

SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MONDAY MESSENGER - July 6, 2020

A Few A,B,C's of Faith Formation

As a former Reading Intervention Specialist for young children, and now as Director of Faith Formation for all ages, I feel compelled to share a few “A,B,C’s of Faith Formation” with you. While the COVID virus is still here, so is the Vision and Victory of our Lord Jesus Christ in each new day! As I have missed being able to share in-person worship, Bible classes, youth devotions and scripture study and cross generational faith sharing and stories, I have also been deeply blessed by sharing in God’s Word with others through Zoom, Live Stream, Webinars and Conference Calls. You cannot stop the Word of God from breaking through!

If you have had a chance to be a part of Intern Pastor Paul’s special series of classes, or our book study on Tuesday evenings, Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Youth Zoom times, or have worshipped live stream, then I trust and pray you have experienced the blessing of sharing in God’s Word and in the fellowship and faith of others! These are difficult and challenging times, but we are finding new and creative ways to stay connected. If you have not yet checked out any of the above-mentioned modes of learning and growing in God and/or need help getting a computer or laptop so that you may do so, please contact me and we will try to help that to happen. Technology can be intimidating, and I struggle myself with it at times, but it also might be easier than you think. If you don’t have a laptop or iPad but have a smart phone, that can also be a tool to use to keep you connected. We can help show you how.

Stay tuned for more innovative ways that will be coming to help keep us connected in the Word and to one another at home and in our church family. I am especially excited about some new resources that will provide inspiration and connection once a week for 52 weeks to families with children, married couples, and singles. And if you would like to be part of our weekly Bible study that reflects on the scriptures for each Sunday, but cannot make a morning session, Pastor Mark is open to offering an evening session as well. Please notify me or the church office if you are interested in such a session once a week. It always amazes and uplifts me to hear how the Word of God is speaking amidst the people in these Bible studies!

In closing, here is fun partial “A,B,C Reflection” that I hope will inspire and encourage you to step into more of all that SELC has to offer in the way of Faith Formation and Fellowship. When we read the Holy Scriptures together, we experience the:

- Adoration of our Awesome Abba,
- Biblical Blessing in study and reflection and the Bearing of each other’s Burdens,
- Christian Community and Connection and Care Centered on the Cross,
- Deep Delights of the Divine!
- Enjoyment of Enthusiastic Epiphanies!
- Faithfulness, Forgiveness and Fellowship of other Fellow Christians,
- Generosity, Giving, Guidance and the Grace of God through others,
- Hints of the Holy and the Hope of Heaven,
- Inviting, Inspiration, Inquiry and Inclusion of others,
- Joy of Jesus Love!

From A to Z, Alpha to Omega, beginning to end, God’s Word holds us fast and keeps us strong!

Linda Perry, SELC Director of Faith Formation

POST-WORSHIP “ZOOM COFFEE FELLOWSHIP”

We're looking to hold a half-hour Zoom “Coffee Fellowship” immediately following our 10:00 am Worship Service, starting this Sunday, July 12th, for anyone interested. Pour yourself a cup of coffee, tea, or some other beverage, turn on your device, and join us like we're enjoying fellowship on the patio following worship! Let us know if you're interested. We'll send out a Zoom invite to all on our email list for the first one, in case you don't get to let us know before hand, and then weekly to those who gather. We'll see how it goes if we continue it indefinitely.

JULY 26TH 8 AM “PARKING LOT WORSHIP”

We are planning on a “parking lot worship service” on July 26th at 8 am for Intern Pastor Paul's final Sunday. We have yet to work out all the details, but cars would be parked distanced from each other (so windows can be rolled down), use an FM transmitter for the worship, and we will present and preach from the patio area next to the sanctuary entrance. We'll have individual communion cups and wafers to pick up as you enter the parking lot and are guided into a spot. Afterwards, cars are invited to drive by to say goodbye to the Benz family. If you don't feel comfortable coming to the worship service, you can arrive at 9 am for the drive by. We'd like to know if you would come to such a service so please email or call the church office so we can get an idea of how many might come. We will still also hold a livestreamed worship service in the sanctuary at 10 am. Watch for more information to come soon! (Please note: Although we had talked about holding an outdoor service in a park, that's prohibited now by the City. Our COVID-19 Response Team and Worship and Music Committee continues to support livestreamed worship in the sanctuary only. Any in-person worship there still has to wait until three weeks of downward infection rate trends).

AMY JANSSEN ORDINATION - JULY 18TH

We celebrate and give thanks to God as 2019-20 SELC Intern Pastor Amy Janssen is ordained as Pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia, Minnesota, on Saturday, July 18, 2020, at 2 pm, in the garden area outside the church there! If you'd like to send congratulation cards, please mail them directly to the church: Rev. Amy Janssen, c/o Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 901 S. Fourth St., Virginia, MN 55792.

FAITH5

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
Matthew 11:28

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

(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 the 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 a part of the FAITH5 verse of the week.

Be Creative!

SUNDAY LECTIONARY DAILY READINGS

The readings are chosen so that the days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon that Sunday's readings. The days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the next Sunday readings.

Monday

Psalm 131
Jeremiah 27:1-11, 16-22
Romans 1:18-25

Tuesday

Psalm 131
Jeremiah 28:10-17
Romans 3:1-8

Wednesday

Psalm 131
Jeremiah 13:1-11
John 13:1-17

Thursday

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Isaiah 48:1-5
Romans 2:12-16

Friday

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Isaiah 48:6-11
Romans 15:14-21

Saturday

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Isaiah 52:1-6
John 12:44-50

Sunday

July 10-16 (Lectionary 15)
Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23