



SHARING THE LIGHT

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to grow together in Christ through Prayer, Worship, and Education and to spread the love of Christ to our community.

December 2023 Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – December 2023

The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Exodus 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Colossians 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)



December 2023

Ushers Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Greeters: December 3 Connie Kean
December 10 Pat Caballero
December 17 Sharon Corey
December 24 Norma Boehne
December 31 Hazel Benscoter

Readers: December 3 and December 17 Richard Swanson
December 10 Christine Geltz
December 31 Jo Tschopp



Gatherings:

Load the Van to Friends in Deed, December 1, Friday at 8:30 a.m.

First Wednesday Soup and Sandwich, December 6, Wednesday from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Volunteers at Friends in Deed in Pasadena CA, December 9, Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team Meeting, December 13, Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Times, December 3, 8:30 a.m.
December 10, 8:30 a.m.
December 17, 8:30 a.m.
December 24, 8:30 a.m.
December 31, 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School Times, Every Sunday from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Not receiving email special announcements and/or prayer requests??

Electronic Newsletter: If you are currently not receiving emails and would like to be included, please share your email address with the Church Administrator (Elizabeth Yu) at:

admin@firstlutherantc.org, or call:(626) 287-0968 and leave a message if you prefer to have a hard copy mailed out to you.

Pastoral Care: Pastor Scott Ganas at: (951) 795-8162 or
Board of Directors Chairman, Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613.



Friends in Deed

It is a busy time of year for the Friends in Deed Food Pantry as they, with the help of other non-profit organizations, work to supply Thanksgiving and Christmas themed food items to the economically challenged people. Please continue to bring your shelf staple items to the church. The ushers will gladly show you the collection area. Now that the weather has turned cold, soup, stews, canned chilis, and other canned meals are a

welcome gift as well. In October, we took 601 pounds of food items to Friends in Deed. The November collection will be delivered on December 1st, 2023.

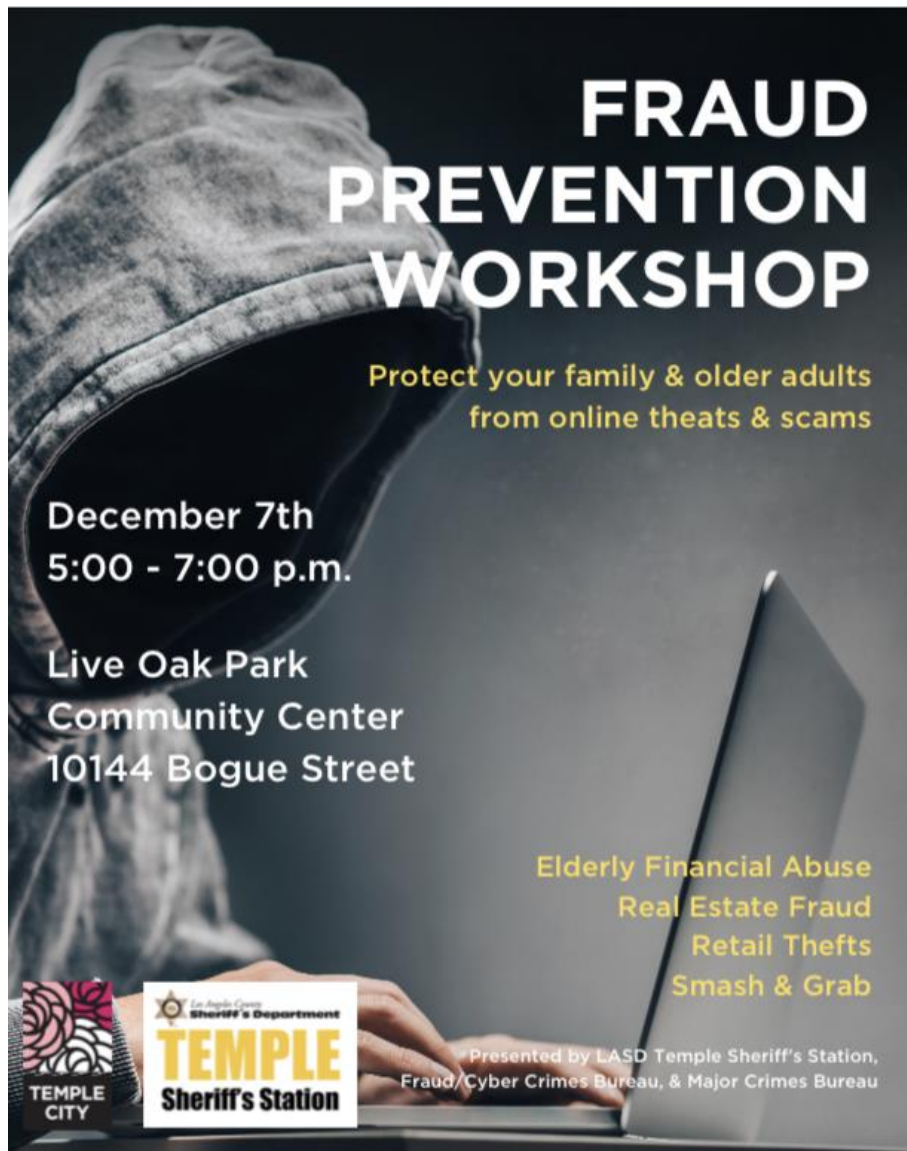
Mission Development Team

Thanks to Foothill Prep students, photos of our recent Trunk & Treat have been posted on the church Facebook page. Here is one of the photos.



First Wednesday Soup and Sandwich

The December Soup & Sandwich gathering will feature Ray Hutchinson at the keyboard singing and leading us in our favorite Christmas Carols. Join us on December 6th at 12 noon for a musical beginning to the Christmas season. You won't want to miss this joyful event. Think ahead, what are your favorite Christmas hymns?



Fraud Prevention Workshop – December 7th, 2023
(Thursday) from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Come and find out more on how to protect your family and *older adults* from online threats and scam at the Live Oak Park Community Center on 10144 Bogue Street in Temple City. Topics shall include:

- (1) Elderly Financial Abuse
- (2) Real Estate Fraud
- (3) Retail Thefts, and
- (4) Smash & Grab

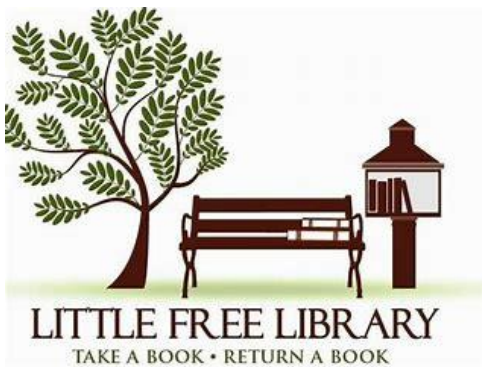
Sunday Worship at Home

If you are unable to attend worship, you can listen to the Lutheran Hour sermon at 8:00 a.m. on station KBRT AM 740 each Sunday.

If you have a TV and can get DirectTV, Channel 377 you can view Worship Anew at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. This service is filmed at our Fort Wayne Seminary in Indiana. For those people who have a computer, the Worship Anew worship service can be viewed via the internet at any time.



You may, also, access and/or review Pastor Scott's sermon online by going to: <https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>.

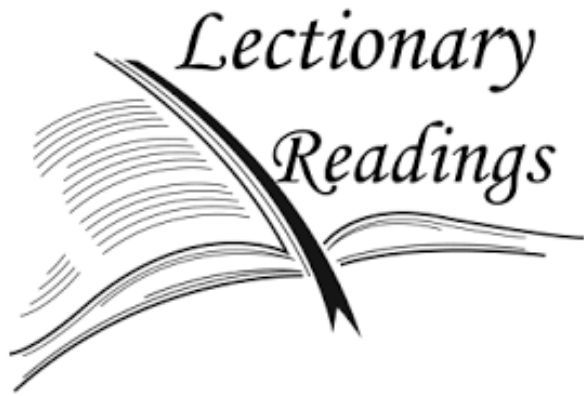


Little Free Library

Do you have some Christmas novels and books? It would be wonderful to stock the Little Library with seasonal books. You can put your donations on the table in the back of the church or in the Little Library.

News from our new Missionary – Anna Rosek

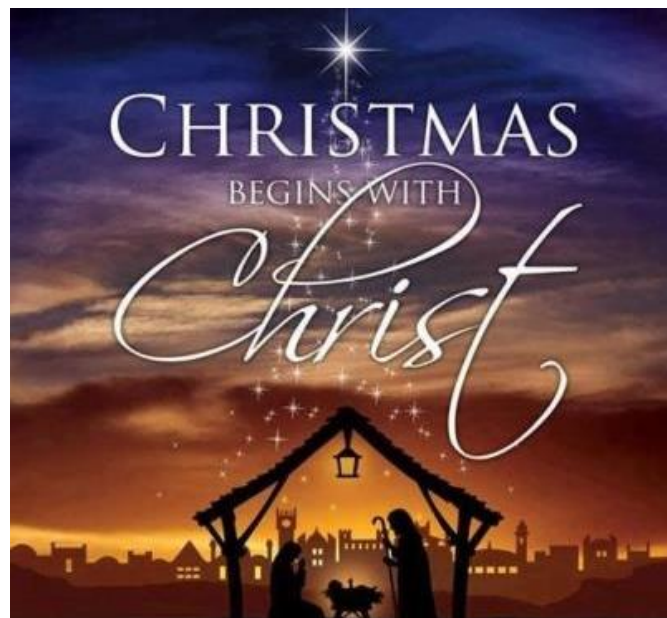
Patricia Grabowski's and Connie Kean's niece is doing very well. She has finished all her cancer treatments and surgeries. Anna's doctors have given her permission to return to Burundi in East Africa! In terms of her work, Anna continues to counsel missionaries and teach Psychological First Aid. Anna has been placed on a committee to create more specific policies regarding Child Abuse Allegations to better protect her missionary kids from harm. Anna feels extremely honored that the organization would allow her to help with the development of these policies which shall be utilized throughout the Missionary World. She misses everyone at First Lutheran in Temple City, and shall continue to pray for everyone in the congregation.



Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for December as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, and the Gospel. Let us remember that Jesus is the reason for the season during this Advent Season:

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
December 3	Isaiah 64:1–9	Psalm 80:1–7	1 Corinthians 1:3–9	Mark 11:1–10
December 10	Isaiah 40:1–11	Psalm 85	2 Peter 3:8–14	Mark 1:1–8
December 17	Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11	Psalm 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16–24	John 1:6–8, 19–28
December 24 <i>(Christmas Eve)</i>	Isaiah 7:10–14	Psalm 110:1–4	1 John 4:7–16	Matthew 1:18–25
December 31 <i>(New Year's Eve)</i>	Isaiah 61:10–62:3	Psalm 111	Galatians 4:4–7	Luke 2:22–40

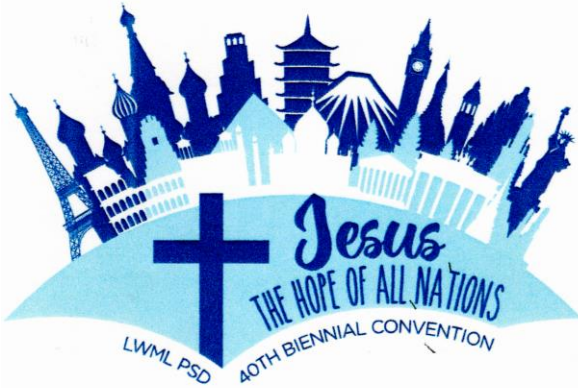


Save the Date!
LWML PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
40TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

JUNE 7-9, 2024

**LOS ANGELES,
 CALIFORNIA**

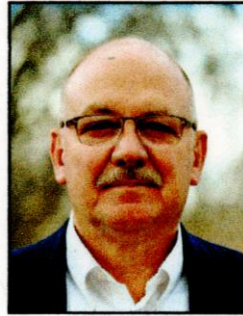
DoubleTree by Hilton
 Rosemead, 888 Montebello Blvd
 Rosemead, CA 91770



Mission Statement:

*We are all God's children and
 celebrate the Hope we have in Jesus.*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our
 Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he
 has given us new birth into a living hope
 through the resurrection of Jesus Christ
 from the dead (1 Peter 1:3 NIV).*



Rev. Dr. John Mehl
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. Dr. John Mehl became the second Executive Director of Mission of Christ Network on January 1, 2017.

Dr. Mehl began his ministry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Kansas where he served eight years as a parish pastor, before being called by LCMS Board for Mission Services as a church planter in Moscow, Russia, in 1993. He served as the pastor of two different congregations in Moscow and supervised the "Moscow Seminars," an ongoing theological education program for Russian Lutheran pastors. In 2004 he and his family moved from Moscow to Frankfurt, Germany, while serving with LCMS World Missions as the Regional Director for Eurasia. In 2006, the family moved to Hong Kong, where Dr. Mehl served as the Regional Director for Asia until 2013. While in Asia he was a member of the leadership team that started Concordia International School, Hanoi. From 2014 to 2016 he served as the Director of Mission Partnerships and Church Relations at Concordia University, Nebraska.

John is married to Susan and they have three grown children, Katrina, Louisa and Theodore.



Melissa Salomón
BIBLE STUDY LEADER

A faithful and effective servant, Melissa Salomón brings to the LCMS and LWML a special love for and commitment to the promotion of cross-cultural ministries on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. She is a highly respected leader in the LCMS Hispanic community and has been instrumental in the LWML

Heart to Heart Sisters of all Nations, our intentional focus on intercultural engagement.

She has been serving her Lord in border ministry since 1986. In 1998 she was part of a team that opened the first Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) office in Mexico. Currently, her work with 1000 Generaciones Ministry and Concordia Church and School in Chula Vista, California, allow her to engage in mission and mercy projects along the border and beyond. Melissa has served on the Board of Mission Nation Publishing since 2020 and was honored to have her life and service story memorialized in one of the Mission Nation Publications in 2021.

Melissa enjoys living near her two grown children who each have a baby, so Melissa is living her best life delighting in little Santiago Alejandro and Sofia Grace.

Birthday this month



Dave Lassanske
Patricia Caballero
Erich Ambrust
Betty Nelson
Sharon Corey
Judy Gunther

December 11
December 15
December 20
December 24
December 28
December 28

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

December 2023

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

Office Phone: (626) 287-0968

E-Mail : admin@firstlutherantc.org

Website : <https://firstlutherantc.org>

Rev. Scott Ganas, Pastor

8:30 a.m. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Holy Communion every 1st & 3rd Sundays only

9:45 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE STUDY

Every Sunday