



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 2025

Publication of First Lutheran Church, Temple City, CA

Pastor Frank Matthews is Named Our Vacancy Pastor

It's official! Pastor Frank, who has been helping us with Sunday worship services and Bible Class this spring, will now be our Vacancy Pastor until at least the end of this year. Besides leading Sunday worship services, he'll be teaching Bible Class on Sundays, visiting hospitalized and shut-in members, and attending meetings of the Board of Directors and Mission Development Team. He's especially interested in neighborhood outreach activities and ministry. Pastor Frank will also assist members and their families with baptisms, wedding, and funerals, and will oversee the office staff.



As we reported in May, Pastor Frank was born in Los Angeles and when he was five years old, his father passed away. When his mom remarried, the family moved to Pasadena. He graduated from Knoxville College in Knoxville, TN and has a master's degree from National University. Rev. Matthews was a licensed deacon at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Los Angeles and began serving Concordia Lutheran Church of Inglewood about 15 years ago when the Synod ended the licensed deacon program. He was ordained as a Special Ministries Pastor and served at Concordia until it closed earlier this year. After working as a mechanic for the City of Pasadena for 31 years, he feels he is where he belongs with people, doing what God has called him to do. He and his wife Kim Jackson-Matthews have three sons and two grandchildren.

Please pray for Pastor Frank's ministry here and warmly welcome him and Kim to our First Lutheran family!

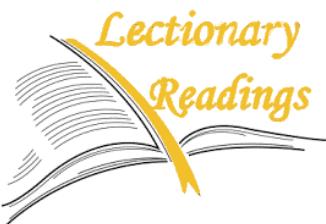
Latest Eaton Fire Update from Pastor Schaar at Historic First Lutheran

July 8, 2025: Today marks six months since the Eaton Fire tore through Altadena and Pasadena, California. A bittersweet milestone.

Since the Eaton Fire, we have collected \$188,591.50 (\$72,951.50 in cash donations and \$115,640.00 in grants and gift cards). We have distributed \$165,660.00 (\$131,800.00 in cash and \$33,860.00 in gift cards) to at least 60 distinct families. Distributions have greatly slowed over the past month as most people are now "settled" and in the "in-between" stage. Our Fire Relief Fund currently has a balance of \$50,915.80 to provide future financial support to our members as they start the rebuilding or permanent relocation process.

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These are the Lectionaries for the month of August.

	Old Testament	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
August 3	Eccl. 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-26	Psalm 100	Col. 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost			
August 10	Gen. 15:1-16	Psalm 33:12-22	Heb. 11:1-16	Luke 12:22-34 (35-40)
	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost			
August 17	Jer. 23:16-29	Psalm 119:81-88	Heb. 11:17-31 (32-40); 12:1-3	Luke 12:49-53 (54-56)
	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost			
August 24	Isaiah 66:18-23	Psalm 50:1-15	Heb. 12:4-24 (25-29)	Luke 13:22-30
	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost or			
	Prov. 3:1-8	Psalm 121	2 Cor. 4:7-10	Luke 22:24-30 or John 1:43-51
August 31	Prov. 25:2-10	Psalm 131	Heb. 13:1-17	Luke 14:1-14
	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost			

Worship Times & Leaders

Sunday, August 3, 8:30 a.m., Rev. Frank Matthews

Sunday, August 10, 8:30 a.m., Rev. Frank Matthews - Note: Worship in Fellowship Room

Sunday, August 17, 8:30 a.m., Rev. Frank Matthews

Sunday, August 24, 8:30 a.m., Rev. Frank Matthews

Sunday, August 31, 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: August 3 and 17: Richard Swanson August 31: Jo Tschopp

August 10 and 24: Christine Geltz

Greeters: August 3: Connie Kean August 24: Norma Boehne

August 10: Diane Oberlander August 31: Sharon Corey

August 17: Sharon Corey



Birthdays

8/3 Pat Grabowski 8/15 Don Lammerts

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>.

AUGUST

Events

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

August 1, Friday, at 8:00 a.m.
August 5, Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m.
August 6, Wednesday, at noon
August 16, Saturday, at 8:00 a.m.
August 24, Sunday, at 11:00 a.m.

News from Our Annual Voters Assembly Meeting on June 29

The Board of Directors has decided to sign an agreement making Pastor Frank Matthews our Vacancy Pastor. The agreement will start on August 1 and end on December 31, at which time it will be discussed and possibly renewed.

As of May 31, 2025 the balance of the budget is \$25,415.00 and all bills have been paid. Our renters have signed new agreements, including CalC's License Agreement for one year and Praise Christian Church's License Agreement for three years. Our property management Round Table reports that upcoming projects will include painting parts of the Parish Hall, installing new window coverings there, and re-sealing the parking lot, including placement of new parking lines. The Board of Directors continues to work toward repairing or replacing the stove in the Parish Hall kitchen.

Norma Boehne thanked the Nominating Committee and listed the slate of officer candidates for the coming fiscal year, which the voters then approved: Judy Gunther - Chairman; Norma Boehne - Vice Chairman; Vicki Trepanier - Secretary; Kathy Janetzke - Treasurer; Members at Large - Sharon Corey, Pat Grabowski, and Diane Oberlander.

Christine Geltz is putting together the last of the music details for the FLC 80th Anniversary Celebration on October 11. As soon as all is set, she'll mail the invitations. Please let her know of anyone you'd like to invite by telling her at church or emailing her at cgeltz@firstlutherantc.org.

Mission Development Team in Action



The Mission Development team members plan the Soup & Sandwich gatherings and other activities to engage our neighborhood and community (See page 5). You can join us by attending our next meeting August 5, 10:30 in the Fellowship Room. For more info, contact Jo Tschopp.

Latest News from Our Missionaries in Papua New Guinea: Q and A with Matt Terhune



The Terhune Family in Papua New Guinea. Matt and Emily serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Q How were you called to this ministry?

A To be honest, early in my life I never thought of myself as someone who could be a missionary even though I knew missions were important. I thought of it as for extra holy Christians or something (stupid in retrospect). The first time I really considered it was when I met my wife, who has always felt a strong call to the missions field. I started to think, “Could this be my calling, too?” I never had a moment of lightning inspiration or anything, but I realize that I was willing to go when most people weren’t, and I started to learn about the impact of Bible translation and got excited about what God is doing overseas. I also started to see how things had lined up to make this possible. In particular, I spent a long time looking for work as a teacher and was never able to find anything. Instead, I had an IT job basically handed to me. Later, when we were talking to Wycliffe, they had a big need for IT workers and I was like, “Oh, that’s why God did that...”

Q What's the biggest challenge in translating the Bible?

A I think the biggest challenge during the actual translation process is often the very different cultural contexts between the original scripture, the translator, and the culture being reached out to. There is a famous example of this from Don Richardson’s work with the Sawi people. As he was translating the Gospels, the Sawi were very interested in the story, but Don was dismayed to discover that they saw Judas as the hero! They had a cultural value of craftiness and betrayal as something to be admired. Even though they were understanding the literal meaning of the story, they were missing its message. There can also be challenges with the language itself. One African tribe has words for “life” and “death” that differ only by a slight inflection, which caused a lot of difficulty for one of Wycliffe’s translators.

So, Wycliffe has developed a “Culture Meets Scripture” class to meet these cultural challenges (See photo at right.). This involves telling a Bible story, teaching on the main points in the story, then having group discussions about how it relates to different cultural customs that the students want to discuss. At the end of the workshop, the students split up into groups and present on a custom in their province, what the Bible says about different aspects of this custom, and what action they would recommend in light of Biblical teaching.





Monthly Soup & Sandwich Luncheon

At noon on Wednesday, August 6, members of the Temple City Fire Department have promised to visit us and share information about fire safety in our homes. They will highlight the care and use of fire extinguishers and provide valuable information about emergencies.

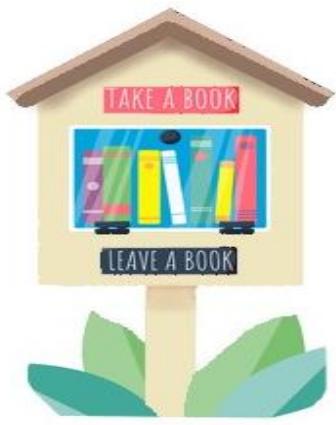
August 6 is also National Root Beer Float Day and National Wiggle Your Toes Day. In addition to soup and sandwiches, come ready to enjoy root beer floats and learn about the importance of wiggling your toes for foot health and relaxation.



Community Prayer Box Update

A recent prayer request from our Community Prayer Box on Broadway was from a woman wanting us to pray that God would provide a husband for her. God desires and listens to our prayers. Scripture clearly teaches that God commands us to pray and promises to hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ not merely to change us, but to cause God to act.

Jeremiah 33:3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you. And I will show you great and wonderful things which you do not know.'



New Selections in Our Little Free Library

Thanks to recent donations, our Little Free Library has some books for upper elementary and teen-agers. A Guide for Teens, "The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make" by Sean Covey, is a classic from 2006. There are light romances for adults and lots of children's books including "Johnny Appleseed." You can give your donations to the ushers, Jo Tschopp, or put them in the Little Free Library box on Broadway.



Bringing Summer Staples to the Hungry

Six hundred and forty pounds of shelf stable food for last month was recently taken to the Friends in Deed Food Pantry in Pasadena. The Pantry distributes food to over 600 households facing food insecurity. You can participate by bringing food items to church or to our events. Recently Beverly Tyre, a regular participant in our Soup & Sandwich luncheons, brought a bag of food items. Think summer: What food do you eat when the thermometer reaches the nineties and more? That would make a good choice to donate to the Pantry.

Who Wrote the Common Table Prayer?

By James R. Eggert, *The Lutheran Witness*, January 30, 2024

As Christians and especially as Lutherans, many of us pray the Common Table Prayer before meals. We learn it as children, pray it at our tables at home or in restaurants, and join in reciting it at communal meals. If we come from a German background, we may have heard it in the language of our grandparents or great-grandparents. Its wording varies somewhat from family to family, but typically we know it as one of these, in English or in German:



Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest; and let these gifts to us be blessed.
Komm, Herr Jesu; sei unser Gast; und segne, was du uns bescheret hast.

The Common Table Prayer, simple and succinct, invites Jesus to be with us in words accessible to children and still meaningful to adults. We know it is old, older than our own memory, older even than the people we remember from our childhood. But how old is it, and who wrote it? Though sometimes attributed to Martin Luther, the prayer is not found in any known work of the Reformation era.

New research has shown that the Common Table Prayer's earliest known publication was in 1698 in a schoolbook written in Leipzig by Johann Conrad Quensen, the son of a Lutheran pastor. The book was entitled *Neues und Nützliches SchulBuch Vor Die Jugend Biß ins zehente oder zwölffte Jahr* ("New and Useful Schoolbook for Youth up to the Tenth or Twelfth Year of Age").

Quensen's schoolbook enjoyed immediate international success and wide influence. This was in part because it treated four subjects (reading, religion, Latin and courtesy) in one volume that could save parents the cost and inconvenience of buying several smaller books. Its writing style and reliance on passages from the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism well suited the intended audience of younger Lutheran schoolchildren. Its broad distribution spread the prayer with it, initially through schools, then, as its original audience aged, through society more generally. Over the next half century, the prayer became known throughout German-speaking lands.

Our beloved Common Table Prayer was written as a prayer for children, its simple piety sufficient for the purpose of educating the young in a solidly Lutheran context, yet profound in its call for Christ's presence and blessings in our lives. And we can look back on at least 325 years of its history!

Jim Eggert is an elder at the Lutheran Church of the Savior in Bedford, Mass.

Editor's note: Here is the prayer in simplified Chinese and Spanish. Source: Google Translate

主耶稣·来吧·做我们的客人·愿你给我们的礼物受到祝福·

Ven Señor Jesús, sé nuestro huésped y deja que tus dones para nosotros sean bendecidos.

Eaton Fire Update from Pastor Schaar *Continued from page 1*

The Army Corps of Engineers has just about cleared all the residential properties of fire debris. Residents who chose not to use the Army Corps have a fast-approaching deadline to clear their properties using their own contractors. Once each lot is cleared, it is returned to the control of the property owner who then, with a clear soil test, may begin the rebuilding process. Many people are currently working with architects and several home rebuilds have already commenced.

We continue to be "boots on the ground" through the faithful ministry of Chaplain Ralph Buchhorn's Extra Mile Ministry and K-9 comfort dogs, Jelly Bean and M&M. Chaplain has found that Sunday afternoons are a great time for ministry, finding many people on their lots, praying or just remembering. He pulls up in his van, rolls down the windows so the dogs are visible and asks if this is their home. They often approach his van and he can then ask some questions, explain who he is and what he's doing, ask them if he can pray with them, and offer gift cards.

Back in April, StoryFind Films from Lincoln, Nebraska was on our church campus for a day of filming about fire relief efforts in Pasadena / Altadena and Pacific Palisades. You can see a link to the resulting 5-minute video they created on our church website: historicfirstlutheran.org.

Please rest assured that we are grateful for your love and support!
Pastor Christopher Schaar

Sharing the Light



Years of Ministry

First Lutheran Church of Temple City

Save the Date! October 11, 2025

Make plans to join us on Saturday, October 11 at 5:00 p.m. for a Christian music songfest concert, followed by a sumptuous 1940's themed dinner in the Parish Hall. Musical guests will include: Ray Hutchinson, Lisa Wall-Urgero, Foothill Academy of Vocal Arts Choir, Faith Lutheran Gospel Choir from Inglewood... and all of YOU singing along!

Tell your family, friends, and church and school alumni. We'll start taking reservations soon—Watch for your special Save the Date invitation in the mail!

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



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
9123 Broadway
Temple City, CA 91780

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL**

August 2025

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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**