

Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church Monday Messenger - March 8, 2021

GRAND CANYON SYNOD FAITHFULNESS

Below a letter of encouragement from Dr. Hutterer. Thank you for your faithful giving that goes not only to our congregation but also to the greater church through our Grand Canyon Synod!

Dear Faithful Stewards of the Grand Canyon Synod,

We got some good news last week. When Director of Finance Clint Wasser closed the books on our 2020-2021 fiscal year, he discovered congregational giving was 16% over promised gifts. This can only mean one thing—God does amazing things through you!

Faithful mission support from all of our congregations created this abundance. Thank you.

Because of you:

- ♥ We were able to launch Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Arizona (LAMA), which is fully engaged in issues of hunger and providing support to older adults in their community.
- ♥ We offered additional support to even more seminary students.
- ♥ We honored all our commitments to our shared missions and ministries: Lutheran Social Services of Nevada, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, four campus ministries, just to give a few examples.
- ♥ We continued to share half of our received mission support with the Churchwide Office of the ELCA, which assists our national and global ministries. (Fun fact: a part of our churchwide support comes back to our synod through the ministry of our Director of Evangelical Mission, Pastor Miguel Gomez-Acosta.)
- ♥ We went above and beyond in responding to a need of the Mexican Lutheran Church, our companion church. Last year, they requested help to repair the parsonage outside Mexico City. Damaged by multiple earthquakes, the pastor and his family were unable to live in the house. In partnership with the Northeast Ohio Synod and Churchwide, our synod contributed \$15,000 towards the repairs. Ministry can now continue in this location.

Because of you, all this and so much more was made manifest. Because of your faithfulness and generosity, new possibilities were created. Because of you, we are equipped to communicate Jesus and connect the people of the Grand Canyon Synod.

Thank you for your continued generosity in 2021-2022, so we can be church together, better together for the sake of the gospel.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer Rev. Miguel F. Gomez-Acosta
Bishop Director for Evangelical Mission

CREATION CARE MEETING MARCH 16TH - ALL INVITED

Formed from our last summer's book study group and in response to our fall "Season of Creation" sermon series, our new "Creation Care Team" meets on Tuesday, March 16th, 6:30 pm, on Zoom (see invitation below). All interested in doing what we can to preserve and protect God's precious gift are invited to join us. Some of the items to be discussed include: follow up to Intern Pastor Annela's adult class on Water, working with the Landscaping Team as they build up, for Earth Day 2021 project(s) like potential Tree Planting, and supporting Recycling at SELC that is soon restarting. For more information, contact Christie Brown, team lead, or Pastor Perry.

Topic: Creation Care Team Meeting

Time: Mar 16, 2021 06:30 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/97988292860?pwd=SEhjdWhtWE1mMThxTWWhiSmk5QUJzZz09>

Meeting ID: 979 8829 2860

Passcode: 597046

One tap mobile +13462487799,,97988292860#,,, *597046# US (Houston)

“BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS” MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES

Wednesday’s, March 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, 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 Blessings of our Homes.

ZOOM SOUP SUPPERS

Wednesday’s, March 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)

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

All Services Live-Streamed

Palm Sunday - March 28 at 9:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - April 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 4 at 9:00 a.m.

THRIVENT MEMBERS

If you haven't allocated your 2020 Thrivent choice dollars yet, you have until March 31. It is important to do this during March or the dollars from 2020 will be removed. You may go to Thrivent's website (Thrivent.com) or call Thrivent (800-847-4836) and listen to the prompts.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINATION

Source: CDC site

Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have gotten 2 doses of vaccine?

YES. To protect yourself and others, follow these recommendations:

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid crowds

- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash your hands often

It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Experts are also looking at how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities. We also don't yet know whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to other people, even if you don't get sick yourself.

If you have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccination?

YES, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again.

If you were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Experts are still learning more about how long vaccines protect against COVID-19 in real-world conditions. CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

What we do not know

Although COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting sick, scientists are still learning how well vaccines prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to others, even if you do not get sick.

If you are vaccinated against COVID-19, you may still be exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. After exposure, people can be infected with or “carry” the virus that causes COVID-19 but not feel sick or have any symptoms. Experts call this “asymptomatic infection.”

COVID-19 vaccines and new variants of the virus

CDC is continuing to investigate the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. Scientists also are working to learn about new variants of the virus. More studies are needed to understand how new variants may affect the effectiveness of existing COVID-19 vaccines.

These variants seem to spread more easily and quickly than other variants, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19. An increase in the number of cases will put more strain on health care resources, lead to more hospitalizations, and potentially more deaths.

How can we prevent future new variants of the COVID-19 virus? Source: World Health Organization
Stopping the spread at the source remains key. Current measures to reduce transmission - including frequent hand washing, wearing a mask, physical distancing, good ventilation and avoiding crowded places or closed settings - continue to work against new variants by reducing the amount of viral transmission and therefore also reducing opportunities for the virus to mutate.

The SELC COVID-19 Response Team 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. As of March 8, the Covid Risk Level remains in the orange zone indicating “At risk of outbreak” with a “Very large number of new cases.” (For more information and details, see www.covidactnow.org and type in “Sierra Vista metro” to see ratings for our area).



Please pray for the family of Jackie Geisler, who died last week from cancerous tumor in her esophagus. No services are planned at this time. Sympathy cards may be sent to her niece, Rose & Ron Rudnick, 355 S. Taylors Trail, Sierra Vista, AZ, 85635.”



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.

FAITH5

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
John 2:13-22:

19Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

(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 84
1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22
1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Tuesday

Psalm 84
2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19
Hebrews 9:23-28

Wednesday

Psalm 84
Ezra 6:1-16
Mark 11:15-19

Thursday

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Genesis 9:8-17
Ephesians 1:3-6

Friday

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Daniel 12:5-13
Ephesians 1:7-14

Saturday

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Numbers 20:22-29
John 3:1-13

Sunday

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21