



# **Sermon Series: “What Is Truth?”**

## **Part II: Scripture**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2019**  
**10:45 AM WORSHIP**

**SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
101 North Lenzner Ave., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635  
(520) 459-0444 - [www.selcaz.org](http://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 9:00 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 AUGUST can be submitted online at [www.selcaz.org](http://www.selcaz.org) or to Sunny Fichtl at [sunnyf@cox.net](mailto:sunnyf@cox.net).

**PLEASE PRAY** for the family of Randy Kidder, Virginia Wickizer, Carol Coss, Chris Brenner, Jim Andrew, Pastor Tom Dunham, Pastor of Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church, Jen, Chris Spahr, family of Kaylie (daughter of Scott Schultz), Jake, Ashley Ricks, the Bills family, and for the friends of Doris Hayutin. Please continue to pray for Anne Peterson, Gary Graham, Paul Gregory, Sully Mix, the family of Dotti Stotts, Bruce Morris, Johnnie Rae Latham, Juergen and his family, for Phil's family, for the residents of Southern California, Helen Perdiue, Lynn's family, Jenna (Perry) Knauss, Tony Toto, Jan and Don Huthoefer, Bob Reiner, Grady Taylor, Phil, Sue Mount, Rob, George Abraham, Jane Behsman, Dolly Bessler, Jan Beverlin, Dee Brenner, Clayton, Kriss Larsen, Helen Lecomte, Mahkyla, Carol Moses, the Nowaks, Shawn Nowrey, Pete and Dee Pederson, Caroline Pentecost, Jerry Regan, Roger and Dee Rowley, Virginia Studer, Pam Williams and military personnel everywhere.

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(\* = Please stand as you are able)

### GATHERING

Pre-Service Song            “Glorious Day”            (Ingram, Smith, Curran, Stanfill)

Welcome

\*Confession and Forgiveness

\*Gathering Song            “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”            ELW #504

Blessing of Worship Furnishings

Prayer of the Day

### WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-11            Pew Bible pg. 598

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-17            Pew Bible pg. 967

\*Gospel Acclamation            “Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil”            ELW #512

\*Gospel: John 1:1-4, 10-14            Pew Bible pg. 862

Children’s Time

Special Music            “Together”            (Composed & Sung by Linda Perry)

Sermon            Pastor Mark Perry  
Sermon Series: “What Is Truth? Part II: Scripture”

*Moment of Silent Reflection*



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

**\*Dismissal**

**Postlude**                              "Voluntary on Sending Hymn"                      (arr. B. Hayes)

**Faith 5 Verse for this week John 1:14:**

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## SERVING TODAY

**Altar Guild** - Connie Kelher,  
Rhea Scott and Linda Radwick

### **Acolyte**

**8:00 a.m.** - Erin Stephenson

**10:45 a.m.** - Kylie Burford

### **Deacons/Communion Assistants**

**8:00 a.m.** - Deacon Jane Strain

**10:45 a.m.** - Deacon Carrisa  
Bratlien

### **Greeters**

**8:00 a.m.** - Frankie Appelin, Myrna  
Meyer

**10:45 a.m.** - Howard and Shar  
Larsen

### **Lectors**

**8:00 a.m.** - Susan Wralstad

**10:45 a.m.** - Leslie McCourt

**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.** - \*Monty Brandes, Carol  
Brandes, Sylvia Diamond, Greg Paul

**10:45 a.m.** - \*Anna Bratlien, Gary  
Peterson, Richard Zimmer

**CONTINUOUS COMMUNION AT 8 AM** - Just a friendly “heads up,” that, for three Sundays starting 9/1/19, our Worship and Music committee decided we would experiment with a “continuous communion” practice at the 8 am worship service. That means instead of receiving a spoken blessing after each side of the altar rail has received communion before going back to the pews, we will have ONE blessing for everyone at the conclusion of communion. After you have received the bread and wine or a blessing you simply leave the altar rail to return to your seat when you feel ready to do so. We are One Body of Christ and communion is a beautiful way of showing that. This is one way to experience that reality. We’ll evaluate this practice in three weeks. Your comments are welcomed at that time.

## **HYMN SING SUNDAY**

**September 8 at 9:00 am with ONE Worship Service**

Join us next week for a wonderful worship service of song, including Holy Communion. A special dedication prayer time will happen during the service for the new grand piano, lovingly donated by Jim Thompson in memory and honor of his wife, Darlene. Please Note: There will be NO Faith Formation Classes this week. Classes will resume on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>!

**SELCHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th starting at 12 Noon at Len Roberts Park, 101 E. Theater Dr.** Join us for a great day of fun and fellowship! Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Lemonade, iced tea and water will be provided. There will be ice cream too! We will have use of the whole park for the picnic and the water feature (don't forget to bring towel and dry clothes.) There will be games such as corn hole, kick ball and water balloon toss with prizes for the winners. For more information contact Deanna Sanner 803-0576 or Sandy Urlie-Hall 895-8376. **Don't forget to bring your lawn chair.'**

**CHOIR REHEARSALS HAVE BEGUN! THURSDAY'S, at 7pm. (*Note day change.*)** Been in choir already? Thinking you'd like to come sing with us? Come and check us out, we are looking forward to a great year ahead. We meet in the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please email Jess Barrera at [jbarrera2277@pointloma.edu](mailto:jbarrera2277@pointloma.edu), or call the church office at 520-459-0444. **It's not to late to join us!**

**THE SEPTEMBER MESSENGER CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE WELCOME CENTER.**

**JOINT YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT! KRAZY KRITTERS/KIDS HELPING KIDS - SEPTEMBER 14** - All Jr. & Sr. High Youth are to meet at in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to carpool over with youth from SVUMC, St. Stephen's Episcopal & United Church of Christ to help out at the Krazy Kritters Goat Sanctuary. We will work until 11:30 a.m. then come back to the Fellowship Hall for pizza, salad and watermelon and to share about our experience, then we will head to Pueblo Del Sol for fun time in the pool together! If you have questions or need more information, contact Linda Perry at [dff@selcaz.org](mailto:dff@selcaz.org) and be sure to sign up with her so we can arrange transportation! This will be a very special and unique service project and a great way to get to know other youth in our community!

**DATE NIGHT CANDLELIGHT DINNER FUNDRAISER - September 29 - 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!** Come and enjoy a delicious pasta dinner prepared and served by our SELC Jr./Sr. High Youth. This is an invitation to a fine dining experience for **ADULTS ONLY** complete with a delectable dessert, soft candlelight, lovely background music and impeccable service! Gluten free and vegetarian options are available upon request. This is a special fundraiser for camp, retreat scholarships and the upcoming ELCA Gathering in St. Paul, MN in 2021! A freewill donation will be collected at the dinner. **Reservations required by September 22** between services on the patio or by calling the church office at 459-0444.

**SERMON SERIES** - This month will feature a sermon series on “What is Truth?” or, “Where Now is the Authority?” in an attempt to provide guidance for discerning what really belongs to The Truth. Tools and resources will be shared about how we can better discern which voices are authentic in following God’s values using the classic four categories of determining authority according to Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience. Today’s theme is “Scripture.” **Copies of Pastor Mark’s notes for each sermon are available to pick up in the Narthex.** If you are unable to make it to church or would like to hear a sermon again, you also can go to our website to access services online.

**LSS -SW TUCSON** has 19 refugees coming within the next weeks and they need our help. These are families where either the MOM or a CHILD is at risk and need immediate attention. We will be sponsoring a kitchen/Bath "shower" to help furnish an apartment. Bath needs: towels, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, bath mats etc. Kitchen needs: non perishable food, pots and pans, dishes, cups, glassware, silverware etc and monetary donations with your checks made out to SELC - refugee program. For more information contact Gail Hamp or Linda Radwick. A box is in the Narthex.

**The Altar Candles** are donated by Faye and Tony Toto in thanks for the blessings HE has given them and from the 2019 Easter Love Offering.

**Both the Flower Vases** are donated by Bob and Norma Jones in thanks for a long-married life together.

#### **Flowers Provided by**

Ro and Hal Decker celebrating their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on September 7 and by Ruth Britton In honor of Family Birthdays.

**Oil for The Eternal Light Provided to the Glory of God.**

**TAKING FAITH HOME**  
**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
*Jesus reverses social standards.*

**HYMN OF THE WEEK:** *We Are Called*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

Sunday	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Humility and hospitality
Monday	Proverbs 25:6-7	Wise sayings of Solomon
Tuesday	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Service that pleases God
Wednesday	James 2:1-13	Show mercy
Thursday	Exodus 2:16-25	Moses flees to Midian
Friday	Luke 1:46-55	Mary's song
Saturday	Psalms 112	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” Luke 14:13-14 (NRSV)

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:** God of undeserved kindness, help us to rejoice in a humble life and not to seek the praise of others, through Christ who humbled himself to give glory and honor to you. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:** Dear God, you who fill our open mouths with good things, give us hearts to receive this gift of food with thanksgiving. Amen. (Psalm 81:10)

**A Blessing to Give:** May the God who lifts up the lowly fill your life with grace and mercy.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- What does it mean to you to be treated fairly?
- What are some expected social standards of behavior you don't like?
- In Luke 14 Jesus was willing to challenge social standards of behavior. Why do you think he did that?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 14:1, 7-14.

Jesus uses current social norms to make a point on how to “be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you” (v. 10b). Place yourself in a humble location in the seating chart and then be invited to a higher place. Why? Because “all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted” (v. 11). But then Jesus makes a direct assault on the social standards of his day. In a world where people “know their place” and “stick with their own kind,” Jesus says that those who can afford a banquet are not to invite people who can do the same for them, but they are to “invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind” (v. 13). The standard of the kingdom of God praises kindness that will not be repaid. It is reminiscent of Mary’s song that comes at the beginning of the Gospel of Luke: “He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty” (Luke 1:52-53). How are the words of Jesus and his mother good news for you and for others?

*Pray:* **Merciful God, give us faith to trust that our worth is found in your care and honor of us and not the rewards given by earthly powers, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

In Hebrews 13:1-8, we are given some practical advice on showing hospitality to strangers. Hospitality is being kind and welcoming especially guests into our homes, even when we do not know them. Think of someone in your congregation or at work or school you do not know very well. Invite them to your home for a meal and get to know them through caring conversations in a relaxed setting where it is not the food and way you dress that matters as much as the genuine welcome.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus uses a parable about a wedding to show how God’s protocol for good manners is a different way to look at the world. At God’s table everyone is welcome. Gather five paper plates. Write a word to describe four people who you see but do not know on the different plates. Write your name on the extra plate. Place the plates at seats around a table. Take turns sitting in each place and think about how you could make each guest feel welcome at God’s table.

**CALENDAR 9/1/19 - 9/8/19**

SUN 9/1	8:00 & 10:45 AM	Worship Services / In-Home Communion
	9:30 AM	Faith Formation for ALL Ages
MON 9/2		Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day
TUE 9/3	7:45 AM	Exercise Group
	6:30 PM	Faith Formation Team Meeting - Room #4
	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall Reserved
WED 9/4	9:00 AM	Bible Study - Music Room
THUR 9/5	7:45 AM	Exercise Group
	9:00 AM	Worship & Music Meeting - Music Room
	9:00 AM	Stitch-In-Time Quilters - Fellowship Hall
	12:30 PM	LIFT - Sr. High Youth Room
	2:30 PM	Confirmation - Jr. High Youth Room
	4:30 PM	Partner's in Praise Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	Plus Square Dancers
FRI 9/6	1:00 PM	Senior Games - Fellowship Hall
	6:00 PM	Square Dancing - Fellowship Hall
SAT 9/7	7:00 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast - Fellowship Hall
SUN 9/8	9:00 AM	Hymn Fest Worship Service
	12:00 PM	Church Potluck Picnic - Len Roberts Park

**Food Donations for Next Sunday Will Go to Peaches Pantry.**