

## Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church Monday Messenger - March 1, 2021

### UPDATE FROM YOUR COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

The SELC COVID-19 Response Team met last Tuesday evening, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, to assess the pandemic data relative to our potential readiness for returning to restricted in-person worship. While, thankfully, the national number of new cases is falling, vaccinations are increasing, schools are starting more in-person learning, and we all dearly want to physically be in worship together, the trends are still too high for us to make that move now. This reality is even more concerning given the expectation of a “March surge” with the more contagious new variants of the virus. We know that, while this is not what a number of people want to hear (including us,) and that other churches in the area make different decisions, we believe this is in the best interest of keeping each other as safe from infection as we possibly can.

We also decided that the most helpful indicator of when we can look at resuming in-person worship would be when the “Covid Risk Level” for the Sierra Vista Metro area lowers to the “Medium- Slow disease growth” yellow level for at least a week or two. That way, we are more assured that it is not just a temporary “blip” but, rather, a more long-term trend. As of this writing, the Covid Risk Level is in the orange zone indicating “At risk of outbreak” with a “Very large number of new cases.” According to guidelines set by the White House Coronavirus Task Force and the CDC, recommended actions at that level include “Gatherings should be limited to 25 people and physical distance should be maintained... [and] that gatherings take place outdoors.” (For more information and details, see [www.covidactnow.org](http://www.covidactnow.org) and type in “Sierra Vista metro” to see ratings for our area).

We ask for continued understanding and patience from everyone as we go through this most difficult time together in our church, our city, our country and our world. We urge everyone to keep following the CDC recommended practices of wearing two layers of masks, washing hands, staying distanced, and getting vaccinated as soon as feasible. Remember also that even fully vaccinated individuals can still be carriers of the virus to others and that those who already have had COVID-19 can still potentially be re-infected.

We appreciate your prayers as we continue to assess and discern the best steps for us to take. If you have questions or comments, please address them to Council President Jim Clevon, Pastor Perry, or anyone else on the current COVID-19 Response Team; Mignonne Hollis, Joanna Michelich, Sandy Stephenson, Becky Randall, Beth Dechant, Linda Perry, Larry Rewis, Lynn Light, and the newly elected Executive Committee members, Lynette Nowlan, Sandy Hall, and Janet Bobar. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We continue to pray for the pandemic to end soon and comfort and strength to all who have suffered so greatly from it.

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### “BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS” MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES

WEDNESDAY’S, MARCH 3, 10, 17 & 24 at 7:00 p.m.

All are invited to join with our SELC family as we journey through Lent to the cross of salvation and the eternal Glory beyond. Online only via Livestream on our website, [www.selcaz.org](http://www.selcaz.org), or on Facebook and Youtube. We’ll start our evenings together with a Zoom soup supper (see link below) at 6:00- 6:45 p.m., then continue with a reflective worship time

together at 7:00 p.m. Our Lenten theme is “Beneath the Cross of Jesus,” based on ELW Hymn #338. We live our lives beneath the cross of Jesus, beneath God’s manifold love and grace that reach to us even from Calvary. This series explores what it means for us to abide at the foot of the cross, to cling to the rock of our salvation, to dwell in the house of the Lord, and to confess our sins and receive God’s forgiveness. In this pandemic season, we trust that reflecting on the cross together through the words and images of this hymn will help us bear our mutual burdens.

**Our second week’s theme includes an Affirmation of Baptism.  
Please have ready the painted rock from your Lenten bag.**

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### **ZOOM SOUP SUPPERS**

**Wednesday’s, March 3, 10, 17 & 24- 6:00 p.m.**

Join your SELC family together on Zoom with your soup supper and some wonderful fellowship. For those who cannot participate in the Zoom Soup Supper, we trust they still feel a touch of connection in Christ as we break bread and enjoy our soup at one collective time in each of our homes.

Topic: SELC Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers

**Time: This is a recurring meeting.** Passcode may be needed.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94861459631?pwd=U1BqNlFlSjBjSFJueW9nMnVnVWhTZz09>

Meeting ID: 948 6145 9631

Passcode: 460120

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,94861459631#,,, \*460120# US (Houston)

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### **HOLY WEEK**

*(Service times yet to be determined)*

**Palm Sunday - March 28**

**Good Friday - April 2**

**Easter Sunday - April 4**

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### **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME SUNDAY - SUNDAY, MARCH 7 at 10:45 a.m.**

Join us for informal conversation, catching up and connecting on Zoom.

Coffee fellowship (see zoom invite below)

Topic: Coffee Fellowship

Time: Mar 7, 2021 10:45 AM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96811971996?pwd=SWNoT2NMb1Z5Y1ZqWlY2MU9hUEYzZz09>

Meeting ID: 968 1197 1996

Passcode: 136949

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,96811971996#,,, \*136949# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,96811971996#,,, \*136949# US (Houston)

Dial by your location +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

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### **IN REMEMBRANCE - HELENE YOUNG**

We received word that former long-time member, Helene Young, died last Thursday, February 25, 2021, where she was living in Seattle, WA. Her daughter, Jenny Arkills, wanted us to know that, "She talked of your church and the people there often... She would like to be remembered here. She was her happy, positive and kind self until the end of her life. Thank you for the love you showed her." Cards may be sent to:

Jennifer Arkills and family  
8802 40th Ave SW  
Seattle, WA. 98136

Helene was married to retired UCC pastor, Don Young, and they were very active here at SELC, especially in caring for others and inviting and bringing visitors and guests. God bless her and keep her in his eternal loving care.

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### **CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONAL**

The next quarter (April - June) Christ In Our Home devotional books are available. You can pick them up from the church office. Questions / Information please contact the church office - 459-0444 or [admin@selcaz.org](mailto:admin@selcaz.org).

## LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Along with our Faith5 verse we invite / encourage you to continue to read the Lenten devotional book handed out in the Lenten bags.



Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is  
**Mark 8:34-35:**

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

*(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 (Mon. - Wed.) reflect upon that Sunday's readings. The days leading up to Sunday (Thur. - Sat.) prepare for next Sunday readings.

### Monday

Psalm 38  
Isaiah 30:18-26  
Acts 14:8-18

### Tuesday

Psalm 38  
Micah 4:1-7  
2 Corinthians 1:1-11

### Wednesday

Psalm 38  
Lamentations 5:1-22  
John 5:19-29

### Thursday

Psalm 103:1-13, 22  
Ezekiel 16:1-14  
Romans 3:1-8

### Friday

Psalm 103:1-13, 22  
Ezekiel 16:44-52  
2 Peter 1:1-11

### Saturday

Psalm 103:1-13, 22  
Ezekiel 16:53-63  
John 7:53-8:11

### Sunday

Hosea 2:14-20  
Psalm 103:1-13, 22  
2 Corinthians 3:1-6  
Mark 2:13-22