



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.

December 2024 Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article –December 2024

Repenting of “Yours” and “Mine”

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely!

The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) highlights both this gift and our response.

*Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,
that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost*

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider “equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself” for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself.

*That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,”
assured that only what's withheld is lost.*

(Continued on the next page)

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is “mine!” But as Psalm 24:1 asserts, “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” There isn’t anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

We are led to repent of the “yours” and “mine” and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar in the Lord’s house.



– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



December 2024

Ushers Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

<u>Greeters:</u>	December 1	Connie Kean
	December 8	Patricia Caballero
	December 15	Norma Boehne
	December 22	Sharon Corey
	December 29	Connie Kean

<u>Readers:</u>	December 1, 8 & December 22	Christine Geltz
	December 15	Richard Swanson
	December 29	Jo Tschopp

Gatherings:

First Wednesday Soup and Sandwich, December 4, Wednesday at 12:00 noon

Load the Van to Friends in Deed, December 6, Friday at 8:00 a.m.

Volunteers at Friends in Deed, December 7, Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Board of Directors' Meeting, December 22, Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Midday service and cookie, December 24, Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.
with cookie sharing after the service

<u>Sunday Worship Times,</u>	December 1, 8:30 a.m.
	December 8, 8:30 a.m.
	December 15, 8:30 a.m.
	December 22, 8:30 a.m.
	December 29, 8:30 a.m.

<u>Sunday School Times,</u>	Every Sunday from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
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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 at: 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.



Friends in Deed

At our November Soup & Sandwich, Tim – the director of the Food Pantry spoke to us, providing much information while answering a multitude of interesting questions. Guests who attended that day contributed 54 pounds of shelf stable food. The event made Jo reflect back to Tim’s first visit with the church seven years ago. Jo decided to check the past records and found out that First Lutheran Church of Temple City

has donated 44,190 pounds of food to the Pantry from all these years. As Tim stated in an email, “The amount of support we have received from your church and congregation has been phenomenal.” Tim also praised the group of volunteers from First Lutheran Church of Temple City who work one Saturday a month. Friends In Deed Food Pantry gives us the opportunity to share our blessings with others.

Little Free Library

Some adult and children’s Christmas books have been added to our Little Free Library. A number of the new children’s books were purchased by Rachel Whitcher, who delights in choosing and buying classic children’s literature. If you have some favorite Christmas books you want to share with others, please either give them to Jo Tschopp, the ushers, or put them in the Little Free Library yourself. We thank Vicki Trepanier for repairing the vandalism damage that had, recently, occurred.



Mission Development Team

The team, recently, distributed flyers to our neighborhood with information about our Thanksgiving and Christmas worship opportunities. We, also,

highlighted the December 4th, Soup & Sandwich Christmas Carols activity with Christine Geltz – Music Minister.

We will be celebrating the Chinese New Year at the end of January 2025. Invite your friends and neighbors to this festive event.





Community Prayer Box

Christmas is particular difficult for some people. Please pray that people would come to know the true meaning of Christmas, and that people would seek God and His peace. Pray that Christians everywhere would grow strong in faith and commitment to Jesus and His ways.

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.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH

Birthdays



Dave Lassanske	December 11
Patricia Caballero	December 15
Eric Ambrust	December 20
Betty Nelson	December 24
Judy Gunther	December 28
Sharon Corey	December 28

Anniversary

Ian Evans & Vicki Trepanier
December 17





Celebrate the Christmas season with the voices and instruments of Concordia University Irvine. Concordia's annual Christmas concert tradition returns to the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. Concordia's critically acclaimed choirs, handbells, and orchestra celebrate the season of hope and the birth of the world's long-awaited Savior! This year showcases more than 200 performers from eight vocal and instrumental performing ensembles under the masterful direction of Dr. Michael Busch, Dr. Jeff Held, Dr. Clarissa Shan, and Alex Guebert.

Tickets start at \$22.60 and the performance date and times are: Sunday – December 15th at 4:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. (all sales over the phone have an extra 13% processing fee added, or you can arrive at the ***Ticket Box Office two hours ahead of the performance start time*** to purchase the ticket(s) in order to defray from paying the extra processing fee.)

Address: 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92626

Phone: Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(714) 556-2787

<https://www.scfta.org>

Handel's Messiah Advent Concert

Come and hear this wonderful performance of music from Pastor Albert Chai and his friend(s) at First Evangelical Church in Glendale on December 14th, 2024 – Saturday at 4:00 p.m. The details are listed at the bottom of this flyer in English.

迎接聖誕 韓德爾神劇

彌賽亞音樂會

HANDEL'S MESSIAH ADVENT CONCERT

DEC **14** SAT
4PM

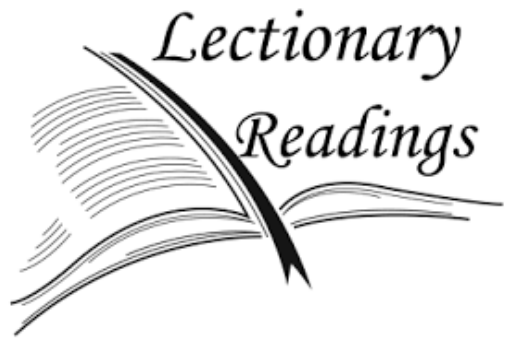
格蘭岱爾羅省基督教會

FIRST EVANGELICAL CHURCH GLENDALE

522 W BROADWAY, GLENDALE, CA 91204

韓德爾的《彌賽亞》是有史以來最偉大的神劇。全劇從舊約中彌賽亞降世救贖的預言，到新約主耶穌的出生、生活、受難、受死、復活及榮耀的再臨，把彌賽亞的救恩大光完美呈現出來。音樂會從下午4點開始，約1.5小時，隨後一起享用晚餐。敬請攜帶您的親友一同來參加，迎接聖誕。

Handel's Messiah is one of the greatest oratorios ever composed. The work spans the entire story of the Messiah, beginning with the Old Testament prophecies of His coming to bring salvation, and continuing through the birth, life, suffering, death, resurrection, and glorious return of Jesus Christ as told in the New Testament. The concert will begin at 4:00 PM and last approximately 90 minutes, followed by a dinner. We warmly invite you to bring your family and friends to join us in celebrating the Christmas season. For more information, please visit: www.fecg.org



Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for December as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, and the Gospel while we go through this Advent Season:

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
December 1	Jeremiah 33:14–16	Psalms 25:1–10	1 Thessalonians 3:9–13	Luke 21:25–36
December 8	Malachi 3:1–7b	Psalms 66:1–12	Philippians 1:2–11	Luke 3:1–20
December 15	Zephaniah 3:14–20	Psalms 85	Philippians 4:4–7	Luke 7:18–35
December 22	Micah 5:2–5a	Psalms 80:1–7	Hebrews 10:5–10	Luke 1:39–56
December 24 (<i>Christmas Eve</i>)	Isaiah 7:10–14	Psalms 110:1–4	1 John 4:7–16	Matthew 1:18–25
December 29	Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15	Psalms 111	Colossians 3:12–17	Luke 2:22–40



Lutheran Social Services of Southern California

Several months ago, at our Soup & Sandwich gathering, we learned about the Avanti Ministry for the disabled adults in Pasadena, sponsored by LSSSC. They have invited the church to their Holiday Performance on December 12th, 2024 – Thursday at 11:00 a.m. The event will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pasadena, CA. If you would like to attend, please let Jo Tschopp know as she has room in her van for carpooling and can provide more information.



Gratitude in the Season of Giving

AS WE ENTER THE BUSY HOLIDAY

SEASON of giving, I am filled with immense gratitude for each of our supporters. Your dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to LSSSC's mission are truly inspiring. Today, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks and share some thoughts on the spirit of service that defines our organization.

In Colossians 3:12-15, we are reminded to "clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another... And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." These words resonate deeply with the mission of LSSSC. They remind us that our actions, no matter how small, are woven together by love and a shared purpose.

I am continually inspired by the stories I hear from our clients, staff, and partners in the community. Stories of transformation, resilience, and hope. These stories are a testament to the incredible impact of your generous support. They remind us that our efforts are not in vain and that together we are making a real difference in the world.

As we move forward, let's face each challenge as an opportunity to embrace our neighbors in need and equip and empower them toward self-sufficiency. Most importantly, let's never lose sight of the reason we do what we do – to serve others with love and compassion.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude once again. Thank you for your generous support, your dedication, and your unwavering spirit of service. Together, we are making a difference, one act of kindness at a time.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith, PhD.

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President and Chief Executive Officer

LP encourages others facing hardship to stay patient and trust in the program. "The 90 days I spent at LSSSC saved my life. If you're struggling, stick with it. You'll find shelter, food, and support. Just work with the program, and it can transform your life." Because of the dedication of donors like you, we are able to provide the support that people like LP need to transform their lives.



Deborah, Loretta, and Josie,
SCSEP Participants

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

December 2024

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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 1st & 3rd Sundays only

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

Every Sunday