



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.

April 2026

Publication of First Lutheran Church, Temple City, CA

From the Pastor's Desk

Spring is the time for new beginnings: a time for birth and rebirth, a time for coming home and coming to Jesus. As we get closer to Holy Week, we need to focus on what we've learned and what we've lost--and remember who makes it all possible. With God in control, remember His plan and trust in His plan for us.

Pastor Frank Matthews



Devotional Tools for Holy Week

By Bryan Wolfmueller, Lutheran Witness Magazine

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the Holy Spirit who inspired their writing are all interested in the last seven days of Jesus' earthly ministry. A quarter of Luke's Gospel, one-third of Matthew and Mark and almost half of John are devoted to the events of Holy Week. This Easter will be the 1,993rd anniversary of the Lord's Resurrection. The Ascension is celebrated 40 days after the Resurrection and Pentecost ten days later.

We give special attention to these days and all that Jesus taught and did in them. A beneficial devotional practice is to read the events of the first Holy Week on the days that they happened.

Points of orientation to help you navigate the events of Holy Week.

Sunday: The ninth of Nisan (March 29) in the year A.D. 33, Jesus rode down the Mount of Olives and into Jerusalem. The triumphal entry marks the beginning of Holy Week. The disciples look around and then travel quietly back to Bethany for the evening. **Matthew 21:1-9**

Monday: Jesus and the disciples travel into Jerusalem for a public confrontation with the teachers and to cleanse the temple, then back to Bethany. **Matthew 21:10-19**

Tuesday: Jesus is back to Jerusalem for His last day of public teaching. He answers the questions of the scribes and Pharisees, and He asks questions of His own. He speaks woes to their hypocrisy. As He and the disciples journey back to Bethany, He stops on the top of the Mount of Olives and prophesies of Jerusalem's destruction and the second coming. **Matt. 21:23-22:14, 24:1-51, 25:1-46.**

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These are the Lectionaries for the month of April.

	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
<u>April 3</u> Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13— 53:12	Psalm 22	Heb. 4:14–16; 5:7–9	John 19:17–30
<u>April 5</u> Easter	Ex. 14:10–15:1	Psalm 118:15–29	1 Cor. 15:1–11	John 20:1–18
<u>April 12</u> Second Sunday of Easter	Acts 5:29–42	Psalm 148	1 Peter 1:3–9	John 20:19–31
<u>April 19</u> Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36–41	Psalm 116:1–14	1 Peter 1:17–25	Luke 24:13–35
<u>April 26</u> Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:42–47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19–25	John 10:1–10

Worship Opportunities

Rev. Frank Matthews:
 Good Friday, April 3. Noon
 Easter Sunday, April 5, 8:30 a.m. followed by Easter Breakfast
 Sundays, April 12, 19 and 26 at 8:30 a.m.

Holy
 Week
 Worship



Sunday School Time:

Every Sunday, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

Ushers: Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Readers: April 5 and 19: Richard Swanson
 April 12 and 26: Christine Geltz

Greeters: April 5: Connie Kean April 19: Sharon Corey
 April 12: Diane Oberlander April 26: Norma Boehne

If you are unable to attend worship, you may:

- Listen to the Lutheran Hour sermon at any time you choose – Just go to lhm.org/guide.
- View Worship Anew at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays on DirectTV, Channel 377 from our Fort Wayne Seminary in Indiana. Or you can view it any time at <https://worshipanew.org/by-type/watch?>
- Access and/or review First Lutheran sermons online by going to: <https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>.

Upcoming Events

Load the Van to Friends in Deed
Good Friday Worship
Easter Worship followed by Easter Breakfast
Board of Directors' Meeting
Mission Development Team Meeting
Volunteers at Friends in Deed in Pasadena
Monthly Soup & Sandwich Luncheon
Red Cross Blood Drive
Friends & Family Sunday

April 3, Friday, at 8:00 a.m.
April 3, Friday, at noon (no luncheon)
April 5, Sunday, at 8:30 a.m.
April 19, Sunday, at 11:00 a.m.
April 24, Friday, at 11:30 a.m.
April 25, Saturday, at 8:00 a.m.
May 1, Friday, at noon
June 6, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
August 9, Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Please Keep These Loved Ones in Prayer

Judy Gunther: Please continue to pray for her healing.

Tom and Pat Grabowski: Please continue to pray for the family of Tom and Pat Grabowski as plans are being made for their care. Pat will be transferred from the hospital to Oakmont Senior Living in Upland, which is very near to their son Dan's home. Tom is currently living with Dan and will move to Oakmont with Pat. Please pray that the details involved in this move would come together. Pray that their health would improve. Praise God for Dan and his wife who are caring and providing for them.

Perry Singleton, Jen and Keith Edmunds: Please continue to pray for Pastor Frank Matthews' friends Perry and Jen, and for his cousin Keith.

Scott and Angie Reed, former FLC members now living in Las Vegas, request prayer as Angie starts up chemo treatments again this month.

Rachel Markham, former teacher at our day school now living near Redding, CA needs prayer for healing after complicated surgery to repair her right ankle and serious infection in her left foot. Also pray for her husband Phil as he cares for her.

News from the Mission Development Team

Need Help with Your Technology?

Have you ever had a question about how to get your cell phone, iPad, Chrome Book, Laptop, etc. to do something? Foothill Prep students and their teacher are providing free help with technology. Bring your devices such as smart phone, laptop, Chrome Book etc. You will be amazed at the knowledge and expertise these teenagers possess and are willing to share their skills. Bring your questions and your device to the Fellowship Room on these Fridays starting at 2:30 p.m.: April 17 and 24, May 1 and 29.



Our Next Red Cross Blood Drive: Saturday, June 6, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign Up Today!

We already have six people registered for this lifesaving event! Here are two ways **you** can sign up:

1. **On the Internet:** Go on our church website to the events section and look for Red Cross Blood Drive. This is the link: <https://firstlutherantc.org/events>. Click on the Red Cross Blood Drive June 6th announcement. There you will see another link called **Red Cross Blood Drive SIGNUP**. Click on that and you can then sign up for First Lutheran's Blood Drive.
2. **On the Phone:** Call this number: **1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**. When the Red Cross representative asks for our Sponsor Code, just tell them **flctc** and they'll help you finish your registration.

Community Prayer Box Update

By Jo Tschopp

A woman put a request for prayer regarding her father, Frank. She left her phone number so I called her and learned that Frank had surgery and had become disheartened and overwhelmed. He had even stopped going to church. She requested we pray for healing of body and spirit. Please join us as we pray for Frank.

Psalm 102:17 *He will answer the prayer of those in need. He will not turn from their prayer.*



New Selections in Our Little Free Library

If you love books, historical fiction, and libraries you will enjoy the recent addition to our Little Free Library, “The Booklover’s Library.” The book takes place in England during World War II. It is about a mother and her young daughter and how they learn to survive hard times using books and relationships developed in libraries. The children’s shelf has books of several reading levels and interest. Don’t forget you can share your books by giving them to Jo Tschopp or putting them in the library.

Update on Donation Items for Friends in Deed

On Feb.6 our FLC volunteers delivered 439 pounds of food for people in need. Want some ideas about how YOU can grow that amount for a future delivery? Well, spring is in the air, so think of some items in the grocery store that taste really good during spring: Canned proteins such as tuna, chicken, Spam, pinto beans, chili, crackers, canned fruits, applesauce, cold cereals, cake mixes, pancake mixes, lots of items to help others. Then drop them in the donation box in the back of the church and you’ll be part of this vital ministry.



Did you know? The motto of Friends in Deed is “Doing together what we cannot do alone.” The organization got its start in 1894 when local congregation leaders united to tackle the challenge of poverty. Since that time, it has fostered community partnerships (like the one with us here at FLCTC!) to address the needs of the most vulnerable neighbors in the area.

First Friday Soup and Sandwich – May 1

On April 3 we will observe Good Friday with a worship service and no meal, so Friday, May 1 will be our next Soup and Sandwich event. We hope the naturalist from Whittier Narrows will be with us to show us some of the animals that live in the nearby 400-acre sanctuary of riparian woodland, featuring four lakes and inhabited by many plants and animals. Remember to invite your neighbors and friends.



Update from Our Board of Directors

At their March 15 meeting, the board was pleased to learn that Pastor and the Mission Development Team are planning another Friends and Family Service on August 9 and discussed the concert and songfest slated for October.

The board also suggested having a Sunday morning Bible study series on “Women in the Bible,” and this new series will begin the Sunday after Easter.



News from Our Missionaries in New Guinea

Through our tithe and prayers, our congregation supports missionaries Matt and Emily Terhune’s work in Papua New Guinea with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Each morning in Papua New Guinea, parents bring their children to the SIL clinic—some fighting for their lives from preventable illnesses. When health information is only in English, too many people are left in the dark. Now, Emily reports, simple booklets in Tok Pisin (local language) are changing that story. This partner organization, SIL Global, makes these translations possible, saving lives in the process. Emily and her team come to the clinic every day to meet with people in line and witness to them about the Gospel.

In Memoriam: Betty Nelson

On December 24, 2025, Betty Nelson entered the waiting arms of Jesus on her 96th birthday, after declining health from dementia and later a stroke. Born December 24, 1928, in Seymour, Wisconsin to Raymond and Alma Bishop. Betty was the older sister of Virginia.

Betty met Bruce Nelson at Appleton High School. They married in Los Angeles on August 12, 1950 and raised their children in San Gabriel. Betty was a homemaker and active in her children's schools: at Wells Elementary and Muscatel Jr. High, she was in PTA. She was a Brownie and Girl Scout co-leader and helped backstage with Nancy's dance school performance costumes. She also worked as a librarian at Wells. She loved camping, fishing, cooking and visiting family and friends. Once retired, she travelled to Alaska and enjoyed puzzles with friends.

She later worked at Rio Hondo Junior College as Instructional Division Secretary Math/Sciences for 30 years, retiring in 2005, at age 70. She took classes and field trips to Hawaii, Yosemite, and many petroglyph sites in California, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico. She loved rocks!

Betty was a faithful member of First Lutheran Church of Temple City where she served on the Altar Guild and was also a regular participant in the home Bible Study group.

Betty was preceded in death by her sister Virginia and former husband Bruce. She is survived by son Tom Nelson of San Gabriel and daughter Nancy Reese and husband Paul of Arlington, Washington.



Devotional Tools for Holy Week *Continued from page 1*

Wednesday: Judas travels to Jerusalem to contract Jesus' betrayal, but no other events are recorded. **Matt. 26:24-26**

Thursday: Jesus and His disciples make their last trip into Jerusalem. They celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem, Jesus washes their feet and institutes the Sacrament of the Altar. Judas leaves to gather the soldiers while Jesus and the rest of the disciples travel to the Garden of Gethsemane on the western slope of the Mount of Olives to pray. **Matt 26:17-19, Mark 14:12-16**

Friday: According to the Jewish reckoning, Friday begins after nightfall on Thursday. Jesus is arrested in the garden and taken to the house of Annas in Jerusalem. The disciples flee. The crowd around Jesus grows. He is taken to the house of Caiaphas, the High Priest. John and Peter come into the courtyard to see what will happen. At sunrise Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin, and led to Pilate's Palace, the Praetorium, located in the corner of the temple complex. **Matt 26:47 to 27:30**

Pilate hears the accusations, interviews Jesus, determines His innocence and attempts to relinquish Jesus. Pilate first sends Jesus to Herod. **Matthew 23:6-12**. Second, he offers to release Jesus in place of Barabbas. Third, he flogs Jesus, arrays Him as a mock king and presents Him to the people for sympathy. The crowd still cries for His crucifixion, so Pilate washes his hands and releases Jesus to the soldiers. **Matthew 27:15-26**

Jesus is led through the city and out the gate to the west, to the place called Golgotha. He is crucified at 9 a.m. The sun darkens at noon. Jesus dies around 3 p.m., and His body is hastily removed from the cross and prepared for burial. Jesus is laid to rest and the tomb is sealed before sunset on the first Good Friday, the 14th day of Nisan (April 3), A.D. 33. **Matthew 27:31-50, 57-61**

Saturday: On this Sabbath, the Pharisees seal the tomb of Jesus. The disciples and the women remain silent in or around Jerusalem. **Matthew 27:61-66**

Easter Sunday: Early this day, before the sunrise, Jesus is raised, the angels roll the stone away from the tomb. At dawn the women find the empty tomb, and fearful chaos ensues. **Matthew 28:1-8**

Mary Magdalene runs to find Peter and John while the other women visit with the angels. These women go to find the other 10 disciples, while Peter, John and Mary Magdalene run to the tomb. Peter and John then go to find the other disciples (perhaps in Bethany) while Mary lingers at the tomb and is visited by Jesus. **John 20:3-17** Jesus then appears to the other women on the way to find the disciples. Peter and John find the other disciples and report the empty tomb; two disciples leave for Emmaus. Mary Magdalene and the other women arrive, all reporting that they had seen Jesus. **Mathew 28:9 -10, Mark 16:10-11**

By midday or early afternoon all the disciples are gathered in Jerusalem in the Upper Room. Jesus appears to Peter when he is alone at some point, and to the two disciples walking to Emmaus. **Luke 24:13-35** These two disciples run back to Jerusalem, and when they are all gathered together (minus Thomas), Jesus appears to them, shows them His hands and His feet, breathes on them, gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit, including the gift of the absolution. **Luke 24:36-47**

The Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller serves St. Paul Lutheran Church and Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Austin, Texas. He is cohost of "Table Talk Radio" and the author of several books including And Take They Our Life.

Chuck Norris: Action Legend and Devout Believer Passes to His Reward

By Howard Cooper, *God Reports*, March 20, 2026



In a world that often celebrates toughness and self-reliance, Chuck Norris stood as a towering example of strength tempered by humility and unwavering faith in Jesus Christ. The legendary martial artist, actor, and cultural icon passed into the arms of his Savior on March 19 at the age of 86, after a sudden medical emergency while in Hawaii. Surrounded by his loving family, he left this earth in peace.

Chuck grew up in challenging circumstances—poverty, an absent father, and family struggles—but his mother, Wilma, always reminded her son, “God has a plan for you,” and instilled in him a deep love for Jesus. Norris recounted in his autobiography *Against All Odds: My Story* how he rededicated his life to Christ as a young adult, crediting a Billy Graham crusade and his mother’s persistent prayers for drawing him back.

Norris authored several Christian-themed books in which he encouraged fans to build their lives on Christ, place their trust in Him during trials, and recognize that true strength comes from God, not human effort. He used his platform to point people toward the ultimate Hero: Jesus Christ. And he lived a life that testified to the transforming power of the Gospel: redemption from brokenness and finding God’s strength in the valleys of life.



**You're invited to this service of prayer and devotion.
Invite a friend! Bring along your prayer requests!**

Saturday, April 18

9:00 a.m. Registration • 9:30 a.m. Breakfast

Cost: \$5.00

This will be a special morning of worship and fellowship. Proceeds of Opportunity Drawings will go toward Mite Box offerings. Based on the Biblical account of the widow’s mite (Luke 21:1–4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of “mites” — offerings above and beyond the support given to the congregation and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

**St. John Lutheran Church
304 E. Covina Blvd., Covina CA**

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. 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 Kathy Janetzke at (626) 437-2509.

Pastoral Care: Please contact Pastor Frank Matthews at (213) 247-8838 or no1redder@gmail.com.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
9123 Broadway
Temple City, CA 91780

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL**

April 2026

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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 first & third Sunday
9:45 a.m. Sunday School / Bible Study
Every Sunday