

**SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MONDAY MESSENGER - SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

Pastor's Letter:

⁶ Blessed be the Lord,
for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.

⁷ The Lord is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart trusts;
so I am helped, and my heart exults,
and with my song I give thanks to him.

⁸ The Lord is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed

⁹ O save your people, and bless your heritage;
be their shepherd, and carry them forever. - *Psalm 28:6-9*

This is a simple meditation. In the midst of so much that prompts anxiety, fear, dread and anger, here believers are reminded from ancient Divine Wisdom not to look to what happens in our outward circumstances, no matter if they are good or ill, but to completely trust in the one Who is “the strength of his people... the saving refuge of his anointed.”

It is very difficult if not impossible to keep anxious and fearful thoughts at bay, but we are urged to keep returning our focus and attention on the assurance found in these comforting sentences. In fact, I would suggest that we repeatedly say these words out loud, copy them and paste them on our mirrors, practice breathing in and out as we read them silently in our minds, and let the Holy Spirit gently blow through them the peace that passes all understanding into our heart, mind and body.

These words are trustworthy and true. They are most fully embodied in our Lord Jesus Christ who promises to live inside us by the power of His Spirit and fill us with strength and endurance which can help us act lovingly and persistently in His work towards greater justice for all.

Your fellow servant in Christ,
Pastor Mark Perry

FINAL CLIMATE CHANGE PRESENTATION

This Wednesday, September 30th, from 7-8:30 pm, will be our final of three sessions on the reality and impact of Climate Change. This presentation will focus on renewable energy efforts in the state and other hopeful steps in mitigating the 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. You can join us live on Zoom or watch it either live or archived for 90 days on our website, just like the worship services. To register for the online Zoom session, and for more information, please go to www.selcaz.org or register directly at:

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

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Watch or participate in these important information sessions which are a continuing part of our “Season of Creation” celebration ending on October 4th.

Also Note: Pastor Perry and Intern Pastor Annela’s sermons so far for the
‘Season of Creation’ are now available for viewing on our www.selcaz.org website.

RESTARTING IN-PERSON WORSHIP OCT. 11TH

At our Thursday, September 24th meeting of your COVID-19 Response Team, the decision was made to begin limited in-person worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2002, at 10 am. Thank you to the 92 members and friends who responded to our worship survey via mail or online! You affirmed that it is worth moving forward in this way, including observing a number of protocols and procedures.

Some of those protocols include: wearing a face mask at all times in the buildings, physical distancing at least 6' apart, washing/sanitizing hands, taking temperatures, communion with individual cups and wafers in the pews, cleaning the sanctuary after each service, windows open, no group singing, and limiting the number in the sanctuary to 40 households. To that end, **WE ASK THAT RESERVATIONS BE MADE IN ADVANCE, BY THE PREVIOUS THURSDAY 4:00 PM**, on a "first come, first served" basis, by calling Cindy Allen at the church office, 459-0444, or emailing, admin@selcaz.org. If we find we have a significant number over 40, we'll consider adding a worship service.

All of this, of course, also depends upon continued downward trends in infection cases and continued availability of hospital and other medical care. Please also note, as hard as we are working to keep our church campus virus free, that to come here is not without risk, as we are not a medically sterile facility. Each of us can do our best to protect ourselves and others, including continuing to follow health guidelines such as frequent hand washing, staying home when ill, getting tested when exposed, and always wearing masks in public meeting places. We strongly discourage any health fragile folks from attending in-person worship, as well as those who have been traveling to at-risk areas or who care for those who are at-risk. This is all offered out of Christly neighbor love and care for everyone's health and well-being.

For more information or for questions, please contact the church office or our Council President, Larry Rewis, or Pastor Perry.

ZOOM COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

All invited to Coffee Fellowship, Sunday, October 4th, 11:20 am, on Zoom, through this link:
<https://zoom.us/j/98767595139?pwd=SGloTDg1WG1XZ3NGV3dVWmNpZFRSZz09>

Meeting ID: 987 6759 5139

Passcode: 435506

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,98767595139#,,,,,0#,,435506# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,98767595139#,,,,,0#,,435506# US (Houston)

FAITH5

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
Matthew 22:37-40

³⁷He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

(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 28
Judges 14:1-20
Philippians 1:3-14

Tuesday

Psalm 28
Judges 16:1-22
Philippians 1:15-21

Wednesday

Psalm 28
Judges 16:23-31
Matthew 9:2-8

Thursday

Psalm 80:7-15
Jeremiah 2:14-22
Colossians 2:16-23

Friday

Psalm 80:7-15
Jeremiah 2:23-37
Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a

Saturday

Psalm 80:7-15
Jeremiah 6:1-10
John 7:40-52

Sunday

“The Goal of Creation”
Proverbs 8:22-31
Colossians 1:15-20
John 1:1-5, 14

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