesus And...” Jesus And churches effectively qualify grace and the unconditional love of God. Jesus And... doctrinal conformity. Jesus And... a good hair cut. Jesus And... respectable attire. Whatever — you name it — the list goes on.

Which brings me to one thing I love about our church. Luther’s name is above the door, but even before you get there, you must first walk past the motto painted on the wall out front that proclaims “All Are Welcome.”

There is little argument these days that intolerance is a vice. But I don’t believe we should settle for “tolerance.” Speaking for myself, and from what I know about others, people do not long simply to be tolerated. People long to be welcomed. People long to be cherished. People long to belong.

Coming to church should feel like homecoming. Because, with its population of billions, this world is often a difficult and lonely place. We feel exiled here. We yearn for home. It is warm honey to my soul to hear the pastor remind us every Sunday that the Lord’s table is set for us and we are all invited to share His family meal.

The way I see it, Jesus went to great lengths to open the gates of heaven and the doors of the house of God. He crossed borders, walked through walls, walked on water, died willingly, in order to gather all God’s scattered children. The doors of a church should never present a barrier to an encounter with our Heavenly Father. God loves first, last and always, and that love in God’s time inspires change. And if the change we expect or hope for is slow to come or never happens, God continues to love. It is our charge to keep the doors open and welcome anyone who enters like cherished family.

That’s why I am proud of the motto so prominently displayed front and center on our building where the whole world can read it. I know for some it is or has been a scandal and a stumbling block. There are some who have left or avoid our fellowship specifically because we welcome and embrace anyone and everyone. It can be a challenge at times for each of us who keep walking through the doors. We are always learning, still growing. Despite any discomfort or inconvenience it may bring, I love that “All Are Welcome” at First Lutheran. I am proud that, while we will always live them imperfectly, the words are not merely aspirational: they truly characterize our church.

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

Dear friends in Christ, blessings to you all as we enter the season of Pentecost and near the long days of summer. St. Paul's will hold our semi-annual congregational meeting on Sunday June 28 after church. Potluck lunch after church included of course! Thanks to the generosity of members and friends we were able to cover some major expenses this past year, namely the purchase of two new AC units for the hall and a used baby grand piano for the sanctuary. We hosted a benefit recital so that our dear cantor Ana can attend a prestigious summer music camp in Interlochen, Michigan. It was a glorious event featuring Ana, her mother Erika and voice teacher Kristen Baugher. Let's hope we have more recitals in the future. Thanks to all who attended and generously supported such a fine young talent. I think we met and even our goal for the event. I also want to thank Pastor Emeritus Phil for his event in involving Thrivent in covering some of the cost of the event and reception following. Truly an event to remember! Later this month First Luther will host a slide show and comments from Pastor Jose-Luis about his recent trip to the Holy Land. Check your church calendar. This time of year, we concentrate on the gift of the Holy Spirit and our core mission of sharing the gospel to our local community and beyond.

God's blessings

Spike Schonauer

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
June 28th

After Church With Potluck



Congratulations!

Ruby Testerman

Carter Testerman

Miranda La Torre

Luz Miranda



Prayer Requests

Katy V, Gary M, Audry J, Patricia,

*Kathy & Harold vB, Samantha W, Tyler W, Joyce, Maite & Eric T,
Mo C, Sharon R, Phil A*

Bible Study

Hosted by Doug Boone &

Paul Griffin

Tuesdays at 10 AM

At

First Lutheran's Hall



June Birthdays



1 Katy Vereschagin

4 Emily Foster

9 Christy Leighton

14 Carol Anderson

16 Amanda Millar

22 Lou Roberts

23 Jake Reimers

Nancy Mallory

34 Carry Walsh

27 Phil Heuchert

28 Peggy Townsend

Linda Halsey

29 Marlene Askeland

Art & Soul

Wednesdays 1-3 pm

Art and Soul will be meeting every other Wednesday for the summer starting June 3rd, 2026.

Post your work so we'll all learn from each other.

Call with questions.

Glenys 530-680-5653



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>June 7</i>	<i>June 14</i>	<i>June 21</i>	<i>June 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>Morning Has Broken</i>	<i>All People that on Earth do</i>	<i>Gather Us In</i>	<i>All Are Welcome</i>	
Hymn of the day	<i>There's a Wideness in</i>	<i>Lord You Give the Great Com</i>	<i>How Firm a Foundation</i>	<i>As We Gather at Your Table</i>	
Sending Hymn	<i>Will You Come & Follow</i>	<i>Rise up O Saints of God</i>	<i>If You Trust in God to Guide</i>	<i>Lord Speak to Us that We</i>	
First Reading	<i>Hosea 5:15-6:6</i>	<i>Exod 19:2-8a</i>	<i>Jer 20:7-13</i>	<i>Jer 28:5-9</i>	
Psalm	<i>50:7-15</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>69:7-10[11-15] 16-18</i>	<i>89:1-4,15-18</i>	
Second Reading	<i>Rom 4:13-25</i>	<i>Rom 5:1-8</i>	<i>Rom 6:1b-11</i>	<i>Rom 6:12-23</i>	
Gospel	<i>Matt 9:9-13, 18-26</i>	<i>Matt 9:35-10:8[9-23]</i>	<i>Matt 10:24-39</i>	<i>Matt 10:40-42</i>	

Worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volunteer 1	<i>Janet W</i>	<i>Lenus deR</i>	<i>Bob R</i>	<i>Patti R</i>	
Vol. 2 Flowers	<i>Patti R</i>	<i>Natalie T</i>	<i>Susan T</i>	<i>Kathy von B</i>	
Gathering Hymn	<i>My Hope is Built on Noth</i>	<i>O Jesus Joy of Loving Hearts</i>	<i>Let Me Be Yours Forever</i>	<i>Immortal Invisible God only W</i>	
Hymn of the day	<i>What a Friend We Have in J</i>	<i>Almighty God Your Word is</i>	<i>O God My Faithful Gof</i>	<i>Earth & All Stars</i>	
Sending Hymn	<i>Father Most Holy</i>	<i>Lift High the Cross</i>	<i>When Morning Guilds the Sky</i>	<i>Love Devine All Loves Excelling</i>	

Worship at First Lutheran Church

Worship Roll	<i>July 5</i>	<i>July 12</i>	<i>July 19</i>	<i>July 26</i>	
Pastor	<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>	
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 Song	<i>What a Friend We Have in Je</i>	<i>What Is This Place</i>	<i>Come Ye Thankful Ppl</i>	<i>Open Your Ears O Faithfl</i>	
Song of the Day	<i>I Heard the Voice of Jesus</i>	<i>We Plow the Fields & Scatt</i>	<i>Praise & Thanksgiving</i>	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	
Sending Song	<i>Lord of All Hopefulness</i>	<i>For the Fruit of All Creation</i>	<i>Sing to the Lord of Hrvst</i>	<i>Canticle of the Turning</i>	
First Reading	<i>Zech 9:9-12</i>	<i>Isa 55:10-13</i>	<i>Isa 44:6-8</i>	<i>1Kings 3:5-12</i>	
Psalm	<i>145: 8-14</i>	<i>65:[1-8] 9-13</i>	<i>86:11-17</i>	<i>119:129-136</i>	
Second Reading	<i>Rom 7:15-25a</i>	<i>Rom 8:1-11</i>	<i>Rom 8:12-25</i>	<i>Rom 8:26-39*</i>	
Gospel	<i>Matt 11: 16- 19, 25-30</i>	<i>Matt 13:1- 9,18-23</i>	<i>Matt 13:24- 30,36-43</i>	<i>Matt 13:31- 33, 44-52</i>	

Worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volunteer 1	<i>Ernie P</i>	<i>Spike S</i>	<i>Susan T</i>	<i>Janet W</i>	
Vol. 2 Flowers	<i>Janet W</i>	<i>Kathleen Z</i>	<i>Sherry B</i>	<i>Lynda F</i>	
Gathering Hymn	<i>All Hail the Power of Jesus</i>	<i>He Leadeth Me Oh Blessed</i>	<i>O God of Mer- cy God of Lght</i>	<i>O Holy Spirit Enter In</i>	
Hymn of the day	<i>When I Survey the Wondrous</i>	<i>Almighty God Your Word is C</i>	<i>Lord Take my Hand & Lead</i>	<i>I Come O Sav- ior to Your T</i>	
Sending Hymn	<i>All Creatures of Our God &</i>	<i>O Jesus I Have Promised</i>	<i>Holy Spirit Ever Dwelling</i>	<i>On What has Now Been Swn</i>	

Happenings @ First

Food Pantry

Distribution Mondays 10-12, Wednesdays 3-5

Commodities

June 19, July 17

(Food arrives the day before)

Green bag days

Second Saturday of every even month

***On July 4th, 2026
our nation will commemorate and
celebrate the 250th anniversary of the
signing of the
Declaration of Independence***

Happy Fathers Day!

Energy Report

To view the current energy report (solar), visit the First Lutheran of Orland website at www.orlandlutheran.com/stay-connected

July



Birthdays

*1 Butch Peterson
Kathryn Testerman
4 Derek Foster
5 Michael Swann
7 Travis Goings
8 Maite Testerman
Rob Tarleton
11 Ginger Scarborough
Madison Nethington
12 Earnie Pieper
Susan Tarleton
14 Randy Rehse
Harold von Bargaen
20 Jacob Turnbull
21 Frances Lepp
28 Joshua Kitchen
Kathy von Bargaen
29 Jackie Swann
30 Mark Wakerman
31 Bree Schmidt*