



**Pastor Sean Ewbank's May 2026
First of the Month Letter**

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed!

It has been pure joy celebrating Easter with all of you, and we continue our Easter celebration through Sunday May 17th.

On Sunday May 24th, we celebrate Pentecost! We will hear the familiar story of the Holy Spirit coming like tongues of fire upon the disciples and how those same people who had been cowering in fear went out and proclaimed the Risen Christ in Jerusalem. We will also hear how people from many diverse places with differing languages all could understand them.

In celebration of this miraculous event, I am seeking folks who can speak other languages. By speak another language, I do not mean fluency in conversation. Just familiar enough to be able to read out loud.

On Pentecost Sunday, I am hoping that people would be willing to read parts of the service in a language other than English while the English words are up on the screen. Some examples:

1. We'll have our words of institution spoken in the Lahu language by Pastor Samee.
2. "The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all" in German, or Swedish, or Spanish, or whatever.
3. The Lord's prayer in Norwegian or Swahili, or whatever.

You get the idea. We will keep the sermon in English!

If you are willing to read a portion of the service in a language other than English, please contact the church office at: 559-732-1851 or email: pendres@clcvisalia.org.

One final note: We will close out the month of May with a bang! On May 31 we will have one service in the sanctuary with everyone together at 9am. We will follow that up with a shared festive meal at 10am.

"Why this celebration" you ask?

First, just a fun kick off to summer. Why not celebrate?

Secondly, the Lahu are celebrating 20 years of being a congregation that day and we join them in giving thanks to God! Also this summer there is a 50th Anniversary Lahu Journey Jubilee , which is a major celebration scheduled for Saturday, July 11, 2026, at the Visalia Convention Center. Our own Pastor Samee is working hard on this already. Look for more details on that.

Thirdly, I think we will have one more fun surprise to celebrate that day that will be revealed soon.

So, Let's keep on celebrating Easter and our partnership ministries for three more weeks.

Then we'll celebrate Pentecost together by hearing the familiar story in a variety of languages.

Then we'll kick off summer with a big celebration!

I look forward to celebrations in May with all of you!

Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy,

Pastor Sean