

SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MONDAY MESSENGER - July 27, 2020

Intern Pastor Paul's Message:

“I thank my God every time I remember you.” -Philippians 1:3

Our Dear Friends,

The first year spent as a husband. The first year spent as a father. I spent this year serving with you and ministering to you. And as you ministered to us in friendship and love I will always look back on this time with you as what it means to be in true Christ Community. That God sent us to you in this year... God is good! 😊 For whatever pain and joy memory will be and bring in our lives, 2020 will certainly be the year that people of the world remembered being reminded in such a strong way how connected we are. Unfortunately, the common experience of COVID-19 will prompt us all to remember how we met the events of 2020. I will remember how much you loved us in this year. I will remember how much we, together, utilized every resource God has given us to stay connected. I will remember holding on with you, I will remember holding on to you. And in some circumstances, I will remember helping many of you let go. I surely remember letting go and saying, “Not Goodbye, but farewell until we meet again.” Such is the eternal smile gifted to us in the Communion of Saints by the Power of the Holy Spirit. We made new friends that I am certain our soul knew all along and were only gifted the great joy of meeting one another and sharing what life is in these living years of Earth's days and years for the Children of God.

The key is in the mountains. Jesus was transfigured on the Mountain. Moses gave the Law and met God on the Mountain. The mountain was where I went for much of my time here to commune and be refreshed with the sound of the creek at Miller Canyon and the birds who are given shelter by God.

I give thanks for the way you all have worked to support Good Neighbor Alliance and pray that the efforts to provide shelter in this community continue.

I give thanks for the profound generosity in your contributions to Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission and House of Prayer Lutheran Church and pray that the bond with Patterson and our siblings in Christ there grows.

To continue on the list of all I give thanks for in your ministry here would leave you with a book rather than a letter and time will not permit that. We turn now to prepare and move toward the next chapter where our service will continue with new faces and voices.

The visitation champions here at SELC feed those so hungry for spiritual and psychological companionship and conversation and prayer. They are able to do the work because every person gives their gifts of talent and time and treasure. Without administration and organization our community cannot do these ministries in a coordinated way. What a gift you are in this church. Monica and Joy and I were discussing that last night about what an amazing community this is.

Our life will be forever better and forever blessed because of you. For me, it has been quite rare to receive the magnitude of generosity which you have gifted us. I don't know how to adequately thank you with words. What I can tell you is that for the rest of my life and ministry I commit to sharing this same generosity with others drawing from the memory of this last year and the overwhelming love and surprise of this last Sunday- drawing from the strength of our God the same way you all do. Whenever I share generosity and kindness with others, you will be there with me.

I am grateful that my friend, classmate, and sister in Christ, Annela Rova and her husband, Reese, will be here soon to minister with you and experience the same friends we have come to love so dearly. Grateful with sighs too deep for words. Greet them warmly for us.

Until we meet again, “Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Let us take turns with grace, strength, and humility, holding one another up and letting our family and Christ hold us up.

We shall be with you always in the Fellowship of the Spirit and Dine with you at the Holy and Spacious Table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Farewell Until We Meet Again,
Intern Pastor Paul Benz, Monica, and Joy Pearl

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY

We’re joining together again this coming Sunday, August 2, 2020, for another “SELC Coffee Fellowship” on the Zoom online platform. All are invited! All you need is a device with a video camera and microphone. We’ll start at 11:20 am (note slight time change) and share for about 30 minutes both in a large group and smaller group chat times. Pour yourself a cup of coffee, tea or other favorite beverage and connect with friendly folks from your family at SELC!

Topic: SELC Coffee Fellowship

Time: Aug 2, 2020 11:20 AM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94434439414?pwd=eTVCZmZ5aUh4ajNZQVpvMDdza3prdz09>

Meeting ID: 944 3443 9414

Passcode: 592781 (usually not needed)

GIFT CARDS FOR OUR NEW INTERN

Our new 2020-21 Intern Pastor, **Annela Rova**, along with her husband, Reese, will be here soon and settling into our community. Annela will arrive on August 8th and Reese will be arriving the end of August as he has to stay in Berkeley until preparations are completed to allow him to work at his job completely remotely for the year they are here in Sierra Vista. As in past years, we are asking the congregation to donate a variety of gift cards from local stores as a housewarming and welcoming gift to help make the transition more comfortable and hospitable. If you can help with this, please mail in the cards to the church office, place them in the black metal mailbox outside the front office door, or come by and knock or call to bring them in person during office hours. Thank you for your continuing ministry of generous support and hospitality to these “ministers in training”!

THANK YOU’S!

From Mary Alexander:

“I would like to thank my wonderful church family for their prayers, favors, kindnesses, notes and calls. It’s such a blessing knowing my church family is still doing God’s work. “

From Linda and Rich Radwick:

“Thank you to everyone praying, calling, sending cards and healing thoughts to Rich. He is doing very well.”

FAITH

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
Romans 8:38-39

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord..

(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! Stay open to the Holy Spirit!
Have fun!

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 119:121-128
1 Kings 3:16-28
James 3:13-18

Tuesday

Psalm 119:121-128
1 Kings 4:29-34
Ephesians 6:10-18

Wednesday

Psalm 119:121-128
Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33
Mark 4:30-34

Thursday

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Proverbs 10:1-5
Philippians 4:10-15

Friday

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Isaiah 51:17-23
Romans 9:6-13

Saturday

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Isaiah 44:1-5
Matthew 7:7-11

Sunday

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52