



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.

September 2025

Publication of First Lutheran Church, Temple City, CA



Come Unto Me

This stunning painting of Jesus is by local artist Karl Washington. Here he explains his inspiration:

“My wife had a vision of what she thinks Jesus will look like when she meets him. Notice I said ‘when’ and not ‘if.’ Most of us have the desire to go to heaven. When we meet the angels at the heavenly gates, there will be no doubt that we will meet Jesus. She didn’t want Him to look like anyone or any one nationality. As a matter a fact, she said He would be like a chameleon and would blend in with anyone no matter what they looked like. Whatever group He was with, that’s who He was. This is the painting of her vision.”

The scripture on His sash reads: “Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

ktwstudios.com

Sunday School Mission Project Delivers Backpacks

Recently Jo Tschopp delivered 42 string backpacks to the San Diego office of Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry. For a number of years, the Sunday School students have been using their offering monies to buy school supplies such as pencils, crayons, pens, erasers, scissors etc. to fill backpacks. Church members have also been very generous purchasing items from the list.

Currently the class is composed of three students; two high school juniors and one college freshman. The class time is divided into two parts; Bible study of the important historical events and then each

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These are the Lectionaries for the month of September.

Sept. 7 Deut. 30:15–20 Psalm 1 Philemon 1–21 Luke 14:25–35
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sept. 14 Ezek. 34:11–24 Psalm 119:169–176 1 Tim. 1:(5–11) 12–17 Luke 15:1–10
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Num. 21:4–9 Psalm 40:1–11 1 Cor. 1:18–25 John 12:20–33

Sept. 21 Amos 8:4–7 Psalm 113 1 Tim. 2:1–15 Luke 16:1–15
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost or
Ezek. 2:8–3:11 Psalm 119:33–40 Eph. 4:7–16 Matt. 9:9–13
St. Matthew

Sept. 28 Amos 6:1–7 Psalm 146 1 Tim. 3:1–13 or 1 Tim. 6:6–19 Luke 16:19–31
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader and Dates

Rev. Frank Matthews:
Sundays, September 7, 14, 21 and 28 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: September 7 and 21: Richard Swanson
September 14 and 28: Christine Geltz

Greeters: September 7: Connie Kean September 21: Sharon Corey
September 14: Diane Oberlander September 28: 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>.



9/11 Norma Boehne
9/13 Craig Boehne
9/29 Christine Geltz

SEPTEMBER Events

Monthly Soup & Sandwich Luncheon
Load the Van to Friends in Deed
Volunteers at Friends in Deed in Pasadena
Board of Directors' Meeting
Mission Development Team Meeting

September 3, Wednesday, at noon
September 5, Friday, at 8:00 a.m.
September 13, Saturday, at 8:00 a.m.
September 28, Sunday, at 11:00 a.m.
September 30, Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School Mission Project *(Continued from page 1)*

week a different world view question such as; why does God allow suffering, why did Jesus have to die on the cross, when I pray who is listening, why doesn't God make my life easier? New students are always welcome 9:45-10:45 in room 8. Contact Jo Tschopp for further information.

Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry will be visiting First Lutheran on October 1. Pastor Contreras will be sharing how this ministry is impacting the people living along the northern border of Mexico. He has given us a list of items that are needed and appreciated. If you are able, please consider donating and bringing your gifts to the October First Wednesday Luncheon on Oct. 1:

Material Goods: beans, rice, ramen noodles, food items not outdated, new socks and undies, quilts and blankets, Spanish Bibles, sewing machines and accessories in good condition, fabric, yarn, toys and gifts for children at Christmas.

Hygiene Supplies: shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, lice shampoo

Report from the Board of Directors

The Board met on Sunday, August 24, and was pleased to learn that we now have a working stove in the church kitchen. Thanks to the research and coordination of Pat Grabowski and Vicki Trepanier, technicians from Southern California Gas Company came and repaired the stove at no charge! Vicki has now volunteered to do the cooking for the 80th Anniversary Celebration on October 11. Norma Boehne is looking for design ideas for 1945-themed centerpieces for this event. And to further enhance the Parish Hall, new blinds have been installed--Many thanks to Kathy Janetzke for coordinating this project.

The Board will meet again on Sunday, September 28 at 11:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team in Action

This group meeting to discuss and plan activities that depict First Lutheran as welcoming and reaching out to our neighborhood and community. Trunk and Treat will be celebrated in October, and a neighborhood Red Cross Blood Drive is planned for January 31. The team also hopes to commemorate Chinese New Year in February. See the next page for the latest recap of our August activities!





Our first responder visitors: (l-r) Firefighter/Paramedic Craig Alviso, Firefighter/Engineer Ernie Romero, and Capt. Craig Morgan.

Monthly Soup & Sandwich Luncheons

At our August luncheon we welcomed three firefighter professionals (pictured at left) from Temple City Station 47 of the L.A. County Fire Dept. Captain Craig Morgan was the main speaker and provided lots of important info, like how often to replace your home fire extinguisher (every year), and how to avoid sunstroke during the hot summer (Drink lots of water at night, not just during the day!). Also on hand was LACFD Community Services Liaison Herlinda Chico, who had arranged the visit. We asked lots of questions and learned a lot of vital info.

The next first Wednesday luncheon will be on September 3. We will be honoring National Hispanic Heritage Month with crafts and delicious food prepared by Vicki Trepanier.

Community Prayer Box Update

Recently we received two prayer requests from our Community Prayer Box: One of the request writers shares that God has helped him/her in the past but he/she continues to struggle with trusting God. Please pray that this person's faith would grow stronger. The second request is from someone who struggles with substance abuse. Pray that this person would make wise choices and have courage to face the daily struggles. Pray that with God's help he/she would regain sobriety.



New Selections in Our Little Free Library

Currently our Little Free Library's children's shelf is filled with Bible stories, non-fiction, and age-appropriate beginning reader books. You can sometimes find a book with stories of long ago and also fictional tales of the future. The adult upper shelf also has fiction and non-fiction.

Report on August Delivery to Friends in Deed – and Suggestions for More Items

From Dave Lassanske: Drum roll please: We delivered 415 pounds this past month. Big thanks to all who contributed and helped!!!! In talking to Tim Nistler, the director of the Food Pantry there, he said that items like pasta and pasta sauce, canned fruit and good ol' cereal would be very welcome for our next visit in September. Of course, any item you can find at a bargain is always welcome, especially tuna and peanut butter.



LCMS Pacific Southwest District Applauds FLCTC Prayer Box Ministry

by Tom Decker, Pastor Emeritus

There's one particular Southwest District congregation that maintains outreach to the surrounding area through its "Community Prayer Box."

Yes, it's a real mailbox by the sidewalk in front of First Lutheran Church of Temple City where real people place their real prayer requests, expecting God's very real help. Longtime member Jo Tschopp is the caretaker and advocate for the congregation's enduring prayer box ministry.



First Lutheran began this ministry in 2021. Jo is a regular volunteer for First Lutheran's activities and she currently chairs the congregation's Mission Development Team. Jo sends the requests via email, with an appropriate text from scripture, to members and others who are on the Prayer Chain and have committed to pray.

The prayer requests arise from concerns, simple or difficult. The concerns embrace personal, family, or community issues. Some are written by older members of the community while others are from the youth. God hears and knows and His listening weighs in where it counts as the notes in the mailbox provide a simple, yet personal, ministry to the neighborhood.

Other congregations opt for prayer requests in various ways but Jo and the good people of First Lutheran know that their old-fashioned mailbox also works! The whole church thanks God for the faithful service of those who support the prayer requests of neighbors near and far.

Tom Decker, Pastor Emeritus, lives in assisted living with Jan, his wife of 59 years. The Deckers are members of St. James Lutheran Church in Imperial Beach, Calif.



Prayer Request from Our Missionary 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.

Emily writes, "I'm part of a team that will be teaching a workshop on "Trauma Healing." It will take place in Ukarumpa, the village closest to us. This village has had an ongoing conflict with a neighboring village, Keina, for about 15 years now. They are on the brink of an official peace treaty / peace ceremony, and this workshop will precede that. We've been told that the peace ceremony cannot take place without the trauma healing first! Please pray for God's protection over the workshop, myself and all the other teachers, and that He would bring healing through His word."

The photo at left shows Emily (left) teaching about forgiveness in a skit.

World Series-Winning Dodgers have Many Christians on Their Team

By Milo Haskour, November 1, 2024

Christian Writers & Artists Ministries, dba God Reports godreports.com

Blake Treinen – the pitcher who got the Dodgers out of a jam in the sixth and eighth innings to help win the last game of World Series – praised God after their victory.

“God is absolutely good. I gotta give a shout out to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” he said after the game on Crosswalk. “It’s the favor of the Lord on my body. I’ve been praying just to be ready and able for this team when they need me.” They needed him in the 6th and 8th innings when the Yankees had men on base. Ultimately, the Dodgers prevailed 7-6 to clinch their 8th World Series in five games. “God’s rewarded me. I’ve been very blessed,” Treinen said. Treinen is one of several Dodgers who also count themselves as members of Christ’s team.

“We’ve been having a great network of people (at the Dodgers) to keep us strong, keep the faith, and it’s been really good,” said Freddie Freeman, who introduced mass production to the home run industry.

Future Hall of Fame pitcher Clayton Kershaw pushed the Dodgers to bring back Christian Faith and Family Day, which was, in his words, expedited. “We are grateful for the opportunity to talk about Jesus and determined to make it bigger and better than it was before COVID,” he said.

A surprise Christian on the Dodgers is Shohei Ohtani, the legendary pitcher/hitter being compared to Babe Ruth. Although he hasn’t spoken much about his faith, it is reported he is a practicing Christian. This is surprising because most Japanese are atheists, Buddhists or ancestor worshippers. Christians make up only 1% of the population in Japan.

Relief pitcher Michael Kopech said, “My relationship with Christ is the most important thing in my life. God has His hand in everything. There’s a sense of peace within knowing that as big as (Major League Baseball) may feel, it’s not even close to the biggest priority. It takes a whole load off myself to realize that there’s Someone else in control.”

Utility player Tommy Edman has his priorities straight: “Obviously, as a baseball player, your goal is to win the World Series. But I think for me, my goal is to be able to use the platform that I have to impact as many people as I can. It’s important for me as a Christian to be able to spread the word of God as much as I can.”



Outfielder Andy Pages has this tattoo on the left side of his neck.



Follow ...



Andy Pages arrives at Dodger Stadium for a game wearing his YESHUA shirt. Yeshua was an early Hebrew form of the name of Jesus. The fine print under the name says “Lord – Redeemer – Savior.” Courtesy of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

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Shortstop Mookie Betts proclaimed on Instagram: “Just want to thank God, my Family and The Fans! I GET TO DO WHAT I LOVE! #Favor #Faith #Family.”

Third baseman Max Muncy is mindful of his Christian witness. “I think the most important thing is to put ourselves out there among other people. Show them what it truly means to be a Christian and not criticize other people... But to show them that when you’re a Christian, this is what can happen and show what it really, really means to love Jesus.”

Manager Dave Roberts also chimed in about faith: “My relationship with Christ is the most important thing in my life.” Robert is earning long-overdue plaudits for his deft leadership of the team.

Sharing the Light



Years of Ministry

First Lutheran Church of Temple City

*Be sure to invite other
alumni and friends you
wish had come to our
songfest last year!*

You're Invited to Celebrate First Lutheran's 80 Years of Ministry!

Saturday, October 11, 2025

5:00 p.m. Celebration Songfest

featuring

Rev. Frank Matthews

Lisa Wall-Urgero, Ray Hutchinson

Foothill Academy of Vocal Arts Choir, Monrovia

Faith Lutheran Gospel Choir, Inglewood

6:30 p.m. 1945 Themed Dinner in Parish Hall

Free will offering

Make your reservation NOW by emailing
cgeltz@firstlutherantc.org

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**

September 2025

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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>

8:30 a.m. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Holy Communion every first & third Sunday

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

Every Sunday