



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 2026

Publication of First Lutheran Church, Temple City, CA

From the Pastor's Desk

He is risen – What does this mean to each of us? A promise made and kept. Not just hope for eternity but proof. We don't think about His resurrection much until Easter... Maybe we should because it's not a Lutheran promise or a Catholic one. It's a promise for everyone and as we near Pentecost, we see all tribes and nations of every tongue praising Jesus--and everyone understands. Do you?

Pastor Frank Matthews

Diversity in Unity on Pentecost

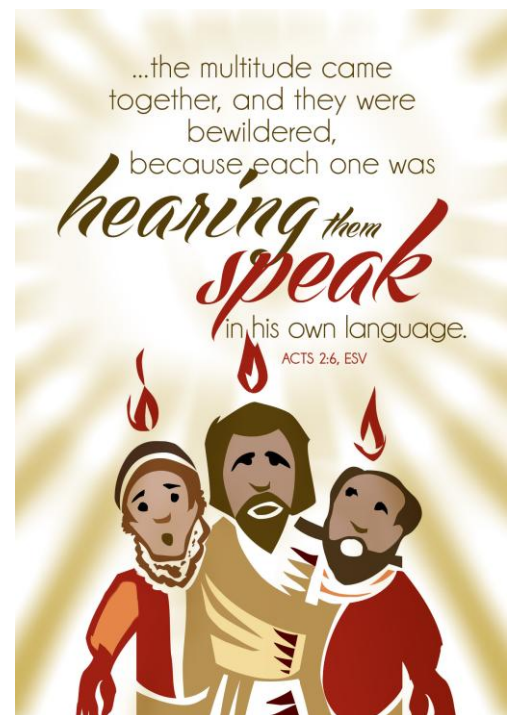
By David H. Petersen, Lutheran Witness Magazine

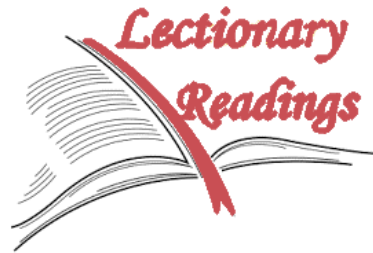
The miracle at Pentecost includes the Holy Spirit causing the Apostles to speak in unlearned languages and causing people from all over the known world to believe and be baptized. This miracle did not reverse the curse of Babel by restoring a single language to humanity, as we might have expected. Rather, the Holy Spirit made what was a curse, a cause for division and confusion, into a blessing. By this act, all human languages were endorsed by God as fit to carry His Word and sing His praise.

We see something of this blessing of diversity in unity in St. John's vision. John tells that he saw "a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (Rev. 7:9-10).

John saw and heard a marvelous thing. Not only were all these people adorned with similar white robes and carrying palm branches, but they represented every nation, all tribes and people. The saints in heaven aren't Stepford wives or clones that are interchangeable. They are, and remain, visibly unique individuals.

So also, John heard them crying out in a loud voice. He heard them crying out together: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." It might be possible that they all cried this out in Hebrew or some other single language, but John has already described this great multitude as including "all ... languages." *Continued on page 6.*





These are the Lectionaries for the month of May.

	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
May 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter	Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60	Psalm 146	1 Peter 2:2–10	John 14:1–14
May 10 Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 17:16–31	Psalm 66:8–20	1 Peter 3:13–22	John 14:15–21
May 17 Seventh Sunday of Easter	Acts 1:12–26	Psalm 68:1–10	1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11	John 17:1–11
May 24 Pentecost Sunday	Num. 11:24–30	Psalm 25:1–15	Acts 2:1–21	John 7:37–39
May 31 Trinity Sunday	Gen. 1:1–2:4a	Psalm 8	Acts 2:14a, 22–36	Matt. 28:16–20

Worship Opportunities

Rev. Frank Matthews:
Sundays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 at 8:30 a.m.

Bible Class and Sunday School Time:

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

Ushers: Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Readers: May 3 and 17: Richard Swanson

May 10 and 24: Christine Geltz

May 31: Jo Tschopp

Greeters: May 3: Connie Kean May 24: Norma Boehne

May 10: Diane Oberlander May 31: Sharon Corey

May 17: Sharon Corey



Richard Swanson, May 5
Renee Erickson, May 12

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

Mission Development Team Meeting

Volunteer at Friends in Deed

First Friday Soup & Sandwich Luncheon

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friends & Family Sunday

May 22, Friday, 11:30 a.m.

May 23, Saturday, 8:00 a.m.

June 5, Friday, 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 Pat Grabowski as she remains in the hospital with multiple health challenges. Currently she is undergoing physical therapy to regain her ability to swallow, and she is receiving nutrition via a feeding tube. Pat is still wearing a neck brace but the bones are not healing and the doctors might need to operate. Please pray for the medical staff as they make decisions regarding further treatment. Pray for healing, comfort, and perseverance as she endures this long hospital stay.

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

Rachel Markham, former teacher at our day school, continues to need prayer for healing after complicated surgery to repair her right ankle and for a serious ongoing infection in her left foot. Also pray for her husband Phil as he cares for her.

Psalm 22:24 For He has not turned away from the suffering of the one in pain or trouble. He has not hidden His face from him. But He has heard his cry for help.

News from the Mission Development Team

Upcoming Team Meeting

The next meeting of this enthusiastic group interested in community outreach is scheduled for Friday, May 22, at 11:30 a.m.. On the agenda will be evaluating our Mission Statement, reviewing the past six years of activities and looking ahead to the June 6th Red Cross Blood Drive. Please join us.

Our Next Red Cross Blood Drive:

Saturday, June 6, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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 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 Please continue to pray for our neighborhood and community. Pray that people everywhere would seek a close relationship with God and recognize the power of prayer and commit to praying daily.

- We recently received a request for prayers for Evaline as she recovers from her sickness, pray that she is successful at her job and studies.
- Pray for Albert who needs inner peace.
- Pray for Ramez making a job transition.



New Selections in Our Little Free Library

A very interesting little cookbook has been donated to our Little Free Library. The title, “Grain-Free Baked Goods & Desserts” lets you know that the recipes are gluten-free. The first chapter is “Let’s Go Shopping, a Guide to Ingredients & Appliances.” The author writes about why she uses beans in many of her baked goods, how to make almond and cashew milks, and why she eats mostly grain-free. Cooked navy beans, applesauce, and coconut flour are some of the ingredients in her Cherry Almond Scones recipe. I found the book informative and fascinating.



Update on Donation Items for Friends in Deed

At the end of March, the diligent and consistent members who support the Food Pantry at Friends in Deed delivered 489 pounds of shelf stable food. That is a lot of food but the need is great. People and families in the lower economic levels are especially experiencing food insecurity as they consider higher gas and food prices. You can help by putting several items into your shopping cart for Friends in Deed. Think of canned fruit, prepared mixes, peanut butter, or one of your favorites that you want to share.



First Friday Soup and Sandwich – June 5

Our soup and sandwich luncheons at noon on the first Friday of the month continue to be times of fellowship, music, and inspiration. And the food is dee-licious! Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors.

Wonders of God's Creation Featured at May Luncheon



Colleen MacKay with Sora, the barn owl.

Beautiful barn owl Sora was the program star at the May First Friday Luncheon. She was featured in the presentation by Colleen MacKay, Park Superintendent from Whittier Narrows Nature Center. Colleen educated the group with fascinating info about the habits, habitat, prey, and personalities of birds of prey in our region. She filled us in on how humans need to understand and respect these characteristics to successfully interact with the birds in the rehab process. Colleen also revealed how external factors like amount of rainfall (less rain = less grass = fewer rabbits for food) and rat poison (ingested poisoned rats) can harm these creatures.

She invited us all to visit the Center at 1000 S. Durfee Ave in S. El Monte to view the wide range of amazing creatures on display, from awesome snakes to playful raccoons. Want to know more? Ask our own Peter Dille here at FLCTC who volunteers there and arranged for this presentation.

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.

From Emily Terhune: "The organization we serve with, Summer Institute of Linguistics - Papua New Guinea (SIL PNG), just celebrated its 70th anniversary! I have to share this photo of our family meeting with the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, James Marape. I was honestly really moved by his encouragement for the work of SIL. He shared that out of all of the diversity of Papua New Guinea... more than 800 languages... it's the Word of God that brings unity."

[Editor's note: This is reminiscent of the first Pentecost! See Cover Story.]



"Recently during Cyclone Maila, a category 5 storm, it was really windy up here at our location and we lost power briefly and then high speed internet access for about a week. We're fine, though. Please pray for relief efforts along the coast— Our organization has planes flying out there to assess the damage and deliver food. Please also pray for one of our Scripture Use teams that has been out in a remote village running a Bible teaching workshop. They had to cross a river to get from the airstrip to the village, and there has been a lot of rain, so the river is much higher. They're concerned about getting back across and would like prayer!"

Cover Story: “Diversity in Unity on Pentecost” *Continued from page 1.*

It seems most likely to me that he knows this because he heard these languages with his own ears. In other words, the saints perfected are audibly unique even as they are visibly unique.

If I am reading this right, it means that the saints perfected, the saints in heaven, keep their mother tongues. Filled with the Spirit and at one with the Father in the Son, their languages work together, in harmony, without confusion or discord, without stepping on or drowning out one another. They remain unique, according to their lives on earth, with their own histories and memories, and yet, fully sanctified, they are united to Christ and to one another. John hears them sing a single song of praise without competition or envy, without fear or insecurities.



The coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost is the culmination of Easter. It is the beginning of the new age. The Church Militant has lived ever since in the last days. Pentecost shows something of heaven and matches John’s vision. Christian worship and evangelism around the world in vernacular tongues also matches and continues to bear witness to the Pentecost miracle.

From “Diversity in Unity on Pentecost,” Lutheran Witness Magazine, May 17, 2018

The Rev. David H. Petersen is the pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

The Faith of Matthew McConaughey

Excerpted from an article by Mark Ellis, God Reports, September 26, 2025



Photo credit: farefilm.it

In the pursuit of his ambitions in Hollywood, Matthew McConaughey could have easily gone his own way forever. The Texas-born actor with a charming personality and drawl may seem an unlikely vessel for a spiritual turnaround.

Yet McConaughey’s journey to rediscovering Jesus is like a modern parable: a prodigal son, wandering through the excesses of Hollywood, drawn back to his Creator by the quiet cry of a newborn and the faithful heart of a godly wife.

Named for Jesus’ disciple Matthew and raised in a Baptist home, young Matthew absorbed the seeds of faith sown by his parents. His mother, Kay McConaughey, a kindergarten teacher and author whose love for her boys was fierce and unyielding, lived out an authentic faith—with hymns played in their modest home and prayers given over family meals. But as the boy became a man, those seeds became dormant, overshadowed by his ambitions.

It was at the University of Texas in Austin, amid the excitement of college life, that McConaughey’s faith got sidetracked. “I started questioning everything,” he admitted in a candid 2023 interview with Patheos. The film studies major had a chance audition for the 1993 coming-of-age comedy film, *Dazed and Confused*. He was not originally cast in the film, but he happened to run into the casting director later that day and was given a chance to try again. After that first break, fame arrived like a Texas twister with roles in *A Time to Kill* and *The Lincoln Lawyer*. *Continued on next page.*

The Faith of Matthew McConaughey *Continued from previous page.*

Yet beneath the accolades, a spiritual vacuum grew. “I was chasing the highs,” he confessed to *RELEVANT* magazine in May 2025, “but they left me emptier than before.” The pivot came in 2007, in the delivery room of an LA hospital. McConaughey’s Brazilian-born wife, Camila Alves—whose sincere faith would soon become his anchor—gave birth to their first child, son Levi. As the tiny bundle was placed in his arms, something stirred in the actor’s heart. “As soon as we had children, I was like, ‘You know what? I need to go back to church,’” he shared in a 2014 *GQ* interview.

Camila played a major part in his return to faith. “She led by example,” McConaughey told the *Gospel Herald* in 2014, describing how her unwavering devotion to Jesus drew him into family Bible studies and midnight confessions. “At our wedding we made a promise to God and each other,” he said, “that this was the adventure we’d take together, anchored in His grace.”

McConaughey’s faith became much more public at the 2014 Oscars, where he accepted the Best Actor award for *Dallas Buyers Club* with a testimony that left the Dolby Theatre stunned. “First off, I want to thank God, because that’s who I look up to,” he declared, his voice steady as he spoke of divine rescue: “There’s someone standing behind me, all the time... and that one’s easy: His name is Jesus.” The moment drew applause from Christian friends in the audience, but awkward silence from the secular Hollywood crowd—highlighting the tension he navigates in an industry often allergic to the Almighty.

Today, at 56, McConaughey stands out as a Hollywood heavyweight who has managed to place his fame on a sure foundation – the rock of ages – Jesus Christ. For this actor, the greatest role of his life isn’t on screen—it’s as a disciple. Alright, alright, alright.



Thought for the Day

(Suggested by Pastor Frank Matthews)

“Music can be all things to all persons. It is like a great dynamic sun in the center of a solar system which sends out its rays and inspiration in every direction... Music makes us feel that the heavens open and a divine voice calls. Something in our souls responds and understands.”

From “Music for All of Us,” 1943

Leopold Stokowski, English Orchestral Conductor
April 18, 1882 - Sept. 13, 1977

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**
May 2026

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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