

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY

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Website: <https://firstlutherantc.org>

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/flctc

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Called Saints

January 18, 2026



AS WE GATHER

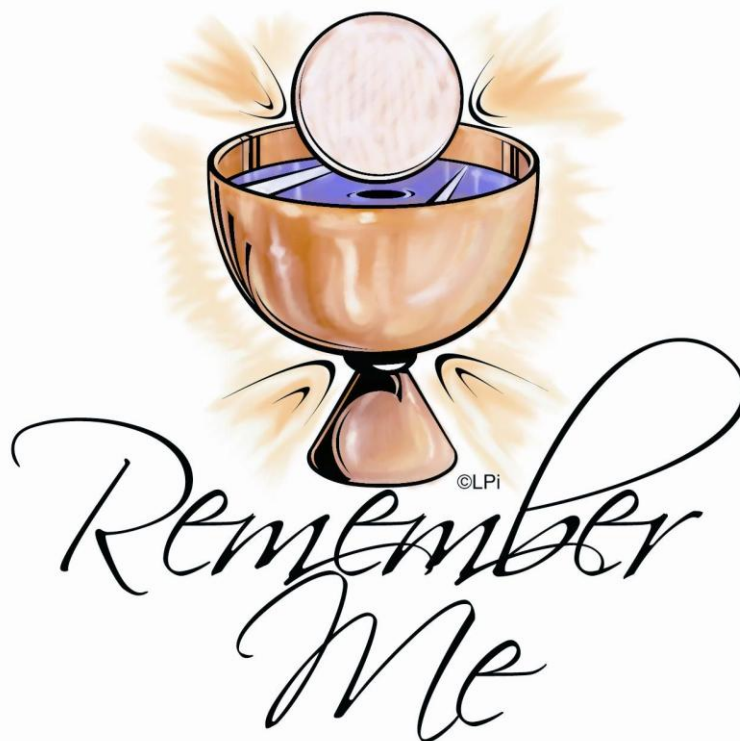
People often speak about a person's calling in life. They are describing a unique purpose or vocation according to interests and talents. Often, trying to determine a person's "calling" or "destiny" is defined by some innate ability or giftedness found within ourselves, something we were born with or somehow born to do.

Today we hear of God calling otherwise ordinary fishermen Andrew and his brother Simon Peter. They were called by God through John the Baptist to follow the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth. They were called to be disciples and eventually to be sent on Christ's mission as apostles. The prophet Isaiah says even the Savior, the servant of the Lord, was called from the womb by God, "that Israel might be gathered to Him," and called "as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (Isaiah 49:5–6). Saul of Tarsus was "called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus," and Saul, now named Paul, reminds the church at Corinth and us that we are "called to be saints" (1 Corinthians 1:1–2). This calling differs from merely surveying interests or abilities within us; it comes to us from outside of ourselves, from the living God, our creator and Redeemer. This calling comes from God to everyone. It is the call of salvation, the divine call that transforms us from sinners into saints. Therefore, this calling depends not on anything within us but solely and totally on the grace and mercy and love of God.

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S HOUSE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship service today. In 1 Corinthians Chapter Ten, Paul writes about the Lord's Supper saying, "The bread that we break, isn't it a participation in the body of Christ? The cup that we bless, isn't it a participation in the blood of Christ?" That's why we believe, teach, and confess that Christ is truly present as we receive the bread and the wine. In this Supper we are participating in the true body and blood of Jesus in a real yet mysterious way and by faith we receive Him in the bread and wine. Therefore, we ask all who commune, including our own members, to examine themselves before reception:

- + I am a baptized believer in Jesus Christ.
- + I believe that, because of my sin, I am not adequate to make myself acceptable to God.
- + I believe that God forgives and accepts me by His grace through Jesus Christ who died for my sins.
- + I believe that in this Sacrament of the Lord's Supper the risen Christ comes to me in, with and under the bread and wine, assuring me of the forgiveness of my sins.
- + I want to receive this Sacrament today to renew my baptismal relationship with Jesus Christ, and to rededicate my life in Christian faith, hope and love.



✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

Hymnal page 400, verses 1, 3 to 5

1. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

3. Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure,
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

5. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.



INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 43:4; 1 Corinthians 6:11

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: to God my exceeding joy.

Pastor: You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified

People: in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 Corinthians 1:2

Pastor: Called by God “to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”, let us give rightful praise and honor God, who calls sinners to repentance and bestows saving faith in our hearts by His Word and Spirit. Behold, the Lamb of God!

People: **Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, mercifully hear our confession. We are sinners and have sinned against You. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors with our whole heart. We cannot free ourselves from our sin. Hear our prayer of confession and let us hear Your call and gift of forgiveness, salvation, and life.**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT

Psalm 19:1–4a, b; antiphon: v. 14

Pastor: Let the words of my mouth and the mediation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

People: **The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.**

Pastor: Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.

People: **There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.**

Pastor: Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

All: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; is now,
and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Let the words of my mouth and the mediation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

KYRIE

Hymnal page 168

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise
let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“All Christians Who Have Been Baptized”

Hymnal page 596, verses 1 to 4

1. All Christians who have been baptized,
Who know the God of heaven,
And in whose daily life is prized
The name of Christ once given:
Consider now what God has done,
The gifts He gives to everyone
Baptized into Christ Jesus!

2. You were before your day of birth,
Indeed, from your conception,
Condemned and lost with all the earth,
None good, without exception.
For like your parents' flesh and blood,
Turned inward from the highest good,
You constantly denied Him.

3. But all of that was washed away—
Immersed and drowned forever.
The water of your Baptism day
Restored again whatever
Old Adam and his sin destroyed
And all our sinful selves employed
According to our nature.

4. In Baptism we now put on Christ—
Our shame is fully covered
With all that He once sacrificed
And freely for us suffered.
For here the flood of His own blood
Now makes us holy, right, and good
Before our heav'nly Father.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 49:1–7

(The servant of the Lord)

49 ¹ Listen to Me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called Me from the womb,
from the body of My mother He named My name.
² He made My mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of His hand He hid Me;
He made Me a polished arrow;
in His quiver He hid me away.
³ And He said to me, “You are My servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”
⁴ But I said, “I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the LORD,
and my recompense with my God.”
⁵ And now the LORD says,
He who formed Me from the womb to be His servant,
to bring Jacob back to Him;
and that Israel might be gathered to Him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,
and My God has become My strength—
⁶ He says:
“It is too light a thing that you should be My Servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make You as a light for the nations,
that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
⁷ Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and His Holy One,
to One deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,
the Servant of rulers:

“Kings shall see and arise;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen You.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 40:1–11; antiphon: v. 3*

40 ¹ I waited patiently for the LORD;
He inclined to me and heard my cry.
² He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the LORD.
⁴ Blessed is the man who makes
the LORD His trust,
who does not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after a lie!
⁵ You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with You!
I will proclaim and tell of them,
yet they are more than can be told.
⁶ In sacrifice and offering You have not delighted,
but You have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering
You have not required.
⁷ Then I said, “Behold, I have come;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:
⁸ I delight to do Your will, O my God;
Your law is within my heart.”
⁹ I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
behold, I have not restrained my lips,
as You know, O LORD.
¹⁰ I have not hidden Your deliverance within my heart;
I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation;
I have not concealed Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness
from the great congregation.

¹¹ As for You, O LORD, You will not restrain
Your mercy from me;
Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness will
ever preserve me!

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 1:1–9*

(God's calling)

1 ¹ Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:29–42a*

(Jesus calls the first disciples.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who ranks before me, because He was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. ³³ I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." ³⁵ The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as He walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to Him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are You staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY "Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid"

Hymnal page 500, verses 1 and 4

*** *Please stand if you are able* ***

1. Creator Spirit, by whose aid
The world's foundations first were laid,
Come, visit ev'ry humble mind;
Come, pour Your joys on humankind;
From sin and sorrow set us free;
May we Your living temples be.

△ **4.** Immortal honor, endless fame
Attend the almighty Father's name;
The Savior-Son be glorified,
Who for all humankind has died;
To You, O Paraclete, we raise
Unending songs of thanks and praise.

CHILDREN / YOUTHFUL MINISTRY MOMENT

SERMON

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both
the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Pastor: Let us pray.
Almighty God, we give You praise and thanks for all Your mercies to us
and the whole world, especially for salvation and the call to restored
holiness through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Make Your Gospel to
sound forth throughout the world, causing many to turn to You in true
repentance and faith for their eternal salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.
- Pastor: Bless and defend Your whole church, providing pastors and ministers
according to Your will, and make it perfect in love and all good works,
established in the faith delivered to the saints. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.
- Pastor: Preserve our nation in spiritual righteousness and honor. Grant health and
protection to all who bear office in our land, that they may know and obey
Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.
- Pastor: Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Guard
and defend those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on
all to whom death draws near. Give consolation to those who mourn.
Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.
- Pastor: Remembering those who have served You in years past and who now rest
from their labors, keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at
last to the joy of Your eternal kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “O God, My Faithful God” Hymnal page 696, verses 5 and 6

5. Let me depart this life
Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul
That it may live forever;
And let my body have
A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave;
And let it sleep in peace.

6. And on that final day
When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice
With those who love Your name.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Hymnal page 178

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and Passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9–13)

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

Hymnal page 180

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “The Lord, My God, Be Praised” Hymnal page 794, verses 1 and 3

***** Please stand if you are able *****

1. The Lord, my God, be praised,
My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me
Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield
And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield
New blessings on my way.

△ 4. The Lord, my God, be praised,
My God, the ever-living,
To whom the heav'nly host
Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised,
In whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son,
And God the Holy Ghost.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.
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Pastoral Care:

Please contact –

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

BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Reverend Frank Matthews
Greeter: Sharon Corey
Reader: Richard Swanson
Musician: Christine Geltz
Ushers: Craig Boehne, Donald Lammerts, & Dave Lassanske

PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

Judy Gunther: Please extend healing prayer for her as she has broken her hip.

Bob Lujan: Prayer for Christine Geltz's friend as he is dealing with many health issues.

Rachel Whitcher: Please continue to extend healing prayers for her wrist as she is recovering slowly.

Betty Nelson: Pray for this shut-in member as she continues to deal with the challenges of aging.

Gregg Ruiz: Please pray for his family during their time of grief. Pray also for Penny (Gregg's sister-in-law), as well.



VOTERS' MEETING 2026

Join us on January 25th, 2026 (Sunday), at 11:00 a.m. for the annual Voters' Meeting. The budget for 2026 will also be on the agenda, along with any other topics for discussion and voting. A light lunch will also be provided.

TECH FRIDAYS

Members & community are invited to come with their smart phone, laptop, Chrome Book, iPad etc. to learn more about their devices and receive help from Foothill Prep students. Some public libraries have regularly scheduled hours with volunteers helping senior citizens and others with technology challenges. First Lutheran will have high school volunteers eager to help you on Fridays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please let Pat Grabowski know if you are interested in this opportunity. Here are the following dates: January 23rd, February 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, March 6th, 13th, 27th, April 17th, 24th, May 1st and 29th.





Sunday Worship at Home

Although the Lutheran Hour no longer airs on KBRT 740 AM, you can find other airings at:

lhm.org/guide.

Also, listeners can hear the weekly sermons whenever and wherever they are, and daily devotions are available which come in a daily email to read or listen to. Just go to:

<https://familytalktoday.com/programguidedaily>.

Or you can listen to Lutheran Hour podcasts any time by going to:

<https://www.youtube.com/@LutheranHourMin>.

If you have a TV and can get DirectTV, Channel 377 you can view Worship Anew at: 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. This service is filmed at our Fort Wayne Seminary in Indiana.

You may also access or review the sermons online by going to:

<https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m.

9:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

TODAY – JANUARY 18

Fellowship time

Bible Study & Sunday School

Board of Directors meeting

TUESDAY

10:30 a.m.

JANUARY 20

Mission Development Team meeting in Fellowship room

NEXT WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m.

9:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

JANUARY 25

Fellowship time

Bible Study & Sunday School

Voters meeting with light lunch served

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

JANUARY 31

Volunteers to Friends In Deed, Pasadena CA

Blood Drive in the Parish Hall