

THE LUTHERAN LIGHT

A Letter from the Pastor

Season of Creation



Dear disciples of Jesus:

Life is full of ups and downs. Faith is not only joy and abundant life, it is also struggle, challenge and contradiction. Daily every Christian is gifted with the blessings of eternal life, and challenged with illness, pain, loss and the unpredictability of the world, the weather, markets and politics.

You can see that Jesus was right when he said: *If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. (Matthew 16,24)*

Jesus preached a faith that is always growing through the experience of the cross. The cross is painful, but the resurrection is joyful. The whole creation experiences life and transformation, and this change comes slowly or dramatically fast. But we, as Christians, must be always ready to embrace cross and resurrection, or change and renewal. This is the way the kingdom manifests its power and presence among us.

When we struggle to find God in our own sufferings and those of others', our faith tells us that we do not need to go looking for God to remote places. God is already here. God is always nearby. Whether or not we see God in our hours of doubt, this has to do more with the blindness of our human condition than with who God is. *We can always hold fast to the truth that God is with us, holding us in existence, and sustaining us with a love that is fiercer than the fiercest cross, including the one Jesus died on for us.*

Let us continue our journey entering the Season of Creation celebrating how the kingdom grows and expands like a miracle among the contradictions and challenges of our days.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Jose Luis La Torre Cuadros

Pastor

First Lutheran Church

A Letter from the President

We had our first heat wave of the summer in Orland during the second week of July when we had a string of days well in excess of 100 degrees. We had plenty of days in the 90's in the weeks prior, but that doesn't qualify as a heat wave in Orland. I, however, was in Monterey during that week where the daily highs ranged from 65 to 70 degrees. I have to say that I feel a little guilty about being on the coast when my fellow Orlanders were enduring the heat, but not guilty enough to regret it.

We had a great Pentecost Sunday at First Lutheran on June 8th. Most of the congregants were dressed in some kind of Pentecost Red which added to the "Spirit" of the occasion. Not only was that Sunday a celebration of the dramatic arrival of the Holy Spirit two thousand years ago, but it was also a day to celebrate the confirmation of five dedicated young people who attended Pastor Jose Luis' confirmation classes during the past school year. Bible verses which had been selected by the confirmands for their special meaning to them were read to the congregation. And each student was given an opportunity to say a little something about his or her Christian faith. All in all it was a wonderful celebration which was followed by cake and refreshments in the fellowship hall.

After a very strong month in April which I reported in the last edition of the Lutheran Light, May and June were a bit lackluster financially. First Lutheran's net income/loss for the month of May was a loss of \$4,304.30. June was a little better than break-even at \$349.03 in net income. Church attendance tends to be a down a bit during the summer months due to people's vacation and travel schedules, so a drop-off in giving is normally expected. We are hoping things will pick up once we get into the fall.

On July 31st First Lutheran volunteers will be providing dinner to the student musicians attending the annual Orland High School Band Camp. I believe that providing a lunch or dinner for the students at the camp has been an annual tradition at First Lutheran ever since some of the high school students attending our church were in the Orland High band decades ago. Thanks to those volunteers who have chosen to help us continue the tradition.^[1]_{SEP}

I hope you all have a wonderful rest of your summer, and I look forward to writing to you again in the October/November edition of the Lutheran Light.

God's Peace

Paul Griffin



“Creation cries out in suffering. We acknowledge the urgent call to action, and we acknowledge that we can only respond to it on the basis of faith. The Season of Creation is a source of strength and communion, encouraging us truly ‘to hope and act with creation.’”

Rev. Dr Anne Burghardt, Lutheran World Federation General Secretary

**The theme for this year's Season of Creation
(Sept.1st-Oct. 4th) is “Peace with Creation”.**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A Letter from the President

Dear members and friends, it seems the months fly by so fast even in the long days of summer. St. Paul's held its semi annual congregational meeting in June. Once again, the food was excellent and plentiful. Thanks to all who could be there. The church is pretty much on budget although utilities are up. I want to thank everyone for their generous support. The congregation is gearing up for Oktoberfest on October 5th. We will be cutting cabbage for the sauerkraut the last Sunday in August. Watch your calendar for that and the bacon frying and all that goes into having a successful event. We always need all the help we can get in preparation and ticket sales.

Oktoberfest has me reflecting on the long biblical tradition of hospitality. The bible study for the scriptures appointed for the 6th Sunday in Pentecost reinforced those reflections. The Old Testament lesson comes to us from Genesis. Abraham welcomed visiting strangers to rest and eat and drink as they passed by. We know how that hospitality was returned as we are all descendants of Abraham. The Gospel lesson for that Sunday from Luke recounts the story of Martha and her sister Mary welcoming Jesus and his disciples into their home. Both women had their own approach to hospitality. Jesus taught us that Mary "chose the better part" by listening while Martha was more distracted by the task at hand. I would hope that we could all learn from Jesus' teaching moment in showing hospitality to strangers and friends alike. It can be a learning experience for host and guest alike. I am always proud to see that we proclaim that "All are Welcome."

God's peace to you all in the months ahead

Spike Schonauer



"God's work. Our hands." is Sept. 7, 2025!

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace



Prayer Requests

*Katy V, Joe W., Gary M, Nelia and family, Audry J, Patricia, Gary M,
Kathy & Harold vB, Samantha W, Dianne, Tyler W, Joyce,
The Turnbull family, Maite & Eric T, Mo C*

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



August Birthdays



3 Dorothy Salinas,

4 Daniel Turnbull.

5 Meghn Davis, Mikaela Davis,

Laura Blevins,

9 Susan Fehilly, Ashley Sharp,

10 Francine Machado,

15 Ian Turnbull,

16 Lenus de Reus,

19 Phil Anderson,

24 Kacie Polley, Keith Testerman,

26 Pastor Jose Luis

29 John Tolley

30 Tanya Foster,

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>Aug 3</i>	<i>Aug 10</i>	<i>Aug 17</i>	<i>Aug 24</i>	<i>Aug 31</i>
Pastor	<i>David Rose</i>	<i>Phil Z</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>	<i>Steve E</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>For the Fruit of All Creation</i>	<i>All Are Welcome</i>	<i>Holy God We Praise Your N</i>	<i>Oh For a Thousand T</i>	<i>Gather Us In</i>
Hymn of the day	<i>We Plow the Fields</i>	<i>Will You Come & Follow Me</i>	<i>Word of God Come Down</i>	<i>Lord of Light</i>	<i>Immortal, Invisible</i>
Sending Hymn	<i>God of Grace God of Glory</i>	<i>How Firm the Foundation</i>	<i>I Want to Walk as a Child of</i>	<i>Canticle of Turning</i>	<i>Lord Dismiss Us With Your Bless</i>
First Reading	<i>Eccl 1:2,12- 14;2-18-23</i>	<i>Gen 15:1-6</i>	<i>Jer 23:23-29</i>	<i>Isa 58:9b-14</i>	<i>Prov 25: 6-7</i>
Psalm	<i>49:1-12</i>	<i>33: 12-22</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>103:1-8</i>	<i>112</i>
Second Reading	<i>Col 3:1-11</i>	<i>Heb 11:1-3, 8-18</i>	<i>Heb 11:29- 12:2</i>	<i>Heb 12:18-29</i>	<i>Heb 13:1-8,15- 16</i>
Gospel	<i>Luke 12:13-21</i>	<i>Like 12:32-40</i>	<i>Luke 12:49-56</i>	<i>Luke 13:10-17</i>	<i>Luke 14:7-14</i>

Worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volunteer 1	<i>Susan T</i>	<i>Janet W</i>	<i>Lenus</i>	<i>Spike</i>	<i>Ratti R</i>
Vol. 2 Flowers	<i>Sherry B</i>	<i>Lynda F</i>	<i>Myrna</i>	<i>Rochelle</i>	<i>Beth N</i>
Gathering Hymn	<i>God of Mercy God of Light</i>	<i>O Holy Spirit Enter In</i>	<i>Lord of All Hopefulness</i>	<i>I Know that My Redeemer</i>	<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i>
Hymn of the day	<i>Lord Take My Hand & Lead</i>	<i>I Come O Savior to Your</i>	<i>God Whose Almighty Wrđ</i>	<i>Praise & Thanksgiving</i>	<i>O God of Mercy</i>
Sending Hymn	<i>Holy Spirit Ever Dwelling</i>	<i>On What Has Now Been Sown</i>	<i>Beautiful Savior</i>	<i>With the Lord Begin Your</i>	<i>Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee</i>

Worship at First Lutheran Church

Worship Roll	<i>Sept 7</i>	<i>Sept 14</i>	<i>Sept 21</i>	<i>Sept 28</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 Hymn	<i>As Saints of Old</i>	<i>O Lord We Praise You</i>	<i>All Creatures Worship God</i>	<i>When Long Before Time</i>	
Hymn of the day	<i>Creating God</i>	<i>Jesus Loves Me!</i>	<i>O Sing to the Lord</i>	<i>Will You Let Me Be Your</i>	
Sending Hymn	<i>Earth and All Stars</i>	<i>There's A Wideness In</i>	<i>Almighty God Your Word Is</i>	<i>Open Your Ears O Faithf</i>	
First Reading	<i>Deut 30:15-20</i>	<i>Exod 32:7-14</i>	<i>Amos 8:4-7</i>	<i>Amos 6:1a, 4-7</i>	
Psalm	<i>1</i>	<i>51:1-10</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>146</i>	
Second Reading	<i>Phil 1-21</i>	<i>1Tim 1:12-17</i>	<i>1Tim 2:1-7</i>	<i>1 Tim 6:6-19</i>	
Gospel	<i>Luke 14:25-33</i>	<i>Luke 15:1-10</i>	<i>Luke 16:1-13</i>	<i>Luke 16:9-31</i>	

Worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volunteer 1	<i>Ernie P</i>	<i>Susan T</i>	<i>Janet W</i>	<i>Lenus</i>	
Vol. 2 Flowers	<i>Patti R</i>	<i>Natalie T</i>	<i>Susan T</i>	<i>Kathy vB</i>	
Gathering Hymn	<i>Let the Whole Creation Cry</i>	<i>Holy Spirit Truth Devine</i>	<i>Chief of Sinners Tho</i>	<i>Holy God We Praise Your N</i>	
Hymn of the day	<i>Where Cross the Crowded</i>	<i>For the Bread Which You</i>	<i>Let Me Be Yours Forever</i>	<i>Take My Life That I May Be</i>	
Sending Hymn	<i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i>	<i>Sent Forth by God's Blessing</i>	<i>Lord Dismiss Us w/Your Bls</i>	<i>This is My Father's World</i>	



Harvest Time



September Birthdays

1 Jesse4 Krueger, Carla Alban

3 Nancy Lovell

6 Brooke Roundy, Todd Testerman,

Chuck Schonauer

8 Robert Mattice,

9 Jeff Allen, Stephan Batchelder

11 Dennis Anderson

12 Sharon Heise Micki Scarbrough

17 Doug Danielson

19 Olivia Testerman,

Colleen Breevaart, Misty Taylor

24 Lance Pucket, Megan Stackhouse,

25 Linda Danielson, Ryan Polley,

Aaron Pucket

26 Kelly Sumerday, Kevin Askeland

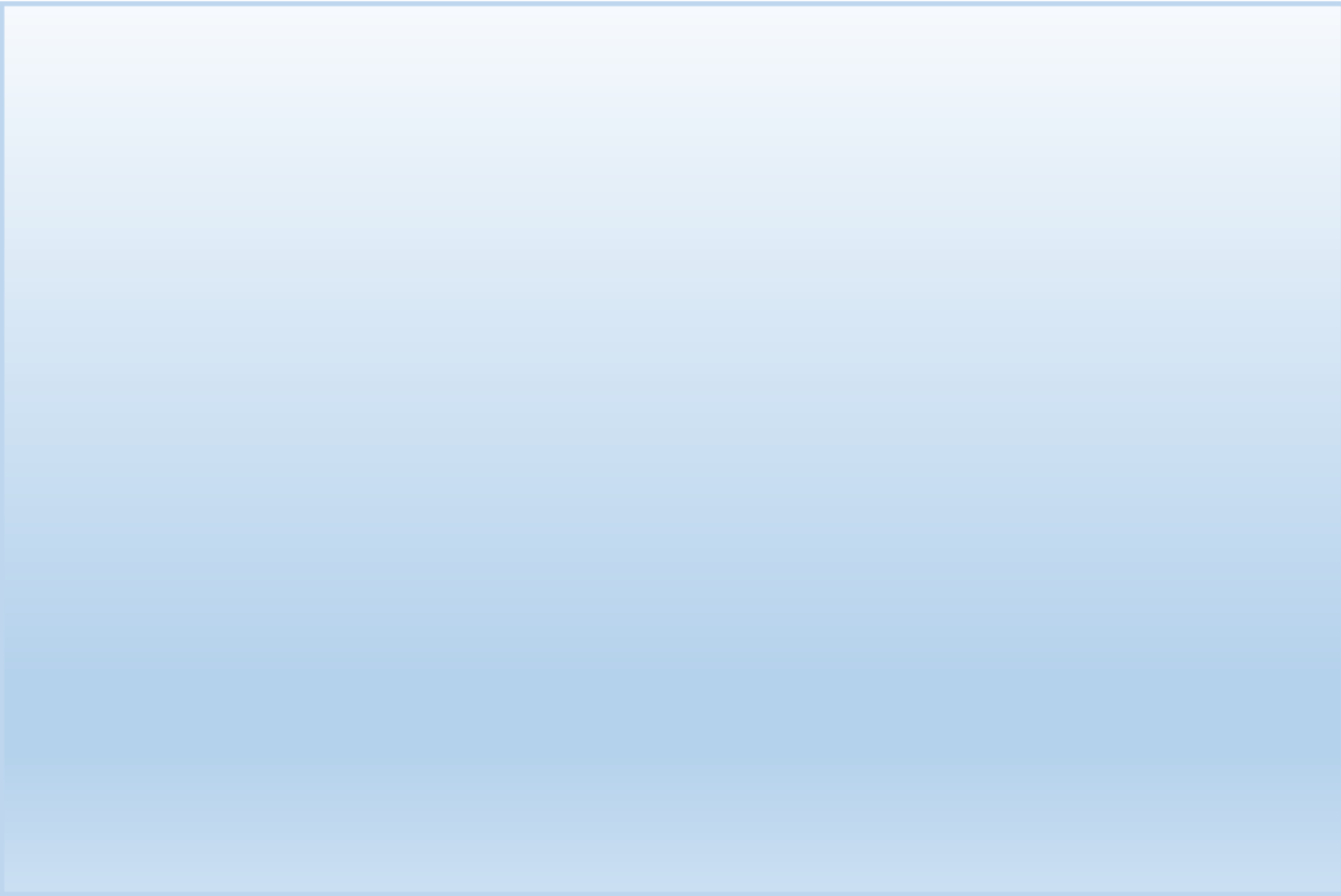
Cindy Batchelder

30 Barbara Testerman, Jack Williams

Jill Williams

Energy Report

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



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