



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.

February 2024 Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – February 2024

Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire.
(Matthew 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but *help and support him in every physical need*” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



February 2024

Ushers Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Greeters:

February 4	Connie Kean
February 11	Pat Caballero
February 18	Sharon Corey
February 25	Norma Boehne

Readers:

February 4 and February 18	Richard Swanson
February 11 and February 25	Christine Geltz

Gatherings:

Ash Wednesday Worship service, *February 14, Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.*
followed with lunch afterwards

Board of Directors' meeting, *February 18, Sunday at 11:00 a.m.*

Mission Development Team meeting, *February 21, Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.*

Sunday Worship Times,

February 4, 8:30 a.m.
February 11, 8:30 a.m.
February 18, 8:30 a.m.
February 25, 8:30 a.m.

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

Senior group (previously called the Major Leaguers) is cancelled till further notice.

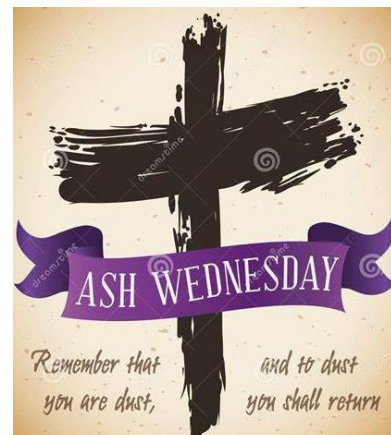
Saturday Prayer Group, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. This group is currently meeting via the telephone. Let Jo Tschopp know if you want to participate.

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

First Lutheran Church of Temple City continues to support the Friends In Deed Food Pantry in Pasadena CA by taking shelf stable food items monthly. Please consider adding a few items to your grocery list. For example, it may be something that you like that may assist an economically challenged person. The pantry is also requesting some non-food items, such as pet foods for dogs and cats, diapers (all sizes), and baby formula. In addition, Friends In Deed are asking for toiletries such as soap, shampoo and condition, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream and disposable razors, and feminine products like hand lotion, etc. You can put your donations in the box located at the back of the church or hand-deliver the items to an usher.

Mission Development Team

This team of volunteers continues to reach out into our neighborhood by inviting them to participate in events such as the Chinese New Year celebration, the Easter Egg Hunt, Spaghetti Dinner, Ice Cream Social, etc. The objective is for them to witness First Lutheran Church of Temple City as a caring and spiritual center of their neighborhood.



We, also, sponsor the monthly Soup and Sandwich gatherings during the noon hour on first Wednesday of each month, and often will include the Foothill Prep teachers and students. We invite students so that they may (in a small way) experience the social relationships of a church life and the opportunity that allows us to communicate with them as the students (who are from another country) practice their English skills. Many of the students shall attend college here in the United States, and hopefully seek out a church home.



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

Someone has donated some amazing adult coloring design books. The fanciful designs can be colored and shaped into different decorative items. There are, also, lots of children's books and some adult fiction books. It is great to see a few people passing by, helping themselves to these wonderful books.

Community Prayer Box

Our first prayer request of the year, via our Community Prayer Box on the corner of Noel and Broadway, comes from a person who does not think that he will be able to carry on should his mother passes away. Our neighborhood and the world are suffering. They need God's love in their lives. Pray that First Lutheran Church of Temple City will be able to share the message that God wants all people to be saved from their sins and experience God's peace and comfort.



Birthdays and Anniversary this month

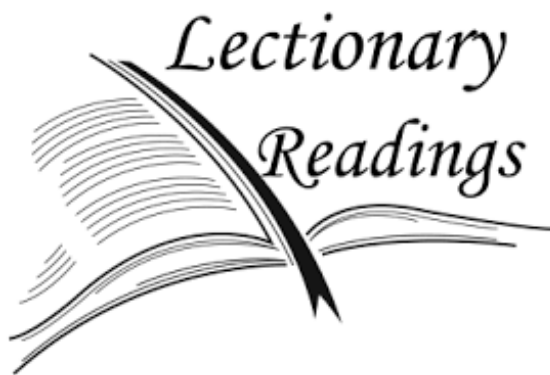
BIRTHDAYS:

<i>Tom Grabowski</i>	<i>February 12</i>
<i>Pastor Scott</i>	<i>February 22</i>
<i>Connie Kean</i>	<i>February 27</i>

ANNIVERSARY

<i>Tom & Pat Grabowski</i>	<i>February 22</i>
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Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for February as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, and the Gospel during the Transfiguration of Our Lord, Ash Wednesday, and the Lenten season:

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
February 4	Isaiah 40:21–31	Psalms 147:1–11	1 Corinthians 9:16–27	Mark 1:29–39
February 11 (<i>Transfiguration of our Lord</i>)	Exodus 34:29–35	Psalms 50:1–6	2 Corinthians 3:12–18, 4:1–6	Mark 9:2–9
February 14 (<i>Ash Wednesday</i>)	Joel 2:12–19	Psalms 51:1–19	2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10	Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21
February 18	Genesis 22:1–18	Psalms 25:1–10	James 1:12–18	Mark 1:9–15
February 25	Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16	Psalms 22:23–31	Romans 5:1–11	Mark 8:27–38





Ash Wednesday

Join us as we come together to begin the Lenten season. First Lutheran Church of Temple City shall be holding an Ash Wednesday service on February 14th, 2024 in the Fellowship Room at 11:00 pm. After the service, there will be lunch served. Bring a friend and spread the word.



Prayer Chain

A ministry at First Lutheran Church of Temple City that was established decades ago, and the church prayer chain is still flourishing. Years ago, the prayer chain began when members realized that prayer was an essential part of a church life. Church members were, then, encouraged to join this group. The participants were assigned to a section leader who would receive the prayer requests via the telephone and pass them onto the members of the small group. Members would, then, be committed to pray in regards to the requests.

In the past, the group would meet in church. Later, the group would meet in the Fellowship Room to read or study a book about prayer or the Bible, and pray about the requests. Members would pray silently or orally while experiencing many answers to the prayers. Currently, there are 36 members in our Prayer Chain group. One of our members has indicated that she welcomes phone call, with others who would prefer to receive email notifications. There are 23 out of the 36 members that have moved away, but are still very interested in praying with us.

If you would like to join the prayer chain or you have a prayer request, contact Jo Tschopp at: (626) 256-8333.

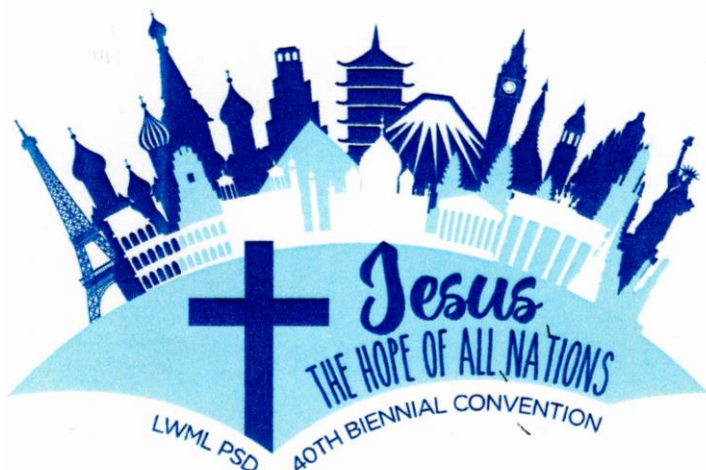
Save the Date!

LWML PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
40TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

JUNE 7–9, 2024

LOS ANGELES,
CALIFORNIA

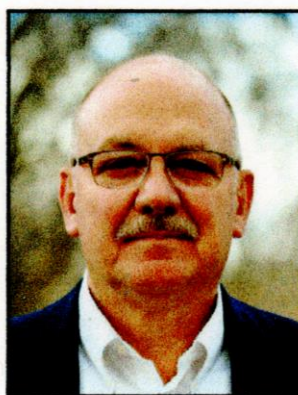
DoubleTree by Hilton
Rosemead, 888 Montebello Blvd
Rosemead, CA 91770



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.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

February 2024

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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