



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.

November 2025

Publication of First Lutheran Church, Temple City, CA

Living Our Lives with Love

John 15:12 Love each other the way that I loved you. Stop and think with no distractions: "How Jesus has loved me? What are the many ways and how can I love others in the same ways?" Jesus does not ask nor expect us to lay down our lives, even though some have, but as our days go by, think about other ways to love.

Pastor Frank Matthews

*From our
Pastor*



80th Anniversary Celebration: A Holy and Happy Day!

From the beautiful opening harmonies of "Holy, Holy, Holy" by the Foothill Academy of Vocal Arts Choir from Monrovia, to the joyful, all-hands-on-deck closing chorus of "Oh Happy Day" led by the Faith Lutheran Gospel Choir of Inglewood, our 80th Anniversary Celebration Songfest was truly an inspiration.

The program spanned centuries of Christian music from traditional hymns to soulful spirituals to modern Christian songs. With the suite of songs led by the two choirs as well as several uber-talented soloists (including Pastor Matthews and two of our school alumni: Lisa Wall-Urgero and Ray Hutchinson), the audience became part of the performance, ending in a grand finale of all voices raised to praise the Lord and our salvation.

Still singing, the crowd then moved over to the Parish Hall, where 1945-themed decorations and centerpieces set the tone for fantastic food and fellowship.

(Continued on page 5)

Sharing the Light



Years of Ministry

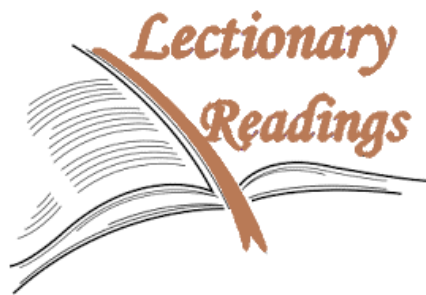
First Lutheran Church of Temple City



Foothill Academy of Vocal Arts Choir, Monrovia



Faith Lutheran Gospel Choir, Inglewood



These are the Lectionaries for the month of November.

Nov. 2	Rev. 7:(2–8) 9–17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1–3	Matt. 5:1–12 or
All Saints Day (observed)				
Nov. 9	Ex. 3:1–15	Psalm 148	2 Thess. 2:1–8, 13–17	Luke 20:27–40
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost				
Nov. 16	Mal. 4:1–6	Psalm 98	2 Thess. 3:(1–5) 6–13	Luke 21:5–28 (29–36)
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost				
Nov. 23	Mal. 3:13–18	Psalm 46	Col. 1:13–20	Luke 23:27–43
Last Sunday of the Church Year				
Nov. 27	Deut. 8:1–10	Psalm 67	Phil. 4:6–20 or 1 Tim. 2:1–4	Luke 17:11–19
Thanksgiving				
Nov. 30	Isaiah 2:1–5	Psalm 122	Rom. 13:(8–10) 11–14	Matt. 21:1–11 or
ADVENT 2025 First Sunday in Advent				Matt. 24:36–44

Worship Leader and Dates

Rev. Frank Matthews:

Sundays, November 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, November 27, at 12:00 p.m., Thanksgiving Eve Day

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

Ushers: Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Readers: November 2 and 16: Richard Swanson

November 9 and 23: Christine Geltz

November 30: Jo Tschopp

Greeters: November 2: Connie Kean

November 23: Norma Boehne

November 9: Diane Oberlander

November 30: Sharon Corey

November 16: Sharon Corey

If you are unable to attend worship, you may:

- Listen to the Lutheran Hour sermon at any time you choose – Just go to lhm.org/guide.
- View Worship Anew at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays on DirectTV, Channel 377 from our Fort Wayne Seminary in Indiana. Or you can view it any time at <https://worshipanew.org/by-type/watch?>.
- **Access and/or review First Lutheran sermons online by going to:**
<https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>.

NOVEMBER Events

Monthly Soup & Sandwich Luncheon
Load the Van to Friends in Deed
Volunteers at Friends in Deed in Pasadena
Memorial Service for Walter Poser
at First Lutheran Church of Monrovia
Board of Directors' Meeting
Mission Development Team Meeting

November 5, Wednesday, at noon
November 7, Friday, at 8:00 a.m.
November 8, Saturday, at 8:00 a.m.
November 8, Saturday, at 11:00 a.m.

November 16, Sunday, at 11:00 a.m.
November 18, Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m.

News from the Mission Development Team

Our team distributed more than 250 flyers in our neighborhood, inviting people to visit and participate in Trunk & Treat on Friday, October 31. A big thanks to all who supported this neighborhood outreach. It is fun to see the various costumes and to talk to children and their families. Jo shares that for two years in a row at this event, she enjoyed speaking to a mentally challenged teenager accompanied by his parent, and this young man readily proclaimed his love for Jesus. We never know who will visit and give us the opportunity to exhibit God's love.



Lily Liu, owner and director of Foothill Preparatory School here on our campus, recently shared her vision of providing opportunities for the students to help church and community members through acts of service. As Lily, the school staff, and Jo shared ideas, they concluded that church members might appreciate weekly time learning more about their smart phones, laptops, and Chromebooks. Subjects such as how to use clip art, emails, texts, and general questions about the internet could be learned. Even flip phone questions could be asked. The sessions would be weekly and enjoyable. Let Jo Tschopp know if you are brave and willing to have fun learning more about technology.

Community Prayer Box Update



The Community Prayer Box continues to be checked for prayer requests. We have not received any for a while but we know our neighbors have many needs. Pray that neighbors would be safe, that they would consider spiritual matters and seek the blessings God has to offer. Pray that our congregation would be welcoming and that all of our neighbors would find a Christian church to worship God and grow in faith and commitment to God.

¹⁷I pray that Christ may live in your hearts by faith. I pray that you will be filled with love. ¹⁸I pray that you will be able to understand how wide and how long and how high and how deep His love is. ¹⁹I pray that you will know the love of Christ. His love goes beyond anything we can understand. I pray that you will be filled with God Himself. Ephesians 3:17-19

New Selections in Our Little Free Library



If you are a lover of cowboy or western fiction stories check out our Little Free Library for some of Louis L'Amour's paperbacks. If you are wanting to know about the Federal Reserve Committee, snatch up "Maestro," a book which depicts the life of Alan Greenspan 1987-2000 involved in economics and the politics of the USA. The Federal Reserve Committee's actions affect the economic well-being of every American. The availability of money for business or consumer loans, mortgages, job creation, and overall national economic growth all flows from the Committee's decisions. Don't forget to look for children's holiday books and we even have some middle grade novels for youth.

Amazing Report from Friends in Deed HQ in Pasadena

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Friends in Deed Food Pantry...

- Had **30,230 client visits**
- Supported **2,903 unique households**
- Distributed **846,000 pounds of food**
- (including your donations!)
- Provided **705,000 meals**
- Served an average of **605 households every week**
- And this summer, we broke a new record: serving **over 750 households in just one week.**

The need is growing, but so is our community's ability to make a difference.



80th Anniversary Celebration (*continued from p.1*)

FLC Chairperson Judy Gunther commented, “The dinner was delicious and amazing and took a lot of work, but there were so many good helpers that it wasn’t overwhelming.” Vickie Trepanier prepared the delicious meatloaf dinner with all the fixin’s, assisted by several of her family members and her friend Rhue Guyant. Kathy Janetzke led the table setup and table settings, ably assisted by Peter Dille and several of Kathy’s family members. Norma Boehne created the fabulous decorations (with dozens of paper flowers made by Pat Grabowski) and centerpieces with her helpers and neighbors.



All that work resulted in an amazing dinner time of fellowship with the 50+ members of our guest choirs and their families and friends—along with 80 or so FLC church friends and school alumni.

“October 11 surpassed all my expectations,” exclaimed FLC Pastor Frank Matthews. “Music has always been a major part of my life and it truly touches my heart. Every performance was touched by God and I felt His presence with us. Bringing past members and past students to First Lutheran was awesome and it’s what we are called to do. The fellowship afterwards was almost as good as the songfest. Thanks to all for all they did. It was definitely a team effort. Love to all.”

“I Feel the Prayers.”

Judy Gunther Updates Us on Her Recovery...and Shares Miracles Along the Way

At about 1:00 am on October 19, our church family member and congregation chairperson Judy woke up with a bad headache and a feeling in her chest like she had swallowed a big pill and it wouldn’t go down... no pain, just discomfort. She didn’t think much of it—just drank some water and waited for it to settle down so she could go back to sleep. But it didn’t...

She wondered what to do next and then her roommate Marta’s dog Roxie came into her room and put her paw on Judy’s arm. That had never happened before and Judy wondered what was up. Then Roxie went to Marta’s room, woke her and pestered her (and that had never happened before) until Marta went to Judy, learned of her condition, and called 911. Upon arrival, the EMT’s confirmed that Judy was having a heart attack and rushed her to USC Arcadia Hospital.

After the diagnosis, the cardiology team inserted two stents to open up clogged arteries in her heart. She immediately felt better. Later in the week, the team installed a third stent in another artery. Since then and with everyone’s prayers, Judy has made a full recovery.

She’d like to share some key elements from her experience:

- She felt your prayers—They sustained her and kept her from feeling apprehensive in the hospital as she awaited further test results and procedures.
- Women having heart attacks don’t always have the usual pain in the left arm + massive chest pain symptoms commonly associated with heart attacks. Ladies: Be aware!
- If Roxie had not instinctively come to her and touched her, and then awakened Marta and insisted she come to Judy’s rescue, Judy says she would not have called 911—and who knows how the situation would have deteriorated from there. Praise God for these intuitive creatures with their instincts and actions who are such a blessing and friend to us humans!

News, Praise and Prayer Requests from Our Missionaries in Papua New Guinea

Our congregation supports missionaries Matt and Emily Terhune's work in Papua New Guinea with Wycliffe Bible Translators through our tithe. Below is Emily's most recent news she shared with us.

Thank you for your prayers and support since we last wrote. After an especially rough patch, we had a lovely trip to Cairns, Australia as a family in June, and both Matt and Elijah got some much-needed dental work done there, too.

Elijah and I got off to a good start with homeschooling every morning and then we do combined homeschooling with another family. Claire is having a blast going to kindergarten at the school, and likes joining in with our little homeschool gang when she gets home at lunchtime.

Meanwhile, I still have opportunities for work and ministry. Every Friday a friend and I meet to share a Bible story or devotion with people who are waiting to be seen at our clinic, and I also recently helped teach at a trauma healing workshop in Ukarumpa village.

Trauma Healing Workshop

The two villages closest to our center - Ukarumpa and Kwina village - have a sad, difficult history of conflict and will hold a peace ceremony early next year. Our organization was asked to run a trauma healing workshop in anticipation of this ceremony, to help prepare peoples' hearts for genuine peace.

During the workshop, an older man from Kwina shared that he was now ready to receive God's word. He said that he had previously killed a lot of people, and he repented and apologized in front of the whole group. While he was speaking, a woman stood up, tears running down her face, and came up front and embraced him. She said, "Yu bin kilim papa bilong mi" (You killed my papa). But what she said next was, "I forgive you." Both stood there as representatives of Ukarumpa and Kwina, crying and holding each other. Your prayers are appreciated for continued healing in these two communities, and for the scheduled peace ceremony to help bring closure.



People coming forward to leave their "hevi" (problem or burden, symbolized by a rock), at the foot of the cross.

Praise

We had a refreshing trip to Australia, and at least for now, we have a break from dental woes. Both kids are doing well with school/homeschool!
The trauma healing workshop in Ukarumpa village had a powerful impact.

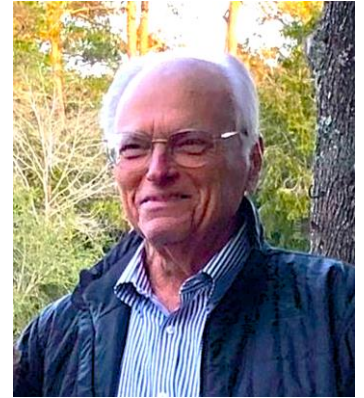
Prayer Requests

For the overall health of our family - physical, emotional, and spiritual
For the peace ceremony between Ukarumpa and Kwina villages next year

In Memoriam: Walter Poser

Walter L. Poser passed away peacefully on October 7, 2025, at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena, surrounded by his devoted wife of 62 years and their three daughters.

Born in Foley, Alabama, on September 30, 1940, Walt grew up in nearby Fairhope, where he and Nancy returned to live four years ago. He graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1962 with a degree in Business and Finance and served proudly in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1959 to 1963. He married Nancy on October 20, 1962. Together, they built a life rooted in faith, service, and adventure. At the age of twenty-two, Walt began managing the family business, Poser Printing, until its sale in 1972 when he purchased a printing company in California and moved his growing family west. As time went on, he changed careers and spent the next 50 years in Finance and Real Estate.



Walt served faithfully in leadership roles at First Lutheran Church of Temple City, where he was also an enthusiastic member of the Cantate Chorus. He served as a leader of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fairhope, as well, and was a proud supporter of the Boys and Girls Club. A Rotarian for many years in Fairhope and Sierra Madre, his commitment to education and faith was further reflected in his service on the Pepperdine University Board and the Board of Public Policy.

Walt loved to travel with Nancy and his family and delighted in planning memorable trips and adventures together. His joy, generosity, and steadfast faith left an indelible mark on everyone who knew him.

Walt is survived by his loving wife, Nancy Poser; his three daughters, Elizabeth Haug (Mario), Susan Lock (Brady), and Elaine Huene; and his seven grandchildren: Joshua Haug, Christina Moore (Maverick), Cooper Lock, Jason Haug, Samantha Lock, Amanda Huene, and Anna Huene.

Walt's life was a testament to faith, family, and service. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered. In lieu of flowers, a memorial contribution may be made to your local Boys and Girls Club or Christian Youth Organization. Memorial Service to be held at First Lutheran Church Monrovia on November 8, 2025 at 11:00 am, 1323 S Magnolia Ave., Monrovia.

(Source: Legacy.com by Mountain View Mortuary & Cemetery – Altadena, Oct. 10, 2025)

Not Receiving Email Special Announcements and/or Prayer Requests?

Email Newsletter: If you would like to receive the newsletter and prayer requests by email, please share your email address with Christine Geltz, Newsletter Editor, at cgeltz@firstlutherantc.org. You may also send her news and story ideas at that address.

Printed Newsletter: If you prefer to have a newsletter hard copy mailed to you, please call (626) 287-0968 and leave a message for Elizabeth Yu, Pastor Assistant.

Pastoral Care: Please contact Pastor Frank Matthews at (213) 247-8838 or no1redder@gmail.com.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9123 Broadway
Temple City, CA 91780

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL**

November 2025

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Phone: (626) 287-0968

E-Mail: admin@firstlutherantc.org

Website: <https://firstlutherantc.org>

8:30 a.m. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Holy Communion every first & third Sunday

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

Every Sunday