



**SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MONDAY MESSENGER  
NOVEMBER 30, 2020**

**A “ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME” WAY TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS**

The joy of the Good News of the Christ Child continues to be celebrated each and every year- no matter what. That’s just as true during this pandemic as in any other season. Because of rapidly increasing infection and hospitalization rates, we observe special precautions and protocols while still carrying on true worship and service to Him above all others.

This means that this year we will provide a very creative and unique way to celebrate Christmas here at SELC. Instead of the typical in person worship services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, which now may bring particular increased risks because of out of city and state guests, we will be putting together a virtual Christmas worship experience that will be like no other! It will feature special instrumentalists, singers, children’s message, dramatic readings and Pastor’s Christmas message. It will be available on our website and on DVD for those who don’t have online capabilities. We recognize this isn’t ideal and that we grieve losing some of our traditions but, as difficult as the decision was to make, our COVID-19 Response Team and Worship and Music Committee unanimously agreed that it is in the best interest of all to provide this alternative offering. Watch for more details to come. (If you have further questions, please contact Beth Dechant, Worship & Music Committee Chairperson, 520-458-8088).

There will also not be any Wednesday Advent worship services this year. We hope you’ll enjoy the ‘at home’ Advent kits so many picked up last week!).

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(Note: There will be no Wednesday morning Bible Study this week while Pastor Perry and Intern Pastor Rova are on vacation. In case of urgent pastoral care needs, please contact Sandy Stephenson, 520-227-9372.

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**AMAZON “SMILE” DONATIONS BENEFIT SELC**

**Holiday Shoppers!** If you’re shopping with Amazon, remember to use “Amazon Smile”. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select Sierra Lutheran Church as your charity – then shop away. We will get a percentage of what you spend and it doesn’t cost you anything.

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**MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SPREAD THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT:**

***STOCKING STUFFERS FINANCIAL DONATIONS STILL BEING RECEIVED***

We are still inviting help to make a donation to our Stocking Stuffer Fund for needy families with children, please make checks payable to SELC and note “Stocking Stuffers” in the memo line. You may drop off or mail checks to the church office no later than Dec. 11 or bring them to a Sunday Service. The children receive clothing, pajamas, underwear, shoes and a coat if needed. Last year, our youth shopped and wrapped for 13 children thanks to your generosity!

### **BRIGHTEN CHRISTMAS FOR OLDER ADULTS WITH LSS-SW**

Older adults are experiencing more isolation than ever this year. Brighten this Christmas for over 1,300 older adults with donations of new towels and soap from local small businesses.

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest asks that donations are dropped off at any of their offices by December 10th for timely delivery to those in need. Visit [lss-sw.org/christmas-2020](http://lss-sw.org/christmas-2020) to learn more, buy soap, and see locations.

### **CHRISTMAS NEEDS FOR LAS FRONTERAS MINISTRY**

This special time of year when many of us are preparing for Christmas and remembering the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus, we're asked to also remember Joseph and Marys' journey to bring the King of Kings to a safe area for the Lord to be born. Fleeing certain death and traveling a far distance to foreign lands for security and a safe life for their child and our Lord, let us also remember our migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking families on our southern border fleeing in the same way and for the same reason: to save their children.

Please assist us in this endeavor. Donations and gifts may be mailed to Cruzando Fronteras, 969 W. Country Club Dr., Nogales, AZ 85621. Many blessings and a Merry Christmas to you all.

- The Rev. Rodger A Babnew, Jr., [fronteras.azdiocese.org](http://fronteras.azdiocese.org)

Donations/gifts can also be delivered to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 2750 E. Cardinal Drive, Sierra Vista, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, or Saturdays at 5:00 pm.

Requested (Please refrain from toys with batteries):

Boys- Soccer balls, Basketballs, Toy cars and trucks, any Toys that boys enjoy.

Girls - Baby dolls (of color), Pocketbooks and purses, Play toys, any Toys that girls enjoy

Families – Puzzles, Crafts, Games, Adult coloring books

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### **A Festive Advent Drive-By Report!**

It was a fun and festive day last week, as we decorated, dressed up and played Christmas music as 28 cars came through our Advent Drive-by! Over 40 people were in those cars and their smiles and grateful hearts made us smile as well. In total, we gave out Advent packets to 20 of our families with young children and teens, 30 more to other households and 15 to our Shepherd Fold families and to all the staff as well. Thank you, SELC, for participating in this special event. We pray you find these resources a rich blessing for you and for those in your family near or far with whom you would like to share it. There are still Advent Packets and ELCA Advent Devotionals available if you missed getting yours! Contact Cindy Allen in the Office to pick up yours.

### **JANUARY WORSHIP CHANGE**

In order to be more hospitable to more people, especially with GIFT and Coffee Fellowship, the Worship and Music Committee decided to move our worship time to 9:00 am, starting January 3, 2021. Please mark your calendars. We intend to continue both in person, livestreamed and DVD recorded worship.

**Our FAITH5 verse of the week is  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9:**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*(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 79  
Micah 4:1-5  
Revelation 15:1-8

### Tuesday

Psalm 79  
Micah 4:6-13  
Revelation 18:1-10

### Wednesday

Psalm 79  
Micah 5:1-5a  
Luke 21:34-38

### Thursday

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Hosea 6:1-6  
1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

### Friday

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Acts 11:19-26

### Saturday

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Ezekiel 36:24-28  
Mark 11:27-33

### Sunday

#### Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

