



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.

January 2025 Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – January 2025

Repenting of “Feasts that Know No Fast”

Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air into the lives of the people we know and love. This is not a meteorological statement either. While it is true that January is one of the colder months for those in North America, the cold front blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December’s celebration, it really puts a damper on things. Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunkered down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (*LSB* 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense.

“*Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast ...*” This hits us hard, doesn’t it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ. “*For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul ...*” In “The Parable of the Sower,” we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure and do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that starve the soul.

JANUARY

January 2025

Ushers Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Greeters: January 5
January 12
January 19
January 26

Connie Kean
Pat Caballero
Sharon Corey
Norma Boehne

Readers: January 5 and January 19
January 12 and January 26

Richard Swanson
Christine Geltz

Gatherings:

Load the Van to Friends in Deed, January 3, Friday at 8:30 a.m.

Volunteers at Friends in Deed in Pasadena CA, January 4, Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team Meeting, January 6, Monday at 10:30 a.m.

First Wednesday Soup and Sandwich, January 8, Wednesday from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Board of Directors' meeting, January 19, Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team's Chinese New Year, January 25, Saturday from 5:00 p.m.

Annual Voters' Meeting, January 26, Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Times,

January 5, 8:30 a.m.
January 12, 8:30 a.m.
January 19, 8:30 a.m.
January 26, 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 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' Chairman, Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613.



Friends in Deed

This non-profit organization has been a staple in the Pasadena community for over 50 years. The Pantry provides food to those in need, serving over 600 households each week. Friends In Deed offers a variety of perishable and non-perishable foods for the community to choose from. Currently, the most needed items are: canned tuna & chicken, cereal, peanut butter, rice, hearty soups, stew, chili, pasta & pasta sauce, oil, sugar, flour, shelf stable juices, and plant-based products. For more information about this ministry, please talk to either Jo Tschopp or Dave Lassanske.

Mission Development Team

The Mission Development Team continues to sponsor the first Wednesday of each month's Soup and Sandwich luncheon. Join us in celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year on January 25th, 2025 (Saturday) starting at 5:00 p.m. There will, again, be Chinese Dance from the Dance Academy along with a dumpling meal in the Parish Hall. Invite your friends and family in participating this festive event. Our next meeting will be on January 6th, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

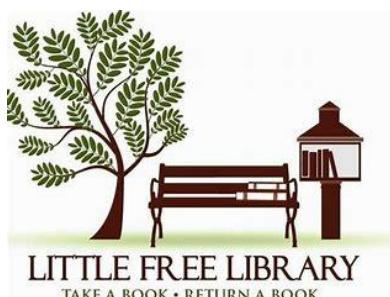
Sunday Worship at Home

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://firstlutherantc.org/Media>.**



Little Free Library

We thank the volunteers for donating quality books to our neighbors. It is wonderful to see a father and daughter at one point searching for books to read besides others who would pass by. There are many books to choose from. If you have any more that you wish to donate, please either give them to one of the ushers or you may even choose to place the book(s) in the Little Free Library

yourself. But, please refrain from donating any Romance novels and/or magazines, and keep in mind that the books should be family-oriented. Thank you again.

Community Prayer Box

We continue to monitor our Community Prayer Box. It is checked regularly, and we 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, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quite life, godly and dignified in every way.” 1 Timothy 1:1-2



Update on prayer request

From the daughter of Betty Nelson – Nancy Reese: “First Lutheran Church of Temple City has been important for Betty for many years, and many of you are her friends. Betty has had full time care at home since her stroke in August 2022. She is ‘stable’, but with progressive dementia and heart failure. She communicates with a smile, nod of her head, and occasional words. She enjoys going outside in her wheelchair and watching a little TV in the living room. She cannot swallow or move her arms, so she has a feeding tube in her stomach. She is still able to enjoy greeting cards. Thank you for loving her and keeping her in your prayers.”

Birthdays and Anniversary this month



ANNIVERSARY

John & Linda Daly

January 23

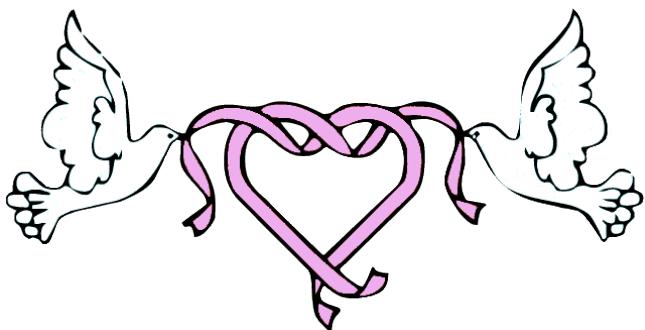
BIRTHDAYS:

Rachel Whitcher

January 8

John Daly

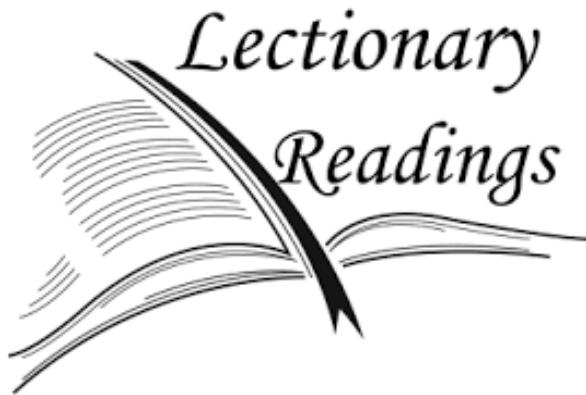
January 9



Foothill Preparatory High School Christmas luncheon

On December 20th, 2024 – Friday, some of the church members participated in this wonderful event. Lily Liu, Steven Gee, and Richard Swanson provided all the appetizers and entrees! Vicki Trepanier provided all of the desserts! There were several piano performances from the students, along with school's Music teacher who provided wonderful music during the luncheon. Elizabeth Yu (the Church Administrator) also organized a mini raffle for the church members. Congratulations to the winners: Marta, Connie (Kean), and Pat (Grabowski)!





Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for January as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, and the Gospel during the Epiphany season and the Baptism of our Lord:

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
January 5	Isaiah 60:1–6 <i>(Epiphany observed)</i>	Psalm 72:1–11	Ephesians 3:1–12	Matthew 2:1–12
January 12	Isaiah 43:1–7 <i>(The Baptism of our Lord)</i>	Psalm 29	Romans 6:1–11	Luke 3:15–22
January 19	Isaiah 62:1–5	Psalm 128	1 Corinthians 12:1–11 John 2:1–11	
January 26	Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10	Psalm 19:7–14	1 Corinthians 12:12–31a Luke 4:16–30	

JUST A REMINDER.... An important decision will be made at the January 26th, 2025 meeting following the worship service. What direction will we take concerning the future of First Lutheran of Temple City? Pastor Jim Henkel will again join us for any questions or concerns we may have and then a consensus will be taken. There will not be an Adult Bible Study on that Sunday. We will also include a short Voters' meeting (see next paragraph). Please be there to express your thoughts.

Annual Voters' Meeting

The annual meeting of the Voters' Assembly shall take place on January 26th, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. Lunch shall be provided afterwards. One of the items on the agenda for discussion shall be the Budget for 2025. Come and make your voice count.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA – PASADENA SERVICES

- **COMMUNITY INTEGRATION TRAINING (CIT)** – Our passionate and caring team support individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in developing independent living skills to integrate more fully within their communities.
- **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** – Staff provide transportation services to ensure participants served are transferred safely to and from their responsive residences to participate in the Community Integration Training.
- **OTHER SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES** –
 - Workshops: music therapy, self-care, cooking art, and Bible Study.
 - Outings: Museums, movie theaters, historical sites, beaches, restaurants, and stores.
 - Education: American Sign Language, Vocations, Money Management, and Math.
 - Daily Exercise programs
 - Dedicated Community Integrated Specialists at one-to-two and one-to-three ratios.

CONTACT INFORMATION

60 North Daisy Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91107
(626) 564-0191

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL

January 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