



# 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.*

June 2026

Publication of First Lutheran Church, Temple City, CA

## From the Pastor's Desk

Summer is almost here, school is almost done so as we travel to visit family and friends, remember God is always near—just a prayer away. Our author and perfecter of our lives is never far, so keep Him close and never forget.

*Pastor Frank Matthews*

## Where's Your Areopagus?

*By Rev. Dan Gilbert, former president, LCMS Northern Illinois District*

*Editor's note: In our May 10 worship service, our first reading was the account in Acts chapter 17 of Paul preaching Jesus and the resurrection at the Areopagus in Athens, pointing Athenians to the "unknown God" who had been raised from the dead. Here Rev. Dan Gilbert challenges us to find our own places to introduce unbelievers to the Gospel.*

Recently, I met with some members of one of our congregations for a Q & A about a number of issues. One of the topics that arose was this: How do we reach out to, or start new outreach to, people who are not believers and who do not come to church? There is some good scriptural teaching on this topic that we have to know well in order not to do the wrong things and not to condemn things that are good.

First, it's false doctrine to expect that unchurched unbelievers will come to church on their own. We read in 1 Corinthians 12:3: "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit." Jesus said, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide." (John 15:16).

Paul wrote to believers regarding their lives before they came to faith: "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked" (Ephesians 2:1). In order to believe, unbelievers must hear the Gospel, because "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17).

Unbelievers, then, will not, on their own, choose to come and hear the Gospel. We (the Church) must go to them. So don't expect your unbelieving, un-churched, un-baptized neighbors to wake up next Sunday morning and, on their own, say, "Hey! I think I'll go to church today!" That is as likely as a dead person saying, "Hey! I think I'll be alive now!" It's not going to happen.

So we (the Church) go to the unbelievers. We engage them in conversations about God's message of sin and forgiveness in His Son. We proclaim it to them, and we invite them to come and hear more of it. And where do we go to do that?

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## A Scriptural Model *Continued from page 1.*

In Acts, we read how Paul and his companions usually went to a synagogue upon entering a new town. In Philippi, where there was no synagogue, they went to the river to find a place of prayer. But in neither case did they immediately set up a table, buy some bread and wine, say the Lord's words of institution and invite the people to the Lord's Supper. The people there weren't yet believers in Jesus; so the Lord's Supper was properly closed to them. First, Paul and the others conversed about and proclaimed the message of salvation—always with the hope, prayer, and intent of bringing their hearers to the promises of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Holy Spirit worked faith through the proclamation of the Good News.

One of my favorite models is Paul in Athens (Acts 17:16–34). Paul went both to the marketplace and to the Areopagus, a principal council or supreme court of ancient Athens. It met on a rocky outcrop northwest of the Acropolis. Its English name comes from the Latin composite form of the Greek name Areios Pagos, translated "Hill of Ares." Both were busy places where people gathered for a number of things, including what we might call "just hanging out" to talk about stuff. And he talked with them about sin, grace, Jesus, the cross, and the resurrection. He did not conduct the Divine Service; he did not preside over and serve the Lord's Supper; he went to where people went to hang out, and he engaged them with the message of sin and the message of forgiveness in Jesus' name. Great!

## A Question

Now here's the question for me, for you, for your congregation: "Where's your Areopagus?"

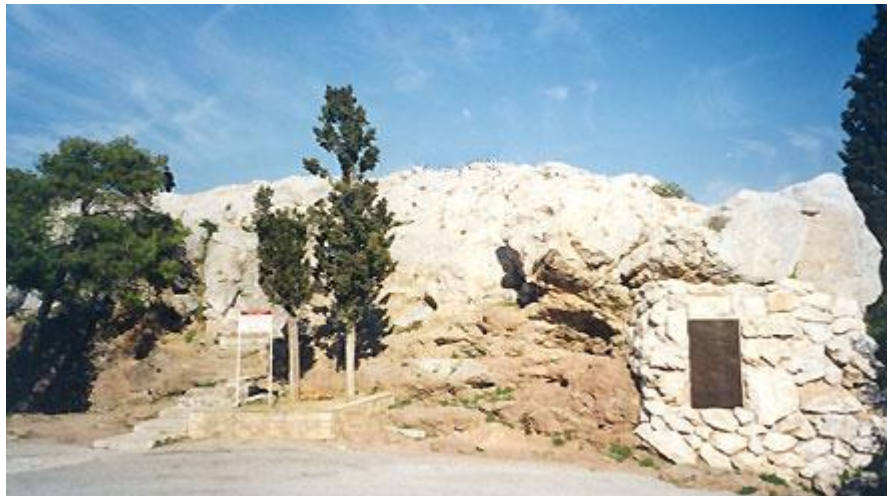
I'm not talking about a place in Asia or Africa, or in Europe or Latin America. I'm talking about right there in your community, in my community, in this post-Christian culture. That's not an easy question to answer, and I'm not giving you the answer. But I

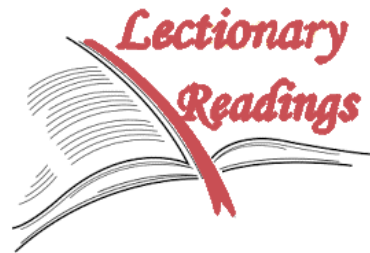
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*Above: An artist's conception of the Areopagus (foreground), a rocky outcrop where Paul preached to unbelievers, with the Acropolis in the background. Rendering by Leo von Klenze.*

*Below: The remains of the Areopagus in the present day, with a bronze plaque at right containing the text of Paul's sermon there. Photo credit: Wikimedia*





**These are the Lectionaries for the month of June.**

	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
<u>June 7</u> 2nd Sunday after Pentecost	Hosea 5:15–6:6	Psalm 119:65–72	Rom. 4:13–25	Matt. 9:9–13
<u>June 14</u> 3rd Sunday after Pentecost	Ex. 19:2–8	Psalm 100	Rom. 5:6–15	Matt. 9:35–10:8 (9–20)
<u>June 21</u> 4th Sunday after Pentecost	Jer. 20:7–13	Psalm 91:1–10 (11–16)	Rom. 6:12–23	Matt. 10:5a, 21–33
<u>June 28</u> 5th Sunday after Pentecost	Jer. 28:5–9	Psalm 119:153– 160	Rom. 7:1–13	Matt. 10:34–42

**Worship Opportunities**

Rev. Frank Matthews:  
Sundays, June 7, 14, 21 and 28 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:** June 7 and 21: Richard Swanson  
June 14 and 28: Christine Geltz

**Greeters:** June 7: Connie Kean          June 21: Norma Boehne  
June 14: Diane Oberlander      June 28: Sharon Corey



Linda Daly 6/1  
Peter Dille 6/11  
Diane Oberlander 6/23

**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](http://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

Friends in Deed Delivery

First Friday Soup & Sandwich Luncheon

Red Cross Blood Drive

Volunteer at Friends in Deed

National Ice Cream Day Celebration

Friends & Family Sunday

June 5, Friday, 9:00 a.m.

June 5, Friday, noon

June 6, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

June 20, Saturday, 8:00 a.m.

July 18, Saturday

August 9, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. followed by brunch

## Please Keep These Loved Ones in Prayer

Judy Gunther: Please continue to pray for her healing.

Pat Grabowski: Please keep Pat in prayer for healing and patience as she receive care in her skilled nursing facility for aspiration pneumonia.

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 First Lutheran School. Rachel is recovering from successful surgery on her fractured right ankle and but needs prayer for complications and infection after surgery on her left foot.

## News from the Mission Development Team

This group of mission-minded people met recently and reviewed their more than six years of activities. They reviewed their original mission statement and talked of plans for the future. Please join us as we continue to reach out to the neighborhood and community.

### Our Next Red Cross Blood Drive:

**Saturday, June 6, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 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.



### Friday Tech Help Canceled

This opportunity from Foothill Preparatory School had to be canceled because of the school testing and end of year activities. We thank the students and school staff for participating.





## Community Prayer Box Update

Our Community Prayer Box has been getting some unwelcome attention. Recently the prayer request cards have been taken two different times. It means that the plastic bags have to be replaced and new prayer request cards printed. Please pray that the person or people involved would repent and grow in faith in God and develop a personal prayer life.

**Psalm 145:18-19** *The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. <sup>19</sup> He will fill the desire of those who fear Him. He will also hear their cry and will save them.*



## New Selections in Our Little Free Library

“A Nation of Immigrants” by John F. Kennedy is in our Little Free Library. The book was written in 1959 and published in 1964 after Kennedy’s assassination. The introduction was written by Edward M. Kennedy. The book addresses issues that still haunt our nation leaving the reader wondering, what is the best solution? If you like history you’ll enjoy the detailed history of immigration from the Pre-Revolutionary days to the 1960’s.



## Update on Donation Items for Friends in Deed

A big shout out to the members and friends of First Lutheran who continue to bring shelf stable food items to church to be transported monthly to the food pantry at Friends in Deed in Pasadena! Please continue to support this vital ministry to those experiencing food insecurity.

As a reminder, these are the Gold Items (top priority): canned tuna/chicken, hearty soups, beef stew, chili, pasta & pasta sauce, peanut butter, cereal, rice, cooking oil, flour, sugar, fruit juice, shelf stable juices, and plant based products.



## First Friday Soup and Sandwich – June 5

Plans are being made for our summer First Friday Soup and Sandwich Luncheons. We hope you plan to attend June 5 at noon in the Fellowship Room. Bring along some ideas for future programs and your friends and neighbors. Last month the naturalist from Whittier Narrows Nature Center was outstanding and so was the owl that she brought.



**Lutheran Women in  
Mission  
Pacific Southwest  
District Convention  
June 5 – 7, 2026  
Warner Center  
Marriott,  
Woodland Hills, CA**

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

The 2026 Convention Hosting Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 invite you to join us in the beautiful San Fernando Valley in California where we will explore the theme “Whatever!” based on Philippians 4:8.

With the help of our Bible study leaders Deb Burma and Cindy Steinbeck, we will focus on whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise. Expanding on our theme will be a pre-convention session by Kari Vo, who will also provide another special session on Saturday at lunch.

On Friday afternoon, there is an opportunity to hear from a wide variety of speakers, participate in servant events, and visit our exhibitors. Friday evening, we officially begin convention with the Opening Worship Service at Canoga Park Lutheran Church, about two miles from the hotel. The congregation has invited everyone to a reception following the service.

Saturday’s activities will include a mission walk to raise funds for mission grants, a Men’s Bible study, time in God’s Word, learning about mission projects, great food, awesome fellowship, fun, and entertainment, which includes the music of Kedma Wenz, and an 80’s-themed Name that Tune. We look forward to seeing you in Woodland Hills, where we can be “valley girls” together! Nila Rodriguez and Michelle Jenks, Host Committee Chairs

For more information and to register, just go to <https://psdlwml.regfox.com/lwml-psd-convention-2026>.

## Where's Your Areopagus? *Continued from page 2.*

encourage you as an individual, and as a congregation, to ponder, discuss, pray about, and act upon it as the Lord leads. Since you cannot expect unbelievers to come to hear the Gospel on their own, where do you as a person, as a congregation, go to take the Gospel to them, or to invite them to come and hear it?

This is the question I posed to the congregation that day, and the one I'm posing to you, to all of us. Through all your pondering and discussing, I encourage you to pray daily that the Lord will send workers into His harvest; that He will multiply new churches and new believers; and that He will add to our number daily those who are being saved.

*Rev. Dan Gilbert served as a pastor for 28 years in Iowa and northern Illinois. He then was Northern Illinois District president for twelve years. His past board experience includes being a member and chair of the Concordia University Chicago board of regents. He and his wife Jan live in semi-retirement in St. Louis. Reprinted from Lutheran Witness Magazine, December 2010*

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## Prayer Request from Our Missionaries in Papua 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.*

Emily Terhune asks prayer for security in the valley where they live, due to the increase in criminal activity there lately. She also asks us to pray for an end to the conflict in a nearby village.

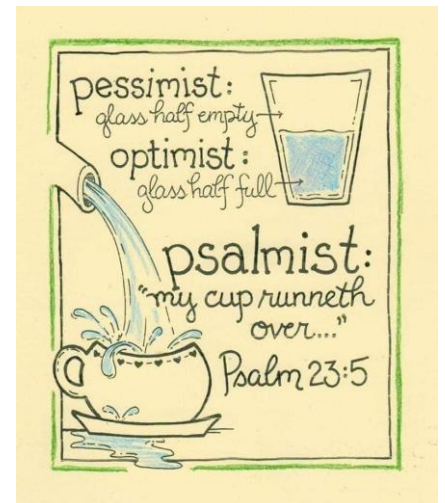
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## Not Receiving Email Special Announcements and/or Prayer Requests?

**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 Kathy Janetzke at (626) 437-2509.

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





**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
9123 Broadway  
Temple City, CA 91780

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL**  
*June 2026*

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**E-Mail:** [admin@firstlutherantc.org](mailto: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**