



SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MONDAY MESSENGER - NOVEMBER 9, 2020

(From Pastor Perry: The following comes from today's daily devotion by Father Richard Rohr that includes this excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s sermon, "Loving Your Enemies." It speaks a powerful and helpful word to us in these troubled times.)

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' But I say unto you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven." –Matthew 5:43-45

Probably no admonition of Jesus has been more difficult to follow than the command to "love your enemies." Some people have sincerely felt that its actual practice is not possible. It is easy, they say, to love those who love you, but how can one love those who openly and insidiously seek to defeat you? . . .

This command of Jesus challenges us with new urgency. Upheaval after upheaval has reminded us that modern humanity is traveling along a road called hate, in a journey that will bring us to destruction. . . Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, the command to love one's enemy is an absolute necessity for our survival. Love even for enemies is the key to the solution of the problems of our world. Jesus is not an impractical idealist: he is the practical realist.

I am certain that Jesus understood the difficulty inherent in the act of loving one's enemy. He never joined the ranks of those who talk glibly about the easiness of the moral life. He realized that every genuine expression of love grows out of a consistent and total surrender to God. So, when Jesus said, "Love your enemy," he was not unmindful of its stringent qualities. Yet he meant every word of it. Our responsibility as Christians is to discover the meaning of this command and seek passionately to live it out in our daily lives. . . .

When Jesus bids us to love our enemies, he is speaking of neither *eros* [romantic love] nor *philia* [reciprocal love of friends]; he is speaking of *agape*, understanding and creative, redemptive goodwill for all people. Only by following this way and responding with this type of love are we able to be children of our Father who is in Heaven.

THANKOFFERING SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 15!

Women's Thankoffering Service will be this coming Sunday, November 15th. Women share in a tradition that goes back to the 1800's. When Women of the ELCA was formed in 1987, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. This year we certainly have a challenge and yet we continue to be thankful by making and sending quilts to LWR, making face coverings for the Navajo Nation, LWR and locally, Shepherds Fold Daycare, the local VA, and our congregational members. Your Thankofferings continue to offer anti-racism training, address domestic violence, commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking and support families with special needs. Bible Study continues virtually and locally since Dorcas Circle meets monthly, socially distanced on the patio or in the fellowship hall. It is your Thankoffering's that contribute to the Gather magazine.

Your donation can be made out to SELC; note "Thankoffering" in the memo. Please drop off or mail to the church office or bring to worship on "Thankoffering Sunday" November 15th. God Bless You for acting in gratitude.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 22, 2020, 10 AM

Please consider now how God is calling you to participate in and support our mission and ministry into 2021 by making a commitment towards sharing your energy and time in ministry and in giving financially.

Please fill out your 2021 "Time and Talent" Survey and Commitment Card and drop off at the church office, mail in or bring to worship on "Commitment Sunday" by/on November 22. (As always, your financial giving is kept strictly confidential). We will also have volunteers out in front of the office on the Lenzner side as well as the Sanctuary patio from 9:30-10 am or 11:10-11:15 am if you want to drive by and drop off your commitments on November 22 into sealed boxes. God bless you for being partners in our Gospel ministry for 2021!

BODY OF CHRIST MINISTRIES THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

During the colder months of November through January, SELC has hosted the monthly hot meals for non-housed and other under resourced people which are provided by the "Body of Christ Ministries." As we're unable to do that during the pandemic, we are now asking for your help to support their efforts to provide complete Thanksgiving dinner boxes by dropping off donations of nonperishable food. Donations can be placed in a collection box by the Sanctuary Patio Doors between now and November 19th. The box is clearly labeled. Monetary gifts are also welcome and can be mailed to: Body of Christ Ministries - P.O. Box 454, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636. Thank you, God Bless & Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday Coffee Fellowship Time - Zoom Invite

Join us for informal conversation and catching up on Sunday, 11/8, from 11:30 am - 12 pm, on Zoom, <https://zoom.us/j/98885875641?pwd=akJ2aHlrNWU4YktkMHFKSXZJdnVsZz09>

Meeting ID: 988 8587 5641

Passcode: 435914

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,98885875641#,,,,,0#,,435914# US (Tacoma)

New Contact Info

Faye Toto, who is staying with her daughter in Cottonwood, has a new cell phone number: (520) 559-7927. Her address is C/O Sherry Cheek, 2030 W. High Country Drive, Cottonwood, AZ 86326.

Year-To-Date Income versus Expenses as of Oct 31, 2020

\$307,380 Income

312,529 Expenses

\$ -5,149

Diving Into FAITH Fiving!

G.I.F.T. – Generations In Faith Together On Zoom

Pre-Thanksgiving Fun & Inspiration!

11:30 a.m. Sunday, November 22, 2020

A special invitation from Linda Perry, Dir. of Faith Formation:

We are excited to begin sharing the fun, creative and inspiring resources from *Make Mealtime Family Time* (MMFT) with all generations of SELC! These resources can help us ALL to practice the FAITH5 model in our homes and lives - even during, and perhaps more so, in this pandemic time. These resources work very well over Zoom with loved ones far away! And lest you think this is only for families with children, or is something you just share with your grandkids or nieces/nephews near or far, think again! These

simple to use resources have helped to draw married couples, and friendships closer together and have helped them grow in their relationship with Christ and dive deeper into the Word of God. And it only takes a few minutes a day!

To get a little taste of how it works, we will be sharing on Sunday, November 22, one simple discussion activity. This will give us an opportunity to practice just one small sample from the program so that you can use others on your own in the future with your spouse, friends, and/or other family members.

We hope you will join us for this special time together! I'm excited to share in more detail with you next week about this special ministry model!

Response to Allegations against Composer David Haas

(Note: The following announcement mentions sexual and other abuse):

Our SELC Worship & Music Committee became aware last week of a disturbing and credible series of allegations of sexual misconduct by composer David Haas, whose hymns are in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship book, including such favorites as "We Are Called" #720. These allegations come from more than thirty women and span forty years. While an investigation is underway, Catholic music publishers have suspended publication of Haas's music, and the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, where Haas lives, along with others, like the Archdiocese of Seattle, have stopped using his work and disallowed him from providing services in any of its institutions. Our Worship and Music Committee decided that, following these examples and out of deep concern for the alleged victims, we also will discontinue using his music until the investigation process is completed, at which time we may revisit this decision. We stand with all abuse victims and pray for them and all affected. We also pray for healing and restoration for Mr. Haas and the faith communities in which he has been involved. If you have any questions, you're welcome to contact Beth Dechant, Worship & Music Committee chairperson.

FAITH5

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
Amos 5:24:

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-
flowing stream.

*(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 63

Amos 8:7-14

1 Corinthians 14:20-25

Tuesday

Psalm 63

Joel 1:1-14

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Wednesday

Psalm 63

Joel 3:9-21

Matthew 24:29-35

Thursday

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

Ezekiel 6:1-14

Revelation 16:1-7

Friday

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

Ezekiel 7:1-9

Revelation 16:8-21

Saturday

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

Ezekiel 7:10-27

Matthew 12:43-45

Sunday

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30