



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 2026

Publication of First Lutheran Church, Temple City, CA

From the Pastor's Desk

Summer changes to fall and the days get shorter. Leaves begin to change as so many things in our lives change. Things are more expensive but one thing has never changed and that's the love of God. Go forth and show that love and be the changed person.

Pastor Frank Matthews

Praise and Prayer Requests from Our Missionaries in Papua New Guinea – and We Look Forward to Their Visit on October 2

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! See page 6 for more details.

"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're on furlough, the Terhunes will be our guests at our October 2 Luncheon! Be sure to come greet them in person and hear about their ministry first hand. In the meantime, below is their latest news

Dear Friends & Family,

We hope you're all doing well, and we look forward to seeing you soon! Following are some updates, photos, and prayer requests from us.

SIL-PNG (our organization here) recently celebrated its 70th anniversary. One of the ways we celebrated was putting on a "Scripture Parade" where each of the 233 New Testaments or full Bibles

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These are the Lectionaries for the month of September.

	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
<u>September 6</u> Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Ezek. 33:7–9	Psalms 32:1–7	Rom. 13:1–10	Matt. 18:1–20
<u>September 13</u> Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Gen. 50:15–21	Psalms 103:1–12	Rom. 14:1–12	Matt. 18:21–35
<u>September 20</u> Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 55:6–9	Psalms 27:1–9	Phil. 1:12–14 19–30	Matt. 20:1–16
<u>September 27</u> Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Ezek. 18:1–4, 25–32	Psalms 25:1–10	Phil. 2:1–4 (5–13) 14–18	Matt. 21:23–27 (28–32)

Worship Opportunities

Rev. Frank Matthews:
Sundays, September 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 8:30 a.m.

Bible Class and Sunday School Time:

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



BIRTHDAYS

Norma Boehne 9/11
Craig Boehne 9/13
Christine Geltz 9/29

Ushers: Craig Boehne, Dave Lassanske, and Don Lammerts

Readers: September 6: Richard Swanson September 20: Richard Swanson
September 13: Christine Geltz September 27: Christine Geltz

Greeters: September 6: Connie Kean September 20: Norma Boehne
September 13: Diane Oberlander September 27: Sharon Corey

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

Friends In Deed Delivery
First Friday Soup & Sandwich Luncheon
Volunteer at Friends In Deed
Board of Directors Meeting
Mission Development Team Meeting
First Friday Soup & Sandwich Luncheon

Fall Concert and Songfest

Sept. 4, Friday, 9:00 a.m.
Sept. 4, Friday, noon, Detective Mike Janetzke
Sept. 12, Saturday, 8:00 a.m.
Sept. 20, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.
Sept. 25, Friday, 10:30 a.m.
Oct. 2, Friday, noon, Missionaries Matt & Emily Terhune
October 3, Saturday, 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner

Please Keep These Loved Ones in Prayer

Judy Gunther: Please continue to pray for her healing.

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

Pat Grabowski: Please join Pat as she praises God for her health improvement. Her neck fracture is starting to heal and she is progressing in her ability to feed herself. She still has her feeding tube and doctors will decide later regarding its removal as her health continues to improve. Also, Tom and Pat's home has sold. Along with praising God, please pray that Pat's health will continue to improve and the sale of their home will be finished without complications. You can send Pat your greetings at her son Dan's home at 40 W. 21st St., Upland CA 91784.

Angie Reed: Former member Angie asks us to keep her and husband Scott in our prayers as she has had a recurrence of her cancer. She asks that she will be able to continue to feel as good and have the energy that she has had in the past couple of weeks. She'd appreciate hearing from her First Lutheran friends via mail at 4707 Desert Plains Rd, Las Vegas NV 89147.

Rachel Markham: We thank the Lord for His healing of Rachel's severely infected left foot and the post-surgical healing of bones in her right foot and ankle. We praise Him that Rachel is walking again.

Tom Aki: Shari Pica asks prayers for her friend Tom Aki who's just been diagnosed with inoperable esophagus cancer.



FLC Concert and Songfest Coming on October 3

Don't miss this evening of amazing Christian music starting at 5:30 p.m.! Our friends from Foothill Academy of Vocal Arts in Monrovia will be back to present classic and modern sacred music under the direction of Keith Harmel. Then we'll hear praise and gospel music from the Friends of St. Paul choir based in Los Angeles under the direction of Lonnie Morgan. A light dinner in the Parish Hall will follow the concert. Invite your friends and family to this soul-filled event!



News from the Mission Development Team

This group continues to seek ways to reach out into our neighborhood with God's love. The recent Friends and Family worship service did bring some visitors to the worship service. Plan to join us as we make plans for year 2027. Watch for meeting dates. The October 3 music event is in the planning stages as well as a Blood Drive on January 30, 2027 and the Chinese New Year celebration on February 6, 2027.

Coming Soup & Sandwich Events

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



ACTS Thrift Stores' Tony Reyes poses with Jo Tschopp at August 7 luncheon.

Luncheon Speaker Introduces ACTS Thrift Stores Concept: Serving the Community and Demonstrating Church in Action

Our August 7 First Friday luncheon featured Tony Reyes of ACTS Thrift Stores as our guest speaker. Tony is an officer, director and store manager for the chain. He gave us an interesting overview of the ACTS Thrift Stores chain that started with a first location in Pasadena and now has stores in Duarte and Pomona.

He shared that unlike for-profit thrift stores, the ACTS Thrift Stores are dedicated to spreading deep positive local impact every day and giving back 100% of net proceeds locally. The stores are elevating the thrift store concept into a deeply positive, faith-based experience dedicated to returning exponential local impact to help the community.

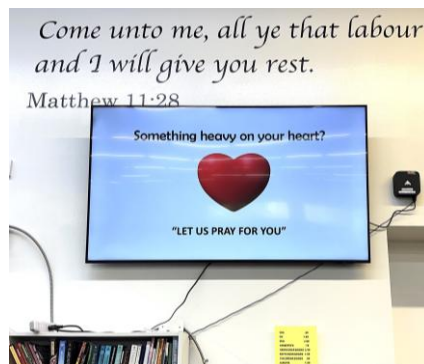
ACTS stores were an idea in 2004 of Lake Avenue Church' Community Foundation in Pasadena. They suggested opening an independent thrift store that used its profits to support at-risk children and their families. Their economic study in 2008 reported that a thrift store with profits going back to the community would be viable.

The first ACTS store opened in Pasadena in 2010. More than 40 local non-profits direct their donors to bring tax-deductible items to ACTS. Then ACTS provides a credit to the local non-profit, which enables them to buy goods from ACTS. For example, when a Door of Hope family is ready to transition to their own housing, they acquire specific household goods they need from ACTS using the credits. ACTS and all Key Partners are pleased to discover the power and blessing that result from truly working together. This is a great example of The Church in action.

Shop till you drop! The Duarte ACTS store is large, super clean and organized, well-lit, has a huge selection of quality, low-priced items, and the employees' favorite Bible verses are painted high up on the walls. It's located at 2215 E. Huntington Drive in Duarte, near the entrance of the 605 freeway.

What donated items does ACTS accept? When you donate to ACTS, your items become the community's treasure: clothing and shoes (all ages, all sizes), accessories (belts, bags, jewelry), furniture and home furnishings, kitchenware, dishes, small appliances, books, DVDs, games, toys and children's items, home décor and artwork, sporting goods, luggage, and vacuums. Items should be clean, functional, and in condition you would feel comfortable giving to a neighbor.

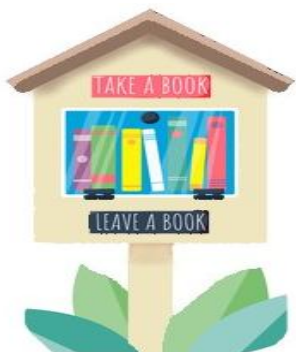
You can now donate these items here at First Lutheran! Your Mission Development Team has placed a collection box marked ACTS Thrift Stores Donations in the ushers' closet near the main church entrance and will deliver your items to the Duarte store.





Community Prayer Box Update

Let's pray this month for all the people who, since 2021, have placed requests in our Community Prayer Box. Pray that each person would believe in the power of prayer and make prayer an important part of their daily routines. Pray that we also would be strengthened in our commitment to daily talk to God in prayer believing that prayer is a personal and spiritual conversation with God.



New Selections in Our Little Free Library

We all know walking is good for your health. To help you stay on target, "The Healthy Heart Walking Book, A complete Program for a Lifetime of Fitness" will encourage and help you focus on your goals. The book is from the American Heart Association and includes over 150 pages of information and helpful suggestions. Grab it before someone else walks away with this gem. You can donate books by putting them in the library or giving them to an usher or Jo Tschopp.



Our August Donations and a New Priority List

Congratulations First Lutheran donors! You donated **541 pounds of food** that our volunteer team delivered to the Friends in Deed Food Pantry this past month. The Pantry has published a list of priority items that you can add to your cart to donate here at church when you shop for your own groceries:

Snack Bag Wish List

- Tuna pouches or cans with pull tabs
- Vienna sausages
- Juice boxes
- Granola / breakfast bars
- Trail mix / nut mix pouches
- Ritz crackers

First Friday Soup and Sandwich Luncheons

Friday, September 4: Our guest speaker 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.



Terhune Family in Papua New Guinea (continued from p.1)

completed in Papua New Guinean languages was displayed. The photos at right show both of our kids participating.

A personal highlight for our family was that the Prime Minister, James Marape, visited SIL for this celebration. But first, we'll back up and tell you a story... Almost four years ago, we had a long layover in Manila on our way to the US for furlough. I was wearing distinctly Papua New Guinean clothes in the airport, and a young Papua New Guinean guy came up to us and asked, "Are you guys coming from PNG?" We got to talking, and were floored when he told us that he was on his way back to college in Southern California! We talked for hours about PNG, California, living life between both of those worlds, his future plans, our plans, and why we were serving in Bible translation. We had a great time hanging out, and our son remembered him for years as "the guy who gave me his packet of dried mangoes in the airport."



Fast forward to the Prime Minister's visit. We went to hear him speak one evening, and afterward there were opportunities for photos and fellowship. Someone said, "The Prime Minister's son is here. He is looking for a family from California who he met in the Manila airport a few years ago--Is that you?" We were overjoyed to see our old friend, and learning more about who he was - which he had kept to himself - was a total shock! It was fun hearing about what he'd been up to the past few years. *See photo at left.*

CTS (Communication & Technical Services) & Center Services

Matt has been involved with a number of special projects over the past few months in addition to his normal work at CTS and managing our center services. We are very thankful that Starlink was finally approved in PNG, and we now have four Starlink dishes serving our center. This is a great improvement over our previous fiber internet connection and satellite backup, in speed and reliability.

Our construction department has been planning a series of wells to improve our water supply, and this turned out to be a timely project with the current drought. Matt built a test rig for the well drilling that measures ground resistivity in order to predict the depth of water and soil composition and help select drilling sites. This is a technique used in Africa and other parts of the world, and Matt thinks it has potential here as well.

Trauma Healing Workshop

I recently helped teach a Trauma Healing workshop at a Bible college in Lae (which you First Lutheran friends prayed about). I was on a team along with four Papua New Guinean teachers, and we had about one hundred participants, all preparing to serve as pastors. It was a challenging week but we heard wonderful testimonies from the students, and also shared the Gospel with a taxi driver in Lae - a self-confessed "sin man" with multiple wives. If you think of him, please pray for him.
Continued next page



Workshop attendees sing a song they wrote.

One student shared that some of his extended family members stole land from him, and he hasn't been able to let go of this. Just like one of our dramas depicted, he feels like no matter what he does - whether he is going around town, preaching, or trying to sleep - the thought of what happened is always with him. Through these lessons, and especially the act of bringing his "hevi" to the cross, he now feels a peace he hasn't known before, and he is ready to receive this man like a brother again.

Another student shared, "I have physical scars from a fight in my village. Sometimes I think about trying to get revenge - especially when I see my scars. But yesterday, I was able to talk about this a lot with some of my classmates, and it really helped me. Thank you."

One evening, a fellow teacher heard from several students that they were still discussing the stories and the lessons from the workshop earlier that day. They said, "These are all new things to us, and they are helping us so much. Thank you for coming." Many students told us that they will share what they've learned with their families, and then with the congregations where they will serve in the future. Please pray that this ministry would multiply and help many communities.



Emily leads the Trauma Healing Workshop last month.

Furlough Plans

After more than three years in PNG this term, we are planning to return to the US in the beginning of September for a five-month furlough. We'll be staying in an apartment in Pasadena which is subsidized for missionaries. Matt will continue to do some IT work remotely, and I will homeschool the kids. We are looking forward to spending time with family, reconnecting with friends and churches, and re-introducing the kids to America - Claire has virtually no memory of it!

We looking forward to seeing you faithful First Lutheran prayer partners at lunch on October 2!
Love from Emily, Matt, Elijah, and Claire

Ladies: Your Unused Costume Jewelry Can Raise Funds to Fight Cancer

An American Cancer Society team of volunteers who call themselves "The Real Housewives of Temple City" have started a costume jewelry donation drive—and invited First Lutheran women to join in! We were pleased that their leader, Nanette Fish, joined us on August 9 for Family & Friends Sunday and encouraged us in this effort. You can drop your donations:

- in the designated basket on the table at the back of our church, OR
- at Clover Leaf Bakery across from Ralph's on Las Tunas Drive OR
- by emailing 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
September 2026

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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