



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.

September 2024 Publication of FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Stewards, Called to Forgiveness

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Genesis 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Psalms 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the *Lutheran Service Book* has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,
While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus! So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff.

We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used **FOR JESUS!** This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



September 2024

Ushers Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Greeters: September 1 Connie Kean
September 8 Patricia Caballero
September 15 Norma Boehne
September 22 Sharon Corey
September 29 Connie Kean

Readers: September 1, 8 and 22 Christine Geltz
September 15 Richard Swanson
September 29 Jo Tschopp



Gatherings:

First Wednesday Soup and Sandwich, September 4, Wednesday at 12:00 noon

Load the Van to Friends in Deed, September 6, Friday at 8:00 a.m.

Christine Geltz's 50th Anniversary Party, September 7, Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

Volunteers at Friends in Deed, September 14, Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Board of Directors' Meeting, September 15, Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Mission Development Team Meeting, September 23, Monday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship Times, September 1, 8:30 a.m.
September 8, 8:30 a.m.
September 15, 8:30 a.m.
September 22, 8:30 a.m.
September 29, 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, 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.

Little Free Library

Our Little Free Library continues to receive ample donations of children's books, but not too many spiritual non-fiction adult books. Recently, a donor left two bags of magazines in very good condition. If you would like to take home any of these magazines, please let Jo Tschopp know. Here are some of the magazine titles: Real Simple, Magnolia, and Southern Living.



Friends in Deed



Summer is, still, with us and people who are facing food insecurity are grateful for any food donations that you can provide. Recently, Friends In Deed celebrated their 130th Anniversary “Doing Together What We Cannot Do Alone.” You can contribute to this ministry by providing food items which are taken to the pantry monthly. Donations can be given to the ushers.

Mission Development Team

How much do you know about the Lutheran Social Services of Southern California (LSSSC)? Since August 2023, our congregation here in Temple City has been supporting this ministry. The LSSSC receives one percent of our faith giving and rental income. As of August 2024, the monthly average donation has been \$195. One of their representatives shall be on hand to tell us more about their mission at the Monthly Soup and Sandwich on Wednesday – September 4th, 2024 at noon time. Come and hear all about this wonderful cause, plus bring a friend or two.



Last month in August, the church hosted a Watercolor painting class. It was taught by a local artist – George Liang. We are pleased to know that there were a few who came to this event are non-members, and had fun learning how to paint. We hope to encourage them more in attending other activities that the church would host in the future.

October's Monthly Soup and Sandwich at noon time on October 2nd will feature a presentation about service dogs. In addition, we need people to participate by having their cars on site while greeting people that would come during the Trunk & Treat event on October 31st.



Sunday School Backpack Project

A big “thank you” to all the people who shopped and contributed to our yearly Sunday School backpacks with school supplies project. Students will be filling the bags. Then, Pastor Ramon Contreras from the Lutheran Baja Concerns Ministry in San Diego shall pick them up for delivery. The high school students have begun a study of the

Luther’s Small Catechism. Let Jo know if any members would like to participate. Jo is reviewing and relearning the concept again as she prepares for the lessons.

Community Prayer Box

Please continue to pray for our neighbors; so many do not know Jesus or have a church home

“³ Call to Me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

Jeremiah 33:3



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Norma Boehne

September 11

Craig Boehne

September 13

Christine Geltz

September 29

Sunday Worship at Home

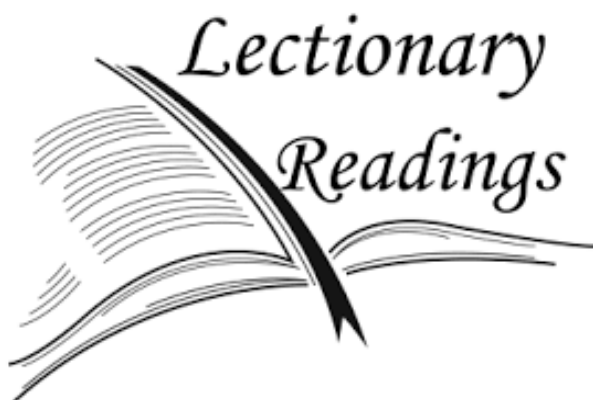
If you are unable to attend worship, you can listen to the Lutheran Hour sermon at 8:00 a.m. on station KBRT AM 740 each Sunday.

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>



Reading the Lectionaries

Here are the lectionaries for September as they travel to various books of the Old Testament, Psalms, and the Gospel during this long and green season of Pentecost:

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
September 1	Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9			
		Psalms 119:129–136	Ephesians 6:10–20	Mark 7:14–23
September 8	Isaiah 35:4–7	Psalms 146	James 2:1–10, 14–18	
				Mark 7:24–37
September 15	Isaiah 50:4–10	Psalms 116:1–9	James 3:1–12	Mark 9:14–29
September 22	Jeremiah 11:18–20	Psalms 54	James 3:13–4:10	Mark 9:30–37
September 29	Daniel 10:10–14; 12:1–3			
		Psalms 91	Revelation 12:7–12	
				Matt. 18:1–11 or Luke 10:17–20

News from Anna Rosteck – Missionary in Burundi, Africa

Dear church family,

I am so excited to tell you that I have received the final approval to return to Burundi, Africa on August 23rd, 2024 and I shall be flying out on September 3rd, 2024! This is only possible because of your prayers and support. I will arrive in time to participate in their Bible school graduation where we will send out new pastors to plant churches and reach people for Christ. Please continue praying for my health and ministry so that I can continue to do what God has called me to. I am so grateful for each one of you and will visit the next time when I am in California. Please feel free to contact me by email at: annamt@hotmail.com.

Yours in Christ,
Anna Rosteck

Joyful in **H** **PE**

SUMMER 2024



Because of You Change is Possible

GERALD BECAME HOMELESS because of bad choices, lots of debt, and two jobs that he lost one after the other. After living on the streets for five months, he knew it was time to change the direction of his life. Thanks to the support of donors like you, Lutheran Social Services of Southern California (LSSSC) was there to provide Gerald with the guidance he needed.

He arrived at LSSSC's San Bernardino location in May 2023. He was amazed at what he found. He felt like we were here to help him find a way out and that we were not here to judge him or to criticize him. He states that LSSSC treated him with respect, connected him

*You put this smile
on Gerald's face.*

Continued inside

INSIDE

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO | CELEBRATING YOUR COMMITMENT AND FAITH:
80 YEARS OF SERVICE AND IMPACT | MISSION IN ACTION – YOUR GIFTS AT WORK
| HOW TO GET INVOLVED



What if...?

WHAT IF PEOPLE WOULD really listen to one another? What if we would truly seek to understand another's point of view? What if we would speak less and listen more? What if we would forgive more? What if....?

I have wondered why there is so much negativity in the world today. It's not just on social media or with a certain group, it's all around. I have considered this when things around me seem to go awry without any real reason. It seems the smallest thing is blown into something big — it didn't have to be that way if only people had simply listened to each other.

When we don't listen, we are being passively combative. Combativeness creates friction, which can come in the form of angry words, nasty actions, and ultimately un-forgiveness. Un-forgiveness kills us slowly and feeds negativity. The Bible warns against unforgiveness and tells Believers to

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." – Ephesians 4:32

I am convinced that when we are focused on proving others wrong, we lose sight of ourselves.

To get over negativity, we need to change the "what if" to "what would". What would Jesus do? Jesus can help you change negative, destructive behaviors to positive attitudes and actions. If you want to make a change, I guarantee, He won't let you down.

Blessings,

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President and Chief Executive Officer

Continued from cover

to resources, and was a place where he could talk to his case manager. Gerald finally felt like he belonged.

After a short time, and with the support of his LSSSC team, Gerald found a job as a driver for a delivery company. He began using our housing counseling resources and saving his money. Soon, he moved into an apartment in Redlands.

Gerald left LSSSC on April 1, 2024. He said that without the support and encouragement of our staff he would not be doing as well as he is. Gerald is grateful for LSSSC, and we are grateful for you. Because of your gifts another life has been changed and another participant is on his way to self-sustainability.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9123 Broadway

Temple City, CA 91780

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

September 2024

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 1st & 3rd Sundays only

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

Every Sunday