



# 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.*

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May 2024   *Publication of*   FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.



# May 2024

Ushers Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

<u>Greeters:</u>	May 5	Connie Kean
	May 12	Patricia Caballero
	May 19	Norma Boehne
	May 26	Sharon Corey

<u>Readers:</u>	May 5 and May 19	Richard Swanson
	May 12 and May 26	Christine Geltz

## Gatherings:

Soup and Sandwich, May 1, Wednesday at 12:00 noon

Load the Van to Friends in Deed, May 3, Friday at 8:00 a.m.

Mother's Day Brunch, May 11, Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Board of Directors' Meeting, May 19, Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team Meeting, May 21, Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

Volunteers at Friends in Deed, May 25, Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Times, May 5, 8:30 a.m.  
May 12, 8:30 a.m.  
May 19, 8:30 a.m.  
May 26, 8:30 a.m.

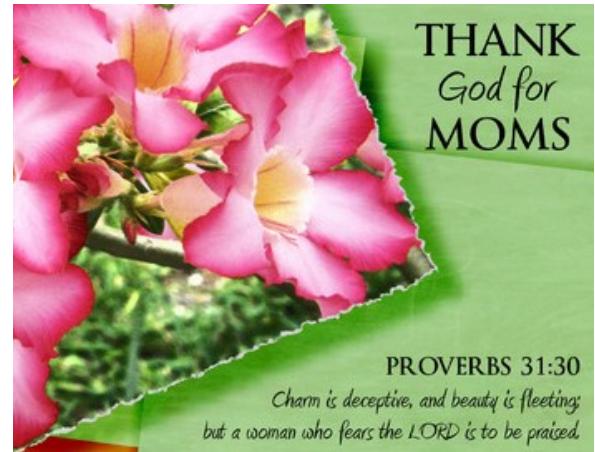
Sunday School Times, Every Sunday from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

**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??

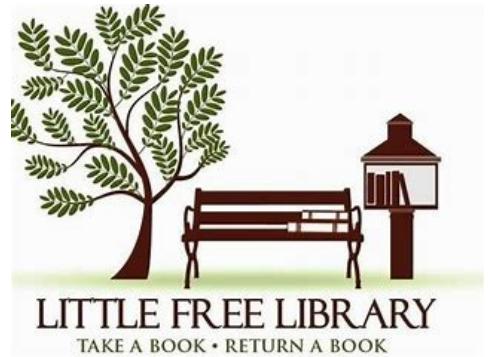
**Electronic Newsletter:** If you are currently not receiving emails and would like to be included, please share your email address with the Church Administrator (Elizabeth Yu) at: [admin@firstlutherantc.org](mailto:admin@firstlutherantc.org), or call:(626) 287-0968 and leave a message if you prefer to have a hard copy mailed out to you.

**Pastoral Care:** Board of Directors' Chairman, Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613.



## Little Free Library

Do you have some good books that you want to share with others? You can donate them to our Little Free Library by giving them to our ushers, or to Jo Tschopp, or put them in the library yourself. You might also find a donated book there that you decide to read.



what we cannot do alone" keeps this interfaith non-profit organization going now for 130 years! When you go to the grocery store, keep in mind the GOLD ITEMS which are always needed: canned tuna/chicken, hearty soups, beef stew, chili, pasta & pasta sauce, peanut butter, cereal, rice, cooking oil, flour, sugar, fruit juice, and vegetable juice. **"Donate something you would like to eat, because, chances are, someone else will like it too."** You can give your donations to one of the ushers or put them in the designated area of the Narthex.

## Friends in Deed

First Lutheran Church of Temple City has been supporting the food pantry at Friends In Deed (Pasadena, CA) since January of 2017. Wow! That means we are in our 7<sup>th</sup> year of monthly trips with the donated food items. Also, let's not forget the many hours donated that the volunteers from First Lutheran Church of Temple City have worked on during the Saturday mornings. The motto "Doing together

## Mission Development Team

### Noon Soup & Sandwich:

Wednesday – May 1 at 12:00 noon: Presentation by the Los Angeles County Sheriffs on "Fraud and Cyber Crime."

Wednesday – June 5 at 12:00 noon: Homeless Crisis – Presentation by Monrovia's Major (Becky Shevlin)

### Family Brunch Celebrating Mother's Day:

Saturday – May 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 am: Free Professional Digital Family Photo & activities.

### Red Cross Blood Drive:

Saturday – June 22 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Church's Parrish Hall

Join this group of individuals with a heart for reaching out to our neighborhood and beyond. Next meeting is scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 10:30 – Tuesday.



## Community Prayer Box

Our Community Prayer Box is experiencing some challenges. Someone keeps on tearing off the small plastic bag that has the blank prayer request cards and pencil inside. The bag was replaced and within a few days, it was pulled off again. This is *\*not\** the first time this has happened, but to occur again within a few days is disturbing. However, it does give us someone to pray for. Please pray that this person would repent and acknowledge God's love and forgiveness and turn to Him.



## Memorials for Jean Hyland

There will be a Memorial Service for this lady who has a great legacy at First Lutheran of Temple City. Jean's Memorial shall be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Saturday – at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Jean Hyland went to school here from Elementary to Middle School. She and her husband were very active in this church, serving in many aspects such as preparing meals, driving the seniors to their appointments, and even setting up Communion on the Altar Guilt.

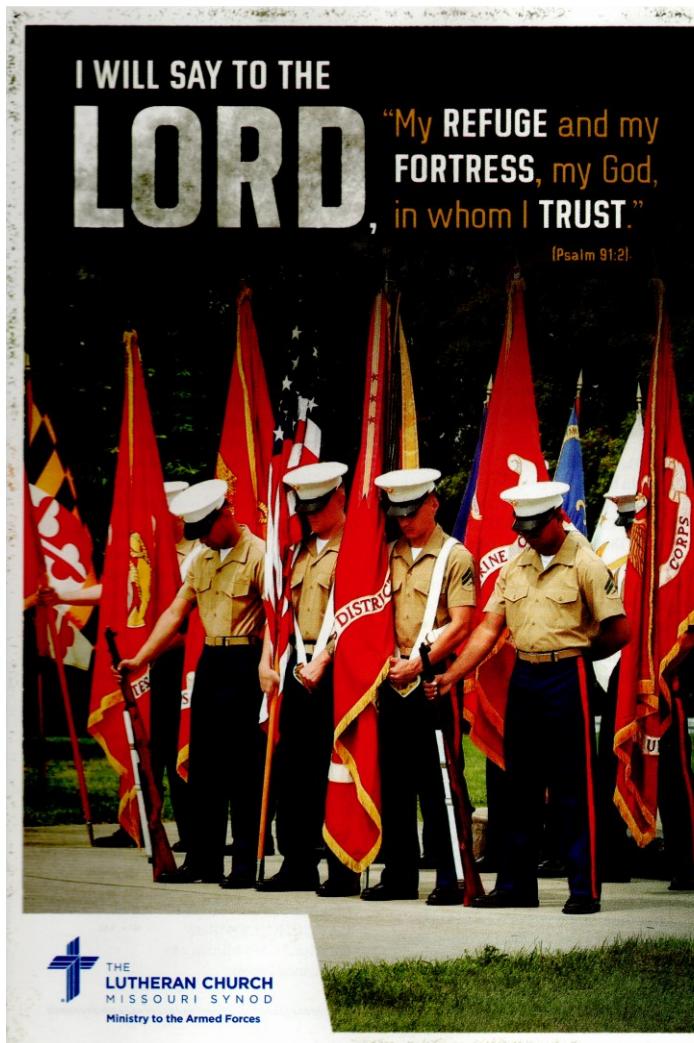


## Missionary News – Anna Rostek

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Sunday, we had the pleasure of having our missionary – Anna Rostek – speak during our Adult Bible Study class time. Anna spoke about her health issues (and she has sure had her share of them), but always has kept such a positive attitude about her life still. She also spoke on various things she has gone through in Burundi, Africa. Anna touched on what it is like to live there, as well as what type of work she has been doing. In addition, Anna mentioned extensively on how the country is

being run and how that has impacted her work for our Lord. Anna concluded her talk by saying how much she misses the people in Burundi and how she is excited to return to Africa to continue and work for the Lord.

# ARMED FORCES SUNDAY 2024



Military deployments can be austere, with no running water and few of the creature comforts we have become accustomed to in America. Sometimes, they have many of the creature comforts we want. But in all cases, it's always a combat zone, and life is never certain.

The thing that is certain during a combat deployment is the danger we face. And yet, after a few weeks or months in a combat zone, complacency often sets in. Human beings have a great ability to adapt to even the most difficult circumstances. The death or injury of those we serve often opens our eyes, helping us to realize our situation. But we can't dwell in that fear. We must find a way to find peace and security in any and every situation. Psalm 91 gives us this peace and security.

The same thing happens for those of us who are not in the military. Life is a combat zone. We are confronted daily with attacks from the evil one and by the attacks of those who have become tools of the evil one, who inflicts pain and misery wherever he prowls.

## ARMED FORCES SUNDAY

### ARMED FORCES PRAYER

L: Lord God, You have sustained our nation in the past and continue to bless us. We recall how so many have given their lives for the cause of freedom. Men and women continue to sacrifice and serve in the armed forces. Today, we pause to reflect and honor those who gave or who continue to sacrifice so much in the defense of our freedom to be faithful.

R: We remember the great courage and selfless service of so many throughout history who have answered the call to serve. We remember their honorable sacrifice for the freedom of others. Comfort the families who mourn the loss of loved ones. Comfort also those who suffer permanent injuries as a result of serving our nation in the military.

L: We remember with thankfulness the millions of Americans who give so generously of their life and labor in times of national conflict, particularly the family members of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.

R: We are grateful for the devotion and sacrifices of military families. Grant us the resources and willing hearts to support them.

L: Lord, You prayed earnestly for Your disciples, that they would be kept in Your name, filled with joy and sanctified in Your Word of truth.

R: Keep our chaplains in Your name. Fill them with the joy that comes from knowing You have defeated sin and death. Sanctify their ministry in Your Word of truth.

L: Gracious Lord, we ask for Your strength for our chaplains who serve in the wounded-warrior wards and in our military hospitals as they provide pastoral care to hurting and wounded veterans and their families.

R: Lord, mend the wounds of all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Grant their physicians knowledge and wisdom as they seek the best treatments for patients' suffering.

L: God of mercy, grant patience and insight to our chaplains who serve in all branches of our armed forces. Only through Your sustaining love can they move out daily with confidence and joy. These and all things we ask through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Regardless of our station in life, we all seek protection from the evil that surrounds us. Psalm 91 is one of the tools God uses to open our eyes to the protection He provides to His children. Psalm 91 is popular among members of the military, and some carry it around with them as a standalone edition. During my deployment to Afghanistan, I saw as many copies of Psalm 91 as the entire Bible. I didn't pay much attention to Psalm 91 prior to joining the military, but then I noticed it everywhere and found comfort in these words that our gracious and merciful Father provides.

Psalm 91 speaks about thousands falling at our side, and yet being unapproachable to the enemy. It speaks about the protection God offers His children in spite of the terrors at night as they dwell in the shelter of the Most High. Throughout the psalm, we hear echoes of comfort and protection, despite the terrors that surround us. For those who have served in a combat zone, this is especially comforting.

The psalm is God's Word to a world that is at war — with the adversary who prowls around searching for someone to destroy, with a world that not only wars with others but that is at war with itself. On our own, we are doomed to destruction. The most courageous and highly trained member of the military is no match for this terrible, prowling lion — or against the terrors that strike within us.

But we have a Savior who overcame all our fears and adversaries. He overcame the devil when He suffered in our stead, died for our sins and rose to a new life given to us. Let's look to the psalm and find confidence in His promises.

### Psalm 91

- <sup>1</sup> He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.**
- <sup>2</sup> I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."**

I was told prior to deploying to Afghanistan that the only person you can trust is the person on your right and the person on your left. At that moment, I felt a sense of pride in the organization and the soldiers I deployed with. But as time went on, and I got to know the individuals on my right and left, I realized they were just like me ... afraid of the dangers we faced together. Yes, there was a sense of camaraderie because we all faced the same dangers, but there was also a sense of uncertainty, that death was a possibility every day.

I realized that protection comes not from a highly trained member of the military or the courage of an ordinary Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine, but from the presence of the Almighty, the Most High.

Holiness or protection from the adversary is about location. When we are where God promises to be, we find ourselves enveloped in His protection and guiding hand. We must find ourselves where He promises to be.

Though God is certainly present everywhere, He is present with His gifts for us in the Divine Service, where we receive His sacred Word and life-giving Sacraments. When we hear the Word of God preached, read or sung, we hear from God Himself as He often whispers words of encouragement and hope to a soul filled with fear and hopelessness.

We recall our Baptism each time we wash our face, as Martin Luther reminds us. At our Baptism, we received the gift of the Holy Spirit who is an ever-present constant in our lives, reminding us of the deeds of our Savior and advocating for us as we pray almost helplessly in the midst of the war zone in our mind.

He becomes our refuge and our strength, in whom we place all our trust. The men and women we serve with, whether it be in the military or in our church community, are individuals God has placed in our lives to remind us we aren't alone and that we don't suffer alone. But He never asks us to place our trust in one another. He asks us to place our trust in Him. Verse 3 reveals both the danger and the protection God provides.

<sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.

Notice how the psalmist identifies the one who saves and protects us, using His angels to guard and protect us as God's instruments. As we cannot by our own reason or strength come to Him or believe in Him, it is God's doing to protect us and keep us from harm and danger.

He is the one who saves us when we are distracted by the cares of this world, whether it be in combat or in everyday life. Don't be deceived: Even in combat, men and women can become complacent, unaware of the dangers they face. A fowler's snare is a trap set by bird hunters to catch the bird unaware, while it is feeding. It's a net or box that traps the bird.

The randomness of the enemy in a combat zone is like the randomness of our enemy: sin, death and the power of the devil. In the context of the military, the injury or death of a fellow service member clears the fog of invincibility, focusing us on our own mortality. Life is going on when suddenly the serious illness or death of a loved one shakes us to our foundation.

If Satan were obvious, we wouldn't fall so easily for his tricks. He is subtle, almost hidden. He reveals himself when the people or things we place our trust in fail us. He sets traps for us to drive us away from God. Verse 3 gives a vivid picture of the dangers we face every day in a world at war with God.

- <sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.**
- <sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,**
- <sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.**

Notice that it's the faithfulness of God that brings the protection of a shield and wall. It's not our faithfulness to Him. We build complacency and a false sense of security when we believe our good deeds make us worthy of His protection and love. Or when we look around at others and think we aren't as bad as they are. Both open us to sudden attacks by the invisible enemy we all face.

And yet, we will not fear. Second Timothy 1:7 reminds us that we were not given a spirit of fear, but of power and of love. No matter the dangers we face, whether we are at rest in the middle of the night and our thoughts drift away from God and to our troubles, or whether we face enemies with weapons who intend to kill us, the quiet confidence we have in our God's protection and guidance removes those doubts and fears.

The psalm ends with the comforting promises of God to His people. They are not given to us because of our faithfulness or worthiness. Confessing that we are sinful and unclean rejects that notion. God's promises rest on His faithfulness to us: "I will rescue him. I will protect him. I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him and honor him. I will satisfy him." All are promises of our loving and gracious God, who revealed Himself in the person of Christ, our Savior. And He does so not because of our worthiness, but because of His faithfulness. May God bless those who serve in the U.S. military and keep them strong in the faith. Amen.

CH (MAJ) Edward W Wright  
Deputy Operations Chaplain  
HQ, U.S. Army Europe & Africa



*Kathryn*  
**BARGER**  
5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor • County of Los Angeles



# 26th Annual Tribute to Veterans & Military Families

Saturday, May 25, 2024  
Arcadia County Park • 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Join us for a special day in support of those who've served. The event includes a ceremony honoring veterans, resource fair, equipment displays, food trucks, live music, and lots of family fun!

Bring a copy of your DD-214 to get assistance accessing federal and state benefits.

Admission and parking are free.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
VETERAN PEER ACCESS NETWORK



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



## BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH



May 10 Richard Swanson

May 12 Renee Erickson

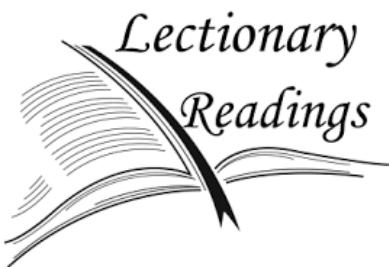
## Sunday Worship at Home

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 the sermon online by going to:  
<https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>.



## Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for May during the Easter season as they travel to various books of the New Testament, Psalms, and the Gospel during Pentecost and Holy Trinity:

<u>First / Old Testament Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>	
May 5	Acts 10:34–48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1–8	John 15:9–17
May 12	Acts 1:12–26	Psalm 1	1 John 5:9–15	John 17:11b–19
May 19 <i>(Pentecost)</i>	Ezekiel 37:1–14	Psalm 139:1–12	Acts 2:1–21	John 15:26–27, 16:4b–15
May 26 <i>(Holy Trinity)</i>	Isaiah 6:1–8	Psalm 29	Acts 2:14a, 22–36	John 3:1–17

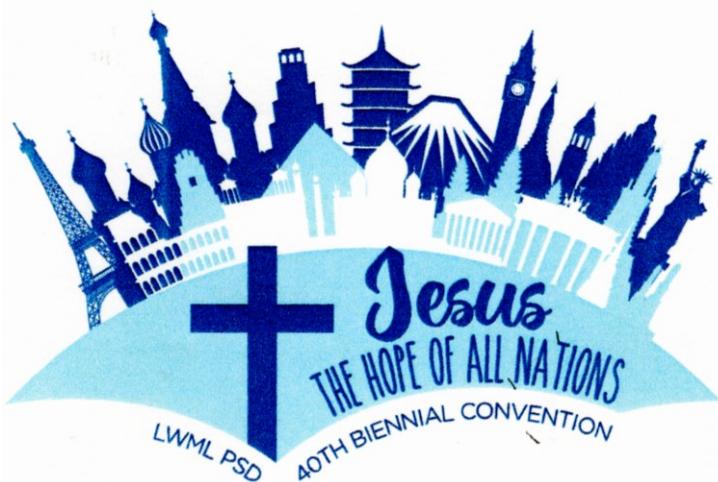
# Save the Date!

LWML PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT  
40<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION

JUNE 7–9, 2024

LOS ANGELES,  
CALIFORNIA

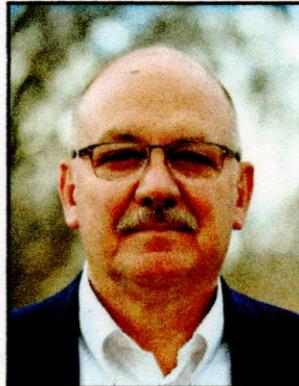
DoubleTree by Hilton  
Rosemead, 888 Montebello Blvd  
Rosemead, CA 91770



## Mission Statement:

*We are all God's children and  
celebrate the Hope we have in Jesus.*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he  
has given us new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ  
from the dead (1 Peter 1:3 NIV).*



### Rev. Dr. John Mehl KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. Dr. John Mehl became the second Executive Director of Mission of Christ Network on January 1, 2017.

Dr. Mehl began his ministry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Kansas where he served eight years as a parish pastor, before being called by LCMS Board for Mission Services as a church planter

in Moscow, Russia, in 1993. He served as the pastor of two different congregations in Moscow and supervised the "Moscow Seminars," an ongoing theological education program for Russian Lutheran pastors. In 2004 he and his family moved from Moscow to Frankfurt, Germany, while serving with LCMS World Missions as the Regional Director for Eurasia. In 2006, the family moved to Hong Kong, where Dr. Mehl served as the Regional Director for Asia until 2013. While in Asia he was a member of the leadership team that started Concordia International School, Hanoi. From 2014 to 2016 he served as the Director of Mission Partnerships and Church Relations at Concordia University, Nebraska.

John is married to Susan and they have three grown children, Katrina, Louisa and Theodore.



### Melissa Salomón BIBLE STUDY LEADER

A faithful and effective servant, Melissa Salomón brings to the LCMS and LWML a special love for and commitment to the promotion of cross-cultural ministries on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. She is a highly respected leader in the LCMS Hispanic community and has been instrumental in the LWML

Heart to Heart Sisters of all Nations, our intentional focus on intercultural engagement.

She has been serving her Lord in border ministry since 1986. In 1998 she was part of a team that opened the first Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) office in Mexico. Currently, her work with 1000 Generaciones Ministry and Concordia Church and School in Chula Vista, California, allow her to engage in mission and mercy projects along the border and beyond. Melissa has served on the Board of Mission Nation Publishing since 2020 and was honored to have her life and service story memorialized in one of the Mission Nation Publications in 2021.

Melissa enjoys living near her two grown children who each have a baby, so Melissa is living her best life delighting in little Santiago Alejandro and Sofia Grace.

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**  
**DATED MATERIAL**

**May 2024**

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**E-Mail : [admin@firstrlutherantc.org](mailto:admin@firstrlutherantc.org)**

**Website : <https://firstrlutherantc.org>**

**8:30 a.m. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**

**Holy Communion every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays only**

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

**Every Sunday**