

SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MONDAY MESSENGER - MAY 17, 2021

Pastor's Message:

With last Thursday's CDC announcement that "fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting" (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>), your SELC COVID-19 Response Team will be meeting again this week to discuss what this means regarding our current protocols so please watch for more information to come. In the meantime, here is a May 14th message from our Grand Canyon Synod Bishop, Deborah Hutterer, regarding these new guidelines:

Dear Church,

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:12-13)

With the CDC's updated guidance as of yesterday, indicating that they recommend that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear masks while engaging in most activities, but that businesses and localities may still require masks, we have reached another point where determining what actions rightly follow our Lord's command to demonstrate sacrificial love for one's friends during the pandemic is complicated.

In our synod, I know that there are some congregations who will understand Jesus' command to be faithfully enacted by continuing to wear masks when gathered, in order to both protect those who are vulnerable and because they do not want to establish a different set of rules for those who are vaccinated and those who are not.

There are other congregations where I know they will understand Jesus' commandment to be faithfully enacted by following the new CDC guidelines and only requiring masks for those who are unvaccinated.

In conversation with my Episcopal counterpart, The Right Rev. Jennifer Reddall, I suggest similar protocols as the Arizona Episcopal Diocese:

- Congregations may choose to continue to require masks of all people attending worship or other activities.
- Congregations wishing to permit fully vaccinated individuals to attend worship and other activities without wearing masks should consult with their congregation council.

I want to be clear that in congregations choosing the second option, *people who are not fully vaccinated (defined as 2 weeks past the final dose of vaccine) are still required to wear masks at all times while at church.* In other words, if you do not want to wear a mask at church, you must be vaccinated.

This is going to require trust on the part of people who arrive without a mask. Your congregation will be trusting you to be honest about your vaccine status. This is also a moment to remember that everyone—clergy, lay leaders, church members—is tired and exhausted from the last 15 months, and that the first instinct towards encountering someone who believes a particular congregation or the church as a whole is choosing the "wrong" option should be to practice compassion.

This is not as easy as going back to practices from the way they were 15 months ago. There are still sacramental practices and capacity guidelines to consider so that those still vulnerable to Covid-19 may worship safely. I am grateful for you and for your leadership during these times that have been all but clear. May God continue to hold us all as we faithfully serve and proclaim Jesus.

Callen to serve,
The Rev. Deborah K Hutterer

RICH MOUNT FUNERAL TUESDAY 5/19 11:00 AM

Please pray for Sue, family and friends as we gather tomorrow at 11:00 am for a Celebration of Life for Rich Mount, who died April 26th. If you haven't yet RSVP'd and you want to attend, please call the church office by 4 pm today to see if there's still room. It will also be livestreamed on our church website. A committal service in our columbarium will be held at the conclusion of this service. No reception is being held at church.

CELEBRATE THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AT PENTECOST WORSHIP SUNDAY, MAY 23RD 9:00 am

Join us for this joyful celebration of God's power and presence coming into the world at Pentecost! **Four of our youth, Jade Anthony, Cris Clark, Dakota Gaddy, and Marianna Martinez, will be affirming their baptism.** Zhayne, son of Serena Clark, will also be baptized. Goodies and drinks will be served on the patio following worship. (Note: this will take the place of Zoom Coffee Chat). Please show your support for these important milestones in the faith life of these families by your presence and prayers! Wear **RED** to add to the festive feeling! Please also continue to RSVP for Sunday Worship by 4:00 pm Thursday.

BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK will take place by Zoom and in person on Wednesday at 9:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall. Please let us know if you plan to join us in person.

Topic: Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://zoom.us/j/97363641908?pwd=WLBMSmloaUNtQkRJbitDTnRCZTNZz09>

Meeting ID: 973 6364 1908
Passcode: 197271

One tap mobile: +13462487799,,97363641908#,,,,*197271# US (Houston)

FAITH

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
John 17:11

“And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

(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 95
1 Samuel 16:1-13
1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday

Psalm 95
1 Chronicles 11:1-9
Revelation 7:13-17

Wednesday

Psalm 95
Micah 7:8-20
Mark 14:26-31

Thursday

Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 8:1-7
Acts 8:1b-8

Friday

Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 8:11-13
Acts 8:9-25

Saturday

Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 9:7-15
Mark 4:30-32

Sunday

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8