

SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MONDAY MESSENGER - August 10, 2020

Pastor's Message:

“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The **time** is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’” - *Mark 1:14-15*

There are primarily two Greek word concepts in the bible which describe “time.” Understanding them can be helpful in living through this pandemic. One is *chronos* and the other is *kairos*. *Chronos* time is what most of us live by day by day. It is time that is measured by clocks, watches, and calendars. It is found in the word “chronological,” a linear time that is measured moment by moment, hour by hour, year after year, in order one after the other.

Kairos time is different. It is the eternal “Now.” It is often associated with the concept, “an opportune time.” It is the word used above in Mark 1:15, as well as in 2 Corinthians 6:2, “See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!” It is the mode in which God works and exists, above *chronos* time, beyond *chronos* time, encompassing and surpassing all of time. It is behind what Christ is quoted as saying in Revelation 22:13, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.’”

Focusing on and seeking to live by and in *kairos* time more than *chronos* time can be a helpful and hopeful discipline during this COVID-19 reality in which we find ourselves. While we can't escape the demands of living in and by *chronos* time in our culture, living only in that reality can be an excruciating experience, especially now. No one knows how long the current restricted and restructured lifestyle will last. The hours and minutes can feel like they tick away without much purpose or meaning, especially if we are in self-isolation. We can't plan, we can't anticipate, we can't look forward to the things we would normally be focused on in our lives. *Chronos* becomes an unwelcome dictator in our lives.

But we worship and serve the God of *kairos* time! We can mentally and spiritually escape *chronos* tyranny if we practice surrender to God's “peace which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7). If we allow ourselves to let go of the constant compulsion to want to know what's coming, what will happen tomorrow, or next month or next year, and simply trust God to be fully present in all the times of our life, we get closer to that *kairos* reality. If we ask God's help to fully absorb and accept Jesus' words in Matthew 6:34, “So do not worry about tomorrow...” and seek to enter into each moment as fully as possibly, loving as faithfully as we can, praising God for each moment's blessings as often as we can, we are more and more approaching divine *kairos* reality.

It's not easy. It's countercultural in many ways. It is a gift that we often turn away. We will try and we will fail many times. But it's worth it. It's freeing. It's something that this pandemic reality may provide a unique opportunity to contemplate. And it's wonderful practice for that moment when we are finally and completely free of *chronos* time and we enter the *kairos* eternity of heaven itself, finally and lovingly embraced by our Alpha and Omega.

Your fellow servant in Christ,
Pastor Mark Perry

GIFT CARDS FOR ANNELA

Thank you to all who donated gift cards for our new Intern Pastor, Annela Rova! It's not too late to donate to add to the warmth of her welcome. 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 Barb Williams, Internship Committee Chair, can pick it up. Just give her a call, 520-249-4878. Thank you for your generous support and hospitality!

INSTALLATION SERVICE & DRIVE-“HI” WELCOME FOR NEW INTERN AUG. 23RD

The formal Installation of an Intern Pastor for Annela will take place during the 10 am livestreamed worship service on August 23rd. Shortly afterwards, about 11:30 am, we'll have a “Drive-‘Hi’” time to welcome here. Similar to how we said goodbye to Paul Benz, we'll invite you to drive in your cars to welcome her in front of the office next to Lenzner Ave. Only this time, please have a sign ready on your window or other place that shows the names of those in the car. Because we usually welcome the new Intern Pastor with an ice cream social but can't do that this year, the Intern Committee will also hand out ice cream bars as you pass by as a further way to celebrate! We'll also be letting you know of other organized ways we'll plan to help us all get acquainted with Annela in the weeks ahead.

NOTE: NO WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK
while Pastor is on vacation until 8/14/20.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP - SUNDAY, 8/16, 11:20 AM - all are invited to join us on Zoom again for this informal time of connection and support. Here's the Zoom invite:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/95106782655?pwd=MGptMWh1Y0RWSTFWWEIrdUNRT2JMdz09>

Meeting ID: 951 0678 2655

Passcode: 949927

FAITH

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
Matthew 14:28-33:

²⁸Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

(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 18:1-19
Genesis 7:11–8:5
2 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday

Psalm 18:1-19
Genesis 19:1-29
Romans 9:14-29

Wednesday

Psalm 18:1-19
Job 36:24-33; 37:14-24
Matthew 8:23-27

Thursday

Psalm 67
Isaiah 45:20-25
Revelation 15:1-4

Friday

Psalm 67
Isaiah 63:15-19
Acts 14:19-28

Saturday

Psalm 67
Isaiah 56:1-5
Matthew 14:34-36

Sunday

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

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