



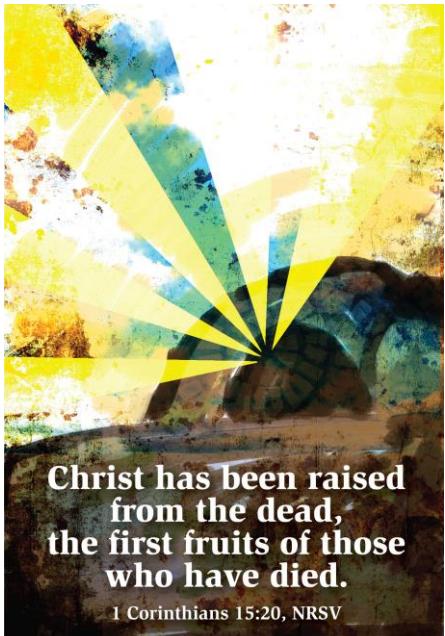
Sharing the Light



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.

April 2025

Publication of First Lutheran Church, Temple City, CA



**Christ has been raised
from the dead,
the first fruits of those
who have died.**

1 Corinthians 15:20, NRSV

His Resurrection and Ours

Holy Week and Easter remind us that life on this earth is a journey and death is a stop along the way. But death is not the final destination. Just as our Lord Jesus Christ has been raised bodily from death, we, too, will be raised to eternal life.

The matter of the resurrection of the dead has always intrigued me, and I am not alone. Any thinking person, it seems to me, is challenged to consider what would be required for a human body to be brought back from a state of either partial or total decay and refashioned into a glorified resurrected body much like that of Jesus after His resurrection.

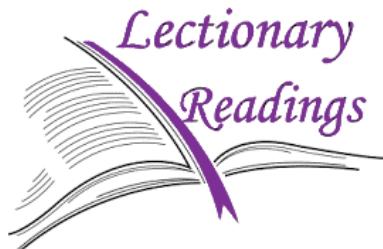
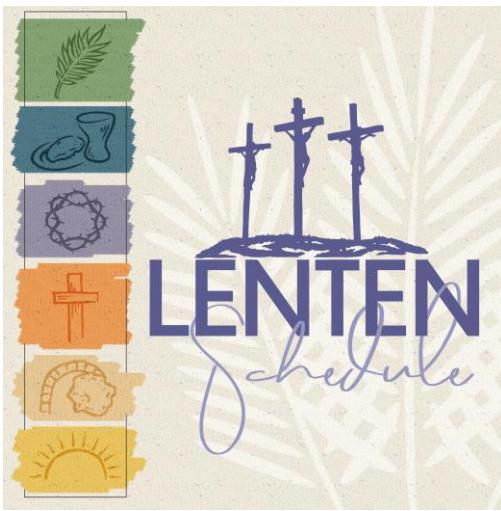
How can it be that a mound of dust (“... for dust you are and to dust you will return,” Gen. 3:19) can be reshaped and

reconstituted as a resurrected body, simply at the word of God? This miraculous accomplishment defies human experience and comprehension. Yet, Paul says very clearly, “For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.... But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.” Notwithstanding any natural skepticism and doubt, we have God’s promise and assurance that we, too, will be raised with Christ!

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and the promise of our own resurrection, we express to you—especially to those of you whose thoughts and hearts turn to the memory of loved ones who have gone before — our prayers for God’s blessing and our quiet hope and absolute assurance that because of Christ, the victory is ours.

““Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

By Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, former president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



These are the Lectionaries for April, beginning with the fifth Sunday of Lent and continuing through Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter.

	Old Testament	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
April 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 43:16 21	Psalm 126	Phil. 3:4b-7 8-14	Luke 20:9-20
April 13 Palm Sunday	Deut. 32:36-39	Psalm 118:19 29	Phil. 2:5-11	John 12:12-19
April 18 Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13 53:12	Psalm 22	Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1, 19:42
April 20 The Resurrection of Our Lord	Isaiah 65:17 25	Psalm 16	1 Cor. 15:19-26	Luke 24:1-12
April 27 Second Sunday of Easter	Acts 5:12-20	Psalm 148	Rev. 1:4-18	John 20:19-31

Worship Times

Sunday, April 6, 8:30 a.m., Rev. Jim Henkel

Palm Sunday, April 13, 8:30 a.m., Rev. Gregory Otte

Good Friday, April 18, 11:00 a.m., Rev. Kenneth Frese

Easter Sunday, April 20, 8:30 a.m., Rev. Frank Matthews, followed by Easter Breakfast (no Bible Study)

Sunday April 27, 8:30 a.m., Rev. Frank Matthews

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

Ushers: Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Readers: April 6, 13 and 18: Christine Geltz
April 20: Richard Swanson
April 27: Christine Geltz

Greeters: April 6: Connie Kean
April 13: Pat Caballero
April 20: Sharon Corey
April 27: Norma Boehne

If you are unable to attend worship, you may:

- Listen to the Lutheran Hour sermon at 8:00 a.m. each Sunday on station KBRT AM 740.
- View Worship Anew at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays on DirectTV, Channel 377. This service is filmed at our Fort Wayne Seminary in Indiana. The Worship Anew worship service can be viewed on the internet at any time at <https://worshipanew.org/by-type/watch?>.
- Access and/or review First Lutheran sermons online by going to:
<https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>.



Susan Swanson – April 24

Gatherings

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon

Load the Van to Friends in Deed

Mission Development Team Meeting

Easter Egg Hunt

Good Friday Service

Volunteers at Friends in Deed in Pasadena

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 2, Wednesday, at noon

April 4, Friday, at 8:30 a.m.

April 8, Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m.

April 12, Saturday, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

April 18, Friday, at 11:00 a.m.

with Pastor Kenneth Frese. No lunch served.

April 26, Saturday, at 8:00 a.m.

April 27, Sunday, at 11:00 a.m.

Hop Over for the First Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt on April 12!

This year's neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 12, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. on our soccer field, with crafts and snacks in the Sunday School Classroom.

Needed are plastic eggs, candy and small toys that can be put inside the plastic eggs and the gift bag. It is always a fun activity to "stuff the eggs." Let Jo Tschopp know if you want to join in this neighborhood activity. A box will be in the back of the church to gather donations.



Easter Egg Hunt

FLC Volunteer Team Putting Faith into Action at Friends in Deed in Pasadena



FLC members packing groceries for low- and no-income families in the Food Pantry at Friends in Deed in Pasadena. (L-r) Don Lammerts, Sharon Corey, Judy Gunther, Dave Lassanske and Norma Boehne.

“It’s so easy to add a few items to your shopping cart to help out,” reports Dave Lassanske, one of the group’s leaders. “And we enjoy our mornings volunteering up there, knowing that we’re helping lots of people in need, especially now since the Eaton fire.”

How can you help? Consider donating canned tuna/chicken, hearty soups, pasta & pasta sauce, peanut butter, cereal, rice, cooking oil, flour, sugar, fruit juices, powdered or shelf stable milk, granola bars, and canned fruits and vegetables. Then just place your donated food items in the collection box at the back of the church (see at right) on Sunday mornings or in the church office on other days.

Want to ride along and help the team at the Friends in Deed campus? Just coordinate with Dave Lassanske. In April, the team will load donations and deliver them on Friday, April 4 and will pack groceries at the campus on Saturday, April 26.

“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink?” And the King will say, “I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me!” Matthew 25:37, 40

The Food Pantry at Friends in Deed in Pasadena provides food assistance to low-income and no-income families in the greater Pasadena and Altadena areas. They currently provide food to over 1,225 people per week.

Did you know that for the last eight years, FLC members have been:

- Donating and collecting food items on our campus,
- Loading and delivering them to the Friends in Deed campus once a month, and
- Volunteering in the Food Pantry one morning a month?

Last year our donations totaled 5577 pounds—That’s more than two tons!



Here’s the food donation box in the back of our church. The team weighs the food gathered each month and Jo Tschopp posts the monthly totals above the box.



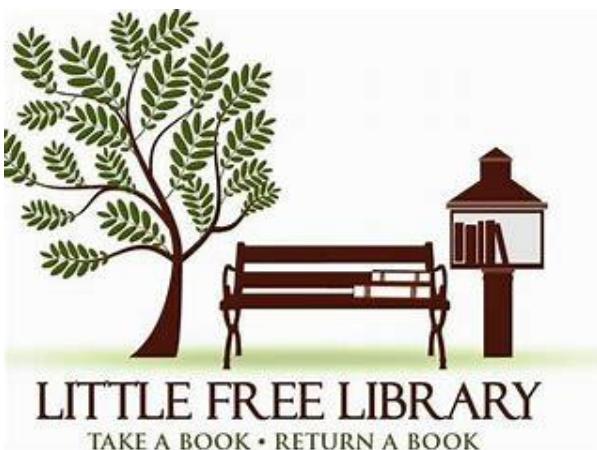
Love Tomatoes? Come to the Armstrong's Nursery Presentation at the April 2 Soup & Sandwich Luncheon.

If you love red, juicy, delicious tomatoes and would like to grow them yourself at home, you will want to attend the April 2 presentation by a representative from Armstrong's Nursery. Not only will you learn about watering, pinching, and staking, you will be able to take home your own plant to nurture. A speaker from the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden will be our guest at the May 4 Soup & Sandwich luncheon. Invite your friends and neighbors!



Community Prayer Box Update

Recently there were four different prayer requests in our prayer box. Two of them were about healing from post-traumatic stress disorder. One of the requests was for our country, and another for the person's mental health. There are many hurting people in our neighborhood. Please pray that these people would be strengthened physically, mentally and spiritually. Pray for our nation and our neighborhood. We may never know the results of our prayers but God does hear and answer. *Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*



New Selections in Our Little Free Library

Our Little Free Library has some beautiful, newly donated Easter books with the true Easter story for children. Also on the children's shelf are books appropriate for beginning readers. The adult shelf has both fiction and non-fiction. Recently added is a trilogy of Amish fiction, "Daughters of Lancaster County." Ex-major league pitcher Frank Pastore's amazing book, "Shattered," is about his life of being an atheist to becoming a fearless apologist and defender of the faith and is available. If you have books to donate, please put them in the Little Library, or give them to the ushers or Jo Tschopp.

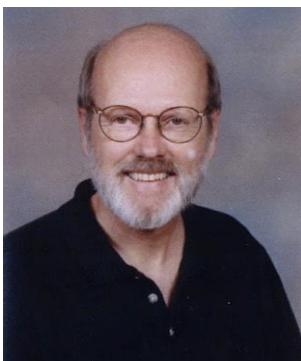
Up Close and Personal: Getting to Know Our Guest Pastors



Pastor Jim Henkell

Pastor Henkell serves as Ministry Executive for the Pacific Southwest District, partnering with congregations as they discern God's plans. He has been helping our congregation with this task over the last several months, and we look forward to him leading us in worship on April 6.

He served as a parish pastor for more than 25 years, most recently at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School of San Diego. Pastor has also spoken at nearly 200 events across the country, including numerous church worker conferences, outreach events, and youth gatherings. He is a graduate of both Concordia University Irvine and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, with academic emphases in homiletics, in which he is pursuing his doctorate, theology, and Biblical languages. He also served on the Board of Regents of Concordia University Irvine for 10 years. Pastor and Liane, a Lutheran educator, are the proud parents of three wonderful children, a terrific son-in-law, and a new granddaughter. They make their home in the greater Phoenix area.



Pastor Kenneth Frese

Kenneth Walter Frese was raised in Whittier, California, and retired 16 years ago as Director of Spiritual Life at Concord Reserve, a Lutheran senior living community in Cleveland, Ohio. During 56 years of ministry, he has served congregations in Northern and Southern California, represented the Lutheran Church as campus pastor at UCLA, and worked as the Lutheran chaplain at UCLA Medical Center and as a chaplain for the Veterans Administration.

Pastor Frese currently volunteers as the emergency preparedness coordinator for Mar Vista and has served us here at First Lutheran as a part-time vacancy pastor. Pastor Ken's wife Christine Holten directs the Undergraduate Writing Center at UCLA, and the couple lives in a 1928 Spanish-style home in Mar Vista. We are blessed to have Pastor Frese back with us to lead worship on Good Friday, April 18.



Vicar Les Schaefer

Vicar Schaefer is currently enrolled in the Cross-Cultural Ministry Program (CMC) at Concordia University, Irvine, focusing on missional pastoral training. His graduation date will be December 2025. He is a graduate of Concordia University, Wisconsin in 1985 with a double major in theology and mathematics in secondary education. He was called to teach at Lutheran High, Laverne from 1990-2001 where he was theology teacher, mathematics teacher, and chapel coordinator. He met his wife Sarah in 2001 and changed careers to public school teaching the same year.

In 2021 he was called by God to go back to the ministry, this time in the pastoral role. He enrolled in the CMC program which focuses on missional pastoral training. During this time, he began Grace Recovery Ministries, an outreach to those who are in addiction. His strengths in ministry during the past four years have been in hospital and care visits, outreach to the homeless and addicted, preaching and leading worship, and adult Bible Studies.

Vicar Schaefer has resided in California since 1990 and Sarah is a lifelong LCMS member from Fontana, CA. They have two adopted daughters, Chloe (18) from Vietnam and Megan (14) from Taiwan. Currently, Chloe is a freshman at George Washington University and Megan is completing 8th grade at Legacy Christian Homeschool. Vicar Schaefer is a product of LCMS schools since kindergarten and has strong roots in the church. He looks forward to serving a congregation that needs strong preaching, teaching, and pastoral care. He will lead us in worship several Sundays in May through August.

Sharing the Light



First Lutheran Church of Temple City

Save the Date! October 11, 2025

This year we're celebrating First Lutheran Church's 80 years of ministry here in Southern California through our campus ministries and around the world through our missionaries.

Make plans to join us on Saturday, October 11 at 5:00 p.m. for a Christian music songfest and concert with guest choirs and musicians, followed by a sumptuous 1940's themed dinner in the Parish Hall. Tell your family, friends and church and school alumni. We'll start taking reservations in May—Watch for more info in the May issue of this newsletter

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.

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 Board of Directors Chairman Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

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April 2025

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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>

8:30 a.m. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Holy Communion every first & third Sunday

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

Every Sunday