



# 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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November 2024   *Publication of*   FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## **The consequences of shallow thankfulness**

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together!

This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

*Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...*

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, “Tell grandma thank you.” This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: “Look at me! Aren't I special?” No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

*For words that speak at variance with deeds ...*

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

**(Continued on the next page)**

## *The consequences of shallow thankfulness (continued)*

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

*Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways  
unmindful of a broken brother's need ...*

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)



# November

November 2024



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

<b><u>Greeters:</u></b>	November 3	Connie Kean
	November 10	Patricia Caballero
	November 17	Norma Boehne
	November 24	Sharon Corey

<b><u>Readers:</u></b>	November 3 and November 17	Richard Swanson
	November 10 and November 24	Christine Geltz

## **Gatherings:**

Load the Van to Friends in Deed, November 1, Friday at 8:00 a.m.

First Wednesday Soup and Sandwich, November 6, Wednesday at 12:00 noon

Volunteers at Friends in Deed, November 9, Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Board of Directors' Meeting, November 17, Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team Meeting, November 18, Monday at 10:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving Midday service, November 27, Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch

Sunday Worship Times, November 3, 8:30 a.m.  
November 10, 8:30 a.m.  
November 17, 8:30 a.m.  
November 24, 8:30 a.m.

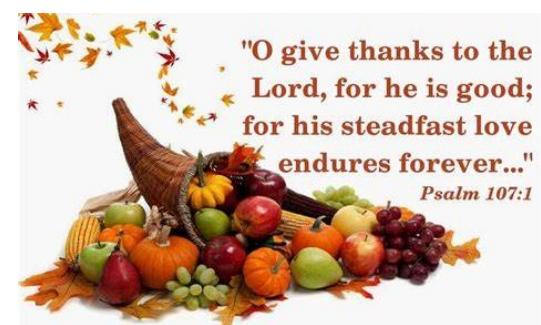
Sunday School Times, Every Sunday from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

**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 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' President, Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613.





## Friends in Deed

Don't forget to bring some items for the Friends in Deed Food Pantry on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, for the Soup and Sandwich noon meal. Tim from this Pasadena group will be our guest providing information about the Pantry and some of the other ministries which this group provides, including, bad weather shelter, women's room, eviction prevention and rent assistance, also street outreach and housing.

## Mission Development Team

To end the year 2024, we look forward to providing Advent Family Devotions to our church members and inviting the neighborhood to Christmas worship. We are also busy planning activities for the year 2025 by celebrating Chinese New Year, a neighborhood Blood drive, Easter Egg Hunt, and the monthly noon soup and sandwich gatherings.

October 31<sup>st</sup> – Thursday: **Trunk & Treat** 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

November 6<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday **Soup & Sandwich**, presentation by Friends In Deed Food Pantry

December 4<sup>th</sup> **Soup & Sandwich**, Christmas Carols led by Christine Geltz



## Lutheran Social Services of Southern California (LSSSC) – <https://www.lssc.org>

Join us on  
November 8<sup>th</sup>,  
2024 (Friday)  
from 5:00 p.m. to  
9:00 p.m. at the

historical Mission Inn in Riverside, CA  
for the "There's No Place Like Home"

**2024 Gala & Awards.** Reception will be  
from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Program  
will begin at 6:00 p.m. The gala promises  
a wonderful evening of fun, food, and  
entertainment in support of the Lutheran  
Social Services of Southern California.



Funds raised at this event shall go towards funding emergency services for individuals and families in need.



999 Town and Country Road, Suite 100  
Orange, CA 92868

# GIVE thanks



Dear First Lutheran Church,

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are profoundly thankful for your support in uplifting those in need here in Southern California. At Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, we are eagerly preparing to welcome the homeless, hungry, and hurting, and we want to extend a special invitation to you to join us in this mission.

Your continued support goes beyond immediate assistance. You are bringing hope, healing from addiction, mental health support, job training, and a renewed sense of purpose to our neighbors facing homelessness and other challenges. Your loving gifts truly make a difference and offer a second chance to those in need.

We are tirelessly working to ensure we are ready for Thanksgiving, not only by providing for immediate needs but also by offering a warm smile, a listening ear, and the comforting message of God's love.

Your support can help transform Thanksgiving from a day of loneliness into a day of hope. Your generosity is the first step toward a new life for someone in need.

Please consider continuing to be a beacon of hope this Thanksgiving by giving \$25 today to provide a meal and care to one family or \$100 to provide meals and care to four families. When we partner together, we can make a profound difference in the lives of men and women in Southern California.

In Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith, Ph.D.".

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith  
President and Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Time is running out to prepare for Thanksgiving. We are expecting hundreds from our community who are struggling to reach out for support. I am prayerfully asking for your help. Please send your gift today so we can be fully prepared.

Turn over to read  
Doug's story!



**Doug's life was vastly different five years ago.** His life had turned upside down, and he found himself alone, living on the street, and facing health challenges. He was far from family and due to strained relationships didn't feel "right" reaching out for help.

Doug doesn't remember how he first heard of Lutheran Social Services of Southern California (LSSSC), but he does remember how he felt when he arrived on our doorstep. He remembers being welcomed with open arms and a compassionate ear. His case manager "listened to my story and didn't judge me or tell me what I did wrong. She encouraged me."

After a few weeks of much needed rest, nourishment, counseling, and medical care, Doug became a part of our resident volunteer (RV) program, supporting our staff by working on-site assisting with building maintenance at our Community Wellness Campus. His case manager assisted Doug with securing social security disability insurance and connected him with the VA. Through the VA and US Vets Doug acquired a one-bedroom apartment to call home.

The journey wasn't easy, but Doug's determination saw him through. He recently reconnected with his family and is working to heal their relationship.

Many others in our community like Doug need our help. LSSSC offers a range of support services including emergency shelter, addiction recovery programs, housing counseling, meals and groceries, job training, and more to help individuals like Doug rebuild their lives.

During this Thanksgiving season, your gift will provide hope and nourishment to the homeless and hungry.



## Community Prayer Box

*"17 pray without ceasing,"*

*1 Thessalonians 5:17*

In this verse Paul, is encouraging people to pray. Naturally, this does not mean to be in a state of prayer during every waking moment. Rather, we ought to be in a constantly "prayerful" state, and frequently speaking to God in actual, dedicated prayer. In addition to your own personal prayers please pray for our nation, our neighborhood, and Christian ministries everywhere.



## 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 sermons online by going to:  
<https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>.**

## From the District: Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry Annual Toy and Shoe Box Drive

Now through January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry is conducting their annual Toy & Shoe Box Drive. This organization is collecting wrapped or unwrapped gifts for children ages from newborns to 18 years old. Drop off is located at the LBCM's office located at: 3060 54<sup>th</sup> Street in San Diego, CA. For drop off times and further information, call: (619) 286-2445 or email: [lbcmsd@gmail.com](mailto:lbcmsd@gmail.com). If you would like them to do the shopping for you, you can make a donation by check or use **PayPal** or **Venmo**.



## More news from the District – NIV Study Bibles Needed

World Lutheran Deaf Outreach is in need of NIV Study Bibles. They use them for training deaf leaders. If you or your organization has some that they would be willing to donate, please contact Rev. Dr. John Reinke at: [Rev.Reinke@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Reinke@gmail.com).



Celebrate the Christmas season with the voices and instruments of Concordia University Irvine. Concordia's annual Christmas concert tradition returns to the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. Concordia's critically acclaimed choirs, handbells, and orchestra celebrate the season of hope and the birth of the world's long-awaited Savior! This year showcases more than 200 performers from eight vocal and instrumental performing ensembles under the masterful direction of Dr. Michael Busch, Dr. Jeff Held, Dr. Clarissa Shan, and Alex Guebert.

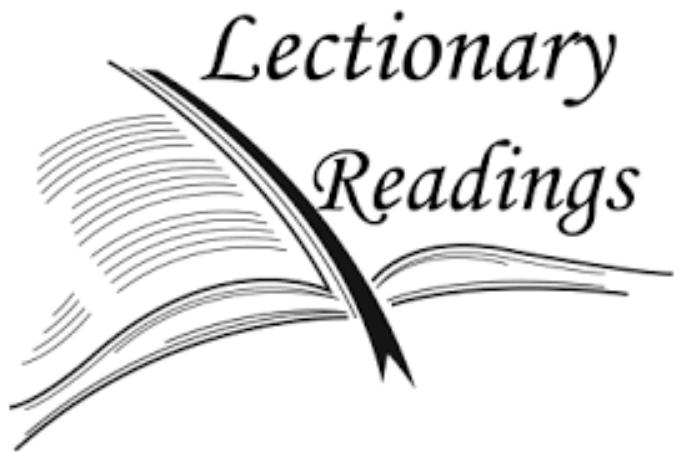
Tickets start at \$22.60 and the performance date and times are: Sunday – December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. (all sales over the phone have an extra 13% processing fee added, or you can arrive at the *Ticket Box Office two hours ahead of the performance start time* to purchase the ticket(s) in order to defray from paying the extra processing fee.)

Address: 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92626

Phone: Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(714) 556-2787

<https://www.scfta.org>



## Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for November as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, and the Gospel as we remember the saints that have gone before us and also give thanks and praise as we celebrate Thanksgiving:

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
November 3 <i>(All Saints' Day observed)</i>	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-13
November 10	1 Kings 17:8-16	Psalm 146	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
November 17	Daniel 12:1-3	Psalm 16	Hebrews 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-13
November 24	Isaiah 51:4-6	Psalm 93	Jude 20-25	Mark 13: 24-37
November 27 <i>(Thanksgiving Eve)</i>	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	Psalm 67	Philippians 4:6-20	Luke 17:11-19



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

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

*November 2024*

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**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Temple City, CA 91780

Office Phone: (626) 287-0968

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

Website : <https://firstlutheranc.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