



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 2024 Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Ephesians 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,*” and “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*” (Matthew 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. **Murder** is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “*you shall not murder*”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

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



January 2024

Ushers Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Greeters: January 7 Connie Kean
January 14 Pat Caballero
January 21 Sharon Corey
January 28 Norma Boehne

Readers: January 7 and January 21 Richard Swanson
January 14 and January 28 Christine Geltz



Gatherings:

First Wednesday Soup and Sandwich, January 3, Wednesday from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Load the Van to Friends in Deed, January 5, Friday at 8:30 a.m.

Volunteers at Friends in Deed in Pasadena CA, January 6, Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team Meeting, January 17, Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

Board of Directors' meeting, January 21, Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Times, January 7, 8:30 a.m.
January 14, 8:30 a.m.
January 21, 8:30 a.m.
January 28, 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

First Lutheran continues to be an appreciated group of volunteers taking monthly food donations to serve the food challenged of Pasadena and the surrounding areas. When Jo opens the trunk of her van, the volunteers and staff at Friends in Deed are constantly amazed at the quantity and quality of the donations from First Lutheran. Not only do our church members and friends donate food, we also have a crew that goes to the center in Pasadena,

CA every fourth Saturday to stock shelves and help with other tasks. Let Jo Tschopp or Dave Lassanske know if you want further information about this ministry.

Mission Development Team

The original missional proposal in 2021 was to establish First Lutheran Church as the care and spiritual center of the church's immediate nearby neighborhood. This has been divided into 7 areas with approximately 162 homes. We have since added the north end of Noel Drive, making it a total of approximately 250 residences. At the team's last meeting, we again visited that goal and struggled how we as a very small group serving a very powerful God could provide care and spiritual help to our neighbors. Join us as we begin a new year of neighborhood outreach.

Sunday School for Children

Please pray for our Sunday School students and their families. None of these families have a home church. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for the teachers as they prepare the lessons each week.

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

Currently, there are books about Christmas on the children's shelf in the Little Free Library. Some of the children in our neighborhood have not heard about the "true" Christmas story. Many people that are walking past First Lutheran have never been inside a Christian church or experienced hearing about God's great gift of Jesus. We thank you to all who are contributing books that support a Christian life style.

Community Prayer Box

This year, the Community Prayer Box found 17 prayer requests. However, there were only a few prayers with any follow-up contact information. But, God knows who wrote each request. He is the powerful answer to all our prayers. As Jo reviews each request, her heart is touched by the urgency and emotion expressed in each prayer request. One lady and Jo have continued to keep in touch via text messages. Please pray for this lady as she struggles with her anxiety and the cares of her family life daily.



Birthdays and Anniversary this month

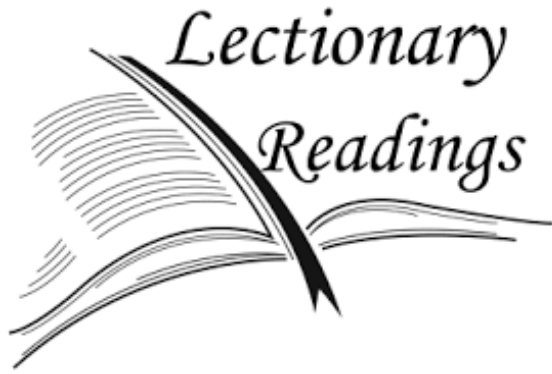


BIRTHDAYS:

<i>Rachel Witcher</i>	<i>January 8</i>
<i>John Daly</i>	<i>January 9</i>

ANNIVERSARY

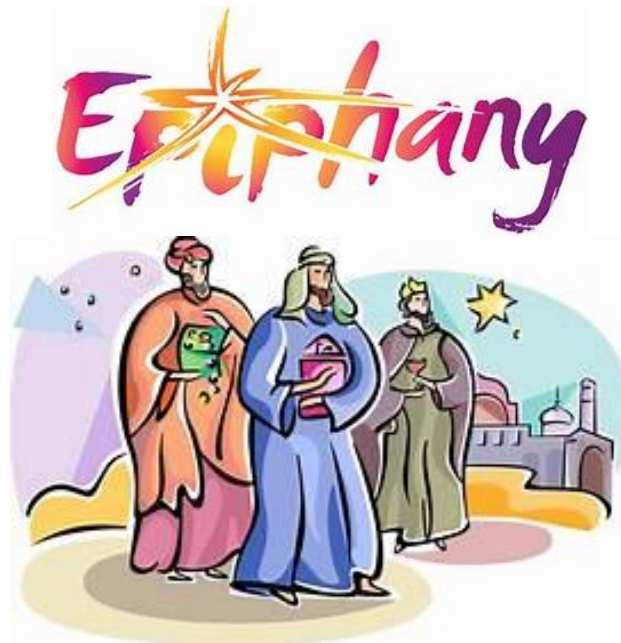
<i>John & Linda Daly</i>	<i>January 23</i>
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Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for January as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, and the Gospel during the Epiphany season and the Baptism of our Lord:

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
January 7	Genesis 1:1–5	Psalms 29	Romans 6:1–11	Mark 1:4–11
January 14	1 Samuel 3:1–20	Psalms 139:1–10	1 Corinthians 6:12–20	John 1:43–51
January 21	Jonah 3:1–5, 10	Psalms 62	1 Corinthians 7:29–35	Mark 1:14–20
January 28	Deuteronomy 18:15–20	Psalms 111	1 Corinthians 8:1–13	Mark 1:21–28





Annual Voters' Meeting

The annual meeting of the Voters' Assembly shall take place on February 4th, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. after the weekly Adult Bible Study. Lunch shall be provided. One of the items on the agenda for discussion shall be the Budget for 2024.



Long time members

(1) Margaret Bradfute is a long-time member who is a shut-in. She is able to accept and would welcome phone calls. Please call Margaret at: (626) 317-5222.

(2) Betty Nelson suffered a stroke a few months ago, but ended up returning home from the hospital. Her daughter – Nancy – has asked us to pray for Betty's return of her speech and the capability to swallow foods. Betty is comfortable at her home, and is not in any pain at the present moment.

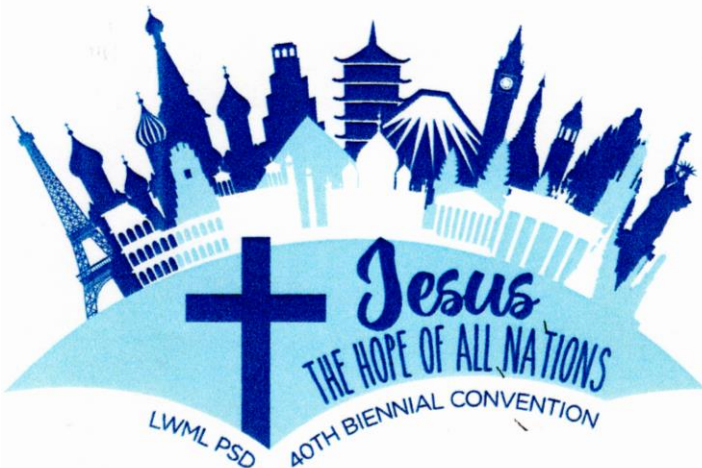
Save the Date!

LWML PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
40TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

JUNE 7-9, 2024

LOS ANGELES,
CALIFORNIA

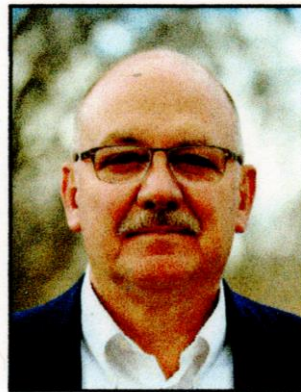
DoubleTree by Hilton
Rosemead, 888 Montebello Blvd
Rosemead, CA 91770



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.



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

S O U T H E R N C A L I F O R N I A

Hello, First Lutheran Church of Temple City!

Entering this most sacred time of the year, we would like to acknowledge how grateful we are for your continuous support and encouragement. Words cannot quite capture the depth of our appreciation.

Your generosity and support have translated into the advancement and betterment of many lives.

Take for instance, the Bennett father and son (not their real name) who eventually interacted with LSSSC. Because of despair and substance abuse, Bennett Senior had his son taken away and subsequently became homeless. Because of your support of LSSSC, we were able to help Bennett Senior get off the street, begin his recovery, and eventually reunite with his son. This is but one of the many stories weaving their way through the service offerings of LSSSC.

There are many right here in our community in need of some help. In fact, the need is growing, and it can often feel overwhelming and sometimes discouraging. But we must always forge ahead, and revel in the success stories. We need your help now more than ever.

Any support or gift you make has an impact and change a life, a family, or even a community – just ask the Bennett Jr. and Sr. whom we were able to give a helping hand.

\$100,000 – provides a modular unit to house 4 people

\$25,000 – houses one in a modular unit

\$5,000 – provides dinners for 1 month for every man in a short-term shelter

\$2,500 – allows for pet-friendly unit modifications

\$1,000 – gives up to 500 days of transportation to and from job interviews

\$250 – provides work boots and job tools

\$1 to \$99 – any amount will help someone

Thank you so much for your continued support of LSSSC, and for keeping us and our clients in your heart. You are making a difference in the lives of those in need.

Also when you give a gift of any size, you will be automatically be registered for a free copy of our quarterly magazine – Engage. Engage features many heartwarming stories and information that you can use to get more engaged in helping other in the Southern California region.

Gratefully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith, PhD." The signature is written in a cursive style with large, flowing loops.

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President and Chief Executive Officer
Lutheran Social Services of Southern California (LSSSC)

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

January 2024

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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