



# 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.*

August 2024    **Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – August 2024

## **Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity**

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Corinthians 9:15)! This is St. Paul’s exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church’s response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His request for support of the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God’s mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul’s call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians’ joy filled Jerusalem’s need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God’s generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross of us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord’s. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again, it isn’t. Stewardship is easy because it is God’s work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives, we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to use to love and to serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. This is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mind to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine Sonship, and eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes, He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It’s a place where God’s mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God’s mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor’s need because His joy filled our (Hebrews 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

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



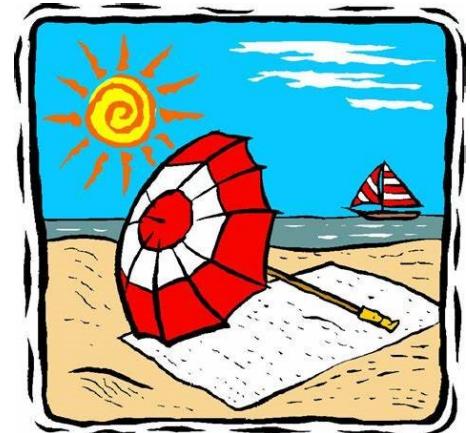
August 2024

**Ushers** Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

<b><u>Greeters:</u></b>	August 4	Connie Kean
	August 11	Patricia Caballero
	August 17	Norma Boehne
	August 25	Sharon Corey

**Readers:** August 4 and August 17 Richard Swanson  
August 11 and August 25 Christine Geltz

## Gatherings:



Load the Van to Friends in Deed, August 2, Friday at 8:00 a.m.

## Mission Development Team Meeting, August 6, Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

First Wednesday Soup and Sandwich, August 7, Wednesday at 12:00 noon

Volunteers at Friends in Deed, August 17, Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team – Intro to Watercolor painting, August 17, Saturday at 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Board of Directors' Meeting, August 18, Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

<u>Sunday Worship Times,</u>	August 4, 8:30 a.m.
	August 11, 8:30 a.m.
	August 17, 8:30 a.m.
	August 25, 8:30 a.m.

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

**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.**

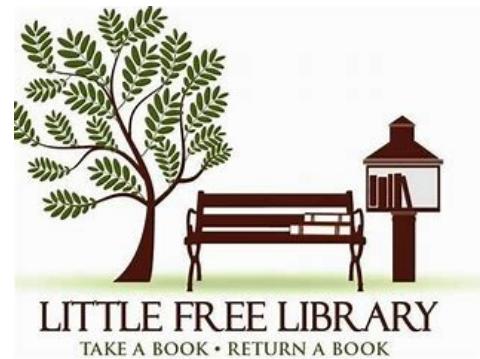
Not receiving email special announcements and/or prayer requests??

**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](mailto:admin@firstlutherantc.org), or call:(626) 287-0968 and leave a message if you prefer to have a hard copy mailed out to you.

**Pastoral Care:** Board of Directors' President, Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613.

## Little Free Library

A few days ago, I waved to one of the neighbors of First Lutheran of Temple City who was putting some books into our Little Free Library for the children. She delights in stopping at yard sales and then donating the books, she also sometimes participates in our neighborhood outreaches. Last Sunday, I drove into the church parking lot trying not to disturb a neighbor standing by our library and reading a book; I hope he took it home, or perhaps he is also one of the donors. Currently, there are plenty of children's books. You can give your donations to an usher, Jo Tschopp, or put them in the Little Library.



## Friends in Deed

First Lutheran of Temple City has some very dedicated grocery shoppers who enjoy buying food items for the Food Pantry at Friends in Deed. With the hot weather, cold cereal is a good choice for the pantry and also canned fruit. You can be creative as you visit your grocery store, and think of items that are appropriate and appreciated by economically challenged people during the hot months.

## Mission Development Team

The participants at the recent neighborhood "Paint Your Pet Portrait" were very excited about their painting experience with the instructor – Sally Weiss – who encouraged and guided the participants. Coming up on August 17, 2024 (Saturday) from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. is a water painting class taught by George Liang, where no experience is required. The cost for the class is \$25 which includes materials with a limit of 20 people. Register by August 15 to: [jtscchopp@firstlutherantc.org](mailto:jtscchopp@firstlutherantc.org).



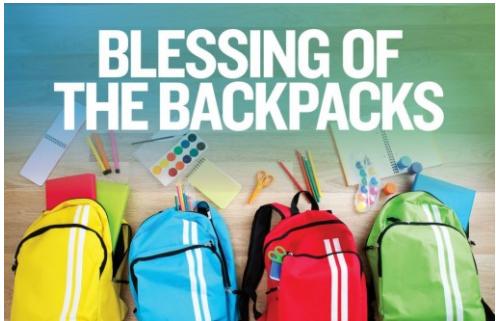
## Noon Soup and Sandwich

**Wednesday, August 7** – Pastor Dan Grabowski will be making a presentation about planning your End-of-Life memorial service.

**Wednesday, September 7** – Presentation by one of our mission projects representative, Lutheran Social Services of Southern California.

**Wednesday, October 2** – Presentation about guide, service and guard dogs. Invite your dog-loving friends and neighbors.

**Wednesday, November 6** – Presentation by a representative from "Friends In Deed".



## Sunday School Backpack Project

Our small class of Sunday School students are, again, sponsoring the gathering of school supplies for Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry. This is a project that they have undertaken for years. One of the teenagers is even bringing in his own money to contribute. Another student's mother has involved herself and a coworker to purchase supplies. You

also can participate by purchasing the items asked for or donating money. During the month of August, you can put the donations in the designated box by the front door of the church.

One of the most profound ways that this ministry is making a difference in the lives of children are the scholarships that are being provided for students to attend school. Some have now graduated from high school and are seeking further education. Pastor Ramon Contreras, a graduate of Concordia Irvine, has deep connections with many congregations in California and hosts mission trips to Mexico to build homes, and minister to the people. Check out their website: [Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry](http://LutheranBorderConcernsMinistry).

### Supplies requested are:

- 70 sheet spiral notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8x10 inches
- 30-centimeter rulers, or a ruler with centimeters on one side & inches on the other.
- blunt scissors
- pencils, no logos
- pencil sharpeners which capture the shavings
- erasers approximately 2 inches long
- black or blue ballpoint pens
- boxes of 16 or 24 crayons
- boxes of colored markers
- boxes of colored pencils

### Community Prayer Box

Please pray for our neighbors; many people in our area lack a basic knowledge of Jesus and God's love. Pray that First Lutheran of Temple City can minister and reach out.



### BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH



**Patricia Grabowski**

**August 3**

**Don Lammerts**

**August 15**

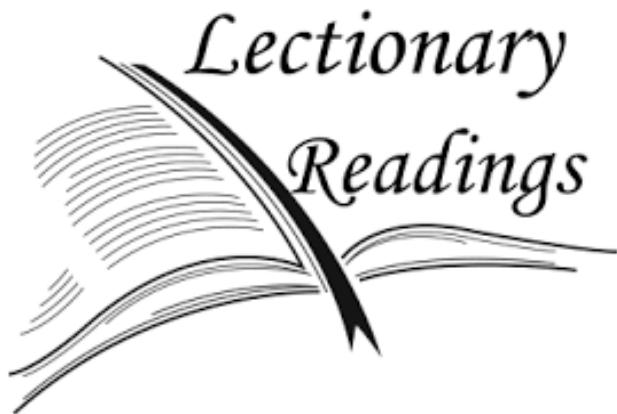
## Sunday Worship at Home

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 the sermon online by going to:**  
[https://firstlutherantc.org/Media.](https://firstlutherantc.org/Media)



## Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for August as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, and the Gospel during this long and green season of Pentecost:

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
August 4	Exodus 16:2–15	Psalm 145:10–21	Ephesians 4:1–16	John 6:22–35
August 11	1 Kings 19:1–8	Psalm 34:1–8	Ephesians 4:17—5:2	John 6:35–51
August 18	Joshua 24:1–2a, 14–18	Psalm 34:12–22	Ephesians 5:6–21	John 6:51–69
August 25	Isaiah 29:11–19	Psalm 14	Ephesians 5:22–33	Mark 7:1–13



## Save the Date! September 7, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

This is event is in appreciation of Christine Geltz's 50 years of Christian Music Ministry here at First Lutheran Church of Temple City. We look forward to you joining us as we pay our special tribute to this wonderful lady. Please note that registration is **required** to help us with the headcount for the dinner being served, and remember to include the total number of guest(s) that you will be bringing as well by indicating with the ticket number(s) at: <https://firstlutherantc.org/Events>.

(Scroll down the page and look for the event with the title: "*Christine Geltz's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*" if necessary, and click on that event name. Then, scroll down the screen and click on the button that says "Register Now." Enter the appropriate information listed on the screen. When done, click on the button that says "Submit".)

If you have any further questions, feel free to call the church at: (626) 287-0968 and leave a voicemail message, someone will call you back.



## LSSC News for Your Church

### Lutheran Pastors' Assistance Fund – Ministering to the Ministers of Gospel

For more than a dozen years, LSSC has been privileged to administer a fund to come alongside Lutheran pastors (or their widowed spouse) in times of financial crisis. A serious health or family issue, a costly repair or emergency can add financial strain to a person who has dedicated their life to the service of others.

If you are or know of a Lutheran Pastor (active or retired) or surviving spouse of a Lutheran Pastor who served in Southern California, **LSSSC may be able to grant a gift of funds to ease the burden.** All requests for assistance are kept in the strictest confidence. Depending on the specific need and availability of fund, gifts usually range from \$500 to over \$1,000. Please note that tuition assistance cannot be provided.



*Please also know that these funds are provided by generous supporters like you. Why not consider making a gift to this fund so it's there when a pastor you know and support needs help?*



Full information and online application are available at: [www.lssc.org/lutheran-pastors-fund/](http://www.lssc.org/lutheran-pastors-fund/). If you have any questions regarding either applying or donating to the fund, please contact Paul Fournier at: (714) 621-5845 or email at: [Paul.Fournier@lssc.org](mailto:Paul.Fournier@lssc.org).

## Save the Date – November 8 – “No Place Like Home



Friday – November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – at the beautiful and historic Mission Inn in Riverside, will be the time and place for 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?”

**Sponsorship opportunities are also available, providing excellent exposure for your business or ministry.** For sponsorship info, or 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@lssc.org](mailto:Paul.Fournier@lssc.org)

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**  
**DATED MATERIAL**

*August 2024*

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**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

Office Phone: (626) 287-0968

E-Mail : [admin@firstrlutherantc.org](mailto:admin@firstrlutherantc.org)

Website : <https://firstrlutherantc.org>

8:30 a.m. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Holy Communion every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays only

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

Every Sunday