



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 2026

Publication of First Lutheran Church, Temple City, CA

From the Pastor's Desk

February is an interesting month. We honor African Americans and we celebrate love. It's also the shortest month in the year with only 28 or 29 days. One of those days celebrates the life of a Christian martyr and the month salutes the lives and deaths of men and women that helped build this country but got little or no recognition... and yet God in His infinite wisdom continues to live in all of us. Let us show that love to those around us because we are all more alike than unlike. Love one another as God has loved you.

Pastor Frank Matthews



Matters of the Heart

by Rev. Dr. Jerry Kieschnick, Past President, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

In the context of Ash Wednesday, we see that God's treasure and heart . . . are in the same place.

There are two observances this month that may seem to have little to do with each other, but they do, in fact, have something in common. Both deal with matters of the heart.

February 14, of course, is St. Valentine's Day. It probably should be Saints Valentine—plural—though, because the Roman Catholic Church recognizes a number of saints with that name. Two or three of them (depending on your source) are associated with February 14. What they have in common is that all of them were martyred.

Sending cards, candy, or flowers to your spouse or sweetheart—I'm assuming they are the same person if you are married—doesn't seem to have much to do with any of these saints. According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, these secular customs have more to do with the time of year during which Valentine's Day is observed. It seems that in England and France during the Middle Ages, there was the belief that halfway through the second month of the year, birds began to seek their mates. So, February 14, St. Valentine's Day, began to be seen as having some special meaning for lovers.

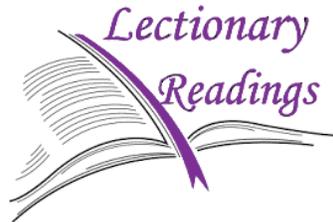
Even this explanation for associating St. Valentine's Day with love and lovers is challenged by some scholars. But it's clear that this holiday is culturally significant in the United States and elsewhere. An estimated 1 billion valentine cards are sent each year. One source says some 85 percent of them are purchased by women! I don't know if this is true, but in any case . . . men, hello!

Also observed this month—on the 17th—is Ash Wednesday. This is a day, too, on which matters of the heart are very important to believers in Christ. In this case, though, it is God's heart about which we speak.

Continued on page 6

Love one another,
for love comes
from **God**.

1 John 4:7



These are the Lectionaries for the month of February.

	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
<u>February 1</u> Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Cor. 1:18-31	Matt. 5:1-12
<u>February 8</u> Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 58:3-9a	Psalm 112:1-9	1 Cor.2:1-12	Matt. 5:13-20
<u>February 15</u> The Transfiguration of Our Lord	Ex. 248-18	Psalm 2:6-12	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matt. 17:1-9
<u>February 18</u> Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12-19	Psalm 51:1-13	2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10	Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
<u>February 22</u> First Sunday in Lent	Gen. 3:1-21	Psalm 32:1-7	Rom. 5:12-19	Matt. 4:1-11



Worship Leader and Dates

Rev. Frank Matthews:
Sundays, February 1, 8, 15, 22

Sunday School Time:

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

Birthdays

Tom Grabowski, February 12
Connie Kean, February 27

Anniversary

Tom & Pat Grabowski, February 22

Ushers: Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Readers: February 1 and 15: Richard Swanson
February 8 and 22: Christine Geltz

Greeters: February 1: Connie Kean
February 8: Diane Oberlander
February 15: Sharon Corey
February 22: Norma Boehne

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>.

FEBRUARY

Events

Mission Development Team Meeting
Load the Van to Friends in Deed
Monthly Soup & Sandwich Luncheon

Friends and Family Sunday

Chinese New Year Celebration
Board of Directors' Meeting

Ash Wednesday Worship

Volunteers at Friends in Deed in Pasadena

February 3, Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m.

February 6, Friday, at 8:00 a.m.

February 6, **Friday**, at noon

February 8, Sunday, at 8:30 a.m.

February 14, Saturday, at 5:00 p.m.

February 15, Sunday, at 11:00 a.m.

February 18, Noon, followed by lunch

February 28, Saturday, at 8:00 a.m.

FLC Celebrates Friends & Family Sunday on February 8

*Invite your friends and family for worship at 8:30 a.m.
followed by coffee and refreshments!*

Here's your chance to reach out to your neighbors, friends and family and invite them to get to know our pastor, church family and campus. Help them discover what makes our church home so special. Pastor Matthews has a service planned around that theme and afterward we'll enjoy a welcoming coffee time with goodies.



News from the Mission Development Team

Need Help with Your Technology?

Have you ever had a question about how to get your cell phone, iPad, Chrome Book, Laptop, etc. to do something? Foothill Prep students and their teacher have begun providing free help with technology. Bring your devices such as smart phone, laptop, Chrome Book etc. You will be amazed at the knowledge and expertise these teenagers possess and are willing to share their skills. These sessions are open to the community and the church. Please RSVP to Pat Grabowski 626 285-2943. Bring your questions and your device to the Fellowship Room on these Fridays beginning at 2:30 p.m. : February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6, 13, 27.

Soup & Sandwich Luncheons - First **FRIDAY** of the Month

Please note the change of days: Rather than on the first Wednesday of the month, we will gather on the first Friday of each month.

Friday, February 6 Luncheon: We will be celebrating Black History Month and learning about Dr. Rosa Young, who with her efforts, founded 30 elementary schools and 35 Lutheran congregations in Alabama's Black Belt. In 1961 Young was awarded an honorary doctorate by Concordia Theological Seminary. She was both the first woman and the first African-American to be honored in this way by the Lutheran Church.

Friday, March 6 Luncheon: Celebrating World Wildlife Day, we will welcome a return visit of naturalists and animals from Whittier Narrows Nature Center.

Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will engage neighbors and friends on March 28.



**Celebrate the Year of the Horse
with Dance and a Traditional Meal
Saturday, February 14, 5:00 p.m.**



To help us celebrate Chinese New Year we will again host Shin Dance Academy students. The students perform traditional and contemporary dances. Their routines and costumes are amazing. You will also want to enjoy the traditional meal served that evening.

Report from the Board of Directors Meeting, January 18

The treasurer reported that all 2025 bills are paid and the board accepted the 2026 budget as presented. A motion was made and passed to extend the Vacancy Pastor Agreement with Pastor Frank for the next year. The motion passed and the agreement was signed. The pastor encouraged the board members to invite friends and family members to Friends and Family Sunday on February 8.

The annual contract for 2026 with Ryan Bushore, our Property Manager, was signed and renewed. Ash Wednesday service will be on February 18 at noon followed by lunch. Good Friday service will be held on April 3 at noon in the Fellowship Room without lunch.

News from our Voters Assembly Meeting on January 25

Mission Development Report: Jo gave highlights of monthly activities for the year 2025. This Mission group was established exactly 5 years ago. She listed several activities that will be happening this coming year. The monthly Soup & Sandwich meal on the first Wednesday of the month will be moving to the First Friday of the month starting in February. The newest venture is Tech Help given by students of Foothill Prep. People can meet on Fridays and receive help with problems concerning their personal phones, tablets, or other electronic devices

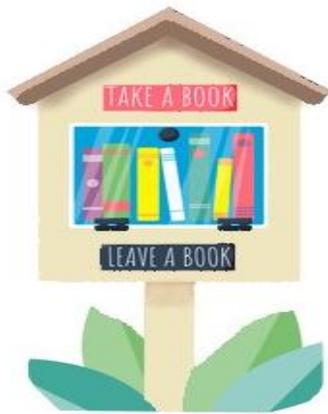
Treasurer's Report: As of December 31, 2025 all bills have been paid. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2026 Budget as presented and the motion passed. Our Property Round Table list of items that were repaired or replaced during the year 2025 was presented.



Community Prayer Box Update

By Jo Tschopp

As I reviewed the 22 prayer requests that were left in our Community Prayer Box I was over-whelmed with the magnitude and pathos of the requests. Sickness, conflict in families and relationships, lack of financial resources, desire for better jobs, prayers for our nation, mental illness; our neighbors are hurting! Please pray that people would find comfort and support from a Christian church and realize that God's love and care extends to all.



New Selections in Our Little Free Library

We still have some Louis L'Amour western novels in our library. February is the month for love and romance. We just received three contemporary cowboy romance novels. There are also several historical romance books. Soon to be included will be Valentine stories for children. Let's not forget the best book about love. Someone left a large print English Standard Bible in good condition. It is said that when you open a Bible, God speaks.



In 2025, FLCTC Donated More Than Two Tons!

Well done, good and faithful servants!

More than 5000 pounds of shelf stable food was donated in 2025 to the food pantry at Friends in Deed by First Lutheran members and friends. That is more than two tons! A special thanks to the people who donate food items monthly and to those who donate their time one Saturday a month. The need is great, and we will continue to support this community outreach in Pasadena.

When I shop it is very easy for me to add items to my shopping cart. January is a great time to check your pantry shelves. Challenge yourself to "eat down your pantry." That means you check your food items for expiration and "best by" dates. Are there canned goods that are languishing in your cupboard, perhaps forlorn and forgotten? Don't let them become ineligible for Friends in Deed, donate them before they expire.

Matters of the Heart *Continued from page 1*

The date for Ash Wednesday is determined by the date of Easter, which this year is April 5. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, which lasts 46 days if Sundays are counted. But we don't count the Sundays, because Sunday is celebrated as the day of Christ's resurrection. That leaves Lent with 40 days, a reminder of the 40 days our Lord spent in the wilderness, where He was tempted by Satan.

More and more Lutheran congregations include the imposition of ashes, an outward sign of inward penitence, during the Ash Wednesday worship service. Generally, the pastor applies the ashes with his thumb to the forehead of each worshiper, making the sign of the cross as he does and saying these words: "Remember: you are dust, and to dust you shall return."



Jesus said that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:21)*. This is true on many levels. We spend money on those who are the objects of our "valentine love." Cards, flowers, or other gifts express our love for sweethearts and spouses, children, and parents. In the context of Ash Wednesday, we see that God's treasure and heart also are in the same place. Out of love, He gave everything for us so that we might have everything, including His forgiveness of sins and eternal life with Him. There can be no more profound matter of the heart than this! *Excerpted from Lutheran Witness Magazine, Feb. 2010*

Work Completed on New Testament Translation

Emily Terhune passed along some great news from one of her and Matt's team members in Papua New Guinea: Matt Thomas reported, "This past Sunday afternoon we 'village checked' the last verse of the last chapter of the last book of the Nukna New Testament. I couldn't begin to add up the innumerable hours I've spent with these wonderful people, weighing and evaluating each verse of the New Testament... all hoping that God's Word would come alive in the hearts and minds of the Nukna people."



Matt Taylor (back row, just right of center) with village members helping to finish translation of the New Testament in the Nukna language.

Emily also writes: "Please pray for health and full recovery for our family after a long bout with Influenza. Please also pray for my friend and me as we continue to do weekly outreach with people waiting to be seen at our clinic here. We share the Gospel, tell and then teach on a Bible story, and pray wherever we go. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would be working during these times. Thank you!!" [**Through our tithe and prayers, our congregation supports missionaries Matt & Emily Terhune's work in Papua New Guinea with Wycliffe Bible Translators.*]

Please Remember These People in Your Prayers

- Tom Grabowski, for healing and patience as he recovers from hip replacement surgery and Pat Grabowski as she cares for him while dealing with her own physical challenges.
- Judy Gunther as she recovers at home after a fall, broken hip, and surgery.
- Perry Singleton, Jan and Keith Edmunds; More prayers for Pastor Frank Matthews' friends and cousin as they continue to deal with many health issues.
- Rachel Whitcher: Rachel shares a prayer of thanks that her broken wrist has healed and she is back to her regular activities.

NFL Athlete Bo Nix and His Witness to Christ

In one of the wildest football games in recent memory, the Denver Broncos scored all 33 of their points in the fourth quarter to come from behind and defeat the New York Giants, 33-32, on October 19. In his postgame press conference, Broncos quarterback Bo Nix was asked what was going through his mind as Will Lutz's final kick went through the uprights [for the go ahead points].

"A lot," Nix said. "Thank You, Lord, for putting me in this position, choosing me to be the quarterback of this team, and giving us the opportunity to win a game like that..."

Throughout his time in the national spotlight as a college football and NFL star, Nix has stayed grounded by his faith in Christ. During games, the 25-year-old wears tape on his left wrist with a cross drawn on it, as well as a blue and orange bracelet that cites the Bible verse Romans 10:10. His right thigh pad also displays a cross.



Bo Nix wearing a cross on his left wristband during a recent game broadcast.

In his Instagram bio, Nix writes that "Jesus saves" and cites his favorite Bible verse, Colossians 3:23. When the COVID pandemic descended on the world, Nix posted on Instagram about why he displays a cross during games. "The cross I wear on my wrist symbolizes where I find my true joy," he captioned his post in part. "It doesn't come from success on or off the field. It comes from the good news of Jesus Christ and actively pursuing a relationship with Him. He achieved the ultimate victory when He was crucified on the cross for the sins of every person on earth and then rose from the grave after three days."

"In a time filled with uncertainty, chaos, and distraction," he continued, "it is as important as ever to lean on the cross. What better time than now to make a decision to put your trust in Him?"

Excerpted from "QB Bo Nix leads Denver Broncos to Incredible 4th-quarter Comeback: 'Thank You, Lord'" by Kevin Mercer, Sports Spectrum, October 20, 2025 - sportsspectrum.com "Where Sports and Faith Connect" Photo copyright: athlonsports.com

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 Kathy Janetzke at (626) 437-2509.

Pastoral Care: Please contact Pastor Frank Matthews at (213) 247-8838 or no1redder@gmail.com.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
9123 Broadway
Temple City, CA 91780

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL**

February 2026

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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