

SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MONDAY MESSENGER - OCTOBER 5, 2020

IN PERSON WORSHIP BEGINS OCTOBER 11TH

As has been previously announced, in person sanctuary worship will again be offered this coming Sunday, October 11th, at 10 am. This and all services will also continue to be offered livestreamed online at our website, on YouTube and Facebook.

Those wishing to attend will need to make reservations for each Sunday service, by the previous Thursday, 4:00 pm, on a “first come, first served” basis, by calling or email the church office (520-459-0444, or admin@selcaz.org) to reserve a seat. Reservations are limited to 40 people for each service (not including those serving) to allow for physical distancing. Those who reserve too late for the coming Sunday will be put at the top of the list for the next Sunday. If numbers indicate the need, we'll look to add another worship service in the future.

Face masks are required to be worn at all times (except when partaking of communion, offered through individual packages picked up upon entrance). Songs offered by a soloist and our musician, Billie, without congregational singing. Temperatures will be taken at the door. Please limit the number of items brought into the sanctuary to just what is essential. You may wish to bring your own water bottle. Offerings can be placed in the plate in the narthex upon entry. Hand sanitizer also to be used at the door. Air will be circulated with windows open. The sanctuary will be thoroughly cleaned after each service.

We know that these protocols are likely to make for a very different worship experience than pre-pandemic. The SELC COVID-19 Response Team and Council believe it is what is needed to keep us safe as possible, following CDC and other medical authorities, with the caveat that to come is not without risk as we are not a medically sterile facility. Community infection rates will be closely monitored to ensure we continue as safely as we can. Those with health issues are discouraged from attending and no one is judged for their decision about this. We also believe that it will be a blessing to be back in worship together and trust we will learn new ways to praise God together from our hearts!

(Note: There will be NO Zoom “Coffee Fellowship” this coming Sunday. We’ll assess whether to restart that opportunity after this in person worship experience.)

ALTAR ALCOVE DISPLAY STORY

When the pandemic began, the Altar Guild realized that we could not deliver any flowers to the hospitalized, the homebound or those in our prayers. We began using silk arrangements that could stay in the alcove and be reused. The Easter Lilies were silk. Then, Donna Bryan lent us the most beautiful silk arrangement that was part of her daughter’s wedding. Ruth Britton lent us a living vine plant that began the start of our creation garden for this recent “Season of Creation.” We added a plant from Pastor’s office and one that was ours that was “in need of prayer.” We then added potted plants from Becky Randall’s patio. The final addition was a cut stained-glass hummingbird that was made by Norm Hooker many years ago (Sunny Fichtl’s Dad) and a garden cat from the home of Gerry and Dolly Bessler. The butterflies are from the church’s patio planters. The more we added, the more we loved it. We are hoping it added to your worship experience during this “Season of Creation” and while we have been worshipping online. This coming Sunday’s new fall color bouquet is dedicated in memory of Joan Kraak.

Blessings, Linda Radwick, Altar Guild Chairperson.



CLIMATE CHANGE SERIES CONCLUDED

Thanks to all from our SELC and broader community and state who joined us via Zoom or online for our series on Climate Change the last three weeks! Our special thanks and deep appreciation go out to the presenters: From the University of Arizona, Dr. Gregg Garfin (who facilitated the series), Dr. Mike Crimmins, Dr. Laura Marshall, and Dr. Ladd Keith. From the Nature Conservancy, Holly Richter and Nicole Hill. Thank you also to Shar Porier, from the *Sierra Vista Herald*, for running several news articles about the series, especially the longer summary in the Sunday, 10/4/20, edition, page 8. Special thanks, also, go to Christie Brown for initiating contacts with Dr. Garfin and Ms. Porier. These sessions can still be viewed on our www.selcaz.org website as well as looking up “SELC Sierra Vista, AZ” on YouTube. Several of our SELC members are friends are also starting a Creation Care team to which you’re invited. Let Pastor Perry know if you’re interested, pastor@selcaz.org. We hope and trust that these presentations, along with our “Season of Creation” sermon series (available also to read or watch on our website,) help us to understand the need and the call to be better stewards of God’s good creation.

FAITH5

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is

Colossians 1:19-20: ⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

Monday

Psalm 144
Ezekiel 19:10-14
1 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday

Psalm 144
Isaiah 27:1-6
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Wednesday

Psalm 144
Song of Solomon 8:5-14
John 11:45-57

Thursday

Psalm 23
Isaiah 22:1-8a
1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14

Friday

Psalm 23
Isaiah 22:8b-14
James 4:4-10

Saturday

Psalm 23
Isaiah 24:17-23
Mark 2:18-22

Sunday

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14