



# **Sermon Series: “What Is Truth?”**

## **Part III: Tradition**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2019**  
**8:00 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 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 SEPTEMBER can be submitted online at [www.selcaz.org](http://www.selcaz.org) or to Leslie McCourt at [mccourtleslie@gmail.com](mailto:mccourtleslie@gmail.com).

**PLEASE PRAY** for Dolly Bessler, Chris Benner, and Norma Jones and family. Please continue to pray for Judy Winfield, Virginia Wickizer, Virginia Studer, the family of Randy Kidder, Carol Coss, Ashley Hankerson, Pastor Tom Dunham, Jim Andrew, the Bills family, Jake, Paul Gregory, Johnnie Rae Latham, Rob, George Abraham, Jane Behsman, Dee Brenner, Clayton, Gary and Peggy Graham, Don and Jan Huthoefer, Kriss Larsen, Helen Lecomte, Mahkyla, Sully Mix, Carol Moses, the Nowaks, Shawn Nowery, Pete and Dee Pederson, Caroline Pentecost, Helen Perdue, Bob Reiner, Jerry Regan, Roger and Dee Rowley, Tony Toto and military personnel everywhere.





**\*Lord's Prayer** ELW pg. 145

**Invitation to Communion**

**Communion Song** **"Lamb of God"** ELW pg. 146

**Hymns during Communion**  
    **"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"** ELW #490  
    **"Just As I Am"** ELW #592

**Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

## SENDING

**Announcements**

**\*Blessing**

**\*Sending Hymn** **"The Church of Christ, in Every Age"** ELW #729

**\*Dismissal**

**(Pause for Chimes)**

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

## Scripture Readings for Next Sunday

Psalm 19

Romans 1:19-20

Matthew 6:26-33

### The Faith 5 Bible Verse for this week: "Love One Another"

Matthew 22:39 (34-40)

Mark 12:31 (28-34)

Luke 10:27 (25-28)

John 13:34 (35)

## SERVING TODAY

### Altar Guild

Rhea Scott, Lorna Cook, Ann Loud

### Acolyte

8:00 a.m. - Dave Dechant

10:45 a.m. - Josh Clark

### Deacons/Communion Assistants

8:00 a.m. - Deacon Jane Strain

10:45 a.m. - Deacon Carl McCourt

### Greeters

8:00 a.m. - Pat Bogan, Sandy Jones

10:45 a.m. - Connie Schlosser,

Janet Bobar

### Lectors

8:00 a.m. - Jane Strain

10:45 a.m. - Helen Perdiue

### 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,

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

**CONTINUOUS COMMUNION AT 8 AM** - This is our third and last Sunday that 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. Your comments are welcomed by the Worship & Music Team.

**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](mailto:pastor@selcaz.org). Thanks for helping to improve our Intern’s homiletical skills in this way!

**CANDLELIGHT DINNER FUNDRAISER - September 29 - 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!** Come and enjoy a delicious pasta dinner 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. Thrivent has approved our request for an Action Team for this fundraiser. These dollars will help cover the expenses for the dinner and other needed items.

**INTERN PASTOR HOUSE BLESSING - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 at 4:00 PM** - All are invited to join us as we ask God’s blessing on the new Intern Pastor House on Saturday, Sept. 21, 4 pm, located at 5255 Chula Vista Place, Sierra Vista, AZ. Of course, our current resident Intern Pastor Paul Benz, and wife Monica and daughter Joy will be there! It will be a brief service. No need to RSVP! Just show up.

**SERMON SERIES** - This month features 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. **Copies of Pastor Mark and Intern Pastor Paul’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: nonperishable 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.

### **HELPING HEARTS TUTORING IS STARTING!**

Praise God! We are able to continue with our Helping Hearts Tutor Program this 2019/2020 school year. Thank you, Lynette Nowlan, for taking the lead in this very needed ministry. Tutoring will be held on Wednesday’s at 2:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in being a tutor or for information, please contact Lynette Nowlan at 480-560-0857 or minniercn@gmail.com

**Flowers Provided by Diana Galecke in memory of Clarence.**

**Oil for The Eternal Light Provided by Rich and Linda Radwick in celebration of their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary.**

**TAKING FAITH HOME**  
**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
*God pursues the lost.*

**HYMN OF THE WEEK:** Awesome God

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

|           |                    |                                  |
|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Luke 15:1-10       | The lost sheep and the lost coin |
| Monday    | Exodus 32:7-14     | Moses pleads for the people      |
| Tuesday   | 1 Timothy 1:12-17  | Gratitude for mercy              |
| Wednesday | Deuteronomy 7:7-11 | A chosen people                  |
| Thursday  | Acts 26:12-18      | Paul's conversion                |
| Friday    | Ezekiel 36:22-32   | Renewal of Israel                |
| Saturday  | Psalms 51:1-10     | A prayer for forgiveness         |
| Sunday    | Luke 16:1-13       | Parable of the shrewd manager    |

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

“And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’” Luke 15:6 (NRSV)

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:** Dear God, you who pursue the lost with love and mercy, give us the joy of being found and redeemed through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:** Dear Lord God, fill our hungry hearts with joy for your mercy and steadfast love as you fill our bodies with this food. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:** May the Lord create in you a clean heart and put a new and right spirit within you. (Psalm 51:10)

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- Talk or think about a time you or someone you know has been lost.
- Tell or think about a time you lost something and then found it.
- In Luke 15, the Pharisees and the scribes cannot express joy that Jesus has found the lost, the “sinners and tax collectors.” Why do you think this is?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 15:1-10.

Sinners and tax collectors show interest in Jesus. They want to listen to him. Jesus, by welcoming them and eating with them shows acceptance of them. In the words of 1 Timothy, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1:15). This baffles the religious leaders, the Pharisees and scribes. Jesus points out that what it should bring is joy. He says, “there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (v. 10). God pursues us like a shepherd seeking a lost sheep or a poor widow seeking a lost coin. We are the lost sinners who have been found by God’s pursuit. Instead of being disappointed by God’s extravagant love, instead of being baffled by the lost being found, let us give thanks to God for the power and desire of God to save sinners and the joy that comes with being found by God’s love and mercy. Does it bring you joy to know you are the lost who has been found, the sinner who has been saved? Explain.

*Pray:* **Merciful God, help us to recall our great need and your great love that reaches out to us again and again, through Christ our Lord, amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus gives us strength to do our work and serve him. Paul writes, “he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service” (1 Timothy 1:12b). Paul’s life was changed because of God’s grace. In what ways do we respond to God’s saving grace through service and acts of kindness towards others? How do these acts of kindness change us? How do they change others?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Psalm 51:10 the image of a clean heart is used to ask for God’s forgiveness. Sin and doing wrong can hurt others. We are all guilty of sin. Read Psalm 51:1-10 and circle all the words that have to do with cleaning: cleanse, clean, wash, etc. and write the word “confession” in the margins. Take a bar of soap and use a pencil or knife (a plastic knife will work) to trace a heart on the bar of soap. Carve out the shape of the heart. When you use the heart to wash your hands, say: **Create in me a clean heart, O God** (Psalm 51:10a), as a daily reminder of confession in your home.

## CALENDAR 9/15/19 - 9/22/19

|           |                      |   |
|-----------|----------------------|---|
| SUN 9/15  | 8:00 &<br>10:45 AM   | Worship Services                                      |
|           | 9:30 AM              | Faith Formation for ALL Ages                          |
|           | 2:30 PM              | Body of Christ Hot Meal at Veterans Park              |
| MON 9/16  |                      |   |
| TUE 9/17  | 7:45 AM              | Exercise Group  |
|           | 9:30 AM              | Martha Circle at Ellie Unruh                          |
|           | 4:00 PM              | Good Neighbor Alliance Meal Prep                      |
|           | 7:00 PM              | Fellowship Hall Reserved                              |
| WED 9/18  | 9:00 AM              | Bible Study - Music Room                              |
|           | 1:00 PM              | Priscilla Circle - Music Room                         |
| THUR 9/19 | 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                         |
|           | 7:00 PM              | Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary                           |
|           | 7:00 PM              | Plus Square Dancers                                   |
| FRI 9/20  | 6:00 PM              | Square Dancing - Fellowship Hall                      |
| SAT 9/21  | 9:00 AM -<br>4:00 PM | Fellowship Hall Reserved for Shepherd's Fold Training |
| SUN 9/22  | 8:00 &<br>10:45 AM   | Worship Services                                      |
|           | 9:30 AM              | Faith Formation for ALL Ages                          |

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