

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY**

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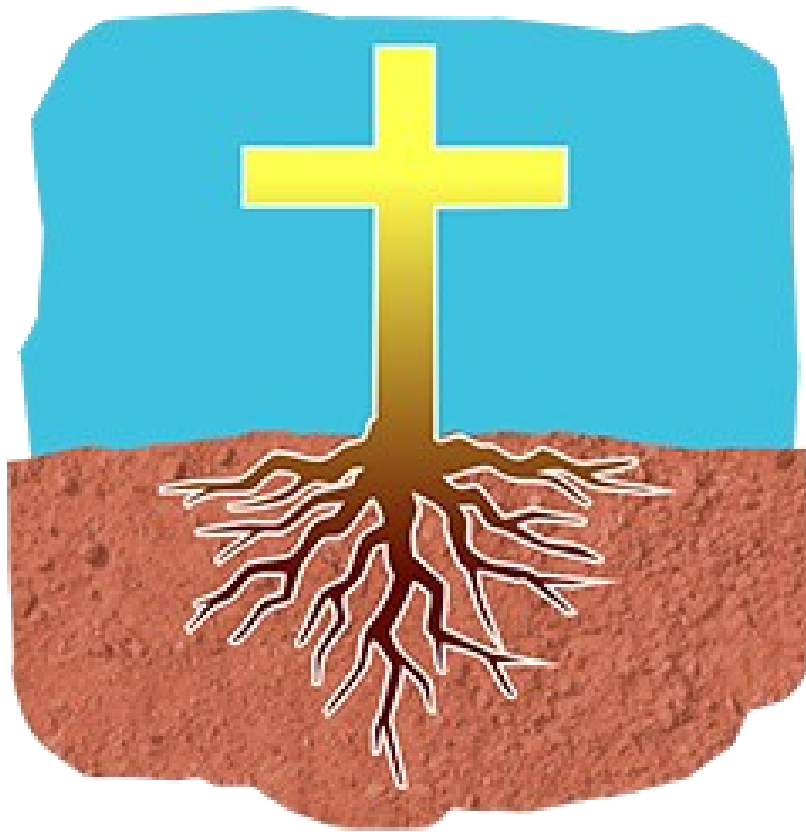
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**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Always Better

July 20, 2025



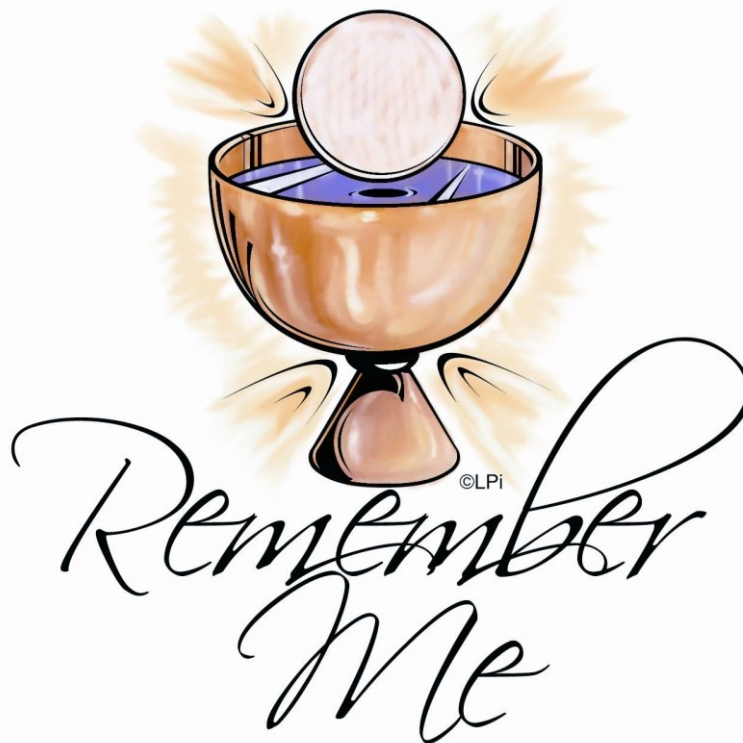
**AS WE GATHER**

We try to exercise our freedom and planning, but God's way is always better. It was better for Abraham and Sarah in the Old Testament Reading and gets Mary's attention in the Gospel. It was still taking some time for the new believers of Colossae to fathom that God had done so much for them in Christ. And when their friends found the treasure of the Gospel, they, too, must have laughed that God had such gracious plans for them, plans that are always better than they imagined.

## 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**      "When Morning Gilds the Skies"      Hymnal page 807, verses 1, and 3 to 5

1. When morning gilds the skies,  
My heart, awaking, cries,  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"  
When evening shadows fall,  
This rings my curfew call:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

3. No lovelier antiphon  
In all high heav'n is known  
Than "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
There to the eternal Word  
The eternal psalm is heard:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

4. Ye nations of mankind,  
In this your concord find:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"  
Let all the earth around  
Ring joyous with the sound:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

5. Sing, sun and stars of space,  
Sing, ye that see His face,  
Sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
God's whole creation o'er,  
Both now and evermore  
Shall Jesus Christ be praised!

## INVOCATION

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

**OPENING SENTENCES**      *Colossians 1:21–22; Psalm 27:14*

Pastor:      And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,  
People:      **Christ has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death,**

Pastor:      in order to present you holy and blameless  
People:      **and above reproach before Him.**

Pastor:      Wait for the LORD; be strong,  
People:      **and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**



## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People:** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

### ☩ WORD ☩

## 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

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet” – Amy Grant

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid,  
Think I've lost my way,  
Still You're there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear As long as You are near.  
Please be near me to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

I will not forget Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus be my guide,  
And hold me to Your side,  
I will love You to the end.

Nothing will I fear as long as You are near.  
Please be near me to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path,  
And a light unto my path.  
You're the light unto my path.

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word

**People: and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will;**

Pastor: 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

*Genesis 18:1–14*

(Sarah laughs when she hears that she shall have a son.)

**18** <sup>1</sup> And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth <sup>3</sup> and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in Your sight, do not pass by Your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, <sup>5</sup> while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” <sup>6</sup> And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” <sup>7</sup> And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate. <sup>9</sup> They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.” <sup>10</sup> The LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” <sup>13</sup> The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ <sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM *Psalms 27; antiphon: v. 4*

**27** <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> When evildoers assail me  
To eat up my flesh,  
my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup> One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire in His temple.

<sup>5</sup> For He will hide me in His shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
He will conceal me under the cover of His tent;  
He will lift me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in His tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>8</sup> You have said, "Seek My face."  
My heart says to you,  
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."

<sup>9</sup> Hide not Your face from me.  
Turn not Your servant away in anger,  
O You who have been my help.  
Cast me not off; forsake me not,  
O God of my salvation!

<sup>10</sup> For my father and my mother have forsaken me,  
but the LORD will take me in.

<sup>11</sup> Teach me Your way, O LORD,  
and lead me on a level path  
because of my enemies.

<sup>12</sup> Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they breathe out violence.

<sup>13</sup> I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!

## **EPISTLE**      *Colossians 1:21–29*

(The mystery—that the Gentiles are included in God’s promises—is cause for rejoicing among the Colossian Christians.)

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him, <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the church, <sup>25</sup> of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to His saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.

**Reader:**      This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**      **Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**      *Luke 10:38–42*

(Martha learns that her sister Mary has chosen to listen to Jesus; she has chosen well.)

**Pastor:**      The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the tenth chapter.

**People:**      **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup> Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. <sup>39</sup> And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to Him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, <sup>42</sup> but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

**Pastor:**      This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

Hymnal page 620, verses 2 and 3

2. Christ, Himself, the priest presiding,  
Yet in bread and wine abiding  
In this holy sacrament,  
Gives the bread of life, once broken,  
And the cup, the precious token  
Of His sacred covenant.

3. Under bread and wine, though lowly,  
I receive the Savior holy,  
Blood and body, giv'n for me,  
Very Lamb of God from heaven,  
Who to bitter death was given,  
Hung upon the cursed tree.

## 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 join together and go to our gracious God in prayer for all people.

For all who, like Abraham, provide for the needs of strangers and travelers, those who tend flocks, who raise crops, who distribute food, clothing, and shelter, who make the bounty of this earth available to one and all, that God would give them good weather and opportunities to serve the people around them, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** For all who do not know the guidance of the Lord, our light and salvation, or who have not heard the Gospel, as well as all who doubt in the face of oppression and injustice, who languish alone, who deal with long-term ills, or sudden crises, who need to hear again the joyful news, that God would visit, relieve, console, and re-awaken faith within them, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** For all who joyfully carry the news of Christ, those who travel to distant lands, who speak to their friends and neighbors, who gather others around them for worship and instruction, that God would strengthen them in their joyful task, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** For all who, like Mary, have chosen the good portion, joining their brothers and sisters around the world to listen to our Lord, that our gracious God would enliven their faith and uplift their spirits with His sure, joyful promises, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercies for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**People:** **Amen.**

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY**      “Be Present at Our Table, Lord”      Hymnal page 775

Be present at our table, Lord;  
Be here and ev'rywhere adored;  
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we  
May feast in paradise with Thee.

## ✠ 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, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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.**

1. Almighty Father, bless the Word  
Which through Your grace we now have heard.  
Oh, may the precious seed take root,  
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!

2. We praise You for the means of grace  
As homeward now our steps we trace.  
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here  
May all at last in heav'n appear.

△ 3. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## **DISMISSAL**

Pastor:     Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**People:     Thanks be to God.**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3.

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Pastoral Care:

Please contact –

Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613

## **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**

**Texas flood:** We pray for the victims' families who must deal with the unexpected grief. Pray for those who are still missing at Camp Mystic, and for those who are still waiting for any news of them. We, also, pray for all the first responders and volunteers as they help search for survivors and navigate destruction.

**Tom Grabowski:** Pray for a speedy recovery of his badly bruised eye from his fall a few days ago. He ended up in the Emergency Room where his eye was patched up.

**Judy Gunther:** Pray for the continue healing of her knee as she deals with the pain.

### **Sunday Worship at Home**



Although the Lutheran Hour no longer airs on KBRT 740 AM, you can find other airings at: [lhm.org/guide](http://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.

### **JULY 20**

Fellowship time

Bible Study and Sunday School

Board of Directors meeting

### **SATURDAY**

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **JULY 26**

“Paint Your Pet” Art Workshop & Ice Cream Social in the Parish Hall (Please refer to the flyer listed on the next page.)



## Learn to Paint Your Pet!

Have you always wanted to learn to paint your furry friend?

Register now for this fun Adult Paint Your Pet Class!

**July 26, 2025**

First Lutheran Church  
9123 Broadway, Temple City

Pet portrait artist Sally Weiss will help you create a color painting of your pet with acrylic paints on a 9" x 12" canvas.

No experience needed!

\$25 per person including materials – Pay at the door (cash or Zelle).

Class limit: 20 people

Bring a photo of your pet the size you wish for final painting.

Register by July 19, 2025 to: [cgeltz@firstlutherantc.org](mailto:cgeltz@firstlutherantc.org)



... and while you're here:

Celebrate National Ice Cream with our



## Ice Cream Social

Bring the kids along! You can all enjoy delicious ice cream, and the kids can have fun with games and crafts while you paint.