



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.

March 2024 Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

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



March 2024



Ushers Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

<u>Greeters:</u>	March 3	Connie Kean
	March 10	Pat Caballero
	March 17	Sharon Corey
	March 24	Norma Boehne
	March 31	Connie Kean

<u>Readers:</u>	March 3 and March 17	Richard Swanson
	March 10 and March 24	Christine Geltz
	March 31	Jo Tschopp



Gatherings:

Soup and Sandwich, March 6, Wednesday at 12:00 noon

Load the Van to Friends in Deed, March 8, Friday at 8:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team Meeting, March 13, Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

Board of Directors' Meeting, March 17, Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Mission Development Easter Egg Hunt, March 23, Saturday from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Volunteers at Friends in Deed, March 30, Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Times,

March 3,	8:30 a.m.
March 10,	8:30 a.m. (Don't forget to move your clocks an hour ahead)
March 17,	8:30 a.m.
March 24,	8:30 a.m.
March 31,	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.

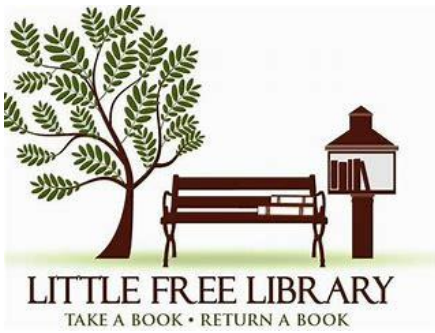


Not receiving email special announcements and/or prayer requests??

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.

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



Little Free Library

Recently, our Little Free Library received a generous gift of 78 beautiful new children's books donated by our member – Rachel Whitcher. Rachel, now, lives in Glendora but has kept her connections to First Lutheran Church of Temple City. She realizes the power of books in the lives of children and enjoys choosing books that have a Christian message that are beautifully illustrated and are durable.

Community Prayer Box

We received a prayer request recently, asking us to pray for the upcoming elections. Please join us as we pray for the wisdom and guidance of all candidates, and for voters to make wise decisions as to how they should vote. Please also continue to pray for our neighbors, that many would come to know God with His great love and forgiveness. Pray that First Lutheran of Temple City would reach out to our community.



Friends in Deed

Cold and wet weather is particularly traumatic for people without homes. Friends In Deed operates a Bad Weather Shelter every Monday, and on weather activated nights (that are cold, rainy, or windy). Volunteers provide hot meals, blankets and cots, and restrooms at Trinity Lutheran Church in

Pasadena, CA. You can volunteer to help by contacting Friends In Deed at: (888) 915-8111. Church members and friends volunteer monthly, donating food items, and helping every fourth Saturday. Contact Jo Tschopp or Dave Lassanske for more information.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Recently, First Lutheran of Temple City received \$543 because three people directed their Choice Dollars to our church. If you have Thrivent life

insurance policies or investments, you may have Choice Dollars that you can direct to a long list of charitable organizations. Through Thrivent Choice, more than \$585 million has been distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide. You can influence how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funding. March 31st, 2024 is the deadline to direct your 2023 Choice Dollars. For further information, please contact your Thrivent agent, or talk to Thrivent's office at: (800) 847-4836, or ask Jo Tschopp at: (626) 256-8333).



**Don't forget to direct
Choice Dollars®**

Mission Development Team

Approximately 100 guests came and enjoyed the Chinese New Year celebration on February 3rd, 2024. The students from Shin Dance Academy presented cultural dances with precision and energy. The students were amazing, and with costumes to match the dance title and theme as well. Foothill Preparatory High School students volunteered in the kitchen and helped with the set up and clean up. The owner – Lily Liu – supervised volunteer students in the kitchen as they prepared noodles, rice, dumplings, and spring rolls. It was a delicious and scrumptious feast!



Team members are now busy planning the Easter Egg Hunt for March 23rd, 2024 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Members can help by contributing candy and small treats to put into the eggs. Each participant will receive a “goody bag” which will include a book that tells the true Easter Story. You can also help by volunteering to greet families, and supervise the crafts and snacks. Let Jo Tschopp know how you would like to help at: (626) 256-8333.



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>.



News from our Missionary

Anna has received all clear signals from her doctors. She has started speaking at churches and events again. God is doing mighty things in Burundi, East Central Africa! Anna cannot wait to get back there!

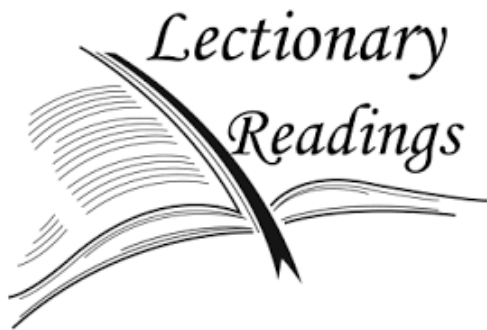


The Bible School is up and running. Men and women there are being educated in the Word of God. Please pray for more consistent electricity and fuel in the country. The lack of both has been a hinderance to travel outside of the main city. She is looking forward to seeing our congregation on **April 14th, 2024** – Sunday during the Adult Bible Study segment. She shall have more pictures and news to share with us then.

Thank You from the family of Hazel Benscoter

Dear Members of First Lutheran Church, the family of Hazel Coleman Benscoter acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expressions of sympathy. The flowers you sent were beautiful and it was so nice to connect with so many of you at Mom's service and after, at her hours. We know she really thought of you as family. Thank you.

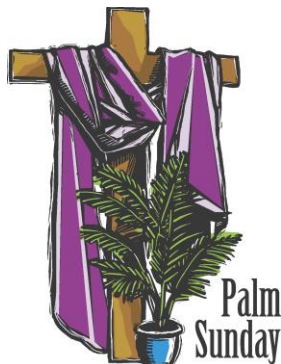
Lynn and Ed Caiazza.



Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for March as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, and the Gospel during the Palm Sunday and Easter season when we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord:

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
March 3	Exodus 20:1–17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18–31	John 2:13–25
March 10	Numbers 21:4–9	Psalm 107:1–9	Ephesians 2:1–10	John 3:14–21
March 17	Jeremiah 31:31–34	Psalm 119:9–16	Hebrews 5:1–10	Mark 10:32–45
March 24	Zechariah 9:9–12	Psalm 118:19–29	Philippians 2:5–11	Mark 15:1–47
<i>(Palm Sunday)</i>				
March 31	Isaiah 25:6–9	Psalm 16	1 Corinthians 5:6b–8	John 20:1–18
<i>(The Resurrection of Our Lord –Easter)</i>				



Lutheran Social Services of Southern California (LSSSC) – March Highlights

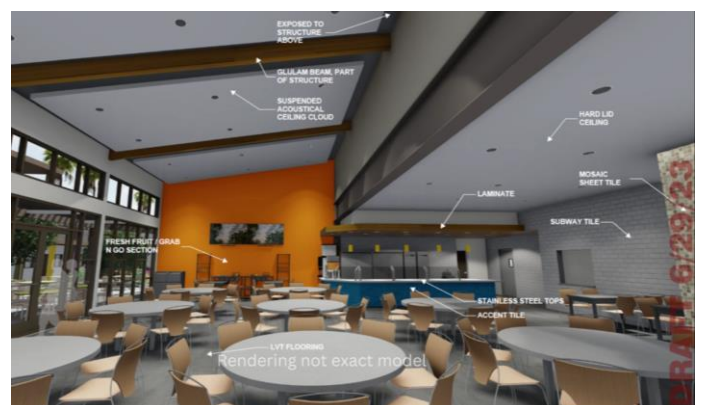
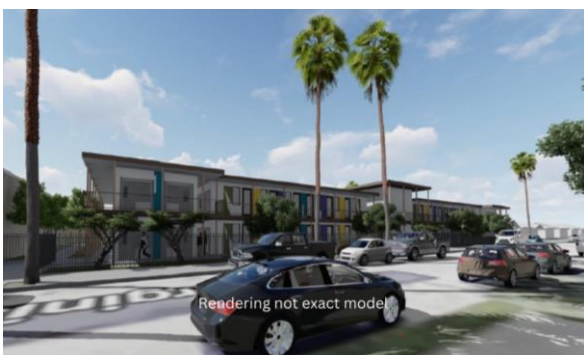


LSSSC and City of San Bernardino Awarded \$35 Million Project Homekey Grant

Lutheran Social Services Southern California is overjoyed to announce that we have received a \$35 million dollar grant, in partnership with the City of San Bernardino and our developer – Dignity Moves. This grant will allow us to greatly expand the capacity and services offered at the Central City Lutheran Mission – now known as our San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus. The result will be a comprehensive facility for individuals experiencing homelessness, low-income populations, and those with complex health and social service needs – all located in the existing site on G Street, San Bernardino.

The Project Homekey funding will provide 140 interim-term modular housing units and infrastructure upgrades along with ongoing funding for an onsite health clinic, case management, behavioral health treatment, job training and placement, rehabilitation services and long-term housing assistance. Many services will be available not only to the residents, but also to the surrounding community as well. Ground-breaking will be very soon, and the project partner and developer – Dignity Moves – estimates a completion date of spring 2025.

We invite your church to come alongside with us in this forward-thinking endeavor. Stay up to date on the project at: <https://communitywellnesscampus.org/>. If your church leadership would like to find out how to be more involved, please contact Paul Fournier, Church & Community Relations Representative at: (714) 621-5845. We look forward to other similar projects in our Southern California service area in the coming years.



Lutheran Social Services of Southern California – March Highlights (continued)

“What a breath of fresh air!”

“What a breath of fresh air!” – is referring to LSSSC’s *Avanti* program for the developmentally challenged adults in Pasadena, CA. They were the first words out of the leader’s mouth of a pre-audit team from Lanterman Regional Center that had just toured the facility. The tour had been conducted by one of the Avanti’s program participants, and provided a small picture of how the residents are involved in creating a program that is satisfying and beneficial to them.



For over 40 years, our Avanti program has served individuals experiencing intellectual and/or development disabilities. Avanti successfully engages participants in social and volunteer opportunities through the community while also reinforcing basic life skills and independence. Trinity Lutheran Church in Pasadena, CA has also opened their doors and hearts to the Avanti participants in a big way. Some of our participants and their families have been with Avanti for multiple decades.

As LSSSC seeks to show the love of Jesus by embracing, equipping, and empowering the vulnerable, we are thrilled to have outside institutions recognize the love and quality that embody our Avanti program.

Seniors Helping Seniors

Did you know that among LSSC’s over 40 programs in six counties, we operate the Senior Companion Program (SCP) for the entire county of San Diego?

SCP provides transportation assistance, in-home assistance, and social-emotional support or companionship for homebound seniors (65 plus) throughout San Diego. For more than 26 years of service in the community, the program has prioritized enhancing homebound seniors’ quality of life and assisting seniors to remain independent for as long as possible.

A unique element of the program is that it engages the aging community (50 plus) as Volunteer Companions to visit homebound seniors who will benefit mentally and emotionally from quality interaction with caring volunteers. Weekly activities will include grocery shopping, shared meals, community activities, hobbies, and transportation to medical appointments – ultimately leading to prolonged independence, reduction of isolation, and improved overall well-being.

If you would like a companion visit or would like to be a companion volunteer and brighten the day of a homebound senior who would love to see you, please contact Eleanor Slaughter at: eslaughter@lsssc.org or (858) 483-4005.

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California – March Highlights (continued)

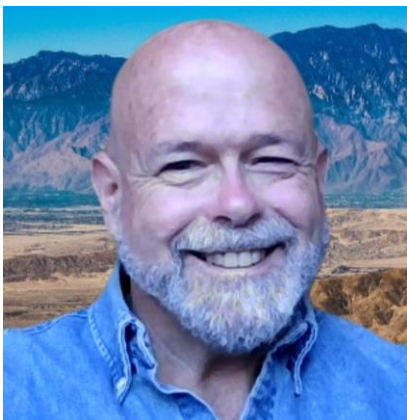


Save the Date for Our Fundraising Gala – November 8, 2024

On Friday – November 8, 2024, at the beautiful and historic Mission Inn in Riverside, will be the time and place for the LSSSC’s third annual fundraising gala. Celebrating and supporting the accomplishments and opportunities at our San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus. This year’s theme will be “*No Place Like Home*”. We would love for you to experience this beautiful facility and a truly inspiring evening.

Please mark your calendars, and ask yourself, “Who at our church, or in our business community, needs to be there to hear about the great things that LSSSC is up to?”

If you would like to be placed on the notification list for when registration opens, please give Paul Fournier a call at: (714) 621-5845 or email him at: Paul.Fournier@lsssc.org.



Reach me any time by phone at (714) 621-5845, or by email at: Paul.Fournier@lsssc.org.

Wishing you and your congregation a blessed and fruitful Easter and remainder of the Lenten Season!

Your Church Liaison, Paul Fournier

I am thrilled and privileged to be the Lutheran Social Services of Southern California’s representative to churches. I have been a worship leader for most of my life, and have served nearly every possible lay capacity imaginable in the Church. I love the Church’s role in the building of God’s kingdom and building up God’s people, teaching them to love as Jesus loved.

I also recognize that churches all come with limited resources. We are all called to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors and to the ends of the earth. But what if the needs of the community you want to serve exceed your church’s capacity? That’s where Lutheran Social Services of South California comes in. We do the heavy lifting of being the hands and feet of Jesus. We are the mission field right here in Southern California, and we have been doing it for over 75 years. And, I would love for us to partner with your church in our common mission to love and serve God’s people in Southern California.

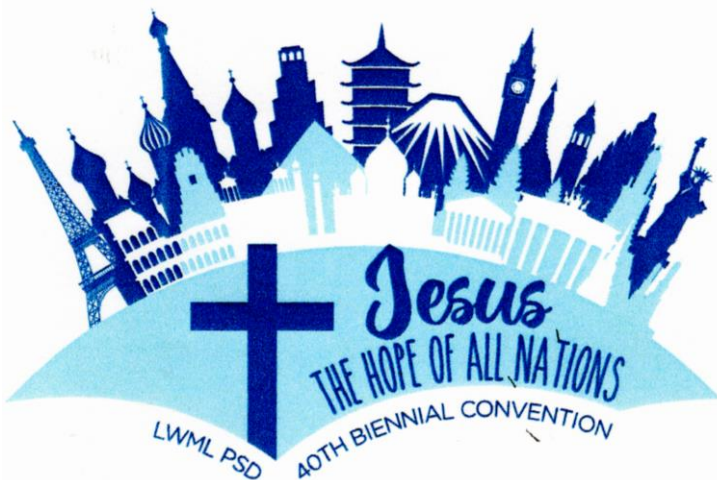
Save the Date!

LWML PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT 40TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

JUNE 7-9, 2024

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

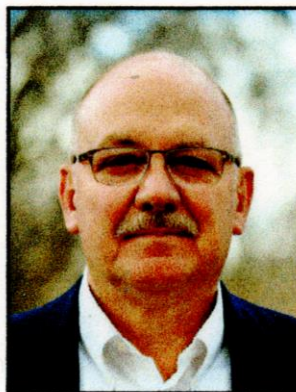
DoubleTree by Hilton
Rosemead, 888 Montebello Blvd
Rosemead, CA 91770



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

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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