

**SIERRA EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER**  
**SPECIAL PANDEMIC WEEKLY EDITION**  
**March 23, 2020**

***Note from Pastor Mark:***

What a blessing it was to share worship online with so many of you! Thank you for all the feedback that was shared. Comments were all very affirming. We are considering how to incorporate some of your suggestions to improve the experience. One virtual worshiper commented, "Such a blessing. As we listened, watched, and participated sitting at our kitchen table, we could look out on the beautiful blue sky and watch the birds and rabbits playing in our yard. God's world. We were filled with comfort, hope, and joy for our connection with you."

We continue our live streaming on Wednesday, 11:00 am, and Sunday, 10:00 am, via the [www.selcaz.org](http://www.selcaz.org) website. We did make DVD copies that went out to four households; if you're not on the internet and interested in receiving one, let our office know, 520-459-0444. Wednesday's theme will be, "Open My Heart, Lord," with readings from 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 and Acts 16:11-15.

As you stay home, especially (but not exclusively) if you have children and youth figuring out how to continue schooling online and find other enriching activities, we encourage you to share faith together. This can be a prime opportunity for you to experience the blessings that come with simple exercises like the "Faith 5" (see below). Also provided below are the daily lectionary readings that follow and precede our Sunday readings. We'll offer these each week. Many of our members are also blessed in the daily use of the *Christ in Our Home* devotional. These are free to pick up from our office or we can mail it to you; just let us know. The April through June version is available now. It is proven to be the case that the more these practices become daily household habits, the more likely it is that we experience real strength and peace and that faith is passed on, generation to generation.

We're exploring other ways to continue our faith walk together, such as through online Bible study and youth "gatherings." Pastor Mark and Linda now subscribe to Zoom to help facilitate these possibilities. Watch for more information to come.

As always, you're welcome to email, call, text, Facebook message or otherwise let us know if you want to talk or share your struggles and insights.

As you discover new, unique or tried and true ways to live out your Purpose in these challenging times, remember also our Christian responsibility to support and encourage ministries to the most vulnerable among us. As highlighted in Sunday's Sierra Vista *Herald*, resource-building ministries like St. Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army face greater challenges in meeting growing needs. I was touched by the fact one of our members took time this past weekend to make sure we had a basket of food donations to give them that were included in our Sunday "offering" time. And, of course, SELC's Mission Plan budget supports these and other important ministries and needs your continued support. Go to our website to find ways to continue contributions through our online giving and/or mail in or bring in your offerings as part of your own continued spiritual discipline of good stewardship. THANK YOU to all who continue to do this!

Holding you all in my heart and prayers,

Pastor Mark Perry

# FAITH5

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is  
Ephesians 5:8-9:

“<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.”

*(Post or keep this weekly scripture in a handy place and every morning or evening share the following as a couple, or with family members in the home or even with a dear friend over the phone.)*



SHARE

Share your highs and lows of the day with one another.



READ

Read the verse of the week and if time permits, the Bible story that pertains to the Scripture of the week.



TALK

Talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows of the day or how it's speaking to you.



PRAY

Pray for one another's highs and lows and other prayer requests.



BLESS

Bless one another. Make the sign of the cross on each other's forehead or the palm of your hands and say something simple such as: "God bless you and keep you in His love and care!" Or feel free to make up your own blessing that incorporates a part of the FAITH5 verse of the week.

Be creative! Stay open to the Holy Spirit!

## SUNDAY LECTIONARY DAILY READINGS

The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

### Week around Lent 4

*Sunday -Fourth Sunday in Lent*

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

*Monday*

Psalms 146

Isaiah 59:9-19

Acts 9:1-20

*Tuesday*

Psalms 146

Isaiah 42:14-21

Colossians 1:9-14

*Wednesday*

Psalms 146

Isaiah 60:17-22

Matthew 9:27-34

### Week around Lent 5

*Thursday*

Psalms 130

Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8-3:3

Revelation 10:1-11

*Friday*

Psalms 130

Ezekiel 33:10-16

Revelation 11:15-19

*Saturday*

Psalms 130

Ezekiel 36:8-15

Luke 24:44-53

*Sunday -Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45