



# *First Lutheran Church and School*

*A caring community of Christian faith for all people*

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## *A Word of Welcome from Pastor Bill Hurst*

Welcome! We are so glad you have visited our website. We invite you to grow together with us into as a caring community of Christian faith for all people. The First Lutheran Church and School (FLCS) Mission Statement sums up our commitment to Christian community:

*We welcome all God's Children  
To embrace the grace of Jesus  
Called and sent to serve and speak  
God's love in daily life*

Many first-time visitors have questions about our community. Here is a brief sketch of our congregation and school:



### **History:**

First Lutheran Church was organized as a congregation in 1926, to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in the South Bay community. We moved to our present location in 1954. Our current baptized membership is approximately 900, plus the hundreds of families who participate in our school ministries.

### **Partnerships:**

We are a ministry partner of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a church body with 9,000 churches and 3.8 million members. The Lutheran Church has its roots in the Reformation of the 16th Century, when German professor and pastor Martin Luther sought to restore basic biblical teaching to the medieval church. Today's Lutheran Church numbers over 63 million people on every continent. Lutherans are leaders in the search for ecumenical unity, seeking fellowship with all other Christian bodies, and striving to practice welcome and encouragement in the service of the Gospel of God's amazing grace.

### **Community:**

Everyone needs a place to fit in, to make friends and discover common interests, and we work hard to offer a warm and authentic welcome to all God's Children, without exception and without reserve. FLCS is among the most ethnically diverse and vibrant congregations around, with more than 70 distinct ethnic and tribal backgrounds represented here, from every inhabited continent on earth. We are committed to making FLCS a place where healthy connections are fostered. There are so many ways to serve and deepen relationships – through small group bible studies, Men's and Women's groups, and community activities for every age and interest.

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**Weekend Worship:**

We offer a variety of weekly worship gatherings, each with its own unique style. Below is a brief description of each service.

**Saturday 5:30pm: "Living Water" Communion**

This brief intimate setting for prayer, praise, and worship provides a time for learning, growing, and deepening our connections with each other and with the treasures of God's grace.

**Sunday 8:30am: Classic Communion**

This one hour service follows the historic Christian liturgy, familiar to people of many Christian backgrounds, accompanied by our magnificent pipe organ and chancel choir.

**Sunday 10:30am: Praise Communion**

This service offers a more relaxed worship setting, accompanied by our talented praise band, and is a favorite with families. Sunday School for children is offered at this time as well.

We also host a **Mandarin language Worship Service Sundays at 3pm**, as the Rev. Newman Chiu serves with us through a missionary agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**Wednesday 6pm: "Midway" Communion and Learning Groups**

Our newest worship and learning time, this gathering begins with a light supper at 6pm, followed by a brief and inspiring praise and worship time at 6:30pm, followed by learning groups for youth and adults. What a perfect alternative to our ever-busy weekend schedules, gathering around the Word!

**Weekday Worship:**

We offer several worship opportunities during the week. These include our weekly School and Early Education Center chapel services. All services are held in the sanctuary and are open to all people.

- Tuesday 9am: Service of Morning Prayer (Sept – May)
- Wednesday 8:35am & 9:05am: Day School Chapel Services
- Wednesday & Thursday at 11:30am: Early Education Center Chapel Services
- Wednesday 6:30pm: "Midway" Communion Service (Sept-May)

**Learning Opportunities:**

Learning is close to the heart of First Lutheran Church and School. Educational ministries are a key element in helping people live out their calling as Christ's agent of grace in the world. On Sunday morning adults gather for weekly studies at 9:30am in the Fireside Room and at 10:30am children can join our wonderful Sunday School program in Faith Hall. A variety of groups and classes are offered throughout the year. Wednesday evening studies are offered for adults all year long.

**Music:**

Music at FLCS is one of our greatest strengths and passions. The Chancel Choir sings at the 8:30am service. Our Praise Team, "In His Name," sings at the 10:30am service. Choirs for children include Angel Choir (3years – K), Sonshine Singers (Grade 1-5), and Rainbow Choir (Grades 6-12). Each of the children's choirs sings once a month at one of our services. We also have two excellent bell choirs, Celebration Bells for beginners, and Joyous Ringers is our more experienced bell choir.

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**Serving God by Serving Others:**

Opportunities to serve others abound at First Lutheran. Because God first loved us, we respond by serving others in obedience to Christ. We serve hungry neighbors in Gardena on Monday nights, supporting local and global mission efforts, or volunteering to care for people who are sick or homebound. There is something for everyone, so that we can all find our niche as a servant of Christ to others. We would be honored to help you find your calling to servant ministry here.

**Youth Ministries:**

Youth and Family Ministries are very important at First Lutheran Church and School as we strive to pass on the faith. From birth to post-college age, First Lutheran Church and School is finding ways to connect with youth, young adults, and their families. We are committed to each young person's growth as a disciple of Jesus, and to discovering their creative spark as a Child of God.

**Our Weekday Schools:**

First Lutheran School provides a quality academic education grounded in Christian faith and nurtured by Christian love. Our community serves more than 500 students and their families. We have a top-ranked Early Education Center (6 weeks old to 5 yrs) and a well-respected International Academy (Kindergarten through 8th Grade). We offer quality before school and after school care from 7 to 8:30am (before school) and 3:00 to 6:00pm each school day, with games, homework help and lots of fun.

**Joining This Community:**

Becoming a ministry partner at First Lutheran Church and School is about claiming our identity as cherished children of God and followers of Christ. All people are invited and welcome to join us in worship, learning, community and Christian service.

Children and adults not yet baptized are invited to inquire about Baptism. Our pastors are glad to speak with you about the Christian journey of faith and life. Those already baptized are invited to embrace God's baptismal promises through worship and learning, praying and welcoming, giving and serving together in this Community of Faith for All People.

So, welcome! If you would like to learn more or be a part of this ministry, please call or email. We would love to hear from you!

With You in God's Good Work,



The Rev. Dr. William L. Hurst  
Senior Pastor

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