

MONDAY MESSENGER
SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MAY 3, 2021

(Editor's note: Dena Anderson, current director of our Shepherd's Fold Child Care Center, will be retiring from that position on May 15th. She will still be assisting in a part-time way, but the letter below is her message to all of us at the end of these last 18 years serving faithfully and ably in this role. Jessica Hursh will be taking over as the Director, with Carol Hardin serving as Assistant Director. A special recognition and appreciation time will take place for Dena at the end of the May 9th Worship service, with goodies on the patio following worship. Thank you, Dena, for your dedication and love in caring for these little ones of the Good Shepherd's Fold!).

Dear Church Family:

When I was sixteen years old, I told everyone that I had been called by GOD to the mission field. "Oh, where is he sending you?" they asked. "Here," I said, "In the United States to work in Early Childhood Education." "That's not mission work," they said. Everyone told me it was a waste of time. I would never amount to anything. I would not be able to support myself. I said I will do what GOD asks of me.

I went to college and got my Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education. No one came to my graduation. I have worked in Early Childhood Education for the last 40 years or more, mostly in Non-Profit Christian Centers. I have seen humanity's Good side and Evil side. I have asked GOD "Why?" so many times. There is so much in this world I do not understand.

Over the years I have told the children in my care not to worry for, if they are frightened, afraid, scared or alone, all they have to do is say the name of JESUS and he will be there with them. That his name is more powerful than anything in this world and he will never leave them. That JESUS wants us to do unto others as we would have others do unto us. To love one another. To be nice, kind and loving. If it is not nice, kind and loving then we should not be doing it. That GOD died for us- all of us- because he loves us. And that I love them. That they can tell me anything. Believe me, some of those things they told me would break your heart and did break mine. Make you doubt your faith in Humanity but Never in GOD. In Luke 9:48, Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." For the least among you all - is greatest. Jesus also said in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."

In my career span I have lost two children in the childcare centers I served. I know they are in Heaven with Our Lord and Savior. One was eight years old and the other was a one year old.



My prayer is that God will one day say to me, "Well done, my Good and faithful servant." I have been honored and privileged to be with Shepherd's Fold for the last eighteen years. My prayer is that Shepherd's Fold will continue to follow GOD's will and bring the little children unto him. For those who may doubt the importance of Early Childhood Education, I would tell them to look at it this way: If you do not lay a good foundation, everything you build will crumble and fall away. If you lay the foundation correctly, it should last a lifetime or more. We may be the one and only time some of these children hear of God's Love. Yes, Shepherd's Fold has struggled but we have never lost our faith or our belief in what we do. Early Childhood Education is the foundation of our future. Let's keep putting JESUS in that foundation for he is the solid rock on which we stand.

May 14th, 2021 will be my last day as Director of Shepherd's Fold Child Care Center. Thank you for 18 years of being able to be dedicated to Something that I love and believe in.

Dena L. Anderson
Retiring Director
Shepherd's Fold Child Care Center

MOTHER'S DAY WORSHIP

Join us this Sunday, May 9th, for worship in which we will give thanks and pray for our mothers and all those who care for our children. Our Faith Formation Ministry Team will be handing out gifts to all women at the service in honor of our mothers. There will also be a baptism of Emma Bielinski, daughter of Allison and John Bielinski, sister to Isabel. It promises to be a joyful day! (Note: There will be no Coffee Chat this Sunday morning due to these special activities and to allow more time to honor our mothers!).

RICH MOUNT MEMORIAL SERVICE

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 11:00 am

Memorial service with committal service/inurnment immediately following in the SELC Columbarium. If you wish to attend, please make a reservation at the church office by May 13, at 4:00 p.m. Covid safety protocols will be observed.

FRIENDLY REMINDER: CALL WITH YOUR RSVP FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE BY THURSDAY, 4:00 PM, EACH WEEK. We need these RSVPs in order to plan for a second worship service if our numbers require it. We have a limit to the number of people we can allow in a worship service at this time.

FAITH 5

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

(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

Psalm 135

Daniel 3:1-30

1 John 2:3-11

Tuesday

Psalm 135

Daniel 6:1-28

1 John 2:12-17

Wednesday

Psalm 135

Isaiah 26:1-15

Mark 12:18-27

Thursday

Psalm 4

Daniel 9:1-19

1 John 2:18-25

Friday

Psalm 4

Daniel 10:2-19

1 John 2:26-28

Saturday

Psalm 4

Acts 3:1-10

Luke 22:24-30

Sunday

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48