



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.

February 2025 Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

How Can We Help the L.A. Wildfire Victims? “Pray, Donate and Love,” says the Pacific Southwest District – LCMS



From the District Website:

So many of you may be wondering how you can best help the victims of these terrible fires. Our eagerness to serve and help those affected is part of loving our neighbor. It's important, however, to give the "right" help at the right time as expressed by the victims, not what we may assume they need. The most effective ways to help right now are:

Pray – Continue to lift up the victims, first responders, communities and all of us in prayer as we experience this significant disaster. This includes praying that we recognize the opportunities we have to share the light and love of Jesus to so many in need. Following is a prayer you can offer:

Lord, we lift up our eyes to the hills and see danger, threat, and fire. We ask with the Psalmist, “Where does our help come from?” It comes, as it always has and always will, from You Lord, the maker of heaven and earth! Give Your help, that is Your strength and support, to all those in need. Comfort those grieving loss, whether of life, home, or security. Send helpers into their lives to meet their immediate needs and to bear witness to Your love. Provide hope in the midst of grief, as only

You can, because You are near with everlasting life and security that can never be taken away. Guide us to reach out to our neighbors with the grace and mercy of Christ. Enable us to listen and serve in the most helpful ways. Work in the lives of those who don’t yet believe with the gift of faith. Lord, throughout it all, assure us by Your death and resurrection that You overcome all things and redeem them for Your good purpose. Watch over our going out and coming in now and forever. In the name of our eternal help, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Donate – Victims have a significant immediate need for financial resources to purchase basic items, pay for hotel stays, pay for meals, etc. The PSD has a standing fund which you can donate funds to for this purpose. All of the funds donated to Emergency Relief will be used to support the congregations, schools, and individuals affected by the fires. Any excess funds will be saved for future emergency/disaster relief.

Checks can be sent to:

Pacific Southwest District – LCMS, 16355 Laguna Canyon Rd. #300, Irvine, CA, 92618
On the memo line of your check, please write: SoCal Wildfire Relief

Online donations can be made at:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=NTD5GXKZXALL

Update: Since the fires spread on Jan. 8, the PSD has received almost \$300,000 in donations for disaster relief. We praise God for your generosity and eagerness to help those in need! Your donations continue to fund Visa gift cards that are distributed to those impacted through the local congregations. More than \$23,000 has now been distributed to help victims purchase essentials and pay for gas, housing, etc. Your donations will also provide larger grants enabling families to pay for temporary housing and related expenses. The need is just beginning and will last for months if not years. Please give as you are able.

Love - Be the hands and feet of Jesus as you care spiritually for those you may come in contact with that are affected by this disaster, and even those who may not be in the immediate area but are traumatized. This especially applies to active, caring listening as they share their trauma and needs.

Were Any Pacific Southwest District Churches Damaged in the Fires?

Historic First Lutheran - Pasadena, CA

Six members had total losses and six more in the greater faith community (former members and immediate family) had total losses. A former school student died in her home (cause of death was burns and smoke inhalation). More than \$9,000 in gift cards have been distributed to members and community. Comfort dogs will be present every Sunday for the foreseeable future. Price gouging on rents continues, including \$3,000 rental units now suddenly priced substantially more, despite orders from the Governor.

Palisades Lutheran Church - Pacific Palisades, CA

The church building is still standing, but Palisades Lutheran Church is estimated to be shut down for at least 6 months. The parsonage is unlivable, and no one is allowed back to the church. Prayers have been answered as a place to worship has been offered free of charge! On Sunday, February 2, at 10 a.m., Palisades Lutheran Church will be worshiping at Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy, Santa Monica, CA 90402. At least 85% of our members are displaced and have dispersed to shelters, hotels, apartments, or friends and family. Fixed costs must still be paid. We need to cover short-term housing for the church workers and members. Please see www.plc.cc for more info on how to give.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church/Pacifica Christian High School - Santa Monica, CA

About 20 Pacifica Christian H.S. student families have lost homes. Gift cards continue to be distributed and are much appreciated.

First Lutheran Church - Venice, CA

One member has lost their home.



First Lutheran Temple City Answers This Call

Update from the January 26 First Lutheran Voters Meeting: Our congregation currently tithes 10% of its income to the District, and at the January 26 meeting, members voted to increase that giving to 11% starting this year, with the extra 1% designated for disaster relief.

Grants Available to Fire Victims

The Orphan Grain Train (a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod) is making available a limited number of \$1,000 grants to people who have lost either their home or their business in the Los Angeles fires. The only stipulation is that an individual or family needs to be involved in some way with a Christian church or ministry. To apply for a grant, please contact Pastor Kenneth Frese at: (310) 740-5050 or kenfrese@gmail.com.

February

February 2025

Ushers Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Greeters: February 2 Connie Kean
February 9 Pat Caballero
February 16 Sharon Corey
February 23 Norma Boehne

Readers: February 2 and February 16 Richard Swanson
February 9 and February 23 Christine Geltz

Gatherings:

Volunteers at Friends in Deed in Pasadena CA, February 1, Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team Meeting, February 4, Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

First Wednesday Soup and Sandwich, February 5, Wednesday from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Load the Van to Friends in Deed, February 7, Friday at 8:30 a.m.

Board of Directors' meeting, February 9, Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team Blood Drive, February 15, Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

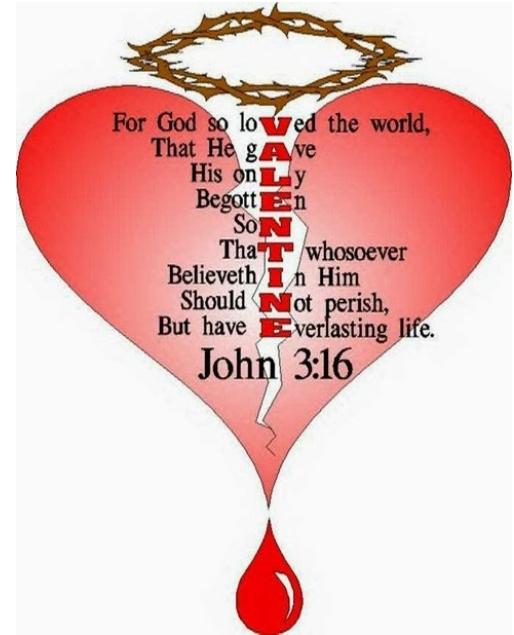
Sunday Worship Times, February 2, 8:30 a.m.
February 9, 8:30 a.m.
February 16, 8:30 a.m.
February 23, 8:30 a.m.

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

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

Electronic Newsletter: If you are currently not receiving the newsletter by email and would like to be included, please share your email address with the Newsletter Editor at: cgeltz@firstlutherantc.org.

Printed Newsletter: If you prefer to have a hard copy mailed to you, please call: (626) 287-0968 and leave a message for the Church Administrator (Elizabeth Yu).
Pastoral Care: Please contact Board of Directors' Chairman, Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613.





Friends in Deed

The Food Pantry provides food assistance to low-income and no-income families in the greater Pasadena and Altadena areas.

They are currently providing food to over 600 households per week, totaling approximately 1,225 people. This dynamic and compassion-driven program is the largest at Friends In Deed. Their Food Pantry is set up like a neighborhood market where the community members can come in and select their own groceries. In addition to providing shelf stable foods like canned goods, dry goods, juice, and cereal, one of their goals is to provide meat & protein, fresh fruits & vegetables, and foods that appeal to the diverse population in our community. When available, the pantry also offers toiletries, diapers & formula, and pet food. Consider donating canned tuna/chicken, hearty soups, beef stew, chili, pasta & pasta sauce, peanut butter, cereal, rice, cooking oil, flour, sugar, shelf stable fruit juices, powdered or shelf stable milk, granola bars, and canned fruits & vegetables. For more information, please consult with either Jo Tschopp or Dave Lassanske.



IN A TIME OF NEED, FAMILIES TURN TO FRIENDS IN DEED

Update from the January 26th, 2025 FLC Voters Meeting

At the Voters Meeting on January 26th, our members voted to share a pastor with another congregation and to seek guidance from the PSD District Office on moving forward with this.

Mission Development Team

The Mission Development Team invites everyone to enjoy a Soup and Sandwich luncheon the first Wednesday of every month at noon in the Fellowship Room. There is usually a presentation during the luncheons, as well. On Saturday, February 15th, the Mission Development Team will also host a Blood Drive in the Parish Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come give blood and bring a friend!



On January 25th, 2025 – Saturday, the Chinese New Year Celebration event was well attended. The girls from the Shin Dance Academy danced

beautifully, even the rain did not stop the show from going on! Thank you to Pastor Albert Chai in helping with the opening, as well.





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 sermons online by going to: <https://firstlutherante.org/Media>.



Little Free Library

We thank the First Lutheran volunteers and members of the community for donating quality, family-friendly books to our neighbors. If you have any more that you wish to donate, please either give them to one of the ushers or you may place the book(s) in the Little Free Library yourself.

Community Prayer Box

We continue to monitor our Community Prayer Box. We check it regularly, and consider it a privilege to be able to pray for those in need. Please contact Jo Tschopp for more information at: (626) 256-8333.



“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”

1 Timothy 1:1-2

Birthdays & Anniversary this month



Birthdays

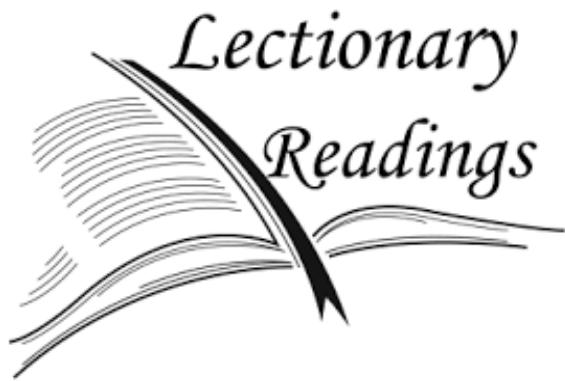
Tom Grabowski
Connie Kean

February 12
February 27



Anniversary

Tom & Pat Grabowski February 22



Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for February as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, and the Gospel:

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
February 2	1 Samuel 1:21–28	Psalm 84	Hebrews 2:14–18	Luke 2:22–40
February 9	Isaiah 6:1–13	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 14:12b–20	
February 16	Jeremiah 17:5–8	Psalm 1	Luke 5:1–11	
February 23	Genesis 45:3–15	Psalm 103:1–13	1 Corinthians 15:1–20	Luke 6:17–26
			1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42	Luke 6:27–38



American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive First Lutheran Church

Parish Hall
9123 Broadway Avenue
Temple City, CA 91780

Saturday, February 15, 2025
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass

Create a flurry of hope! Come give blood Jan. 27 to Feb. 28
for a \$15 e gift card rcblood/flurry



Scan to schedule
an appointment

Did You Know?

- The Red Cross provides about 40% of our nation's blood and blood components, all from generous volunteer donors. But supply can't always meet demand because only about 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly. Each new donor helps us meet patient needs.
- Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood and/or platelets.
- One donation can save more than one life.
- A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood.
- The average red blood cell transfusion can require up to 100 units of blood.
- Approximately 29,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S.
- According to the American Cancer Society, more than 1.9 million people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer this year. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL

February 2025

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

Office Phone: (626) 287-0968

E-Mail : admin@firstrlutherantc.org

Website : <https://firstrlutherantc.org>

8:30 a.m. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Holy Communion every 1st & 3rd Sundays only

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

Every Sunday