

SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MONDAY MESSENGER  
OCTOBER 19, 2020

*Pastor's Message:*

*“Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.”*  
*(Gospel Acclamation, ELW p. 142)*

We say these words almost every Sunday before the Gospel for the day is recited. They quote Peter's words in John 6:68. But have you ever pondered the full meaning of the story in Chapter 6 that precedes these words? Do it some time. I think that you'll experience more of the poignancy and the power that is behind them. And it speaks to us, also, of how profound and challenging Jesus' words are as well as how they're also life-giving if we “stick with” them no matter what!

To briefly review the “back story:” It begins with huge crowds following him because of miracles like the multiplication of loaves and fishes (John 6:7). Then, following Jesus' ever more profound responses to their repeated questions, we see how His words get more and more challenging and hard for them to swallow.

We see this happening through verses like 6:41, “Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, ‘I am the bread that came down from heaven,’” and 6:60, “When many of his disciples heard it [that is, eating his flesh and blood gives life], they say, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’”

Finally, it becomes too much for them. In Verse 6:66-69, it says, “Because of this [saying that he would ascend to God] many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.” This prompts Jesus' poignant question to his remaining twelve disciples, “Do you also wish to go away?” to which Peter responds, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

You see, the huge crowd that first gathered around Jesus steadily dwindles down to just a small group of followers. As Jesus digs deeper and deeper into the fuller meaning of the miracles and His identity, His words become just too challenging to most people and they stop following Him.

That's what happened then. It's what can also happen now. We count ourselves among those who proclaim and believe, “You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!” But we must also recognize and accept that sometimes the words (not to mention the actions) of Jesus can feel very challenging, even offensive. We can't claim to be that much different than the people in Jesus' time. And, so, if we truly believe that “the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (6:63), then we'll need to stay with them, take time to absorb them, be patient, ask for God's strength and understanding, and reflect with one another on their meaning for our lives. We must not expect that we're always going to feel comfortable or comforted when sharing in that reflection together. But we must trust that allowing ourselves to be challenged and at least a bit uncomfortable at times is worth the “price” to more fully know and experience the One who indeed gives us “the words of eternal life.”

Walking the Way with you,  
Pastor Mark Perry

## REFORMATION SUNDAY AND G.I.F.T.



This last Sunday of the month, October 25, 2020, will again be observed as “Reformation Sunday” at SELC. As part of the celebration, all are invited to wear red, even if you’re watching from home. We’ll again reflect in worship on the great Reformation truth of “justification by grace through faith” and how God calls us all to continually be re-forming into the image of Jesus the Christ.

And, after worship, all are invited to continue that reflection in fun and meaningful ways in our G.I.F.T. (Generations in Faith Together) time at 11:30 am - 12:15 pm, on Zoom (invitation below).

Come and share with one another as we take a special look at the beauty, meaning and inspiration found in Luther’s Rose. This rose like no other can truly lift our hearts and spirits in a time like no other! We will share in a brief synopsis of the Reformation through a creative and fun video that our younger attendees will especially enjoy and then focus on the beautiful rose and the words of Martin Luther describing what each part of the rose and colors represent.

In this time of COVID-19 we all are experiencing many different challenges, difficulties and emotions and we may be growing weary. Luther reminds us in this beautiful symbol that first and foremost “faith in the crucified saves us.” He goes on to say that “such a rose should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort and peace....for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This joy is a taste of the “heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, yet not revealed.” I think we all need to be embraced by the joy of Christ and the grip of hope in this time. May we join together to share in and give that hope to one another! We’ll also hear a touch of Martin’s wit and humor that is sure to bring a smile and make you laugh, and I think we can all use a little of that today as well!

Here's the Zoom link to GIFT:

<https://zoom.us/j/96728159546?pwd=Nk9GV0xDOXZZaVprcnQ5TURZTFJZQT09>

Meeting ID: 967 2815 9546

Passcode: 131247

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,96728159546#,,,,,0#,,131247# US (Houston)

+16699009128,,96728159546#,,,,,0#,,131247# US (San Jose)

---

### WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Studying the readings for the upcoming Sunday, we’ll again gather in person in the fellowship hall (let us know if you’re coming) or over Zoom this Wednesday, 9-10 am, led by Pastor Mark.

Here’s the invite:

<https://zoom.us/j/91989215503?pwd=RFZSc1kvNXBGZW00STloUmsybknIQT09>

Meeting ID: 919 8921 5503

Passcode: 550446

---

## GOOD NEIGHBOR ALLIANCE UPDATE

The GNA is still operating but needs some generous volunteers to provide meals. These meals can be bought and dropped off or prepared at the site. We have some needy people who would be might grateful. As of now there is no sign-up sheet. For information- time, place, days etc., please call Penny Crane 459-0546

---

## NAVAJO CHRISTMAS AIRLIFT

With regret we share that there will be no Navajo Christmas airlift this year from SELC. My company is selling the airplane due to losing our contract with Northrup-Grummon. Many thanks to all of you for your contributions in the past years. - George Pohlman

---

## SHEPHERD'S FOLD HIRING - COOK

Shepherd's Fold is hiring for their Cook's position. A brief job description below. For more details, information or to apply, please contact the Shepherd's Fold office at 520-459-0115.

“Must have “basic from scratch cooking knowledge,” but does not have to have worked in the food industry. Ability to stand on feet for long hours. Ability to lift up to 50 lbs. Hours: 6:15 am - 2:15 pm. Highschool Diploma required. *Required Upon Hiring:* TB test; Fingerprint card; Food Handlers License.”

---

# FAITH5

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is  
Isaiah 45:5-7

<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, <sup>6</sup> so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other. <sup>7</sup>I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things.”

*(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.

## 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 98  
Daniel 3:1-18  
Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20

### Tuesday

Psalm 98  
Daniel 3:19-30  
Revelation 18:21-24

### Wednesday

Psalm 98  
Daniel 6:1-28  
Matthew 17:22-27

### Thursday

Psalm 1  
Numbers 5:5-10  
Titus 1:5-16

### Friday

Psalm 1  
Deuteronomy 9:25–10:5  
Titus 2:7-8, 11-15

### Saturday

Psalm 1  
Proverbs 24:23-34  
John 5:39-47

### Sunday

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18  
Psalm 1  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Matthew 22:34-46

*From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*

Be creative! Stay open to the Holy Spirit!