

Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church
MONDAY MESSENGER
December 7, 2020



ONLINE-ONLY WORSHIP RESUMES

Because of the dramatic increase in infection rates in our County which, according to one report, are now worse per capita than even Maricopa County, your COVID-19 Response Team made the painful decision last week to again suspend in-person worship until further notice. All worship services continue to be accessible on our website, www.selcaz.org, along with DVDs delivered to those without online capabilities. As was shared in last Monday's Messenger, this also includes Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship, which will feature special instrumentalists, singers, children's message, dramatic readings, and Pastor's Christmas message. We recognize this isn't ideal and that we grieve losing some of our traditions but. Watch for more details to come. (If you have further questions, please contact Beth Dechant, Worship & Music Committee Chairperson, 520-458-8088).

AMAZON "SMILES" DONATIONS BENEFIT SELC

Another friendly reminder to all holiday shoppers that, if you're using Amazon, remember to use "Amazon Smile." Go to smile.amazon.com and select "Sierra Lutheran Church" as your charity and then, shop away! Our ministries will receive a percentage of what is spent and it doesn't cost you anything extra!

MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SPREAD THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

STOCKING STUFFERS FINANCIAL DONATIONS STILL BEING RECEIVED

This Friday, Dec. 11th, is the deadline to turn in donations towards "Stocking Stuffers Fund" for families with children who otherwise wouldn't have Christmas gifts. Please make checks payable to SELC and note "Stocking Stuffers" in the memo line. The children receive clothing pajamas, underwear, shoes and a coat if needed. Thank you to all who already have generously donated!

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. In addition, LSS SW in Sierra Vista is asking for "beanie" type hats that can be pulled down over the ears and gloves and socks. (Not coats, as was incorrectly announced in yesterday's worship announcements. My apologies- Pastor Mark)

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 to learn more, buy soap, and see locations.

ATTENTION LADIES

Gather is excited to share that Jordan Miller-Stubbendick, author of the December 2020 devotional, “Singing, writing, moving, connecting: Advent rituals for uncertain times,” has created a video to accompany the session. Find on the *Gather* website or copy and past the following URL into your web browser:

[https://www.gathermagazine.org/jordan-miller-stubbendick-leads-gathers-december-devotional-advent-rituals-for-uncertain-](https://www.gathermagazine.org/jordan-miller-stubbendick-leads-gathers-december-devotional-advent-rituals-for-uncertain-times/?utm_source=Gather+magazine&utm_campaign=b2235a2835-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_08_29_05_03_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b36d2311ab-b2235a2835-366674345)

[times/?utm_source=Gather+magazine&utm_campaign=b2235a2835-](https://www.gathermagazine.org/jordan-miller-stubbendick-leads-gathers-december-devotional-advent-rituals-for-uncertain-times/?utm_source=Gather+magazine&utm_campaign=b2235a2835-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_08_29_05_03_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b36d2311ab-b2235a2835-366674345)

[EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_08_29_05_03_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b36d2311ab-b2235a2835-366674345](https://www.gathermagazine.org/jordan-miller-stubbendick-leads-gathers-december-devotional-advent-rituals-for-uncertain-times/?utm_source=Gather+magazine&utm_campaign=b2235a2835-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_08_29_05_03_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b36d2311ab-b2235a2835-366674345)

PRAISE GOD FOR FAITHFUL SELC GIVERS!

Financial Report as of Nov 30, 2020:

\$ 341,836 Total YTD Income

340,085 Total TD Expenses

\$ 1,751 (in the black)

THANK YOU ♥ THANK YOU

From Rich and Sue Mount:

“Your kindness is appreciated much more than words can say. Thanks for the prayers (for Rich’s cancer treatments).”

From The congregation of Body of Christ Ministries:

Dear Friends in Christ,

We would like to express our appreciation for you unrestricted giving toward this year’s Thanksgiving dinner project. In Proverbs 19:17 it is written, “He that has pity upon the poor, lends unto the LORD; and that which he has given will God pay him again.” As you have shown pity upon the poor, may God, as the Proverb says, show pity upon you and yours in your time of need! Thank you so much for sharing your goods with the community. May God richly bless you in all things.

FAITH5

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
Mark 1:2-3:

“As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger
ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the
wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’ ”

(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 27
Isaiah 26:7-15
Acts 2:37-42

Tuesday

Psalm 27
Isaiah 4:2-6
Acts 11:1-18

Wednesday

Psalm 27
Malachi 2:10–3:1
Luke 1:5-17

Thursday

Psalm 126
Habakkuk 2:1-5
Philippians 3:7-11

Friday

Psalm 126
Habakkuk 3:2-6
Philippians 3:12-16

Saturday

Psalm 126
Habakkuk 3:13-19
Matthew 21:28-32

Sunday

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Be creative! Stay open to the Holy Spirit!