



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.

January 2023 Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Sin of an Exclusive Natural Life

One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to make us new creations, to think, and live for the Kingdom of God.

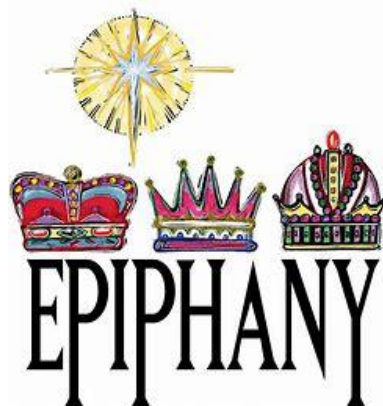
The Gospel lessons in the Sunday's Lectionary Readings of January are a grand invitation to think supernaturally!



Here are some of January's topics:

- The Son of God circumcised – the Creator of everything is eight-day-old baby – bleeding and crying.
- Angel of the Lord sends the Holy family to Egypt to save them from Herod's contract and deaths.
- The Nativity Star comes to rest over the manger.
- The Trinity converges on earth at our Lord's Baptism!
- John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God."
- Jesus and great crowds ... the Words of eternal life.
- Blessed are the last because they will be first.

We begin the earthly New Year with historical events that challenge us to remember that we are created to think supernaturally as children of God.



Love,
Pastor Scott

JANUARY

January 2023

Ushers Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Greeters: January 1 Hazel Bencoter
January 8 Pat Caballero
January 15 Connie Kean
January 22 Norma Boehne
January 29 Sharon Corey

Readers: January 1 & January 15 Richard Swanson
January 8 & January 22 Christine Getz
January 29 Jo Tschopp



Gatherings:

Soup and Sandwich, January 4, Wednesday at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Room

Mission Development Team Meeting, January 5, Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

Load the Van to Friends in Deed, January 6, Friday from 8:30 a.m.

Volunteers at Friends in Deed, January 7, Saturday from 8:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team's Chinese New Year, January 14, Saturday from 5:00 p.m.

Board of Directors' Meeting, January 15, Sunday from 11:00 a.m.

Voters' Meeting, January 29, Sunday from 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Times, January 1, 8:30 a.m.
January 8, 8:30 a.m.
January 15, 8:30 a.m.
January 22, 8:30 a.m.
January 29, 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??

If you are currently not receiving emails and would like to be included, please share your email address with Church Administrator at admin@firstlutherantc.org, or call: (626) 287-0968 and leave a message.

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

Electronic Newsletter: Let the Church Administrator know your email address if you would prefer to receive your monthly newsletter via email at: admin@firstlutherantc.org.

Burn the Mortgage!

Wow! We only have two more monthly payments on our mortgage to pay off the balance of \$ 9,793.70. The mortgage was refinanced in 2005 with a balance of \$746,201. We praise God for this amazing blessing.

Psalm 100:4. *“Go into His gates giving thanks and into His holy place with praise. Give thanks to Him. Honor His name.”*



Friends in Deed

The needs at the Friends in Deed Food Pantry in Pasadena continue to escalate as grocery prices increase. All shoppers are experiencing the higher prices for food. Please consider bringing to church a few items from your shopping cart to share with people facing food insecurity. Any food items that you like are probably something others would also like. So far this year, First Lutheran has donated 5,851 pounds. Our church began monthly food

collections in January 2017. Since that time, hundreds of food items have been donated to help feed the economically challenged bringing our total to 31,789 pounds. First Lutheran also has a team of helpers who volunteer every four weeks to work at the Pantry on a Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team

The Mission Development Team continues to sponsor the first Wednesday of the month's soup and sandwich meals. At noon on January 4, 2023 the Fire Department will visit and give us information about fire safety in the home. Those in attendance will be served a delicious lunch prepared by Marta Lovasz.



Please plan to attend the celebration of Chinese New Year on Saturday, January 14 at 5:00 p.m. Last year's piano concert in the church was well received. This year, we will be hosting two pianists with outstanding piano skills. Guests will be treated to a dumpling meal in the parish hall after the concert. There will also be craft activities for the children.

Our next planning meeting will be on Thursday, January 5 at 10:30 a.m. All are invited to join us.

Voters' Meeting

There will be an annual Voters' meeting on January 29, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. and lunch served. Come find out the latest events at the church. In addition, the budget for 2023 is on the agenda.



Little Free Library

The children's books have been circulating and need some new selections. If you have some to donate, you can give them to Jo Tschopp, or put them in the Little Library. Currently on the Adult shelf is a true story about a spy that worked for the nation of Israel. He was able to save the lives of many, as he passed information to the military. Unfortunately, he was killed but his heroic deeds are remembered by the government of Israel today.



Community Prayer Box

So many people in our neighborhood, in our community, and in the world do not have the Christmas joy we Christians have as we receive the gift of Jesus coming to earth as a baby, the very Son of God. Our Community Prayer Box acknowledges the need for prayers for all people. Please pray for others.

1 Timothy 2:1 *“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,”*

New Missionary News

For many years, our congregation has supported the Borchard Ministry with Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT). Janet Borchard has officially retired from LBT, and no longer needs our support. At the November meeting of the Board of Directors, they voted to support Anna Rosteck as our missionary starting in January 2023. (Anna is the niece of Pat Grabowski and Connie Kean), Anna will receive 1% of our monthly tithe. Our District Office receives 7% and Lutheran High La Verne receives 2%. The tithe is the result of moneys received through Faith giving and rental income. Please see Anna's bio below.

Hello! My name is Anna Rosteck and I am a missionary serving with the Assemblies of God World Missions in Burundi, Africa. I was born and raised in Great Falls, Montana. I am an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God and have a master's degree in clinical social work which has allowed me to work as a mental health therapist for the past 17 years. I first started serving in Tanzania, Africa in 2019 and moved to Burundi in 2021. In Burundi, I've been given the opportunity to serve the people by providing trauma healing, teaching pastoral counseling, and teaching at the Bible school and church planting school. Burundi is ranked as the poorest country in the world and has a significant history of genocide, civil war, and political unrest. The people are incredible and resilient. It is such a beautiful country and the people are anxious to learn about God and grow in their faith. Thank you for trusting me to serve the people of Burundi and partnering with me in this mission.



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.

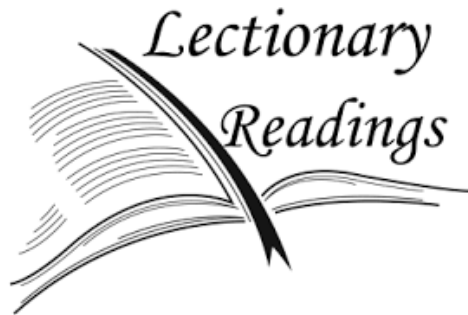
This service is filmed at our Fort Wayne Seminary in Indiana. For those people who have a computer, the Worship Anew worship service can be viewed via the internet at any time.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS MONTH



Rachel Witcher
John Daly

January 8
January 9



Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for January as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, and the Gospel as we celebrate the rest of the Advent weeks and Epiphany – the visitation of the Magi to see Jesus where the kings brought Him three gifts:

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
January 1	Numbers 6:22–27	Psalm 8	Galatians 3:23–29	Luke 2:21
January 8	Isaiah 42:1–9	Psalm 29	Romans 6:1–11	Matthew 3:13–17
January 15	Isaiah 49:1–7	Psalm 40:1–11	1 Corinthians 1:1–9	John 1:29–42a
January 22	Isaiah 9:1–4	Psalm 27	1 Corinthians 1:10–18	Matthew 4:12–25
January 29	Micah 6:1–8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18–31	Matthew 5:1–12



Lutheran

High School of La Verne

Dear Friends,

Your generous partnership makes all the wonderful things happening at Lutheran High School possible! It's no secret that our school has experienced challenging times of late. We are here today, serving the young people of the San Gabriel Valley because of your financial partnership, prayers, and loyal support. Now in my second year leading the school, I'm excited to share with you so many wonderful things that are happening at LHSLV. We have made significant adjustments and difficult decisions that have positioned us for an exciting future.

I'm thrilled to share that the moves we've made to maximize efficiencies have not diminished in the least the loving, personal, dedicated attention each student experiences at LHSLV. I like to think of our school as lean *and* loving! Please celebrate with me our hard working faculty and staff, each one going the extra mile to see that our students have a remarkable high school experience. Though small, our school provides a wealth of experiences for every student. Experiences they would miss at bigger schools that limit participation because there are just too many students.

I hope you'll take the time to enjoy what we've put together in the following pages as we celebrate the successes of this year. I also want to be frank about the underlying challenges a school our size faces. Tuition and fees don't begin to cover the quality education and extra-curricular opportunities at LHSLV. It's not an exaggeration to say your generosity is fueling our success. Now, more than ever, we need your financial partnership to set Lutheran High School on the path for another fifty years of life-changing educational opportunities anchored in the love of Jesus.

See how I snuck that in? Yes, 2023 marks fifty years for Lutheran High School La Verne! Plans to celebrate are in the works. For now, I'm asking you to prayerfully consider and make your most generous contribution by December 31 as we prepare for another half-century of Christ centered ministry together.



In Service to Our Lord,
Dr. Catherine "Kit" Hittinger
LHSLV Principal

Celebrate!

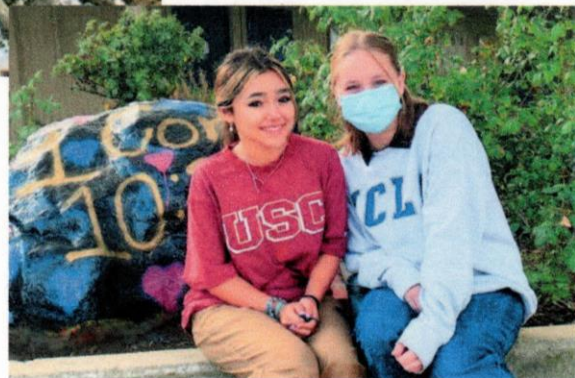
Our volleyball team advanced to CIF Championship Playoffs



Award winning NJROTC Cadets



100% of Graduating Seniors accepted to colleges and universities across the U.S.



Pumpkin Patch and Christmas Fair attracts the La Verne community to our campus

New Earth and Space Science course introduced



By the Grace of God and the generosity of His people, Lutheran High School looks forward to a bright future. You are our partner in generosity providing for the expenses not covered by tuition and fees. We work hard to see no student is turned away which, in these recent times, has stretched us to serve more families experiencing hard times. There are so many exciting opportunities ahead in 2023 that are possible as you join us in addressing our anticipated \$150,000 gap between revenue and expenses by the end of the school year. Plans are well underway to increase enrollment, enhance our academic offerings, and position Lutheran High School for a very bright future. One time and reoccurring gifts of any size move us closer to realizing, perhaps exceeding, our goal.

What is your most generous contribution?

\$1,000 or \$100 per month

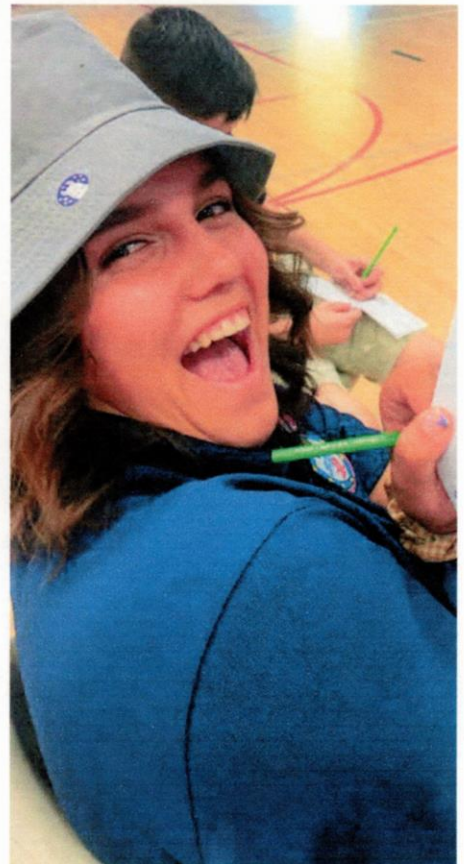
\$500 or \$50 per month

\$250 or \$25 per month

\$100 or \$10 per month

Every contribution is a blessing to our ministry and deeply appreciated!

Give today and spread the joy of an



Lutheran High's updated website now includes an online giving platform that makes gift giving easy.

Make your reoccurring or one-time gift right now by going to www.lhslv.org and clicking GIVE NOW

Or

Contact the school office at (909) 593-4494 and make payment arrangements. We can arrange credit card or payment by check over the phone or in person.

Or

Send a check through the mail payable to Lutheran High School 3960 Fruit Street La Verne, CA 91750. Please note that your gift is for the ANNUAL FUND.

Lutheran High School is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Consult your tax professional regarding deductibility of your gift.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

January 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