

SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MONDAY MESSENGER - August 17, 2020

Ever Flowing Faith Formation For Every Generation! From Linda Perry, Director of Faith Formation

God's joy, peace, and hope to you all! I pray that your connection in Christ and with others remains as strong as possible in this most challenging time. As more and more time goes on in which we are not able to physically be together in worship, study and fellowship, our hope can fade, and our hearts can go grow weary. We continue to strive to live in hope and help weariness, weeping and worry to be replaced with God's wisdom, wonder and the Word!

I am excited to share about some of the new ways in which we will be launching learning and loving together in the Lord. As Dave Lynn, a youth and families specialty leader shares, "We all have lists of things we can no longer do, but here is something we *can* do, and ironically, it also is the most effective faith forming strategy." Peer Ministry founded by Lyle Griner and Home And Church, by Dave Lynn, has several faith resources and materials we will be utilizing in different ways. One of the newest resources, which is an in-home ministry model, ***Make Meal Time Family Time***, contains 52 weeks of inspiration that includes thought and faith provoking questions, activities and conversation starters, service and outreach ideas, Faith5 tools and more, for people of all generations and stages of life. It has helped to enhance and strengthen the faith of singles, couples, friendships, marriages, families with children and grandparents with their grandchildren whether close by or miles apart! So, in this time of COVID-19 it can be especially helpful but also a wonderful resource for when we can gather again in person. The links to this information will be on our SELC website and/or emailed out to all of our members and friends each week in the near future!

We also will be using ***Faith Sparkers***, for G.I.F.T - Generations In Faith Together, in our **first virtual time together on September 20th from 11:20 a.m. to Noon, as we study the book of Jonah**. This will follow the live stream worship service in place of our Coffee Fellowship time that morning. Participants can observe live stream or Zoom in for a more participatory role. This will be a 4-part G.I.F.T series, as we reflect upon and discuss how Jesus is there for us even when we run from him. Future dates to be determined - perhaps every other week alternating with Coffee Fellowship Time. We hope all former G.I.F.T. attendees will join in and especially those who perhaps have never been to a morning of G.I.F.T. before! This is your chance to experience the gift of G.I.F.T. from your home and just check it out. It is such a blessing to share in the Word and hear how the Holy Spirit speaks through people of ALL ages! So, mark your calendars, grab that favorite cup to enjoy your coffee, tea, or juice, in and be ready to be touched, blessed, and inspired by God and your brothers and sisters in Christ! And remember, you can participate as you are comfortable. No one is required to share or read unless they wish to do so. This will be a special time for us to hear how God's story is also our story.

I pray you know how much we love you and hold you in our hearts and prayers. We thank God for all of you and the connections we hold in Christ that are not bound by time nor physical presence. Until we can gather with one another in person; "May the God of green hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!" - Romans 15:13 - *The Message* translation.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Zoom Meeting Resumes This Week

Watch for your e-mail Zoom invitation coming soon.

Installation Service & Drive - "Hi" Welcome for New Intern This Sunday, August 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 her. 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.

Thank You

It has been eight weeks since my knee replacement and after a bumpy start, I am doing very well. I've been walking without aids for 2 weeks and am able to drive again! Thank you to all for the prayers, and the cards and phone calls, it has all been very much appreciated and has spurred me to keep working at rehabilitation. I hope to soon be better than "normal".

Your sister in Christ,
Sandy Stephenson

Good News About Former Intern

Congratulations to proud new grandparents, former Interns, Revs Sunnive and John Forster. Daughter, Jonna and Dennis Forster welcomed Holly Sonja, their first child on August 3rd. (Dennis' last name is the same as was Jonna's; so, she didn't change last names! Jonna was 3 when the Forster's were here; she is now 25.)

FAITH

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
Isaiah 56:6-7:

“all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

(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 87
2 Kings 5:1-14
Acts 15:1-21

Tuesday

Psalm 87
Isaiah 43:8-13
Romans 11:13-29

Wednesday

Psalm 87
Isaiah 66:18-23
Matthew 8:1-13

Thursday

Psalm 138
Ezekiel 28:11-19
1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Friday

Psalm 138
Ezekiel 31:15-18
2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Saturday

Psalm 138
Ezekiel 36:33-38
Matthew 16:5-12

Sunday

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

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