

MONDAY MESSENGER - APRIL 14, 2020
SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Note: This letter is actually going out Tuesday, 4/14, since the office is always closed on the Monday following Easter).

Message from Linda Perry, Director of Faith Formation:

We hope you discovered rich blessings in your at-home Easter celebrations. While we very much missed having everyone physically together in the sanctuary, we're glad for the opportunity to worship together virtually!

One of the challenges of this time is trying to stay connected to our youth and families and providing ways for them to continue to learn about their faith and pass that faith on in their households. Here are a few ways this has been happening: weekly Zoom meetings for Sr. High and Confirmation, youth, and weekly "Home Grown Faith" activities, and devotional tools emailed to all of our SELC families with children and youth. And, for Easter, this:

Easter Activity Packets

The Faith Formation Team put together 40 packets delivered last Wednesday to 20 SELC families and to the ten 3- & 4-Year Old's families in Shepherd's Fold. They held a number of items intended to provide tasty and meaningful ways to help understand Easter and just have fun. Those items included: An Easter blessing and invitation to livestream the services, jelly beans with a Jelly Bean Prayer, a recipe for a "Resurrection Cookie" activity, Family Conversation coasters, Peeps candy with bible activity, a pinwheel (donated by Anne Nowak), chocolate eggs, plastic eggs filled with candy, toys and a faith bracelet, a bottle of blowing bubbles, and a funny "Be Who God Made You to Be" bookmark.



Thanks to the members who delivered them to the front steps of households, (practicing safe distancing): Anna Bratlien, Leslie & Carl McCourt, Linda Perry and Cindy Wiste



A happy recipient of Easter packet, holding a pinwheel.

Pastor Mark and I were given samples of the "Resurrection Cookies" which were cooked by Dallas Raysor and his grandparents, Larry and Kim Rewis. They were delicious! Thank you!

Easter Children's Time

It meant so much to me to be able to share the Children's Time in worship on Easter Sunday. I so want you to know how much Jesus loves you all, as do I! Thank you to all who texted us their answers to the question of what you can or have done to share the love of Jesus. Here are some examples:

- ♥ "My Mom and I are gonna do some drive by Easter baskets and make cards for people" (Reilly Howard)
- ♥ "I've helped by adopting a puppy... by driving by a birthday party... We are going to write letters to our friends" (Harlow & Isla Knauss)
- ♥ "I'm going to try to help by reaching out to my friends more and to make sure that everything's going well for them or helping them if they need anything." (Katie Russell)
- ♥ "Emily Arnold is decorating our house and FaceTiming family in her pretty Easter dress to brighten our day" (Emily is Suzanne Arnold's granddaughter; texted by her mother, Becca Arnold)
- ♥ "Taking people to chemo appointments, bringing groceries for people, and delivering sandwiches to some of our homeless today to share today's great news!" (Erin Stephenson)
- ♥ "I've been helping Pam and John Williams while they're both in wheelchairs at home." (George Pohlman)
- ♥ "Filled Lois Anderson's water fountain" (Fred March)
- ♥ "We cook for hospital workers and send love to friends and family" (Ray and Lori Palomaa)
- ♥ "I call my friends and neighbors to share good thoughts and prayers" (Janet Bobar)
- ♥ "Miles is doing 'compliment boards' where he writes one, draws a picture of the person, and then mom texts it to the lucky recipient." (The Dennis family)"

Such wonderful examples of living out the Good News of Easter! Thank you to all who shared. May they inspire all of us to find ways to do the same kinds of things to bless others. May the hope of the resurrection continue to provide you with strength and peace in these and at all times.



Miles' affirmation message

Internship and Hospital News

All area pastors received an email last Thursday from Chaplain Ray Bingham of Canyon Vista Medical Center sharing disappointing news that the corporate office which owns CVMC decided to put Chaplain Ray on a 60-day Temporary Leave of Absence. Other employees are also being put on temporary leave. The part-time Chaplain Internship role, now served by our Intern Pastor Paul Benz, is also suspended indefinitely. The future of that intern chaplain position will be evaluated this summer. This leaves the hospital currently without any on-site pastoral care. Since no one - not even pastors - are allowed to enter the hospital (besides a few exceptions like parents of hospitalized children), this means that the only way anyone receives any spiritual counsel and comfort is by phone calls from their ministers, if they ask for it. Our Discovery Forum Alliance of area pastors finds this unacceptable and is sending a letter to the CEO of the hospital asking for reconsideration of this decision. Please pray for all those hospitalized, the medical and other staff CVMC and that we come to a better solution. *(Contact Pastor Perry with any questions).*

FAITH

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
Colossians 3:3b:

“...your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

(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.

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 Easter Sunday

Monday - Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Colossians 3:5-11

Tuesday - Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Exodus 15:1-18

Colossians 3:12-17

Wednesday - Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Joshua 3:1-7

Matthew 28:1-10

Week around Easter 2

Thursday - Psalm 16

Song of Solomon 2:8-15

Colossians 4:2-5

Friday - Psalm 16

Song of Solomon 5:9-6:3

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Saturday - Psalm 16

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

John 20:11-20

Second Sunday of Easter

Ezekiel 33:1-7

Psalm 16

Genesis 1:1-31 & 2:2-3, 15

John 20:19-31