

SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MONDAY MESSENGER - SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

MOVING FORWARD TOWARDS IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Our SELC COVID-19 Response Team is excited that we hope to soon be offering in-person worship in the sanctuary within the next few weeks. Yesterday's worship service was a "trial run" of what we look to be doing in the near future. As you may have seen if you watched it online, it was attended by Response Team members, Council members, Worship and Music Committee members, the usual worship leaders, and household guests. We will review our experience and make any suggested changes or improvements at our Thursday, Sept. 24th, meeting. Then, we will decide on a starting date for in-person worship, hopefully in early October. We will publicize the exact date as soon as possible after Thursday's meeting.

Thank you to the 85 people who filled out the Worship Survey we sent out! 62% of respondents said they would return to in-person worship with the recommended protocols, 38% said they wouldn't return. From the written comments, it seems not returning yet had mostly to do with not having a vaccine. 79% said reservations were acceptable, 21% wouldn't make reservations (again, mostly because they wouldn't be attending anyway). 86% said that alternating between more traditional and more contemporary worship services was fine, 14% said they'd prefer not. 10 am was acceptable as a worship time to 88% of respondents.

If reservations significantly exceed the total number of distanced pew seats available (about 40), we will look at adding another service at another time. Please note that the sanctuary is thoroughly cleaned after worship service.

We know that having to wear masks, refraining from hugs and handshakes, physically distancing, having communion in the pews, and not singing together are, to say the least, less than ideal. However, it is what our Response Team believes is best to keep us all as safe as possible, based on our best research into CDC and other medical guidelines. We pray the pandemic will end as soon as possible. And, who knows? Perhaps this will also prove to be a time when we learn how precious worship is and how we can better worship with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength!

G.I.F.T. KEEPS ON GIVING

24 members of all ages joined us yesterday on Zoom for a fun and meaningful exploration of the Jonah story and how it reminds us that Jesus never abandons or ignores us. Thank you to all who joined in! We had a fun "scavenger" hunt, heard an inspiring witness talk, shared in small groups, and reflected on Romans 8:31-39 together. We look forward to another GIFT in October, date TBD. We also will be sharing more about Faith in the Home resources coming out. Watch for more details to come!

CLIMATE CHANGE SERIES CONTINUES

Our Zoom and Livestream presentations on the facts about Climate Change continue this week and next. If you missed the first one, on its global realities, presented by eminent climatologist, Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, go to our website and watch it just like you would any of our worship services.

Session 2, Wednesday, September 23rd, 6:30- 8 pm, will focus on the impact and issues brought by climate change on our local region in the San Pedro Valley. Dr. Gregg Garfin, U of A Climatologist, will be joined by Mike Crimmins, UA Associate Specialist & Associate Professor in Climate Science, U of A fire ecologist, Laura Marshall, and Holly Richter, from the Nature Conservancy.

Session 3, Wednesday, September 30th, 7-8:30 pm, will focus on renewable energy efforts and other hopeful steps to mitigating effects of climate change. It will feature Dr. Garfin, on Climate change impacts and adaptation, and Nicole Hill, from the Nature Conservancy, on State and Local Energy Policy prospects for Arizona. Discussion time will follow each of these presentations as well.

To register for these online Zoom sessions, and for more information, please go to www.selcaz.org or register at Zoom directly at:

When: **Sep 23, 2020 06:30 PM Arizona** - “Local Impacts”

Register in advance for this meeting:

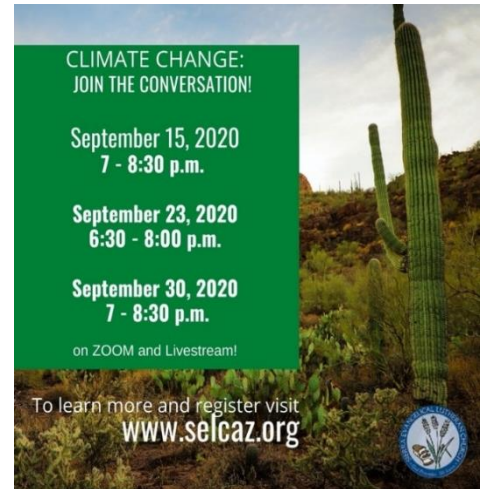
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAKfuurpjMuGd30uQ7SYEVoAZsTtg1fr-d5>

When: **Sep 30, 2020 07:00 PM Arizona** - “Renewable Resources and other Signs of Hope”

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYrfu6sqz4tHtDlszXkmjEGoX8eJ5rZzCr2>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Join us for these critically important information sessions which are a continuing part of our “Season of Creation.”



CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONAL

The next quarter (October - December) Christ In Our Home devotional books are available. You can pick them up from the church office. Questions / Information please contact the church office - 459-0444 or admin@selcaz.org.

THANK YOU'S

We received this nice "Thank You" note from Bella Vista Elementary school:

Thank you all so very much for the school supplies. They will all be very much appreciated by our students. We appreciate you all so much! - Thank you, Heather Rodda (Principal), & Bella Vista Elementary.

From Lois Andersen's sister:

Dear Friends, Sierra Lutheran Church was an important part of my sister, Lois Andersen's life, from the time she and Dick moved to Sierra Vista 20 years ago. Although she was unable in recent years to attend services regularly, your team of visitors who came to spend time with her meant a lot to her keeping the connection with the church strong. They deserve a special "Thank You!"

Enclosed is a donation in memory of Lois. Please apply it for the choir. The music program meant a lot to her. Sincerely, Joan Krogh

From NAU Lutheran Campus Ministry:

Hello Sierra Evangelical! We are so grateful to have your support, especially during times like these! This fall we are meeting with our students online for worship as well as meeting for a book study and meditation group. We feel very blessed to have the community we do, and that includes you! - Peace, LCM @ NAU

FAITH5

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
Romans 8:22-23

“²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.”

(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

Share your highs and lows of the day with one another.



READ

Read the verse of the week and if time permits, the Bible story that pertains to the Scripture of the week.



TALK

Talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows of the day or how it's speaking to you.



PRAY

Pray for one another's highs and lows and other prayer requests.



BLESS

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 106:1-12
Genesis 27:1-29
Romans 16:1-16

Tuesday

Psalm 106:1-12
Genesis 28:10-17
Romans 16:17-20

Wednesday

Psalm 106:1-12
Isaiah 41:1-13
Matthew 18:1-5

Thursday

Psalm 25:1-9
Ezekiel 12:17-28
James 4:11-16

Friday

Psalm 25:1-9
Ezekiel 18:5-18
Acts 13:32-41

Saturday

Psalm 25:1-9
Ezekiel 18:19-24
Mark 11:27-33

Sunday

"The Guarding of Creation"

Genesis 1:26-27 & 2:15
Leviticus 25:1-12
Matthew 22:34-40

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