

First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Redlands

eNewsletter



October 26, 2025

Good News All Over Again



The desire to privatize the free love of God for all creation seems stamped on the human soul. While Lutherans learn early on in their faith formation about the abuses of the church through the sale of indulgences in the sixteenth century, the scriptures for Reformation Day remind us that the desire of religious people to claim ownership of what God freely gives is nothing new.

We hear the self-righteous bickering of the Israelites behind the prophet Jeremiah's declaration of a new covenant between God and humanity, one that erases any claim to special access, because we shall all know God. For the early church the question was whether there was any longer a

need to observe the religious laws and customs of Israel, and the inclusion of Gentiles in the Christian community. Paul reminds us that we are justified by faith in who God is, a God of grace, not by virtue of who we are.

Yet we forget this fact over and over again, like the Jews who insisted to Jesus that they had "never been slaves to anyone," forgetting their bondage in Egypt (John 8:33). We, too, lose sight of our bondage to systems of oppression and the unjust hierarchies they create. We, too, fall prey to thinking we are better or less than others because of arbitrary categories assigned to us at birth.

Reformation Day reminds us that our impulse to contain God's grace in structures of our own making cannot hold back God's determination to claim the whole world in a love as encompassing and intimate as words written on our hearts. That was good news for the Israelites in exile, for the early church in Rome, for those living during the Reformation, and for us today. Reformation Day reminds us that the words God spoke at creation when God made the world and called it good, become good news for us each time we hear them.

Readings and Psalm

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[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

I will write my law in their hearts, says the Lord

•

[Psalm 46](#)

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

- [Romans 3:19-28](#)
Justified by God's grace as a gift
- [John 8:31-36](#)
Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth

This Week at First

Thursday	10/23	11:00 AM Zoom Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
Saturday	10/25	10:00 AM SDA Worship - Sanctuary/PH 6:00 PM Caring and Sharing - PH
Sunday	10/26	9:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary - Reformation Sunday! 10:30 AM Adult Forum - Chapel 1:00 PM BATAK Church - Sanctuary
Wednesday	10/29	10:00 AM COMIC Quilters

Upcoming Dates

Oct 26	Reformation Sunday - Wear Red!! We will have a combined worship service with the Batak Church
Nov 2	All Saints Sunday Worship in Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.
Nov 14	Memorial Service for Donna St. George at 4 pm in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall
Nov 14-15	WELCA Convention Gathering at Clairemont Lutheran Church in San Diego
Nov 16	Contemporary Worship Service in Sanctuary 9:00 a.m.
Nov 23	Camp Sunday with LRCC camp representatives
Dec 7	Nativity Art Display in Parish Hall

Thursday Morning Zoom Bible Study

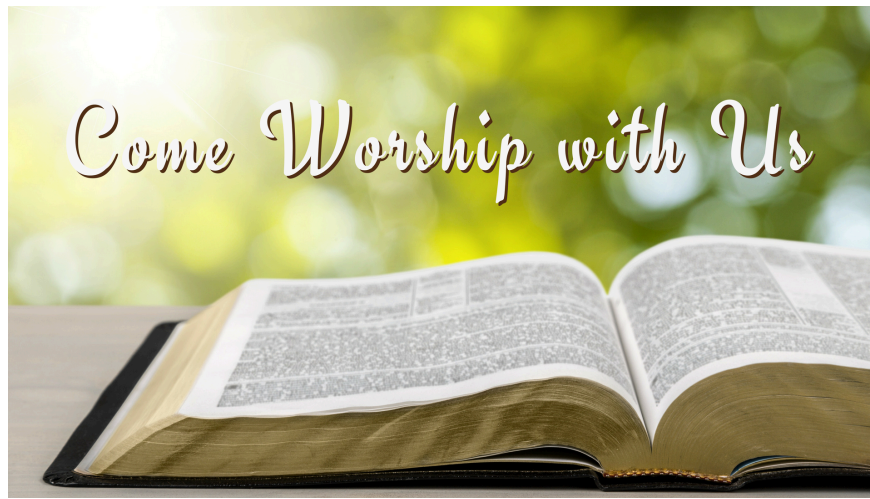
11:00 am on zoom.

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



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89545663534?pwd=MVRNYzd0bnRmT2ZDdWtPcIBBSTRIZz09>

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



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 includes
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.firstlutheran.org.

We livestream our online services, You can watch the service live at 9:00 a.m. or anytime throughout the week
on our Youtube channel.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES



Reformation Sunday, October 26th

We will worship with our Batak Congregation friends!

Please wear red in celebration of the day!



All Saint's Service November 2, 2025

We are requesting that members send in the names of their loved ones they'd like to remember on All Saints Day for the bulletin. During the service, we are also doing a little something special. Each family will receive a white carnation and a tag. When you come to worship, we ask that you stop at the table and fill out a tag for a loved one that has passed away. Ushers will hand out flowers to those who wish to place a flower in the basket at the altar during the service. For those who are unable to come to the altar, an usher will bring the basket to them.

Once filled, the basket will be placed on the altar for communion because the altar is a corner of the heavenly banquet table thrust into the world and thus we have a tangible reminder of our communion with the saints.



Contemporary Worship Service Sunday, November 16th at 9:00 AM

Our next Contemporary worship services is Sunday, November 16th , 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 every third Sunday of the month.



Praise band played at the contemporary service.

The Reformation and Butter

By [Jim Mica](#) October 31, 2019



Some Lutherans say that coffee and potluck are vital aspects of our faith tradition. The references are made with humor—but history suggests we should look to butter as a fundamental part of our theological heritage.

In the book [Butter: A Rich History](#) (Algonquin, 2016)—published just in time for our commemoration of the Reformation's [500th anniversary](#)—food historian Elaine Khosrova reports that butter was very much on Martin Luther's mind. The issue he was concerned with was how butter figured in the church's rules on fasting.

Fasting was an important form of religious discipline in Luther's time. The practice—initially expected only of nuns, monks and others in religious orders—eventually

spread to include everyone in the church. The foods prohibited when fasting included meat, poultry and all dairy products. Khosrova writes that the faithful fasted on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, before certain feast days, during part of Advent and each day in Lent. This amounted to nearly half the year.

While we use butter mainly for flavoring, medieval Germans—and others in the northern European dairy lands—relied on butter for its calories. This was especially the case during the long winter months. Many would have liked to butter their bread while fasting, but this was prohibited during Advent and Lent.

By reciting special prayers and making monetary contributions to the church, people could make up for the “sin” of eating butter during fasting times.

However, there was a way around this prohibition: by reciting special prayers and making monetary contributions to the church, people could make up for the “sin” of eating butter during fasting times. This worked in much the same way as the indulgences Luther had vehemently opposed. Adding insult to injury, butter was prohibited during fasting but olive oil was allowed. While olive oil was plentiful near the Mediterranean, it wasn't available to those further north.

Butter doesn't get talked about much when we review [Reformation](#) history today, but Luther did bring it up in his 1520 address “To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation.” The bulk of the essay deals with the church and politics, the interpretation of Scripture and the “priesthood of all believers”—but Luther brought up butter at least a half dozen times.

When Luther—as translated by C.M. Jacobs—expounded on unjust church taxes, he went into full rhetorical mode: “For at Rome they themselves laugh at the fasts, making us foreigners eat the oil with which they would not grease their shoes, and afterwards selling us liberty to eat butter and all sorts of other things ... thinking it is a greater sin to eat butter is a greater sin than to lie, to swear, or even to live unchastely.”

Khosrova sums up her view of the issue’s importance by writing, “It seems hardly a coincidence that most of the dairy-rich countries producing and using butter were the same nations that broke away from the Roman Catholic Church in the sixteenth century.”

Clearly, we no longer rely upon butter as a major source of calories—but the controversy over butter is baked into our Lutheran heritage.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2019/10/the-reformation-and-butter/>

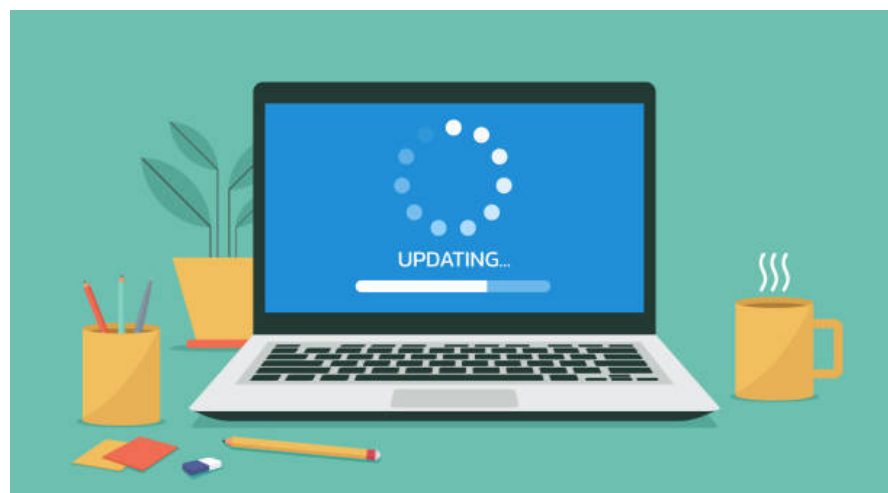
This article came from the Living Lutheran Magazine Online, October 2019. Living Lutheran is a great magazine and below are instructions for you to subscribe!

ELCA Big Bear Conference on Facebook



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, Barstow, Big Bear City, Fontana, Joshua Tree, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino, Victorville, and Yucaipa.

Look for ELCA Big Bear Conference on Facebook.



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!!

Living Lutheran is back in print!

Throughout the past few months, the staff of Living Lutheran has been working with a new fulfillment company for the print magazine, and we're excited to share our new subscription system with you. If you've already signed up to receive the print edition of Living Lutheran but have not yet set up your subscription, or if you are interested in subscribing, follow the instructions below to get started.

Visit livinglutheran.org/subscribe to choose an individual, group or gift subscription, or visit the [individual subscription page](#) directly to sign up. We are grateful for your patience while we developed our new system. Thanks to your loyal readership, Living Lutheran continues to share stories of God's people living their faith — online and once again, in print!



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

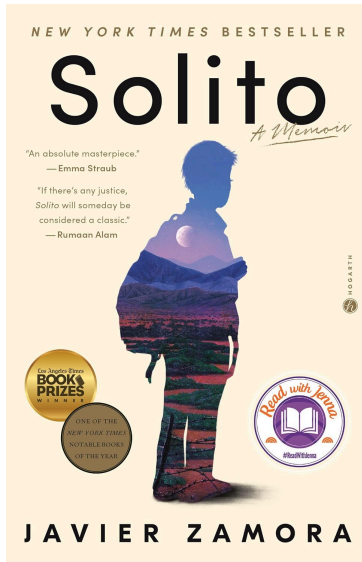


Voting at the First Lutheran Parish Hall on November 4th, 2025 8 am – 8 pm

Once again we are hosting a voting site in the Parish Hall for those registered to

vote. Not registered to vote? Go here to find out how you can register to vote: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration>.

November Book Club Meets in the Fireside Room on Tuesday, November 11, 2025



Solito: A Read with Jenna Pick: A Memoir

Javier Zamora's adventure is a three-thousand-mile journey from his small town in El Salvador, through Guatemala and Mexico, and across the U.S. border. He will leave behind his beloved aunt and grandparents to reunite with a mother who left four years ago and a father he barely remembers. Traveling alone amid a group of strangers and a "coyote" hired to lead them to safety, Javier expects his trip to last two short weeks.

At nine years old, all Javier can imagine is rushing into his parents' arms, snuggling in bed between them, and living under the same roof again. He cannot foresee the perilous boat trips, relentless desert treks, pointed guns, arrests and deceptions that await him; nor can he know that those two weeks will expand into two life-altering months alongside fellow migrants who will come to encircle him like an unexpected family.

A memoir as gripping as it is moving, *Solito* provides an immediate and intimate account not only of a treacherous and near-impossible journey, but also of the miraculous kindness and love delivered at the most unexpected moments. *Solito* is Javier Zamora's story, but it's also the story of millions of others who

had no choice but to leave home.

WELCA WOMEN NEWS!

 Mission Statement <i>To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.</i>	Pacifica Partners 
<i>Karen Ronchetti, Editor</i>	<i>September 2025</i> <i>Volume 35 Issue 5</i>

SAVE the DATE—November 14-15, 2025

*Pacifica WELCA Convention & Gathering
at Clairemont Lutheran Church, San Diego*



Convention Registration form, Scholarship Form, Nomination form
for SWO Board, 2026 Triennial Convention Nomination Form, and
much more exciting news is enclosed in this issue of the
Pacifica Partners.

SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendar for the 37th Annual Pacifica Synod Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Convention and Gathering, to be held at Clairemont Lutheran Church in San Diego on November 14-15, 2025.

Theme: Here I am, send me (Isaiah 6:8)

Join women from across the synod for a banquet dinner, guest speakers, business meeting, silent auction, bible study, and workshops.

For more information or any questions, please contact Stephanie Gasca by text or phone at 951-662-6467. You may also use this link to access the newsletter and registration forms: <https://www.pacificasynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025-pp-October.pdf>

Eyeglasses and Cases Recycling

If you have eyeglasses or eyeglass cases that you no longer need, please consider donating them. Stephanie Gasca is coordinating the collection of these items to be delivered to the Annual Pacifica Synod Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Convention and Gathering, scheduled for November 14-15. Details regarding the event will be shared in upcoming newsletters.

During the Convention, eyeglasses and cases collected from churches throughout the Synod will be donated to the Lions Club Eyeglass Recycling Center. This initiative provides an excellent opportunity to support the community.

To contribute, please meet with Stephanie at church on Sundays or contact her by phone or text at 951-662-6467.



Camp Sunday
LRCC Camp Representatives to visit FLC!
November 23, 2025

We at Luther Glen Farm and El Camino Pines are excited to visit your congregation and engage with your community on **November 23**. We are honored to bring camp to your worship service! What does this mean? Thank you for asking!

Camp looks like...
Smiles, joy, and laughter
Unabashed singing and dancing
Meaningful relationships and conversation
Honest and authentic spiritual connection

If you haven't heard of us before, we invite you to spend a Sunday experiencing and sharing in our ministry. We will share our worship style as well as have some announcements for upcoming events and programs for you to look forward to. Bring your best dance moves – see you there!



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 October 29th

Save the Date for Nativity Art: The Reason for the Season
Sunday, December 7 following the service



Do you have a nativity you would like to share with the congregation? They could be any form such as figurines, cross stitch, quilts, pictures, etc.....

We will also need donations of Christmas treats to share during that time.

More information to come in November on how to submit your entry.

Questions: Contact Julie Thoms or Mitch Heitritter



Let's celebrate our October Birthdays!

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Bethel Andom October 8

Bill Olinger October 14th

Susan Johnston October 21



Anniversaries in October

Jim and Sue Lehner October 1 28 years

Mark and Dianne Wolkenhauer October 8 31 years

Richard and Kristin Thibedeau October 21 53 years



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: November 9, December 7, 14, 21, 28

Questions: Contact Mitch (909-798-3320)

Thank you for your contribution!

As part of our ongoing ministry at First Lutheran Alison Schooley will be sending cards out to members for their Birthday or Anniversary. She 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.



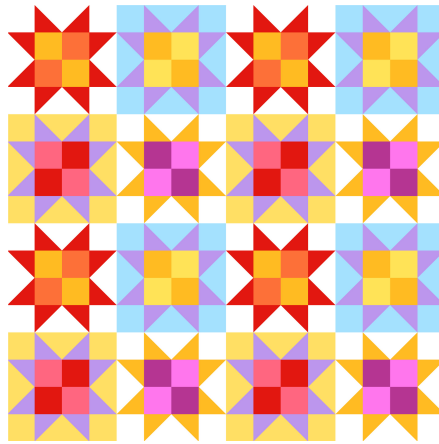
alisonschooley@yahoo.com

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.



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).

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!

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