



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.

August 2026

Publication of First Lutheran Church, Temple City, CA

From the Pastor's Desk

Summer is winding down, kids are going back to school, vacations are almost over, and today is the time to come back. Come back home to Jesus. And come back to His love and forgiveness and mercy. He never left but we did. His arms are always open to receive His grace and mercy.

Pastor Frank Matthews

Family & Friends Day

Let's celebrate the last month
of summer with community!

SUNDAY
AUGUST 9 AT 8:30 AM

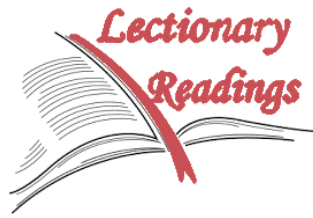


Meet Pastor Frank
Matthews & our
Members

Refreshments
will be served

9123 Broadway
Temple City, Ca 91780
(626) 287-0968

Be sure to invite family members and friends to worship on August 9, followed by refreshments in the shade just outside the sanctuary. Highlights will include a special message and music from Pastor Frank, and we'll celebrate togetherness and fellowship!



These are the Lectionaries for the month of August.

	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
<u>August 2</u> Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 55:1–5	Psalm 136:1–9	Rom. 9:1–5 (6–13)	Matt. 14:13–21
<u>August 9</u> Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	Job 38:4–18	Psalm 18:1–6 (7–16)	Rom. 10:5–17	Matt. 14:22–33
<u>August 16</u> Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 56:1, 6–8	Psalm 67	Rom. 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32	Matt. 15:21–28
<u>August 23</u> Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 51:1–6	Psalm 138	Rom. 11:33–12:8	Matt. 16:13–20
<u>August 30</u> Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Jer. 15:15–21	Psalm 26	Rom. 12:9–21	Matt. 16:21–28

Worship Opportunities

Rev. Frank Matthews:

Sundays, August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 8:30 a.m.

Bible Class and Sunday School Time:

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



Pat Grabowski 8/3

Don Lammerts 8/15

Ushers: Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Readers: August 2: Richard Swanson August 23: Christine Geltz
August 9: Christine Geltz August 30: Jo Tschopp
August 16: Richard Swanson

Greeters: August 2: Connie Kean August 23: Sharon Corey
August 9: Diane Oberlander August 30: Sharon Corey
August 16: 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

First Friday Soup & Sandwich Luncheon
Friends In Deed Delivery
Friends & Family Sunday

Volunteer at Friends In Deed
Fall Concert and Songfest

August 7, Friday, noon
August 7, Friday, 9:00 a.m.
August 9, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. followed by refreshments
August 15, Saturday, 8:00 a.m.
October 3, Saturday, 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner

Please Keep These Loved Ones in Prayer

Judy Gunther: Please continue to pray for her healing.

Pat Grabowski: Pat's condition is slowly improving and she is recovering comfortably at her son Dan's home in Upland. Please pray for her continued recovery and success for her ongoing outpatient therapy at Casa Colina.

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

News from the Mission Development Team

Ice Cream Social

A special thanks to members of First Lutheran who participated in the recent Ice Cream event. We did enjoy mingling with a few neighbors who walked by and those who attended. We still have lots of ice cream and fixings for root beer floats.

Recent Team Meeting

At their recent meeting the Mission Development Team reviewed a three-page list of activities and events planned and held since December 2020 when the group formed. Pastor Matthews challenged us to review the document and choose several events which we felt were most valuable. We will discuss the ideas at the next meeting.

School Supply Backpack Project

Forty string backpacks are ready to be filled with school supplies by our Sunday School Class. Some busy shoppers have been chasing the bargains for weeks. A big thanks to all who gave monetary gifts and to those who took the list and purchased the items. Students and their families also participated with donations. A staff member from Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry will drive from San Diego to pick up the backpacks.



Coming Soup & Sandwich Events

August 7, Acts Thrift Store

September 4, Detective Mike Janetzke regarding identity theft, scams, etc.

October 2, The Terhune Family, our missionaries on furlough from their post in Papua New Guinea

November 6, Giving Thanks & Veteran's Day

December 4, Christmas Craft



Community Prayer Box Update

A pleasant surprise from our Community Prayer Box was contributed by an anonymous neighbor. "May health and happiness be upon us all." A great prayer for our neighborhood, community, state, and nation!



New Selections in Our Little Free Library

Currently in the library is Amy Tan's most popular book, "The Joy Luck Club." The book explores mother-daughter relationships and the Chinese-American immigrant experience. There has been a film version of the story. Many children's books are available on the bottom shelf, some of them new, waiting for a good home. You can donate books by putting them in the library, or giving them to an usher or Jo Tschopp.



Our July Donations and a Services Update

Our food donations totaled more than 590 pounds in July—congratulations and thanks to all who contributed! We received word from Friends in Deed that twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesdays, members of its Street Outreach and Housing team set up a table out front of the Pantry and make themselves available to anyone who needs more than groceries: a conversation, a referral, or a helping hand. And just a reminder: With the temperatures soaring, the danger to those on the street, as well as those without AC, is immense. Please continue to offer water to those you see, and check on neighbors who may be at risk, especially those who are elderly or physically disabled.



First Friday Soup and Sandwich Luncheons

Friday, August 7 we will have an informative and interesting presentation by Tony Reyes from ACTS Thrift Stores. He is looking forward to sharing the ACTS thrift model and how they give God all the glory. As senior citizens we often have accumulated too much stuff and don't know what to do with things that were very helpful and useful in the past.

Friday, September 4 our guest will be Detective Michael Janetzke from the Brea Police Department. He will be speaking about scams, identity theft, and safety online.

Friday October 2 we will welcome Matt and Emily Terhune, our missionaries from Papua New Guinea, as they spend a few months here in the U.S. on furlough. Don't miss this chance to greet them in person and hear about their ministry.

FLCTC Salutes the Daylighters for Their 14 Years of Service

With Joann Fabrics going out of business, one of our longtime ministries has come to an end. The Daylighters sewing group started with seven volunteers in 2012, and from then until 2016 the team made all the pillows for the church and lap robes for the residents of Santa Anita Convalescent Hospital in Arcadia.

In 2017 the group included five members: Hazel Benscoter, Phyllis Besser, Kathy Janetzke, Jackie Rhodes, and Lanelle Rose. They began making blankets for Project Linus (see more info below) and our Sonshine House Preschool. From then until this year, the team made 230 blankets, giving 210 to Project Linus and 20 to new babies in our preschool. Yardage was easy to access and inexpensive until Joann Fabrics went out of business this year. The team's last blanket was finished by a 2-member team this past July.



Daylighters display their work: (l-r) Phyllis Besser, Kathy Janetzke, Lanelle Rose, Jackie Rhodes, Hazel Benscoter.

The Daylighters financed their work with funds that were left over from our Lutheran Women's Missionary League groups when the former members went home to be with the Lord. Big kudos to all those women in our LWML that sewed year after year and then at their Christmas Boutique netted two to three thousand dollars that helped support missionaries overseas.

Named after the Linus character from the "Peanuts" comic strip, Project Linus provides love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers." It also provides a rewarding and fun service opportunity for individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children. It's a national organization based in Stockton, Missouri with more than 300 chapters and 80,000 volunteers.



Prayer Request and Praise 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 praises God that the trauma healing workshop in the village of Lae that we prayed about last month went well! The group included 80 participants, all pastors in training or their wives.

"Our biggest prayer request is our furlough," says Emily. "It's coming up in six weeks and it's a big transition for us, and for the kids especially. Claire (6 years old) doesn't really remember America. We are all excited to see family, but it's also a departure from 'normal' and from our friends here, especially for the kids."

While they are on their furlough, the Terhunes will be our guests at the October 2 First Friday Luncheon! Be sure to come and greet them in person and hear about their ministry first hand.

Argentine Soccer Star Lionel Messi Credits God for His Success

by Howard Cooper, July 9, 2026, God Reports godreports.com

He is widely regarded as the greatest soccer player to ever step onto a field: eight Ballon d'Or trophies, a World Cup title earned in 2022, a body of work that has left even rival fans in awe. But ask Lionel Messi to explain his own genius, and he doesn't point to hours of practice or natural gift alone. He points upward.



Lionel Messi (Photo credit: wikimedia)

"It's very clear to me that I was born like this because God chose me," Messi told Argentine podcaster Juan Pablo Varsky on the Clank podcast. "It was a gift He gave me. I tried to take advantage of it, I did everything possible to squeeze the most out of it." For a global superstar who rarely opens up about his personal life, that kind of statement stands out — and it isn't a one-time remark.

Messi grew up in Rosario, Argentina, in a country where 93% identify as Christian, according to Joshua Project. That backdrop shaped his upbringing, and by all accounts, it stayed with him long after he left home for Barcelona as a teenager.

The evidence is literally etched into his skin. Messi carries a tattoo on his right shoulder of Jesus Christ wearing a crown of thorns and a separate tattoo of a rose window modeled after Barcelona's Sagrada Familia basilica — a permanent reminder of the faith that traveled with him from Argentina to Spain.

"He's Given Me Everything"

Messi has never been one to grandstand about his beliefs, but he has repeatedly credited God in the moments that mattered most. Anyone who has watched Messi celebrate a goal has likely seen it: the point to the sky, the eyes lifted upward before he's mobbed by teammates, a simple act of gratitude aimed at the Father above.



Messi's tattoo (Photo credit: Creative Commons)

After winning the World Cup in 2022 Messi gave glory to God:

"I knew, I felt that God had something in store for me and it was at a very special moment, near the end of the circle, the end of my career as a professional athlete," he said in the Clank interview. "I thank Him every day of my life for this and for everything He has always given me. I cannot ask Him for more, because thanks to Him I have everything."

As he and his team chased another World Cup victory in 2026, Messi rested in the understanding that his real victory is in Jesus Christ.

COSTUME JEWELRY WANTED!

*Give your jewelry a new purpose
and help make a difference.*



Clean out your jewelry boxes and donate to American Cancer Society Relay For Life Team "The Real Housewives"



100% of all proceeds from the sale of jewelry will go directly to the American Cancer Society.

Jewelry of any style or condition appreciated.

**You can drop the jewelry off at
Cloverleaf Bakery**

9475 Las Tunas Drive at Cloverly

Monday – closed

Tues and Wed 6:30am – 3:00 pm

Thurs and Fri 6:30 am – 5:00 pm

Sat 8:00am – 5:00 / Sun 8:00am – 3:00pm

**OR for pickup just email
therealhousewives00@gmail.com**



Raise Funds for American Cancer Society with Unused Costume Jewelry!

by Christine Geltz

An American Cancer Society Relay for Life Team who call themselves "The Real Housewives of Temple City" have started a costume jewelry donation drive—and have invited First Lutheran women to join in the fun!

I had read about this drive on Facebook, and paring down my costume jewelry collection to donate for this cause was a pleasure, thinking about my relatives and friends who passed from this terrible disease. So Sunday, July 26, I was dropping off my donated jewelry at the Cloverleaf Bakery drop-off point on Las Tunas and ran into Nanette Fish, co-director of this drive and former TC City Council member, who had also stopped by.

What a great coincidence to run into Nan, catch some of her infectious enthusiasm, and hear her motivation. "I'm doing this for my late husband, Kevin," she told me. "He was a retired LA County Sheriff who died from cancer in 2018 at age 55...far too young." She said this drive has netted tens of thousands of dollars already for the American Cancer Society in this year-round effort. Who would have guessed?

I told Nan that I'm the newsletter editor at First Lutheran and she invited all of us FLC women to join in. So please see the info above left: You can drop your donations at Cloverleaf Bakery or email therealhousewives00@gmail.com and they will pick them up from you.

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**

August 2026

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9123 Broadway
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