



Pentecost 9

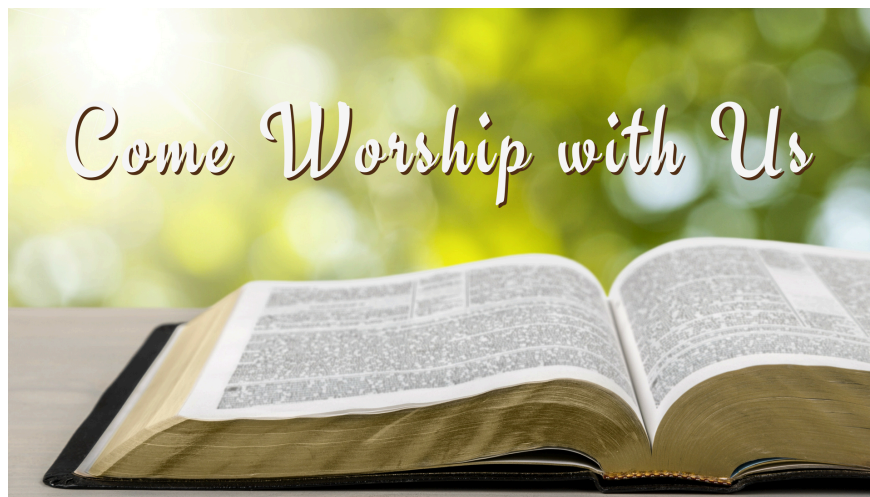
August 10, 2025

A Kingdom for the Little Flock

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Jesus promises the kingdom to us, his little flock, straining our minds with this uninhibited generosity. Even to us, so little and undeserving? Even to us, in the face of so many things to be afraid of? Suddenly everything we hold dear in this world is repriced, and the true value of things becomes plainly clear. We are being given the kingdom! So why not sell our possessions and give to those in need? We are being given the kingdom! So why not wait on expectant tiptoes for the master? When he comes he will wait on us! The Father’s free generosity calls forth in us a generosity we have never before known. Fear is now met with anticipation, and tightfistedness with open hands. We are being given the kingdom, so now we know what true treasure looks like. And yet, like our fathers and mothers in faith that the Hebrews reading speaks of, we too “desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.” But in Christ our heavenly country has already arrived. In him, God has freely given us the kingdom.

Readings and Psalm

- [Genesis 15:1-6](#)
 - [Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16](#)
 - [Luke 12:32-40](#)
-



Every Sunday we offer two ways to worship:

In person worship each Sunday at 9am.
Large Print Bulletins available in the Narthex

Our Children's Church Program begins July 20th. There will be a bible story, snack, and a quick craft or coloring page that will reflect the bible story. All children ages 1-8 are welcome to come!

Online Worship is also available through our website at
www.firstlutheranredlands.org

We livestream our online services. You can watch it live at 9 am
or anytime throughout the week on our YouTube Channel.



New Member Classes Start This Week!

Are you interested in becoming a member of our church?
Do you want to learn more about our congregation
and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

The new member classes begin Wednesday, 8/6 at 6 PM.

If you would like to join the class or would like more information,
please contact the church office at 909-793-2267.

This week at First

Wednesday 8/6 6:00 PM New Member Class - Conference Room
Thursday 8/7 11:00 AM Zoom Bible Study
Saturday 8/9 10:00 AM SDA Worship - Sanctuary/PH

Sunday 8/10 6:00 PM Caring and Sharing - PH
9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
10:30 AM Adult Forum - Chapel
1:00 PM BATAK Church - Sanctuary
Wednesday 8/13 10:00 AM COMIC Quilters
6:00 PM New Member Class - Conference Room

Upcoming Dates

Aug 10, 24, 31 Adult Forum meets after worship in the Chapel
Aug 17 Contemporary Worship Service 9 AM Sanctuary
Youth Forum meets after worship in the Youth Room
Aug 25 Monthly Church Council Meeting 6 PM in the Conference Room
Sep 13 YouthHope - A Day in the Park Car Show
Sep 19-21 Tapestry Retreat #2, Luther Glen Conference Center
Oct 2 Blessing of the Animals Service 5:15 PM at Humane Society San Bernardino Valley

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES



Contemporary Worship Service Sunday, August 17 at 9:00 AM

Our next Contemporary worship services will be held on August 17th at 9:00 AM
in the Sanctuary. Connect with your faith in a fresh, engaging way.

Contemporary worship offers a dynamic setting to sing, pray, and grow together.

Please let your friends and neighbors know
they are welcome to come and join us for worship!

Our Contemporary worship service is held every third Sunday of the month.



Praise band played at the contemporary service.



September Worship Services

Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to contemplate and care for our common home, the Oikos of God.

We'll observe the Season of Creation during the month of September with the following focus.

September 7 – Ocean
September 14 - Fauna
September 21 - Storm
September 28 - Cosmos

LSS San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus Update and Lunch Invitation

Hello to All:

It has been some time since we began our construction, and I would like to invite you to a light lunch here on campus to bring you up to date on where

we are at and enjoy some time together.

Our Interim Housing building is up and so is the Administration building. They are not completed as of this email, but soon. We are having a lunch meet on Saturday September 20, 2025 @ 12:30 PM. We will serve in our modular unit at 1329 N. H Street. Next door to the H Street Clinic. You can park in the parking lot. We will go over our status and future, enjoy the fellowship of a meal and enjoy some time together.

Please RSVP so I know who will be coming. The space is small but feel free to invite a guest from your congregation. It is very exciting, and I look forward to seeing you all. You can RSVP to me at this email address csekafetz@lsssc.org
Names of attendees would be greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Claire Sekafetz

Program Manager, Essential Services

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California

www.lsssc.org



A Hymn sing has been a time honored tradition here at First. It takes place during the Gathering Hymn time during worship. Our last Hymn Sing for the summer will be on August 31.

Think of your favorite hymn and Kim, our amazingly talented organist, will play a verse or two.

We cannot wait to hear what hymns you have chosen!



God's Work ... Our Hands

We are looking for individuals to help with this year's planning for our church wide God's Word Our Hands project. Last year, we collected ponchos for the youth at YouthHope which was greatly appreciated. We would like to find another project for this year. If you are interested and have ideas for needs in our community - please call the church office - or contact Pastor Rachel.



The Big Bear Conference of the Pacifica Synod, of which we're a part, has created a new Facebook page for all the congregations of the Big Bear Conference. We can post our events to that page and see other events in the conference. The Big Bear conference includes Banning, Big Bear, Joshua Tree, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Victorville and Yucaipa. Look for ELCA Big Bear Conference on Facebook.

Did you know...

LIVING LUTHERAN magazine is back in PRINT version!

You should consider subscribing!

Four issues per year for \$19.95



The current issue (Summer 2025) features an entertaining article about Bishop Elizabeth Easton.

(e.g. Growing up, what nickname did her two brothers give her??) p. 13.

This magazine gets the reader ready for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix July 28-August 2 including the election of a new Bishop.

Continues the "I am a Lutheran" interview series - remember our own Abraham Dree being spotlighted in the November 2022 issue. (His interview is posted on the Narthex bulletin board)

Read about Martin Luther's marriage to Katie. "In 1523, Katie and 11 sisters (Nuns) escaped in a wagon after the Easter Vigil. They asked to be taken to Martin's home. There the women sought Martin's help in finding them

husbands. Katie, however, asked him to be her husband. To make too short what is a wonderful story between the two, Martin proposed to Katie on June 13, 1525, and they married the same day." p. 45.

You should subscribe to Living Lutheran!

Mail a \$19.95 check to

PO Box 304

Congers, NY 10920-0303

or by telephone 833-444-1354

You may also visit livinglutheran.org/subscribe

or

you may also send them an email at livinglutheran@cambeywest.com

Thank you to those who have generously donated to the Lutheran Disaster Response!!

Please send all contributions directly to the Lutheran Disaster Response.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

U.S. FLOODING LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

ELCA.org/flooding

In the face of disaster, the ELCA, through Lutheran Disaster Response, shares relief today and builds resilience for tomorrow.

Flooding is one of the most common natural disasters in the United States. Across the country, we support communities as they recover from devastating floodwaters. LDR works with synods and partners to respond to urgent needs, give emotional and spiritual care, support long-term recovery (including disaster case management and meeting unmet needs), and provide educational training for synods and partners in affected regions.

Lutheran Disaster Response works through strong partnerships with ELCA synods, congregations and other organizations. We recognize that every disaster is local and responses need to be rooted in community. Our partners know their communities the best and can address local needs.

Your gifts to LDR support our church's work to share healing and renewal with people who lives have been disrupted by disaster. Together we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need. Give today to support survivors in the United States and around the world, wherever and whenever a disaster may strike.

.....
YES, I WANT TO HELP!

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response \$ _____ DDG0060
☐ U.S. Flooding \$ _____ DDG0069

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

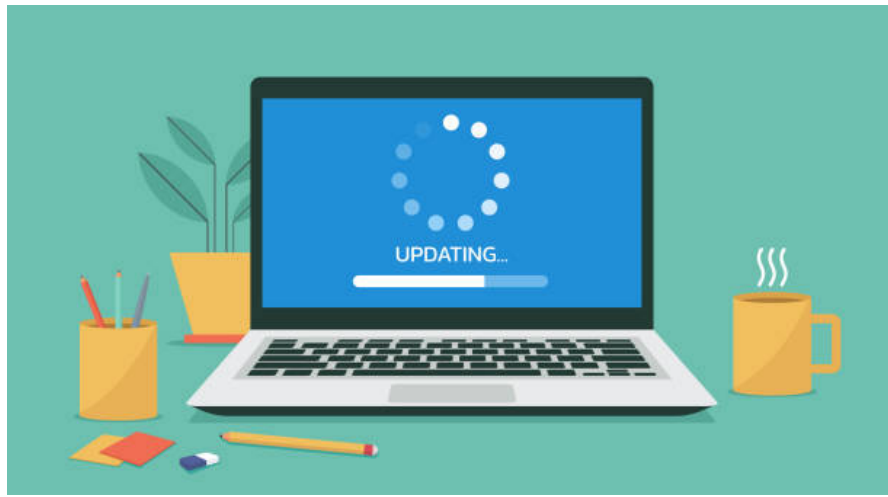
Scan to
give online



Give through your congregation, by phone (800-638-3522) or by mail. Checks or money orders can be mailed to **Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.**

BI-LDRFLOOD25

Thank you!



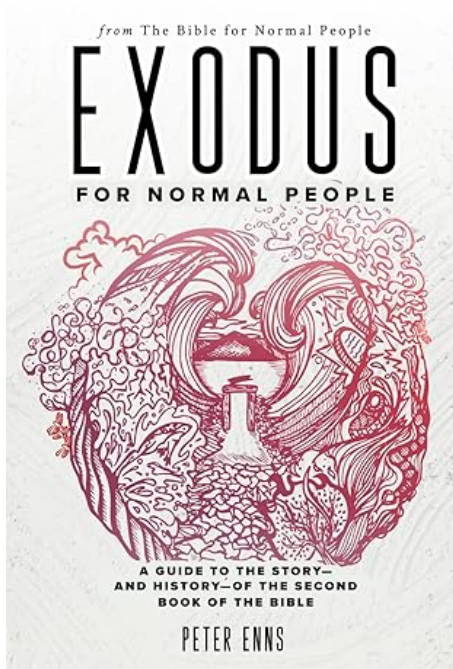
Have you checked out our website?

Please head over to <https://www.firstlutheranredlands.org/> and check us out!

On this website, you will find the weekly newsletter, the online bulletin and the online worship link. We also have a Google calendar on there for upcoming events! Take a look at it today!!

New Adult Forum Book Study!!

Behind the scenes of movies like *The Ten Commandments*, *The Prince of Egypt*, or *Exodus: Gods and Kings* is a complicated, and at times, messy biblical story. In this short guide to the book of Exodus, Biblical scholar Peter Enns doesn't just break down the story for the average person to understand but takes us behind the story—to the history and traditions that led us to the story as we have it today. By asking the important questions like, “What kind of book are we reading?” and taking us along Moses's and the Israelite journey, Enns brings the best in biblical scholarship to us everyday people. And, as we have come to expect from Pete Enns, he does it with his usual humor and wit.



Thursday Morning Zoom Bible Study



11:00 am on zoom.

Join us as we discuss the upcoming gospel reading.
Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89545663534?pwd=MVRNYzd0bnRmT2ZDdWtPclBBSTRlZz09>

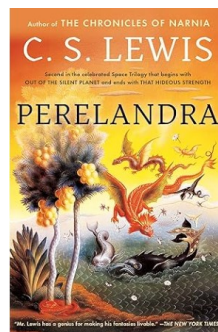
NEW Zoom Meeting ID: 898 6088 6981 **NEW** Passcode: 739765



Join us for Children's Church!

The Children's Church is for children ages 1-8 years old. Alison Schooley will be escorting children to the nursery just before the start of the sermon for a Bible story, snack and perhaps a quick craft or coloring sheet tied to the story. This will give caregivers an opportunity to listen to the sermon and the child an opportunity to take a break during the service. You are also more than welcome to come join us. If you have any questions – please see Alison Schooley or email her at alisonschooley@yahoo.com

Book Club



This month our book club will be continuing the discussion of "*Perelandra*".

In *Perelandra*, Dr. Ransom is recruited by the denizens of Malacandra, befriended in *Out of the Silent Planet*, to rescue the peace-loving planet *Perelandra* (Venus) from a terrible threat: a malevolent being from another world who strives to

create a new world order, and who must destroy an old and beautiful civilization to do so.

Written during the dark hours immediately before and during World War II, C.S. Lewis's Space Trilogy, of which *Perelandra* is the second volume, stands alongside such works as Albert Camus's *The Plague* and George Orwell's 1984 as a timeless classic, beloved by succeeding generations as much for the sheer wonder of its storytelling as for the significance of its moral concerns.

Our Book Club meets on August 12th at 6:30PM in the Fireside room in the Parish Hall. Contact Tom Olsen for more information at avtech@FirstLutheranRedlands.org

Let's Celebrate our August Birthdays and Anniversaries!!



Logan Cassells
August 7

Janet Fink
August 11

Sebastian Pace
August 12

Allan Griesemer
August 13

Leiu Greaney
August 17

Mitch Heitritter

August 17

Elisabeth Kempe-Olinger
August 17

Craig Baker
August 20

Kristin Thibedeau
August 20



Craig and Karen Hester **August 13, 1994** **31 years**

Carlton and Carol Peterson **August 14, 2004** **21 years**

Lee Hanna and Lloyd Roberts **August 27, 2016** **9 years**



Youth Hope Meal Delivery

First Lutheran is happy to support Youth Hope Ministries. Our “God’s Work, Our Hands” project of donating ponchos was greatly appreciated. In addition, in cooperation with Plymouth Village, we pick up meals they have prepared, and deliver them to the Youth Hope facility (on Redlands Blvd). This simple service happens about once a month. If you would like more information or you are interested in participating, please contact Karen Frederickson or Lauren in the church office.

Next delivery is August 28th

YouthHope's 12th Annual A Day in the Park Car Show Saturday, September 13th at Sylvan Park in Redlands, CA.



YouthHope's 12th Annual A Day in the Park Car Show

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH 2025
8AM - 2PM

Help for Life

David & Cindy Raff

Jim and Valerie Peters

Dr. Chris & Pam Martin

VANS

Hartzheim Family Charities

The Brett Wheeler Safety Net

KANEY MADE

Tom & Karen Kaney

Things & Things

City of REDLANDS



Sylvan Park, Redlands, CA

Coffee & Donuts, Opportunity Baskets & Silent Auction, Food & Drinks, Merchant Vendors, Kids Crafts, DJ & More
Dash plaque for first 150 entries.
FREE ADMISSION FOR SPECTATORS and fun for the whole family!
For questions call 909-793-2345 or email fundraiser@youthhope.org

SAN MANUEL
BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

The Rockford Foundation
Tim & Carol Rockford

LAMAR

The James and Rebecca Malschowski Charitable Fund at Sierra Empire Community Foundation Where Young Grow

In memory of *Joe O'Neil*

Tom and Caroline BELL

OPTIMIST REDLANDS

YouthHope

FREE REGISTRATION FOR ACTIVE MILITARY, VETERANS, and FIRST RESPONDERS

\$30 Pre-Registration by August 26th (Includes Free T-shirt)
\$35 Registration at the gate (Does not include T-shirt)
\$20 for each additional T-shirt

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

ZIP _____ EMAIL _____

YEAR _____ COLOR _____ MAKE _____ MODEL _____

MILITARY, VETERAN, OR FIRST RESPONDER BRANCH _____

Please register online at YouthHope.org or mail this registration form to:
YouthHope Foundation P.O. Box 7803 Redlands, CA 92375

Mail or online registration releases YouthHope Foundation personnel, volunteers, and others involved with this event from any liabilities of damage that I may incur at or as a result of this event. Entrant must be 18 years or older. If under 18, parent/guardian must sign. I do hereby consent and authorize YouthHope Foundation to use and reproduce the video and/or photographs taken of me and distribute same for promotional events and other purposes. I further release YouthHope Foundation from any and all claims of damage for liability, slander, invasion of the rights of privacy, or any other claims based on, arising from, or connected with the use of said video and photographs.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SHIRT SIZE and QUANTITY S M L XL XXL TOTAL \$ _____

T-shirts MUST be picked up at registration table during event

Good Morning Friends at First Lutheran Church of Redlands,

We would be delighted to have you join us for YouthHope's 12th Annual A Day in the Park Car Show happening Saturday, September 13th at Sylvan Park in Redlands, CA. This event is a time to thank the families and our community with a fantastic car show, awesome opportunity drawings and silent auction, good music, delicious food, and wonderful vendors for supporting our youth as we raise awareness for our underserved and homeless youth and raise funds for our youth programs.

I have attached our car registration flyer for you to share with your congregation which can be mailed to our PO BOX or you can sign up on our website here <https://youthhope.org/day-in-the-park>

Registration is free for active military, veterans, and first responders. Free admission for spectators. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you for your support and hope to see you at the car show in September.

Make today wonderful,

HannahRose Hoover

Director of Fundraising | YouthHope Foundation

PO BOX 7803 Redlands, CA 92375 | 909-793-2345 | youthhope.org

Church Property News

(Updated 15 June 2025)



Update on what's been happening around the church property!

Why all the sprucing up?

Next year we will be celebrating our 125 Anniversary!!

Ways YOU can help?

1. Join in planning the celebration, please contact the office if interested.
2. Make a designated contribution beyond your regular tithing to property improvements.
*Please make a special note to designate the contribution as property.
3. Fall Member Projects, please contact the Kim Hudson if interested.

The property footprint is so large and despite members efforts, the costs continue to rise. To reduce future maintenance, costs,

we are looking for ways to lower up keep by looking at different landscape materials, and still improve the church's appearance.

! Great is our Thankfulness for these gracious gifts !

Thank you to those who have already stepped up to help with the Property improvement!!

- o Install DG to clean up area next to church building on east side and back....**Quote \$3700.**
- o Repair front door of church.....**Quote \$750.**
- o Hazard: The quote is to replace all concrete gaps**Quote \$3400.**



2025 Altar Flower Ordering Information

We love it when flowers grace the worship space!
Please reserve your bouquet by following the process below:

—Reserve your date

by writing your name AND phone on the Flower Chart on the date(s) you select.

—Fill out a reservation form at the same time as your reservation on the chart.

The forms are located next to the chart and should then be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

The flowers will be ordered for you.

—Please pay the church \$55 during the month of your reservation. Please note with your payment the date of your reservation.

-Notify the office of the reason for the flowers (in honor of, celebration of, in memory of...) Office phone number is 909-793-2267 or office@FirstLutheranRedlands.org

Available dates are: August 10, 31; September 7, 14, 21, 28; October 5, 12, 19, 26

Questions: Contact Mitch (909-798-3320)

Thank you for your contribution!

As part of our ongoing ministry at First Lutheran we will be sending cards out to members for their Birthday or Anniversary. We would also like to send a card for support if there is a need (sympathy, serious illness). A card will be sent through regular mail or by email if necessary. Please contact the Church Office or Alison Schooley directly with the information needed to send a card. We want everyone to know they are thought about and that their Church family cares.

Peace,

Alison Schooley

alisonschooley@yahoo.com



C.O.M.I.C.

(Cloths of Many Incredible Colors)

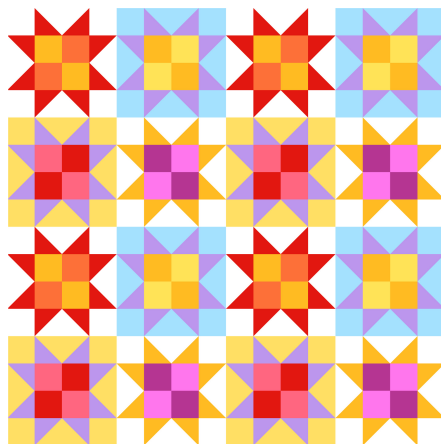
Quilters Group News

Our meetings are held on Wednesday mornings at 10 am in the Fireside Room (right across from the Pre-School building.) We welcome all women and men who want to share in the fun & camaraderie in learning and sharing quilting skills. No experience is needed. I have learned so much from all the more experienced quilters, who so generously share their knowledge & skills. The COMIC Quilters not only make quilts for special events, but we also work on some very simple quilts for the Lutheran Social Services San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus Men's shelter.

All are welcome...

Come & check us out!

Linda Constant (909.261.5928).





WAYS to GIVE to our CHURCH

Pew Envelopes - Cash or check. Please write your personal tithing number on the front.

Online giving through ServantKeeper .

Scan the QR Code below and it will take you to our website where you can find the Green Give button.

Many members do not use tithing envelopes anymore,
because they are tithing either online or by bank bill pay.

If you are one of those members and would not mind changing your number at the beginning of the year, we would love to be able to save your printed envelope for new members and issue you a new number for 2025. Please let us know if you are interested in doing this via email or a note in the offering plate.



TAPESTRY RETREAT #2: REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
September 19-21, 2025

Tapestry is a ministry of the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), dedicated to inspiring and educating LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies. Through our retreat

weekends, we foster community and deepen our understanding of Christ from a Queer perspective. Participants leave these retreats empowered to serve as beacons of faith, providing support and connection to those seeking a safe space to express their spirituality.

This is our second retreat weekend and we look forward to sharing God's love with our communities once more. Join us for a weekend of spiritual renewal. We will hear talks from LGBTQ+ clergy and lay leaders; spend time in small groups to reflect, connect and create; enjoy free time for creating, praying or holy rest.

Arrival time is 5 PM on Friday night and a meal will be provided. Later that night we will have an open circle of getting to know each other and then proceed to a meditation before retiring for the evening. Meals included for the weekend: Friday - dinner, Saturday - breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and Sunday - breakfast and lunch. There will be plenty of snacks throughout the weekend to satisfy even the most voracious appetites.

The Retreat Center charges \$253 for the weekend but in order to make this retreat possible for everyone, you are invited to pay whatever you can to attend, even if it's \$0! Those who are able to donate more to support others are encouraged to do so.

Come experience God's love for you in a space designed with you in mind! [Registration is required to attend, so register by September 11.](#)

If you have questions about this event, please contact Pastor Rachel Reeder at revrachelreeder@gmail.com.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Annual St. Francis of Assisi
Blessing of the Animals

Led by Pastor Rachel Reeder

Free and open to the public

Thursday, October 2, 2025

Doors Open 5:15; Service Begins 5:30

HSSBV Education Center | 374 W. Orange Show Rd.
| San Bernardino, CA 92408

All are welcome!

- All animals are invited
- Pet photos, mementos, and urns are also welcome.

The service will include

- Prayer, readings, and music to honor the animals in our lives.
- Prayers for the families and pets who have passed away and for all living animals.
- Individual blessings, by request.

Details

- Please bring your companion animal on a leash or in an appropriate carrier.
- Drinking water will be available for pets.



Meet your 2025 Church Council Members!

Introducing Your Church Council and the Unsung Heroes

We want to take a moment to introduce you to the dedicated individuals who serve on our Church Council, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make our church thrive. These unsung heroes play a vital role in fulfilling our mission and creating a vibrant worship and community experience for all.

Council meetings are held at 6:00 PM on the last Monday of the month in the Conference room adjacent to the Office.



Pastor Rachel Reeder (Pastor); B.B. Quinones(Member at Large), Larry Davenport (President);

Jerry Bean (Vice President), Richard Thibedeau, (Member at Large), Kim Hudson (Treasurer); Roger Swenson (Member at Large), and Alison Schooley (Secretary), Abraham Dree (Member at Large).

A message from your Administrative Assistant in the Church Office:

It has been a lovely joy working for First Lutheran. Unfortunately, I have a bit of bad news to share. I have to undergo a surgery on August 4th for cancer and will be out of the office. During that time - Becky will be coming in on Tuesdays to prepare the bulletins and take care of other tasks. Believe me, I will miss all your phone calls and emails while I am stuck in the hospital! Please take care of yourselves and love each other fiercely!

Lauren Schafer 

**Church Office hours are
Monday - Thursday
12:30 pm - 5:00 pm**

**The Church office is closed on Fridays.
Pastor Rachel's days off are Friday and Saturday.
However, she is available by phone or text!**

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

1207 W. Cypress Ave.
Redlands, CA 92373
Tel: (909) 7932267

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