



# 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.*

**May 2025**

**Publication of First Lutheran Church, Temple City, CA**

## Following Our Call as Fishers of Men: Feeding His Sheep

Our Gospel reading for the first Sunday in May is John Chapter 21.

This passage describes an encounter between the disciples and Jesus after His resurrection. Prior to being called by Christ, many of the disciples were fishermen. After His resurrection, Jesus told the men to meet Him in their home region of Galilee. Seven men are in a group, including Peter, who once again takes charge and plans to resume fishing. Whether he's lost hope about Jesus and their calling, or simply looking to earn money, or catch food, or stave off boredom, Scripture does not say.



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They have an unsuccessful night fishing. Nighttime fishing was not unusual, and it's not abnormal for experienced fishermen to come up without much of a catch on some trips. In this case, however, the lack of fish serves to make a useful point. This is possibly a sign that their calling is to be evangelists, not fishermen. A figure on the beach tells them to cast their net to the other side of the boat, resulting in a massive catch. Then John realizes the man is Jesus, and Peter puts on his regular clothes over his fishing work clothes and dives overboard to swim to shore. There, the other disciples arrive to find a breakfast of bread and fish waiting for them, along with Jesus. As the disciples eat a meal with Christ, He presses Peter to reaffirm His faith and ministry. Three times He asks, "Do you love Me?" Peter proclaims "Yes Lord, you know I love You" and then three times Jesus reminds him of his mission: to feed or take care of His sheep.

Jesus had called these followers to be fishers of men (Matthew 4:19). That is, their purpose is now to evangelize others. When Christ appears on the shore, and miraculously directs their net (John 21:4), it's not to bless their hard work or profits - It's proof that He can provide for their needs. He is showing them that unless their efforts are aligned with His purpose (being fishers of men), they won't succeed.

So how is this account relevant to Christians today? Turn to "Feed My Sheep" on page 6 to find out.

*Continued on page 6*



These are the Lectionaries for May, for the Third through Sixth Sundays of Easter

	Old Testament	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
<b>May 4</b> Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 9:1–22	Psalms 30	Rev. 5:(1–7) 8-14	John 21:1–14 (15–19)
<b>May 11</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 20:17–35	Psalms 23	Rev. 7:9–17	John 10:22–33
<b>May 18</b> Fifth Sunday of Easter	Acts 11:1–18	Psalms 148	Rev. 21:1–7	John 16:12–22
<b>May 25</b> Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 16:9–15	Psalms 67	Rev. 21:9–14, 21–27	John 16:23–33

### Worship Times

Sunday, May 4, 8:30 a.m., Vicar Les Schaefer  
 Sunday, May 11, 8:30 a.m., Rev. Kenneth Frese  
 Sunday, May 18, 8:30 a.m., Rev. Gregory Otte  
 Sunday, May 25, 8:30 a.m., Rev. Gregory Otte



**May 10** Rick Swanson  
**May 12** Renee Erickson

**Sunday School Time** Every Sunday, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

**Ushers:** Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske,  
and Don Lammerts

**Readers:** May 4 and 8: Richard Swanson  
 May 11 and 25: Christine Geltz

**Greeters:** May 4: Connie Kean  
 May 11: Diane Oberlander  
 May 18: Sharon Corey  
 May 25: Norma Boehne

### If you are unable to attend worship, you may:

- Listen to the Lutheran Hour sermon at any time you choose through a variety of online channels—See more on page 5 or go to [lhm.org/guide](http://lhm.org/guide).
- View Worship Anew at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays on DirectTV, Channel 377. This service is filmed at our Fort Wayne Seminary in Indiana. The Worship Anew worship service can be viewed on the internet at any time at <https://worshipanew.org/by-type/watch?>
- **Access and/or review First Lutheran sermons online by going to:**  
<https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>.

### Gatherings

Load the Van to Friends in Deed  
Soup & Sandwich Luncheon  
Mission Development Team Meeting  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
Volunteers at Friends in Deed in Pasadena

May 2, Friday, at 8:30 a.m.  
 May 7, Wednesday, at noon  
 May 9, Friday, at 9:30 a.m.  
 May 18, Sunday, at 11:00 a.m.  
 May 24, Saturday, at 8:00 a.m.



## Monthly Soup & Sandwich Luncheons

How are your tomatoes growing? Jo Tschopp's plant has two tomatoes; she is hoping the squirrels don't find them. The presenter from Armstrong's Nursery on April 2 did a super job telling us how to encourage our little giveaway plants to flourish.

Our May 7 luncheon will feature potato salad and sloppy joes. A volunteer from the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden will share information about the train station at the Arboretum.

The June 4<sup>th</sup> Soup & Sandwich will feature a speaker from the Los Angeles County Fire Department. We will learn about preparing ourselves and homes against fire.



## Community Prayer Box Update

*From Jo Tschopp:* "We have had four prayer requests left by strangers this month in our Community Prayer Box. Kevin left his phone number as he finished writing that we pray for the poor and needy. I called him and had a wonderful conversation as he told me he was walking past the mail box and felt the need to pray for others."

**Psalm 72:12-13** <sup>12</sup>For He will take out of trouble the one in need when he cries for help, and the poor man who has no one to help. <sup>13</sup>He will have loving-pity on the weak and those in need. He will save the lives of those in need.



## New Selections in Our Little Free Library

*From Jo Tschopp:* "Added to our Little Free Library is a non-fiction book, 'The Kings and Queens of England.' The great thing about this book is that you can select one king or queen, read their short biography, and then set the book aside for another read when time permits. I chose Elizabeth I (1533-1603) and learned, after reading six pages, that she never married and was involved in the conflict between the Protestants and Catholics. As I glanced through the book, other personages were enticing me to select them for the next time." If you have books to donate, please put them in the Little Library, or give them to the ushers or Jo Tschopp.



## More News from the Mission Development Team

The recent Easter Egg Hunt on April 12 was fun for the participants and also the volunteers who helped. We were pleased that some children and adults from our neighborhood joined us. One man who was walking his dog visited us and accepted a bottle of cold water. Vicki's popcorn machine was kept busy providing treats for all.

We have scheduled another Red Cross Community Blood Drive for Saturday, June 14, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm in honor of Father's Day the next day. Be a hero—Give blood! For more information, contact Peter Dille.



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## Missionary Anna Rosteck Called to Glory

Anna Rosteck had a love for God, a thirst for knowledge, and a deep compassion for people. She was a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God, and a missionary to East Africa. Anna used her training and skills to minister to pastors and other church workers as they recovered from violence against Christians in East Africa. She had worked in mental health since 2004, and had a passion for showing God's love to others. Our First Lutheran family helped to financially support Anna in her missionary work in Burundi.

Anna was diagnosed and treated for cancer in Africa, returned to the US, underwent treatment here and then returned to Africa. Later the cancer came back and she returned to her family's home in Montana. She passed into the arms of Jesus on April 14. Anna was the niece of Pat Grabowski and Connie Kean, and the whole family gathered on April 26 in Great Falls, MT to celebrate her life. We were blessed by her visits and the opportunity to support her ministry. We praise God for her life and ministry and pray for her extended family members and friends who will miss her huge smile and warm heart.



*"Well done, good and faithful servant."  
Matthew 25:21*

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## Don't Miss the Annual FLCTC Voters Meeting: Sunday, June 26

Be sure to attend the Annual Voters Meeting on June 26 in the Fellowship Room at 11:00 a.m. Attendees will get an update on the budget, properties, and Mission Development and elect officers for the new fiscal year. They will also enjoy a delicious lunch. If you are interested in running for an officer position, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Norma Boehne, Connie Kean, or Dave Lassanske.

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## Sharing the Light

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**Years of Ministry**

**First Lutheran Church of Temple City**

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## Save the Date! October 11, 2025

This year we're celebrating First Lutheran Church's 80 years of ministry here in Southern California through our campus ministries and around the world through our missionaries.

Make plans to join us on Saturday, October 11 at 5:00 p.m. for a Christian music songfest and concert with guest choirs and musicians, followed by a sumptuous 1940's themed dinner in the Parish Hall. Tell your family, friends and church and school alumni. We'll start taking reservations soon—Watch for your special Save the Date invitation!



## How to Tune in and Build Faith with The Lutheran Hour Broadcast

Many Christians and Lutherans from around the world listen to "The Lutheran Hour." Oscar Tschopp, as a child, listened with his family in Iowa. Oscar's oldest brother Ted built an Oatmeal Box radio. Unbelievable as it sounds, you can find the directions on the internet. Oscar says Ted dug a quartz crystal from the hills, purchased earphones, ran a wire, and put the earphones in a

crockery bowl, which became an amplifier so that the entire family of nine could listen. Oscar says it was a big day when the family was able to purchase a real radio. All this took place before WWII. The first Lutheran Hour broadcast was in 1930.

Today the Lutheran Hour is available in more ways than traditional radio. Oscar and Jo now listen using their phone or computer. These are some of the more modern ways to be nourished by The Lutheran Hour: American Forces Network, Sirius XM satellite radio, Amazon Alexa, Spotify, iHeartRadio, YouTube, and more. Listeners can hear the weekly sermons whenever and wherever they are. Also available are the daily devotions which come in a daily email to read or listen to.

Recently Lutheran Hour Ministries provided the following information: As good stewards of the resources God provides, Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) works to be strategic in the allocation of those resources. The final broadcast of **The Lutheran Hour®** on KBRT 740 AM was April 27, 2025. To find other airings near you, check the broadcast guide at [lhm.org/guide](http://lhm.org/guide).

## “Feed My Sheep” – Continued from page 1

John Chapter 21 holds several important lessons for Christians today, emphasizing restoration, purpose, and following Christ's call.

### **Restoration and Second Chances:**

John 21 portrays Jesus' willingness to restore Peter's leadership after his denial, demonstrating God's grace and forgiveness. This passage offers a message of hope to those who have stumbled in their faith, showing that Jesus is always ready to welcome back those who repent and seek forgiveness.

### **Following Christ and God's Call:**

Jesus' instructions to Peter to "feed my sheep" and "follow me" are calls to leadership and ministry, highlighting the importance of actively serving God and others. This passage encourages Christians to embrace their unique gifts and callings to participate in God's mission in the world.

### **The Importance of Focus:**

The chapter emphasizes the need to focus on Christ and resist the urge to compare ourselves to others. Jesus' focus on Peter's ministry and his own future, rather than speculation about John's fate, encourages followers to concentrate on their own calling and God's plan for their lives.

### **Jesus' Provision and Sustaining Presence:**

The miraculous catch of fish and the meal prepared by Jesus symbolize his ongoing provision and care for the church, both past and present. This passage reassures Christians that God will always provide for them and be with them, even in challenging times.

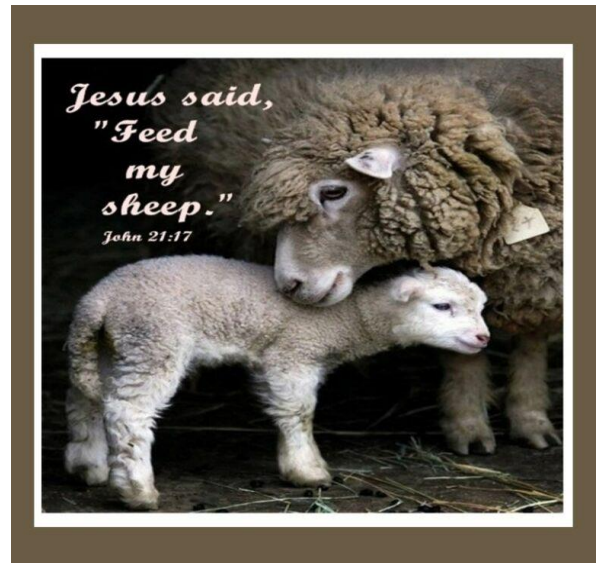
### **The Cost of Discipleship:**

John 21 also highlights the cost of discipleship, with Jesus predicting Peter's death by crucifixion. This passage serves as a reminder that following Christ may involve sacrifice and challenges, but ultimately leads to a life of purpose and meaning.

## Up Close and Personal: Rev. Frank Matthews



Joining us to lead worship a few Sundays this month and next is Rev. Frank Matthews. He was born in Los Angeles and when he was five years old, his father passed away. When his mom remarried, the family moved to Pasadena. He graduated from Knoxville College in Knoxville, TN and has a master's degree from National University. Rev. Matthews was a licensed deacon at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Los Angeles and began serving Concordia Lutheran Church of Inglewood about 15 years ago when the Synod ended the licensed deacon



program. He was ordained as a Special Ministries Pastor and served at Concordia until it closed earlier this year. After working as a mechanic for the City of Pasadena for 31 years, he feels he is where he belongs with people, doing what God has called him to do. He and his wife Kim Jackson-Matthews have three sons and two grandchildren.

## A Cross in My Pocket

*From Jo Tschopp:* Decades ago, Keith White, a sainted member, passed out pocket crosses with the words, "Take more than one to give to others." Oscar Tschopp still has his cross which got a lot of exposure when he was going through security as he worked at the Burbank Airport. Today he has trained his caregivers to nightly take the cross from his shirt pocket and place it on the bureau ready for putting it back into his pocket the next morning. Our Mission Development Team will soon mail you your own pocket cross so you can remind yourself, "That Jesus Christ is the Lord of your life."

### A Cross in My Pocket

Mrs. Verna Mae Thomas

I carry a cross in my pocket  
A simple reminder to me  
Of the fact that I am a Christian  
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic,  
Nor is it a good luck charm  
It isn't meant to protect me  
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification  
For all the world to see  
It's simply an understanding  
Between my Savior and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket  
To bring out a coin or a key  
The cross is there to remind me  
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me, too, to be thankful  
For my blessings day by day  
And to strive to serve Him better  
In all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder  
Of the peace and comfort I share  
With all who know my Master  
And give themselves to His care.

So, I carry a cross in my pocket  
Reminding no one but me  
That Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life.

## 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](mailto: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 (626) 287-0968 and leave a message for Elizabeth Yu, the Church Administrator.

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



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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DATED MATERIAL**

*May 2025*

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

Holy Communion every first & third Sunday

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

Every Sunday