

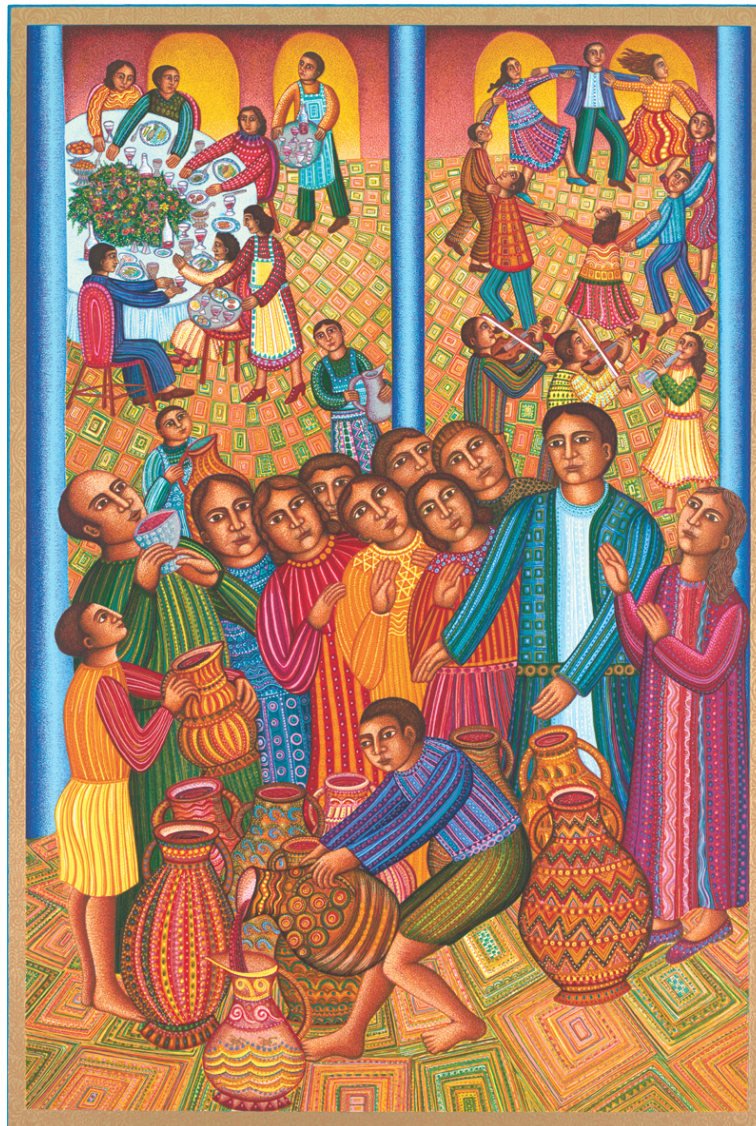
First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Redlands
eNewsletter



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Second Sunday
in
Epiphany

January 19, 2025



The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

Readings and Psalm

- [Isaiah 62:1-5](#)
As bridegroom and bride rejoice, so shall God rejoice over you
- [Psalm 36:5-10](#)
We feast upon the abundance of your house, O Lord. (Ps. 36:8)
- [1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#)
There are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit
- [John 2:1-11](#)
The wedding at Cana



"They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord"

Every Sunday we offer two ways to worship:

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

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.

A Letter from Bishop Eaton

From the Presiding Bishop,

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you." (Isaiah 43:2).

Dear First Lutheran of Redlands,

The images of leaping flames, smoke-choked skies, and the wreckage of homes and habitats in and around Los Angeles are hard to bear. The ongoing, deadly California wildfires have claimed lives, displaced hundreds of thousands of people, and destroyed homes, businesses, schools and houses of worship. The devastation continues as winds spread the flames. So far we know that Bishop Brenda Bos of the Southwest California Synod and her wife, Janis, lost their home in the Eaton fire. We believe that the fires have touched the lives of many more ELCA members and several congregations as the synod continues to receive damage reports and assess the immediate needs for support.

The prophet Isaiah writes that even when fires rage, the final word is faith, not fear. God redeems us and calls us by name to be agents of healing and hope, even amid staggering loss. In faith, we respond through prayer, accompaniment and action.

Please join me in praying that God's love and care be manifest among all who are impacted by these wildfires. Pray for the firefighters battling unrelenting blazes and for first responders, health care providers and public servants providing safety and support for those impacted. Pray for ELCA ministries as they care for the many needs of their communities. Pray for

the long-term well-being of all who are affected by the widespread devastation and who face ongoing danger.

Learn how your church is responding and how you can get involved. You may find more information at <https://tinyurl.com/2r27crrm>

In Christ,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A Letter from Bishop Nagler

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” – Psalm 46:1

The fires to the north of our synod have caused great devastation. Bp. Brenda Bos and her wife, Janis have lost their home. Many others in the Los Angeles area are experiencing fear, loss, and grief.

I am asking for every person in our synod to take a moment and pray for the people affected by the fires and for the ministries of the Southwest California Synod. Ask God to send relief, strength, and hope. Pray for the firefighters and other first responders that they might be renewed in their vital work.

Please include prayers for people in harm's way when you gather for worship this Sunday. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) has already contacted us with an offer of support. They were with us when fire engulfed Lahaina, Maui, and they stand ready to provide aid to both synods as needed now. For those who want to make donations to help people in need, a gift to LDR is always appropriate. We will update you as more information and options for assistance become available.

May the God of loving presence be with everyone who is suffering this day, including Bp. Brenda and Janis.
Peace,
Bp. Dave Nagler

A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Faithful Siblings

A few weeks ago I mentioned in a sermon that we included in the 2025 budget a line item for special musicians for contemporary music once a month. I asked folks to open their hearts and minds to trying something new. I encouraged folks to give at least 1% more than they were before to fund this endeavor and I pledged to give 5% more than I was giving in 2024.

I want to follow up on that and provide some good news. At the end of the year we received a couple of generous offerings that closed the gap between what we budgeted for 2024, and what we received. These offerings have become a pattern from folks who are utilizing their retirement plan's distributed giving to give to our congregation. These gifts are truly a blessing and the folks trying to balance the budget are grateful for their appearance. However, let's not allow the generosity of others prevent us from committing to our own giving. Receiving even a few dollars more each month will enable us to take care of much needed repairs and maintenance on the property and will permit us to focus on other ministries to bring the good news of God's saving love to our neighbors.

Back to the proposed contemporary music for 2025... At this point it is an idea that needs to be fully fleshed out and planned. We will need to find a guitarist (or two), etc. I will be forming a committee that will brainstorm and plan this for 2025 and then reevaluate after a few services to see if it is making a difference in people's lives. If you're interested in helping in this area, let me know.

I understand that some prefer hymns to contemporary worship music. I invite you to consider that there are folks in our midst who would prefer to hear modern worship music but still appreciate the hymns and do not let that prevent them from worshipping on Sunday. In addition, it has been suggested that incorporating contemporary music may draw younger families. Lastly, some of our treasured hymns can also be played on a guitar.

I want to assure you that we are nowhere near splitting worship services. Not even close. We are trying out different music and a less formal liturgy once a month but we will not skimp on the essentials: confession and forgiveness, gospel message, prayers of the people, and communion. The Triune God shows up whether the organ is playing a hymn or a guitar is playing modern praise music. As a matter of fact, God is always present no matter the circumstance. It's up to us to acknowledge God's presence and

offer our praise and adoration. So, let's create joyful noise!
Finally, I pray you will offer your support, encouragement and constructive feedback.
Your Fellow Co-Laborer in Christ,

Pastor Rachel Reeder



We have a new website!

Please head over to <https://www.firstlutheranredlands.org/> and check us out!
A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this website what it is today - your hard work, dedication, and creative input are deeply appreciated!

Please be aware that the Tithe.ly online giving platform will be phased out as of January 1, 2025. Please use ServantKeeper for online giving. If you need assistance with setting up your giving, please contact the office.
Thank you!



Please note that your end of the year financial statements are coming to you in the mail. If you do not receive your statement - please call the church office. We thank you so much for your support this year!

**Also
Offering Envelopes are available for pickup in the Narthex or the Office. Please pick up your booklet today!**

Adult Forum

**Sunday Adult Forum - in the Chapel at
10:30 AM following worship**

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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89545663534?pwd=MVRNYzd0bnRmT2ZDdWtPclBBSTRlZz09)

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

This Week at First

Wednesday	01/15	10:00 AM	COMIC Quilters
Thursday	01/16	11:00 AM	Zoom Bible Study
		7:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	01/18	10:00 AM	SDA Worship – Sanctuary/PH
		6:00 PM	Caring and Sharing - PH
Sunday	01/19	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship – Sanctuary
		10:30 AM	Budget Review Meeting – PH
		1:00 PM	BATAK Church - Sanctuary

Upcoming Dates

January 19	- Budget Review Meeting
January 20	- Council Meeting – Conference Room
	- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Office Closed
January 21	- National Day of Racial Healing
January 26	- Annual Congregation Meeting

Let's wish our January Birthdays and Anniversaries a blessed day!



Janet Stanfield	January 01
Claire Hester	January 02
Kathy Davenport	January 04
Andom Ephraim	January 06
Meron Andom	January 09
Maria Baker	January 13
Linda Reinhard	January 14
Luna Greaney	January 16
Nathaniel Greaney	January 17
Caroline Caballero	January 18
Diane Brown	January 20
Caroline Wolkenhauer	January 20
Jenny Zorn	January 21
Philip Olinger	January 23
Donna St. George	January 28
Bryce Johnston	January 31



Fink, Jim & Janet January 19 73 years



New Member addresses

Joe and Jeanne KOENIG
12367 4th Street
Yucaipa, CA 92399

Jessica Callender, Joey and Lucas Shea
905 Pine Ave Apt 9
Redlands, Ca 92373



2025 National Day of Racial Healing

The 2025 National Day of Racial Healing (NDORH) will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 21. It is an annual observance that follows Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

This year, the ELCA, in partnership with Augsburg Fortress, will join the movement of racial healing for our church and the nation. On Jan. 21, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Central time, the ELCA will feature a free online educational event that centers the voices of ELCA leaders of color. We invite you to join us in this collective effort for a more just and equitable world. This event is open to all ELCA rostered ministers, lay leaders and members. We welcome all ELCA synods, congregations, colleges, universities, seminaries, separately incorporated ministries and antiracism teams, as well as the church's affiliate organizations and ecumenical and interreligious partners.

We invite you to save the date and check back for more details.

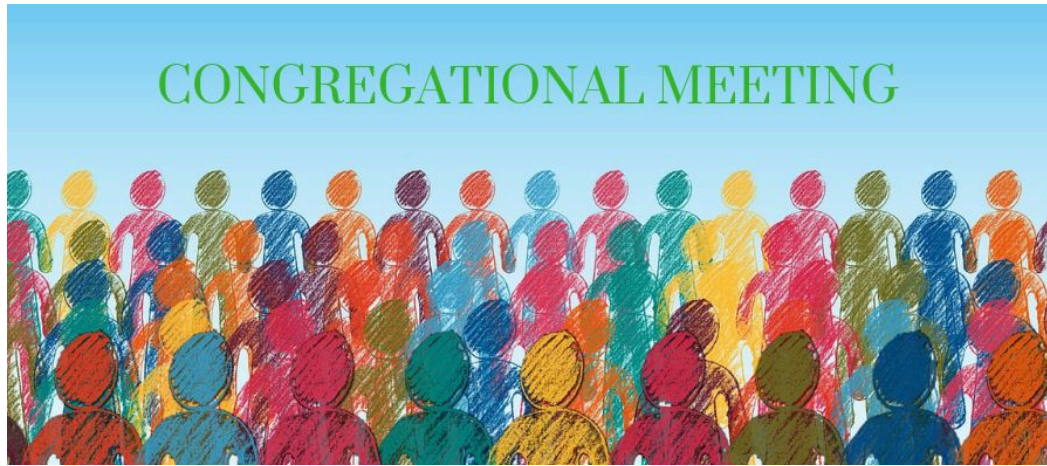
Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/mr47b5dh>

The day is designed to:

- Raise awareness of the need for racial healing.
- Inspire collective action to build common ground for a more just and equitable ELCA and world.

The NDORH is hosted by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and encourages community organizations, institutions and individuals to participate in this national day. It was created with and builds on the work of the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation community partners.

Join us on Jan. 21, 2025.



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 26, 2025 after worship. There will be a budget review Sunday, January 19, 2025 to answer any questions you might have about the budget. The full agenda and reports will be available for your review before the meeting.

Financial Reports are ready and may be picked up at the office between the hours of 1-5 PM Monday - Thursday.

All reports have been submitted and were on time!! Thank you!!

Letter of Appreciation!!

Thank you First Lutheran Church members for welcoming Blue Earth Band to present a fundraising concert in your sanctuary with only a day's notice. The concert originally scheduled at Spirit of Our Savior would have been canceled due to a power outage. Your willingness to host the group made all the difference. Thanks to you, over \$500 was raised for the San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus and great music was able to be shared with a small but mighty crowd. Special thanks to Pastor Rachel, Kim Hudson, and Tom Olsen for making this possible!

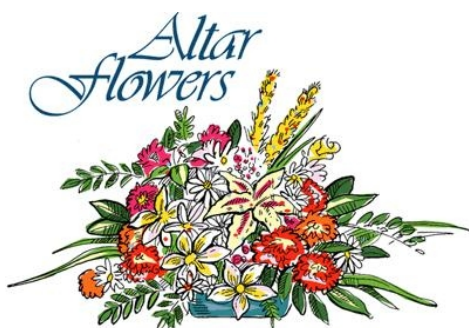
If you would like to donate to the fundraiser, please click on the QR code.





CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL

The Chancel Choir is currently rehearsing anthems for the 2024-25 season at 7 p.m. every Thursday in the sanctuary. Current and former members interested in participating as well as other members who like to sing in a group setting are urged to attend. No auditions are required. The choir will continue to rehearse every Thursday at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.



2025 Altar Flower Ordering Information

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

—Choose a date on the 2025 flower chart

—Write your name AND phone on the date desired.

—Fill out a reservation form (located on the counter in the narthex) and place the completed form in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

Flowers will be ordered for you.

—Please pay the church \$55 for the arrangement during the month of your reservation. Please note with your payment “altar flowers for (date).”

Questions: Contact Mitch (909-798-3320)

Thank you for your contribution!



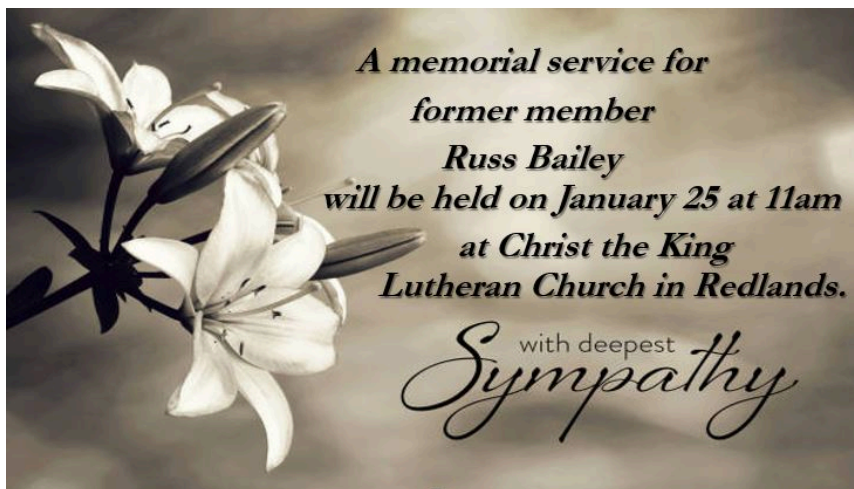
Best wishes for our very own star, Lucas Shea who will be auditioning for America's Got Talent! He will be auditioning with his amazing singing talent. Due to the fires in Los Angeles - his audition has been postponed - we will update you as to when his audition will take place!
Keep giving him good thoughts and wishes!



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, Sue Lehner or call Lauren in the church office.

Next delivery is January 23rd



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



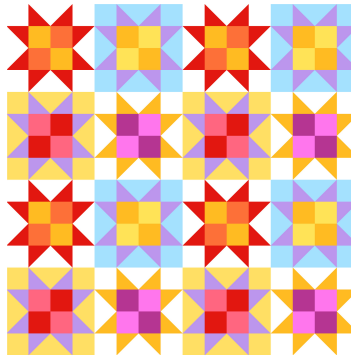
C.O.M.I.C.

(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 CCLM (Central City Lutheran Mission) Men's shelter.

All are welcome...
Come & check us out!
Sue Lehner
(909)798-7925



FINANCIAL NOTES: In an effort to keep the congregation informed on the church’s financial picture, we will include a monthly snapshot of the giving and expenses. While the figures below are not positive (literally and figuratively) they should not lead to despair but to action. We’re asking you to consider increasing your giving. Even 1% more can make a difference in covering the ministry of this congregation.

P&L Year to date Actual vs Budgeted (less parsonage)

Total Income	\$421,812	Up 15% (GREAT NEWS)
Total Expenses	\$414,350	down 7% (good news)
YTD Net Income/Loss	\$7,462	

Include Ways to Give and QR code

Respectfully submitted, Kim Hudson

WAYS TO GIVE:

Pew Envelopes – Cash or check. Please write your personal tithing number on the front.
On-line giving through Servant Keeper
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 on-line 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 e-mail or a note in the offering plate.



Meet your 2024 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 the last Monday of the month in the Conference room adjacent to the Office.



Front row -- left to right -- Pastor Rachel Reeder (Pastor); Julieta (BB) Quinones (Secretary); Kim Hudson (Treasurer); Alison Schooley (Member at Large).

Back row -- left to right -- Jerry Bean (Member at Large); Larry Davenport (President); Larry Anderson (Vice President); Richard Thibedeau (Member at Large); Abraham Dree (Member at Large).

Please Note that our office hours have changed
Monday - Thursday 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM

The 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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