

MONDAY MESSENGER - March 30, 2020
SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Note from Pastor Mark:

“See, NOW is the acceptable time; see, NOW is the day of salvation!” – 2 Cor. 6:2 [my capitalizations]

I find myself wondering rather more frequently than I like to admit about the day we can go back to a more “normal” lifestyle and be able to visit the places and people we used to before the pandemic. Then, news comes like today that we’re supposed to practice “social distancing” for another month, at least, that school is cancelled until next fall and, once again, the future appears even that much more uncertain. I realize, whether I like it or not, that we’re in this for the long haul, and we pretty much should toss out the window any expectations of when all this will end. It reveals to me how much of my thinking tends to be focused on planning and preparing for what’s ahead and what’s happening in the next few weeks and months. But, since so much is so unknown, I have to let go of that familiar thought pattern.

Perhaps this is the perfect opportunity to practice living in the “here and now” rather than focusing so much on what’s going to happen tomorrow. Perhaps this is a time when we try to live more in the present moment than in the attitude of anticipation that so often takes so much our energy of thought and planning. And, perhaps, that’s exactly where we can best “find” God. The God of the Eternal Now. After all, God’s time is that of Eternity, which has no chronological clock to it. Could this be a time when we let go of “time” altogether in order to more fully enter into God’s timelessness, breathing deeply only the moment that we’re in, giving thanks for all the blessings we do have and praying for those about whom we are most concerned? - *Pastor Mark*

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP:

Join us online at www.selcaz.org, clicking on “Watch Services” at the bottom, as we worship together while apart on:

Wednesday, April 1st, 11 am – “Open Our Lives” Lenten Worship (Note: Our apologies to those who tried to watch our service last Wednesday and found we had a glitch in that there was no audio. Intern Pastor Paul’s wonderful message was re-recorded and can be found at the website).

Sunday, April 5th, 10 am – Palm Sunday worship. Send us a photo or video by Saturday of you waving a palm or other greenery! We’ll include it in a “Palm Processional” slide.

Thursday, April 9th, 7 pm – Maundy Thursday Worship with Lenten Absolution, Holy Communion, and traditional Stripping of the Altar.

Friday, April 10th, 7 pm – Good Friday: The Passion Story and Adoration of the Cross

Sunday, April 11th, 10 am – Easter Worship

(Note: No Easter Vigil worship on Saturday due to the very participatory nature of that service).

PURSuing OUR PURPOSE:

Near the end of our worship on Sunday, Barb Williams texted this information about how several are still “pursuing their purpose” in answering God’s call, especially to support those in greatest need:

“In good news, because of our congregation’s loving generosity, we were able to serve about 90 lunch meals at Salvation Army this past Friday. Carol Jordahl, Don and I worked with three or four regular Salvation Army staff to make and distribute sack lunches. They had asked us to minimize the number of volunteers, but we are grateful for others who volunteered to help. We will take next month as it comes, and we’re looking forward to the usual joyful camaraderie of all of us serving together in person!”

(Apologies that I didn’t see it to include it during announcements that morning.)

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:**

“⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for 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 your highs and lows of the day with one another.



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



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



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



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 5

Sunday, Fifth in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

Monday

Psalms 143

1 Kings 17:17-24

Acts 20:7-12

Tuesday

Psalms 143

2 Kings 4:18-37

Ephesians 2:1-10

Wednesday

Psalms 143

Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41

Matthew 22:23-33

Week around Palm / Passion Sunday

Thursday

Psalms 31:9-16

1 Samuel 16:11-13

Philippians 1:1-11

Friday

Psalms 31:9-16

Job 13:13-19

Philippians 1:21-30

Saturday

Psalms 31:9-16

Lamentations 3:55-66

Mark 10:32-34

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14–27:66 or

Matthew 27:11-54