

SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE MESSENGER - JUNE 21, 2021

“World Refugee Day” Call To Action

Sunday, June 20th marks World Refugee Day. We recognize those who had to flee their homeland out of fear of persecution and for their lives. Our SELC Refugee Support Team works with Lutheran Social Services of the S.W. to help give those refugees who are accepted and legally admitted by the U.S. State Department a fresh start.

In July, the GRACE Act come before Congress to remove some of the politics and to ensure a minimum level of refugees are accepted annually into the US. We are experiencing the worst refugee crisis in history. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are over 79.5 million forcibly displaced people, over 26 million of which are refugees and half of whom are children. Fewer than 1% of the world’s refugees are ever resettled. If a refugee is selected for resettlement in the United States, they undergo the most extensive security screening and vetting process of any traveler to come to the United States, including health screening.

Part of the GRACE Act covers a special concerns provision that would help those Afghans who worked with US forces and are at great risk with the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in September. Tanque Verde Lutheran Church in Tucson just welcomed a family of 5 from Afghanistan to Tucson in May. We have partnered with them in the past to co-sponsor refugees and hope to soon do so again.

We encourage you to please contact your congressional representatives and ask them to support the GRACE Act. For more information go to: www.lss-sw.org/grace-act Sample messages are on the website. You can also complete your letters on the website. Volunteers will transcribe them for you and send them to our congressional reps.

For further questions contact Gail Hamp, hamp.gail@gmail.com

“Hybrid” GIFT Event This Sunday, June 27th

All ages and households of one or many are invited to join with us in the Fellowship Hall or on Zoom this coming Sunday, June 27th, at 10:30-11:30 am, for another wonderful GIFT (Generations in Faith Together) event focusing on the Gospel lesson for the day of Jesus’ healing. We’ll have a fun time learning about Jesus’ love that comes even when we least expect it. It would be helpful to know if you’re coming *in person* so we can set up accordingly so please RSVP to dff@selcaz.org or call the church office, 459-0444, by Thursday afternoon if you plan to be there. Per protocols, we ask that unvaccinated persons wear masks which are optional for vaccinated persons. You may also want to bring a water bottle or other drinks in containers as we are not yet serving food or drinks.

If joining us by Zoom:

Topic: **June 27th GIFT**

Time: Jun 27, 2021 10:30 AM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/97607297999?pwd=WkwxbnNYUDlhazExb0dqZFdrTmYxUT09>

Meeting ID: 976 0729 7999

Passcode: 095240

One tap mobile: +13462487799,,97607297999#,,,,*095240# US (Houston)

Lutheran Social Services of The Southwest Incontinence Supplies Drive

SELC is collecting new unopened packages of adult size diapers and bed pads to donate to our local elderly and disabled clients of LSS-SW. If you wish to give a financial donation, please make out to SELC, and note "LSS-SW Supply Drive." You can give the comfort of health and happiness to neighbors in need. For more information contact Linda Radwick 439-5019. While you can always make donations, SELC is collecting till the end of June.

SELC Family Update!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it is with sadness that we have to say good-bye after almost 17 years of worship and fellowship together. We are moving to Ruth's childhood home in Ohio to be near relatives and will live in a small retirement villa with the address of: 815 Red Maple Court, Bluffton, OH 45817. Letters and visits are welcome! Our current cell phone numbers are 520-559-6555 (Ken) and 520-559-6592 (Ruth). We look forward to continuing our friendship with some of you on Facebook. We will always cherish our time with you here at SELC and carry with us loving memories of you as individuals and groups. You have inspired us and helped us grow spiritually by your example. God bless you and give you joy and peace in Jesus.

- Ruth and Ken Graber

ELCA Gathering Volunteer Corps

The ELCA Youth Gathering planning and preparations have begun. We anticipate attending this amazing and powerful ministry event with our youth and some adult leaders. The Gathering will take place in Minneapolis, MN July 24 - 28, 2022! Aside from a few of our adults accompanying Pastor Mark and Linda, the Gathering needs general volunteers in a wide array of areas and duties and all travel and lodging expenses are paid. Volunteers just pay for their own meals. It involves a time commitment of arriving by July 21 and possibly staying one day later. Please note that Corps Volunteers are not with our church group, but are placed in other areas of service as needed. The Gathering Volunteer Corps applications are available now and the deadline to apply is July 22, 2021. To apply or get more information go to www.elca.org/YouthGathering/Attend/Volunteer You may also contact Linda Perry regarding any questions or for more information at DFF@selcaz.org

SELC Calendar Scheduling

As we begin to get more in-person meetings/events happening, please keep in mind whenever you would like to hold a meeting/event (especially on campus) to contact the church office for scheduling.

FAITH

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
Mark 4:39-41.

He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

(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 104:24-34, 35b
Joel 2:18-29
1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Tuesday

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Genesis 11:1-9
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Wednesday

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Ezekiel 37:1-14
John 20:19-23

Thursday

Psalm 29
Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20
Romans 8:1-8

Friday

Psalm 29
Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 8:9-11

Saturday

Psalm 29
Isaiah 5:15-24
John 15:18-20, 26-27

Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17