

## SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MONDAY MESSENGER - MARCH 29, 2021

### EASTER IN-PERSON WORSHIP OFFERED

Last Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, your SELC COVID-19 Response Team met to assess current pandemic statistics and developments and decided, after much prayerful deliberation, to recommend renewing **in-person worship starting on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021 at 9:00 am**. Your Worship and Music Committee and Church Council agreed and are making arrangements. Although at this writing the metric of infections per day is higher than we'd like to see, other developments such as visitors again allowed in the hospital, schools back in person, vaccinations ramping up, and other indicators, encouraged us to go in this direction.

If you want to attend in person, it is necessary to call the church office to register by **Thursday, April 1st, 4:00 pm**. This will allow us to make sure we have enough room and to facilitate contact tracing, if that becomes necessary. If there are more who register than allowed at one service, we will add a duplicate service at 11:00 am. All previously established safety protocols will be observed including:

- wearing a face mask at all times in church buildings (including fully vaccinated people),
- physical distancing at least 6' apart,
- washing/sanitizing hands,
- taking temperature upon entry,
- communion with individual cups and wafers in the pews,
- cleaning the sanctuary after each service,
- open windows,
- no congregational singing (soloist and instrumentalists only),
- limited number of worshipers in the sanctuary.

While the Governor's March 25th Executive Order rescinds public mask mandates and other restrictions, it also still encourages continued safety practices like mask wearing and it did not end the state's emergency status. In addition, both for-profit and non-profit businesses are legally allowed to set their own policies, such as requiring face coverings and physical distancing.

We will continue to monitor pandemic trends in order to mitigate against undue risk. Please also note that, as hard as we are working to keep our church campus virus free, to come here is not without risk, as we are not a medically sterile facility. Each of us are called to do our best to protect ourselves and others. We strongly discourage any health fragile folks from attending in-person worship, as well as those who have been traveling to at-risk areas or who care for those who are at-risk. This is all a response to Christ's call of neighbor love and care for everyone's health and well-being.

It won't be the Easter celebration that we all would prefer but we rejoice to be able to offer this opportunity to those who want to worship in person. Please also know that no one will be thought of less if they are not yet comfortable worshipping in person. We will, of course, still be livestreaming Sunday worship services. We know that we're still all together in Christ's Resurrection Spirit even if we're physically apart! And we rejoice that the Risen Lord is more powerful than anything that comes against us!



## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 1st, 7:00 pm  
Good Friday - Friday, April 2nd, 7:00 pm  
(Both livestreamed on our website, on YouTube and Facebook)

Virtual Prayer Vigil - Friday, April 2nd, 8 pm to Sunday, April 4th, 8 am  
\*To sign up for a half-hour slot, go to <https://calendly.com/selcaz> (the link is also on our website) or call the church office at 459-0444.

Resurrection Celebration - Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am (see article above)  
(In person and livestreamed.)

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## 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.

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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: contact the church office 459-0444 or [admin@selcaz.org](mailto:admin@selcaz.org).

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**NOTE: OFFICE CLOSED EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 5TH**  
*No Monday Messenger will be offered next week.*

## 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.



**Our FAITH5 verse of the week is**  
**John 12:13-15-**

- <sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,  
“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—  
the King of Israel!”
- <sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:
- <sup>15</sup> “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

*(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 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 part of the FAITH5 verse.

**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

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 36:5-11  
Hebrews 9:11-15  
John 12:1-11

### Tuesday

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 71:1-14  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
John 12:20-36

### Wednesday

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 70  
Hebrews 12:1-3  
John 13:21-32

### Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13–53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25  
John 18:1–19:42

### Saturday

Romans 6:3-11  
John 20:1-18

### Sunday—Easter Day

Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18