

SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MONDAY MESSENGER - MAY 24, 2021

CONGRATULATIONS, CONFIRMANDS!

Yesterday at our Pentecost worship service we joyfully celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism of four of our youth: Jade Anthony, Cris Clark, Dakota Gaddy and Mariana Martinez, along with the baptism of Zayne Lopez, son of Serena Clark, Cris's sister. Below are their Faith Statements and Bible Verses which were also read in the worship service.

Dakota ("Kota") Gaddy

John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, than someone lay down their life for their friends.



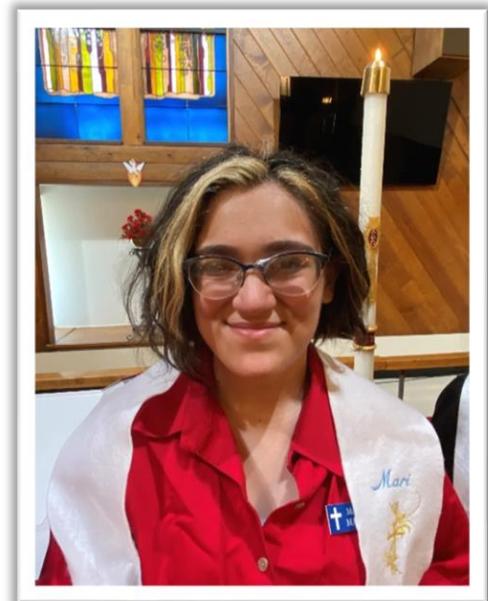
I joined this church in 2019 and I have learned so much. I've grown closer to God these past two years, which for a while I thought would never happen. It can be a hard decision to make when it comes to affirming your baptism, as I still have questions and doubts at times and I also have more to learn, but I am ready to say yes to God.

God is the ultimate Creator, and he is a teacher, nurturer, and he is a provider. God will love and accept you no matter what. Jesus died on the cross for a reason, our sins. Being a part of this congregation has helped me grow in so many ways, so I would like to thank you.

Mariana ("Mari") Martinez

I Corinthians 13: 4-7 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things.

To me God is a hand that guides and said hand has guided me to the people of this church. The people here have done so much for me. They have held my hand through major issues and problems alike. I believe God is the Creator and has made us for a reason. It is okay to stray, for we know we will always be led back by the love of Jesus. I have no words to describe how this is helping me. I believe God led me to this point.



Jade Anthony

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

I believe in a very understanding God who is accepting and is very calm and hard to anger. I believe that God has created the world and that Jesus has died for our sins and has done many other great things for us. I have decided to start the journey of faith in God and this is just one of my many steps to be closer than I was before. To me, being confirmed is like making my root connection to God stronger. Without him in my life I feel I would not have made it this far and I am very happy I found him when I did.

Now standing here before this house of God and finally getting confirmed, I feel as though I could not possibly be closer. I am very excited to be even more of a part of this church and to be building an even stronger relationship with God than I have had previously. Being in this church since seventh grade has really opened up my life and made me a more mature and better person. I am thankful to the church and the people here for helping me.



Cristopher ("Cris") Clark

1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.

I believe in God as Creator, Jesus as Savior and the Holy Spirit as our helper. I love Jesus. Jesus loves me all the time no matter what. His love makes me feel good. He forgives me when I do something wrong and I feel better. God's love helps me to be motivated to be myself, to have confidence, like to talk in front of people instead of being nervous. His love helps me to help other people, like how I started a business selling dog treats out of our home so I can help my family pay for the bills.

I want to continue to learn about God and be faithful to Him. When I read the bible it helps me understand God and His purposes better.

Going to church, praying, going to communion, reading the bible, are ways I see myself growing in God. My baptism was one of the things that made me happy.

The church and its people have blessed me a lot. They have helped by praying for me and my family. They visit people in the hospital and in other places. The church helps the world by giving food to the poor, and their offerings help others, too.

Thank you to Pastor Mark & Linda and Intern Pastor Paul Benz for making me laugh and being there every day for us. Thank you for my family and friends being here today.



SELC PANDEMIC PROTOCOLS UPDATE

As many read in the email accompanying the Pentecost Worship bulletin last Thursday, your COVID-19 Response Team revised our protocols based on the CDC's May 13th announcement that “fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance...” and that it is highly recommended that unvaccinated people keep wearing masks. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>).

After prayerful discernment and discussion, your Response Team decided:

- 1) To continue to ask that worshipers wear masks while in the sanctuary until vaccinations are more widespread and include children. Those for whom wearing a mask is physically untenable are welcome to wear a plastic face shield that they bring with them or we can provide. We believe that mask-wearing continues to fulfill our calling to share Jesus' love by protecting the most vulnerable among us. Masks are optional while socializing outside on the patio.
- 2) To continue the option of singing with masks on.
- 3) That worshipers have the option of sitting distanced in the north and south pew sections or to sit without having to be distanced in the center pew sections. We ask that those who may typically sit in those side sections graciously offer to sit in other areas if space is needed for those who prefer distancing.
- 4) That we will no longer require temperatures being taken before entering.
- 5) That we will ask worshipers to continue to RSVP for the next two Sundays until we see how things are working out with the lifting of these restrictions and to help us discern if we need to add another worship service.
- 6) That we will soon return hymnals and Bibles into the pew racks for use during worship. A few paper bulletins will be available for any who would like one while in worship and we will continue to email out the bulletin on Fridays.
- 7) That, starting May 30th, worshipers will have the option of taking their individually wrapped communion “cups” to the altar to partake there or remain in the pews while taking communion. (Note: We now have new “cups” that are easier to open.)
- 8) That up to three people can join in providing song leadership or special music.

We hope and trust that taking these steps will assist in making our worship experience that much more enjoyable while at the same time continuing to keep us all as safe as we can, recognizing that we can't entirely eliminate all risks. We welcome any feedback or input you may have about these and other changes. Our next Response Team meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2021.

VIRTUAL GRAND CANYON SYNOD ASSEMBLY JUNE 11 & 12TH

All members are welcome to watch online the proceedings of the 2021 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly that will take place from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm on Saturday, June 12, 2021. Find out more information by going to the Synod website, www.gcsynod.org.

Friday evening, June 11th, starting at 6:00 pm, all members are also welcome to join in an online-only informal gathering. Come, meet, and get to know people from across the Synod in a relaxed atmosphere the evening before our synod assembly. [Register for the pre-assembly gathering here](#).

Please pray for our SELC Voting Members, Jim Cleven, Sandy Hall, Betty Burford and Pastor Perry who will be actively participating on Zoom while the rest of us can watch on livestream.

FAITH 5

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is

Acts 2:17

**'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all
flesh, and your sons and your daughters
shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions, and
your old men shall dream dreams.**

(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 80

Isaiah 5:1-7

Galatians 5:16-26

Tuesday

Psalm 80

Isaiah 32:9-20

James 3:17-18

Wednesday

Psalm 80

Isaiah 65:17-25

John 14:18-31

Thursday

Psalm 98

Isaiah 49:5-6

Acts 10:1-34

Friday

Psalm 98

Isaiah 42:5-9

Acts 10:34-43

Saturday

Psalm 98

Deuteronomy 32:44-47

Mark 10:42-45

Sunday

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17