



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.

October 2025

Publication of First Lutheran Church, Temple City, CA

What is Happiness? by Pastor Frank Matthews

What is happiness? Is it getting all that you want or all you need. Is it a good relationship with God? The answer can vary from person to person but true happiness comes from seeing the ones you love happy and content.

From our
Pastor



Happiness comes from putting behind you things in the past by dealing with them when they happen, and accepting in faith what will happen. When we dwell on the past we can't move forward, and to move, we need to accept it. God in His infinite wisdom is far greater than any wisdom we may have, so to move forward in faith, accept that God knows what is best for us.

October 11 Celebration to Feature Amazing Musicians, Spirited Singing and Scriptures, and Nostalgic, Tasty Alumni Dinner

To praise God for our church's 80 years of ministry, we're starting with a Celebration Songfest in the sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. Leading us will be **Rev. Frank Matthews** as officiant and vocal soloist, and two First Lutheran School and choir alumni who are now master vocal soloists, songwriters, and music ministers in their professional careers: **Ray Hutchinson** and **Lisa Wall-Urgero**. **Rev. Kenneth Frese** will lead us in the scripture readings that inspired each song we'll hear and sing.

Sharing the Light



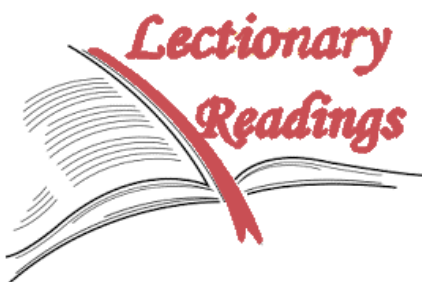
Years of Ministry

First Lutheran Church of Temple City

Two choirs will bless us: **Foothill Academy of Vocal Arts Choir** (below left) from Monrovia, and **Faith Lutheran Inglewood Gospel Choir** (below right; the full group joining us has 10 members).



(Continued on page 5)



Sola Gratia
Grace Alone

Sola Fide
Faith Alone

Sola Scriptura
Scripture Alone

These are the Lectionaries for the month of October.

Oct. 5	Hab. 1:1–4; 2:1–4	Psalm 62	2 Tim. 1:1–14	Luke 17:1–10
17 th Sunday after Pentecost				
Oct. 12	Ruth 1:1–19a	Psalm 111	2 Tim. 2:1–13	Luke 17:11–19
18 th Sunday after Pentecost				
Oct. 19	Gen. 32:22–30	Psalm 121	2 Tim. 3:14–4:5	Luke 18:1–8
19 th Sunday after Pentecost				
Oct. 26	Rev. 14:6–7	Psalm 46	Rom. 3:19–28	Matt. 11:12–19 or John 8:31–36
Reformation Day (observed)				

What are the Lectionaries?

They are a list of Scripture passages used for the weekly readings in worship services, helping to guide sermons and Bible studies throughout the church year. Some members of our church family also use them for daily personal Bible study. The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has established a three-year lectionary cycle (Years A, B, and C) and each year emphasizes a different Gospel book: Year A focuses on Matthew, Year B on Mark, and Year C on Luke. We are currently in Year C. The purpose of the Lectionaries is to offer a wide range of biblical teaching over the three-year cycle, allowing for the exploration of a greater number of passages.

Worship Leader and Dates

Rev. Frank Matthews:

Sundays, October 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 8:30 a.m.

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

Ushers: Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Readers: October 5 and 19: Richard Swanson

October 12 and 26: Christine Geltz

Greeters: October 5: Connie Kean

October 19: Sharon Corey

October 12: Diane Oberlander

October 26: Norma Boehne

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>.

OCTOBER Events

Monthly Soup & Sandwich Luncheon
Load the Van to Friends in Deed
Volunteers at Friends in Deed in Pasadena
80th Anniversary Songfest and Dinner
Board of Directors' Meeting
Mission Development Team Meeting
Trunk and Treat

October 1, Wednesday, at noon
October 10, Friday, at 8:00 a.m.
October 11, Saturday, at 8:00 a.m.
October 11, Saturday, at 5:00 p.m.
October 19, Sunday, at 11:00 a.m.
October 28, Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m. (tent.)
October 31, Friday at 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Mission Development Team in Action

October 1 Soup & Sandwich Luncheon: Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry

Pastor Ramón Contreras from Lutheran Borders Concerns Ministry will be joining us for lunch. He will be sharing ministry along the Mexican border. Pastor Contreras is passionate about ministering to the small Lutheran churches in poverty impacted areas. An important part of the ministry is building homes; another outreach is Angels Wings which is an opportunity to develop a one-on-one relationship with a child through monthly sponsorship that allows a child to stay in school and offers a heart-to-heart connection.

The ministry also supports and builds churches and missions in Mexico, including a Bible Institute with two campuses. LBCM cares for the whole person through providing food and commodities, ESL and sewing classes. Children are served through feeding and after school programs.

Please invite your friends and plan to attend. Below are suggestions for gifts which you can donate and bring to the luncheon.

Gift Suggestions

- Beans, rice and ramen noodles
- Other food items (not outdated)
- NEW socks and undies
- Quilts and blankets
- Spanish Bibles
- Fabric and yarn
- Christmas Time, toys and gifts for children
- Sewing machines/accessories in good condition



Hygiene Supplies

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Lice shampoo
- Over the counter medications (not outdated)



Trunk & Treat on Halloween

Halloween Trunk & Treat has become a fun activity for members and friends of the congregation. The festivities begin at 6:00 and end at 7:30. All you need to do is purchase some treats, decorate your trunk and wait for the children and families to come. Jo Tschopp has access to trunk decorations, so ask her if you are interested. We know that some people have never been inside a Christian church so we open the church and encourage people to visit and view the beautiful stained-glass windows. Please consider volunteering for this neighborhood outreach.



Community Prayer Box Update

Ricardo left a prayer request in our prayer box. He asks us to pray for help with family, money, work and relationships. Please pray that Ricardo would experience God's presence in his life and be given wisdom to help him solve the challenges of life. Pray that God would richly provide for both his physical and spiritual needs.

Matthew 11:28-30 *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*



New Selections in Our Little Free Library

Remember when there were many cowboy television shows, including Roy Rogers, The Cisco Kid, Bonanza, and Gunsmoke? The best-known author of cowboy/ frontier fiction was Louis L'Amour. First Lutheran recently received a large shopping bag of L'Amour's books. They will be added to our Little Free Library regularly. "Stolen Lives" is the true story of Malika Oufkir, daughter of a high official of Morocco. In 1972 her father was executed and Malika and members of her family were taken to a penal colony where they lived for more than twenty years. It is hard to comprehend that such a story of resilience and courage happened in our own times.



Report on September Delivery to Friends in Deed

Recently our faithful Friends in Deed volunteers took **527 pounds of shelf stable food** to the Pasadena headquarters. **Since January, First Lutheran has donated 3,446 pounds (1.723 tons).** Help us to reach two tons in the next few months. Fall weather is a good time to buy soups, canned meals such as chili and stews, and also baking mixes. Please note: Our delivery date in October has moved from Friday, Oct. 3 to Friday, Oct. 10.

80th Anniversary Celebration *(Continued from page 1)*

As of this writing, the musical program will proceed as follows: **Pastor Frank Matthews** is planning on singing two well-known Christian masterworks—one from 1825 and the other from 1955. Pastor has an extensive background in worship music and studied vocal performance at Knoxville College.

Ray Hutchinson will present two songs that he wrote himself: “The Artist” and “Answered Prayer.” Ray’s true joy is writing music and lyrics that evoke a deep emotional response and give glory to God. He was a student at First Lutheran School, Temple City from 1969 to 1974 and sang in the junior choir. Later he studied at Pasadena City College and sang with the PCC Chamber Singers in New York’s Carnegie Hall and in England’s Coventry Cathedral. He has sung the US National Anthem twice at Dodger Stadium and has served for many years as director of music in Christian parishes.

Lisa Wall-Urgero will share two of her favorite praise songs. She attended First Lutheran School from 1976 to 1982 and sang in the junior choir. She later earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance from California Lutheran University and has since built a career as a session singer, backing vocalist, pianist, music educator and church director of music. She has appeared in performances with such groups as the LA Opera Chorus and on Hallmark’s Home and Family television presentations.

The **Foothill Academy of Vocal Arts Choir** will present three well-known traditional hymns in settings by modern composers. FAVA is a non-profit organization that serves the community by promoting the art of choral singing for children, teens and adults. Its director is Dianne Harmel, on faculty at Azusa Pacific University for 20+ years as an Adjunct Professor of Applied Voice, with a voice studio at her home. She is a former music director at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Arcadia.

Among its songs and spirituals, the **Faith Lutheran Inglewood Gospel Choir** will present “Amazing Grace” and “Oh Happy Day” and invite everyone to join in for spirit-enlightening group singing. This choir blesses and inspires worship at Faith Lutheran Church in Inglewood and is under the direction of Rahn Coleman. He is a producer, arranger, conductor, pianist, musical director/supervisor, and performance coach and has twice won the NAACP’s Annual Theatre Award for “Best Music Director.”

Then it’ll be time for dinner! After the songfest, everyone who has RSVP’d (see below) will be treated to a delicious, home-cooked meal by our own **Vicki Trepanier and her team** in the theme of First Lutheran’s founding year: **1945!** Enjoy the fine food, swing music, charming decorations and church family nostalgia.

Sharing the Light



First Lutheran Church of Temple City

Have you made YOUR dinner reservation yet?
Please do so by October 1.

Saturday, October 11, 2025
5:00 p.m. Celebration Songfest
6:30 p.m. 1945 Themed Dinner in Parish Hall

You can RSVP by email at
cgeltz@firstlutherantc.org
or call or text (626) 483-0560

Why Pastors Should Sing

by Charles P. Brown, *The Lutheran Witness*, August 27, 2024

We at First Lutheran Church, Temple City are now blessed with Pastor Frank Mathews and his professional singing background and enthusiasm. The following article digs deep into why this ministry is so impactful in a Christian church.

Singing has always been a powerful and integral part of worship. From hymns and psalms to chorales and cantatas, Christians have used music to praise God, teach biblical truths and unite the gathered saints. The role of the pastor in leading music in the Divine Service should not be overlooked. In my youth, there were pastors who sang and inspired me to be active in church music. In fact, even a “tone deaf” pastor greatly influenced my musical participation. A pastor’s encouragement matters.



Does singing matter?

Singing is a form of prayer. When we lift our voices in song, we are offering up our praise, thanks and petitions to God. Pastors regularly lead their congregations in prayer, and singing provides an additional dimension to those prayers. Whether it be through a hymn, the chanting of a psalm or a refrain, music can often touch the heart and soul more deeply than spoken words. When a group of people breathe together and share in song, it fosters a community among God’s people that can be hard to define but is easily understood once experienced.

A pastor’s teaching can also be enhanced through singing. LCMS churches highly value the ability of the liturgy and hymn to speak God’s Word. By actively participating in the music ministry of the church, pastors reinforce these teachings and deepen the congregation’s understanding of the faith. When pastors lead by example, they demonstrate the value of music in worship and instruction.

There are many benefits to be gained from pastors incorporating singing into their ministry. Whether for prayer, communication, self-expression or teaching, singing can help pastors connect with their congregations in meaningful ways. As Martin Luther said, “Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.” An even greater treasure is yet to come: life eternal with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the unending song of praise with the heavenly host.

Report from the Board of Directors

August 24 Meeting

Pastor expressed joy about having a new family attending worship service and he is now adding a children’s message with his sermon on Sundays. He also shared that he is planning to reach out to our members who haven’t been able to attend church. New blinds have been installed in the Parish Hall and the Gas Company came and repaired the stove in the kitchen at no charge. All bills have been paid and a check for \$4,000.00 was given to Sunshine House for new playground equipment.

Update and Prayer Request from Our Missionary in Papua New Guinea

Last month, Missionary Emily Terhune asked us to pray for God's protection over the Trauma Healing workshop she would present to assist in reconciling two villages experiencing conflict with each other for the last 15 years. She requested prayer that God would bring healing through His word. Following is her update on the workshop.



Emily leading the healing workshop.

Trauma Healing Workshop

“During the workshop, an older man from a rival village got up and shared that he was ready to receive God's word, and that he had previously killed a lot of people, and that he was really sorry. He repented and apologized in front of the whole group. A woman got up, crying, and embraced him, saying she forgave him - He had killed a family member of hers. I was amazed by what I was seeing!

But it's still hard. The official peace ceremony is scheduled for early next year, but there were apparently people plotting to kill this older man in "payback" for coming to their village for the workshop. Nothing happened to him, but please pray for true peace.”

Prayer for Family

“As for our family, please pray that we could continue to find moments of rest in between work, homeschool, etc.! Thank you.”

Our congregation supports missionaries Matt and Emily Terhune's work in Papua New Guinea with Wycliffe Bible Translators through our tithe.

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, the Church Administrator.

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**

October 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