

SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MESSENGER - JUNE 15, 2021

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Sunday we had the joyous privilege of celebrating our “High School Graduation Stepping Stone” with the blessing of a quilt to four of our Senior High Youth: Francisco Young, Kaylei Clark, Samantha Coulston, and Lilliana Dicks, pictured here (from left to right). Heart-felt thanks go to Vickie Kiser and Leslie McCourt for the love and effort that went into making their beautiful quilts. We pray these youth and all who may be graduating this year from college or other educational endeavors move into their next chapters with God’s grace and strength as they live out their callings in the world!



REVISED COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Your COVID-19 Response Team met last night and unanimously agreed to revise our protocols for Sunday morning worship and other settings in light of improving pandemic realities. Most significantly, as of this coming Sunday, June 20th, the wearing of face masks is optional for all who have been fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated people are requested to continue to wear face masks according to current CDC guidelines for larger groups meeting indoors. We also invite everyone—including vaccinated people— to consider continuing to wear a mask in order to show solidarity and support of others who may still need to wear a mask or are simply more comfortable doing so. For example, though fully vaccinated, Pastor Perry will be wearing a mask indoors when not preaching or leading worship.

We continue to offer the side sections of pews for those who wish to sit distanced from others and fully masked. Communion will continue to be served with individual cups picked up upon entering the worship space. Worshipers are still invited to kneel around the altar or stay in the pews as they take communion as they wish. We ask that, during the Sharing of the Peace, physical contact be limited to those in your own personal household or friendship circle. As always, if you want to share a hug or handshake with anyone and aren't certain if they're okay with that, be sure to politely ask if they are comfortable with such contact and then respectfully honor their preference.

In addition, indoor food fellowship events are presently discouraged at church, but we'll look at opening up to those events come early fall. Drinks and food served by designated volunteers will be offered occasionally on the patio, like on July 4th, provided by the Fellowship Team. Special music can now include quartets.

Again, please remember that to share in this worship space is not without risk, as we are not a medically sterile facility. Each of us can do our best to protect ourselves and others, including getting vaccinated, continuing to follow health guidelines such as frequent hand washing, staying home when ill, and getting tested when exposed. There is always the option of participating in worship online if that's more comfortable. We recognize that all this is not ideal, but trust all understand that these protocols are being practiced in order to model Christ in love for the neighbor and concern for everyone's physical as well as spiritual health and well-being. If you have any questions or comments, please contact a member of the Response Team.

FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY, JUNE 20TH

Join us in worship, 9:00 am, this coming Sunday, June 20th, for special recognition of all of our fathers and other Father figures for children. A special gift will also be given to all men as they depart from worship.

WELCOME AND GREET ILMARI ROVA THIS COMING SUNDAY!

Intern Pastor Annela and husband, Reese, invite the congregation to join them in welcoming their new daughter, Ilmari, into our congregation as they bring her to worship this coming Sunday, Father's Day, June 20th, and to also greet her on the patio after worship. (Please wear a mask as you share in that greeting since Ilmari has yet to receive any of her vaccinations). We're glad to have Intern Pastor Annela back serving with us after her six-week maternity leave that ended last week!

GIFT EVENT SUNDAY, JUNE 27TH - IN PERSON

All ages are invited to join with us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 27th, at 10:30 am, for our first “in person” GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) focusing on our Gospel lesson for the day of the healing of the woman by Jesus. We’ll have a fun time learning about Jesus’ love that comes even when we least expect it. (Note: You may want to bring a water bottle or other drink with you that morning.) Masks optional for all vaccinated people but unvaccinated folks are asked to wear one in the Fellowship Hall.

FORMER INTERN PASTOR NEWS

Congratulations to Pastor Sean Janssen, our 2016-17 SELC Intern Pastor, who has received a new call to Grace Lutheran Church, Port Townsend, Washington, starting July 20th. He will be moving from Montana, where he has served Christ Lutheran Church of Big Sandy and Messiah Lutheran Church of Havre for 3 years. They are excited to be back close to their extended families!

Congratulations, also, to Pastor Krista Opie (formerly Mendoza,) 2009-10 SELC Intern Pastor, serving now at Mount Si Lutheran Church in North Bend, WA, who is engaged to marry Doug Johnson on August 27, 2021!

FAITH

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
Mark 4:30-32

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

(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.

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 115
Exodus 28:29-38
Philippians 1:3-11

Tuesday

Psalm 115
Numbers 8:5-22
Titus 1:1-9

Wednesday

Psalm 115
Ezra 9:5-15
John 16:16-24

Thursday

Psalm 33:12-22
Genesis 2:4b-7
1 Corinthians 15:42b-49

Friday

Psalm 33:12-22
Job 37:1-13
1 Corinthians 15:50-57

Saturday

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 15:6-11
John 7:37-39

Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Be creative! Stay open to the Holy Spirit!