

OCTOBER 20, 2019
10:45 AM WORSHIP



What Does Your Relationship With God Do For You?

SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
101 North Lenzner Ave., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
(520) 459-0444 - www.selcaz.org

Our Mission Statement:

“With faith in God’s grace, we share Christ’s love with all,
so that lives are transformed by the Holy Spirit.”

Mark Perry, Pastor
Paul Benz, Intern Pastor
Linda Perry, Director of Faith Formation
Larry Rewis, SELC Council President
Cindy Allen, Administrative Assistant
Ministers: The People of SELC

**You Are Invited again to Sunday Worship Services
Next Week at 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.**

Nursery for children Birth - 4 yrs is available at both worship services. Parents are also welcome to use the Comfort Room as a private area to take your infant or young children if you would like. Located just off the Lobby.

WELCOME TO SELC - Please sign your name in the red fellowship pad from the pew rack in front of you. All are welcome at the communion table, regardless of denominational background or life circumstance. To learn more about what it means to be a devoted Christ-follower, and how Baptism is an essential entrance rite into that life of discipleship and service, please talk to the pastor or intern pastor. White grape juice is available as well as gluten-free wafers. Please indicate your preferences to the server.

PRAYER REQUESTS for the month of OCTOBER can be submitted online at www.selcaz.org or to Leslie McCourt at mccourtleslie@gmail.com.

PLEASE PRAY for the family of Suzanne Arnold; Mike Brown; for the family of Len Nowak; for Don Diamond, Jody, Bob Dooley, Marsha Mohrand, and the family of Bob Jones. Please continue to pray for Rich Mount, Mike Harvison, Makayla Margulies, Samantha, Bob Reiner; the family of Grant Hayes; Faye Toto and family; Jan Bowie; Caroline Pentecost, Debbie Marks, the Nelson family; Monica Benz; the family of Sharon Merrit; Bridget Watson; April Clark and family; Helen Perdiue; Beth Dechant and family; Dallas Raysor, Norma Jones and family; Judy Winfield, Virginia Wickizer, Johnnie Rae Latham, George Abraham; Jim and Pam Andrew; Jane Behsman, Dolly, Bessler, Jan Beverlin, Dee Brenner; the Bills Family; Carol Coss; Clayton; Don and Jan Huthoefer; Kriss Larsen, Helene Lacomte, Jake, Mahkyla, Sully Mix, Shawn Nowery; Pete and Dee Pederson; Caroline Pentecost, Jerry Regan; Rob; Roger and Dee Rowley, Virginia Studer, Grady Taylor and military personnel everywhere.

NINETEENTH AFTER PENTECOST
(= Please stand as you are able)*

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

*Confession and Forgiveness

*Gathering Song “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” ELW #858

Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31 Pew Bible pg. 26; SPARK Bible pg. 46

Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-18 Pew Bible pg. 952

*Gospel Acclamation “Thy Word” *(refrain only)*

*Gospel: Luke 18:1-8 Pew Bible pg. 853

Children’s Time

Choir Anthem “He Is Mine (Ni Wangu)” (Hopson)

Sermon Intern Pastor Paul Benz

Moment of Silent Reflection

*Hymn of the Day ELW #752; repeat 2X
“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

*Apostles’ Creed

*Prayers of the People *(to the conclusion, “Lord, in your mercy,”
please respond, “hear our prayer.”)*

***Sharing of the Peace**

MEAL

Offering

Music during Offering (Johann Sebastian Bach)
“Hilf, Gott, dass mirs gelinge” (“O Help Me, Lord, to Praise Thee”)

***Offering Prayer**

***Holy Communion**

***Words of Institution**

***Lord’s Prayer** (*sung*)

Invitation to Communion

Songs during Communion
“At the Cross/Love Ran Red” (Tomlin, Cash, Myrin, Armstrong, Redman)
“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” ELW #742

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Announcements

***Blessing**

***Sending Song** “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” (Rick Founds)

***Dismissal**

Postlude “Voluntary on Sending Song” (arr. B. Hayes)

Scripture Readings for Next Sunday:

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

Psalm 84:1-7

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

The Faith 5 Bible Verse for this week Ephesians 6:10-13:

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

SERVING TODAY

Altar Guild

Dennis and Lorna Cook, Patti Paul

Acolyte

8:00 a.m. - Ro Decker

10:45 a.m. - Jade Anthony

Deacons/Communion Assistants

8:00 a.m. - Deacon Jane Strain

10:45 a.m. - Deacon Carl McCourt

Greeters

8:00 a.m. - Norm and Elaine Grahn

10:45 a.m. - Don and Barbara

Williams

Lectors

8:00 a.m. - Joanne March

10:45 a.m. - Scott Gheris

Music Director

Jess Barrera

Organist & Pianist

Billie Hayes, Deb Koltveit

Partners in Praise

Betty Burford, Victoria Kiser,

Linda Perry,

AV Technicians

Bill Silvis, Larry Rewis, CJ Abraham,

Fred March, Dave Dechant

Ushers for Today

8:00 a.m. - *Glen Sanner, Wilma

Bell, Lynn Light

10:45 a.m. - *Gary Peterson, Rich

Mount

INTERN SERMON FEEDBACK - Thank you to all who offer constructive feedback for our Intern Pastor, especially when he preaches. Following the model of *lectio divina* practices, you are invited to respond to the sermon by following this format:

- 1) Listen for a phrase, story or illustration that most “catches” your attention, thoughts or feelings.
- 2) Why did it “catch” you? What does that tell you?
- 3) Where did it take you in your thinking, feeling and/or actions?

You can write your thoughts down and turn them into Pastor Perry or send them to his email at pastor@selcaz.org. Thanks for helping to improve our Intern’s homiletical skills in this way!

G.I.F.T. (Generations In Faith Together) TODAY! at 9:30 a.m. SELC Fellowship Hall! “Putting on the Armor of God!” Our Scripture focus will be Ephesians 6:10-18. We invite all generations to this special time of fellowship and study in God’s Word, as we grow in faith with one another.

MEMORIAL SERVICE for LEN NOWAK - TODAY, OCT. 20 at 4:00 pm. SELC Sanctuary. Please join the family for a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share if possible.

MEMORIAL SERVICE for BOB JONES - Wednesday, October 23 at 11:00 am. in the Sanctuary. Please join the family for a light luncheon reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share if possible. (*Please note: there will be NO parking in the front drive/parking area on West side of church.*)

MEMORIAL SERVICE for SUZANNE ARNOLD - Saturday, October 26 at 11:00 am. in the Sanctuary. Please join the family for a light luncheon reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share if possible.

SHEPHERD’S FOLD FALL FUNDRAISER - BUTTER BRAID - Selling Now! Flavors include: Apple, Bavarian Crème, Blueberry Cream Cheese, Cherry, and Cream Cheese pastries or the new Cinnamon Roll! **Only \$12.50 each.** Shepherd’s Fold gets 40% of the sales! **For more information and to order yours, contact 459-0444. Sale Deadline is October 25th.** (Pick-up your order on November 5.)

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED For Shepherd's Fold Trunk or Treat and for The Father of Lights Festival. Drop off your candy donations in the Narthex all Sunday's in October thru the 27th.

SHEPHERD'S FOLD TRUNK OR TREAT- October 31st - 3 - 5 pm - WE NEED YOU! We are needing volunteers to decorate your trunk and pass out candy to our little ones. There will also be games, face painting and other activities. SELC Main Parking Lot. If you would like to volunteer, contact us at 459-0115.

FATHER OF LIGHTS HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL -October 31st - 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Len Roberts Park (next to Carmichael School, where SELC Picnic was held) ALL FREE! Candy, movie, jumping castles, pony rides, face painting, balloon crafts, video game trailer, food. Sponsored by Discovery Forum Alliance ecumenical group. SELC will be joining other churches in support of this fun, annual festivity!

COLLECTING FOR CHRISTMAS AIRLIFT TO THE NAVAJO NATION thru NOVEMBER 3 ONLY - Items to be collected: New and Near New Clothes and Shoes, Canned and Nonperishable Foods, Children's Gifts (if wrapped, label with sex and age appropriateness.) For information call George Pohlman, 458-0668. George and other volunteers will be flying donations to The Navajo Nation on November 9, 2019. What a great day to especially pray for the flyers as well as those who will be receiving these donations of love! **A Collection box is located in the Narthex.**

GRAND CANYON SYNOD WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT, November 8 & 9 - Love of Christ Lutheran Church, 1525 N Power Rd, Mesa AZ 85205. Theme: Beauty from Ashes with Keynote Speaker Rev. Debbie Canon. Come and be renewed and restored, ready to respond! Join us for music, devotions, movement, workshops, Communion, fellowship. Our in-kind emphasis is the Phoenix Dream Center's program for victims of human trafficking. \$45 Registration includes continental breakfast and lunch. Registration Deadline: Nov. 1. A limited number of scholarships are available. Deadline for a scholarship request is Oct 15. Information and/or register at contact treas@grandcanyonwomen.org.

STOCKING STUFFERS FINANCIAL HELP NEEDED - Our Youth will once again be shopping for clothing, shoes, underwear/socks and jackets for Stocking Stuffers on November 21 to help 8 to 10 children in need this Christmas. Donations for this service project can be made out to SELC with "Stocking Stuffers" in the memo line. The last day to make a donation is November 17. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Perry.

LOST: Traditional older confirmation bible with black binder. Belongs to Ro Decker, with her maiden name in it, “Rosemarie Demme”. If found, please return to church office.

VICaP FUNDRAISER DINNER - Thursday, Oct. 24 from 4 - 8 pm - Join us in supporting this great ministry with Outback Steakhouse! Tickets are \$20 each and include your choice of entrée: 6 oz sirloin, grilled chicken, grilled salmon or ½ rack of ribs (including side.) For more information or to purchase tickets contact 520-459-8146.

**REFORMATION SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK - DON'T FORGET TO WEAR RED!
IT IS ALSO CONFIRMATION FOR IAN BURFORD AT THE 10:45 AM SERVICE.**

Flowers Provided by Bob and Sandy Kenny
in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Oil for The Eternal Light Provided in honor of Carl McCourt's birthday.

TAKING FAITH HOME

Faith pursues God's blessings.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sunday | Luke 18:1-8 | Parable of the persistent widow |
| Monday | Genesis 32:22-31 | God renames Jacob |
| Tuesday | 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 | Paul's instruction to Timothy |
| Wednesday | Genesis 14:17-24 | Abram blessed by Melchizedek |
| Thursday | Psalms 42 | Longing for God |
| Friday | James 5:13-18 | Prayer of faith |
| Saturday | Psalms 121 | Assurance of God's protection |
| Sunday | Luke 18:9-14 | A Pharisee and tax collector pray |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." Genesis 32:26 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week: God of hope, give us strength to endure life's struggles and faith to pursue your justice and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

Mealtime Prayer: Lord, in your name we drink and sup: teach us to pray and not give up. Help us to look to you this day and show our thanks in all we say. Amen.

A Blessing to Give: May the Lord protect you from this time on and forevermore.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think of something you are trying hard to accomplish. How do you go about it?
- When you see something that is unfair, do you expect God to fix it? Why or why not?
- Faith is a gift worth pursuing with all your heart. How do you explain this?

DEVOTIONS: *Read:* Genesis 32:22-31.

This is an amazing story. The “man” who wrestled with Jacob was actually God (vv. 28, 30). Even more, God does not win the wrestling match, and that seems to be okay with God. God honors Jacob whose name means “trickster.” The trickster had deceived his father Isaac to unfairly gain his older brother’s inheritance and, more importantly, the blessing that goes from Abraham and Isaac and now to Jacob instead of Esau. Like the widow in Luke 18:1-8 who persistently bothers the unjust judge to get her justice, Jacob does whatever it takes to be blessed. And God so honors that determination that God gives Jacob a new name, Israel, which in this story means “you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed” (v. 28). Jacob and God’s people will now be known as Israel, a term that commends the importance of wresting with and being persistent for God’s blessings. Yes, it is true that God is the more persistent one, but God wants us to pursue the divine blessing and pursue an active life of faith instead of a complacency that takes God’s word and righteousness for granted. How do you pursue God in your daily life of faith? How do you wrestle with God?

Pray: **God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, thank you for honoring our wrestling with you as faithful followers, through Christ our Lord, amen.**

SERVICE: Psalm 121:1 asks, “From where will my help come from?” The answer in the next verse is, “My help comes from the Lord.” We are God’s hands and feet in the world. When you see someone less fortunate or in need, where does their help come from? It, too, comes from the Lord with your help. Who in your life could use a helping hand? Take time to reach out to them through an act of kindness and tell them that the reason you are doing so is in response to God’s loving presence in your life.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS: The theme this week is God’s blessings. God blesses Jacob and King Melchizedek blessed Abram. The scripture readings also tell of the importance of prayer. In Luke 18:1, Jesus says to, “pray always and not lose heart”. When done in the home regularly, prayers and blessings help us grow in our faith. Say a prayer at every meal and at bedtime this week as a reminder to pray always. Make it a practice to bless others this week by making the sign of the cross on foreheads or hands as people leave for work or school and say the words: **May the Lord protect you.**

CALENDAR 10/20/19 - 10/27/19

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---|
| SUN 10/20 | 8:00 & 10:45 AM | Worship Services |
| | 9:30 AM | G.I.F.T. for ALL Ages - Fellowship Hall |
| | 1:00 PM | Body of Christ Hot Meal-Veteran's Park, Ramada 1 |
| MON 10/21 | 11:00 AM | Fellowship Team Meeting - Fellowship Hall |
| | | MESSENGER DEADLINE |
| TUE 10/22 | 7:45 AM | Exercise Group |
| | 7:00 PM | Fellowship Hall Reserved |
| WED 10/23 | 9:00 AM | Bible Study - Music Room |
| | 11:00 AM | Bob Jones Memorial Service and Reception |
| | 2:30 PM | Helping Hearts Tutoring - Rooms # 3 & 4 |
| THUR 10/24 | 7:45 AM | Exercise Group |
| | 12:30 PM | LIFT - Sr. High Youth Room |
| | 2:30 PM | Confirmation - Jr. High Youth Room |
| | 4:30 PM | Partner's in Praise Rehearsal - Sanctuary |
| | 7:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary |
| | 7:00 PM | Plus Square Dancers |
| FRI 10/25 | 6:00 PM | Square Dancing - Fellowship Hall |
| SAT 10/26 | 11:00 AM | Suzanne Arnold Memorial Service and Reception |
| SUN 10/27 | 8:00 & 10:45 AM | Worship Services / Reformation & Youth Sunday |
| | 9:30 AM | Faith Formation for ALL Ages |

Food Donations for Next Sunday Will Go to St. Vincent de Paul.