



**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
142 North Date Street Mesa, Arizona 85201

Mission Moments

May-June 2024

Volume 19 Issue 5-6

## Celebrating Seventy-six Years of God's Amazing Grace

### PASTOR'S CORNER

As we get ready to head into summer, we will continue to feed off the high energy that you guys have created in the past few months. I find that we are doing the right things not only for our congregation but also for our community and neighbors. This summer I encourage you to find rest and think about the question- why is this community, First Evangelical, so important to you? Here are ways to reflect on this question:

1. Pray for opportunities that the Lord might bring people across your path. Maybe even start a prayer circle with family or friends. Make a list of three or four non-Christians in your life and start praying for them too.
2. Engage in random acts of kindness aimed at people around you—a co-worker, a neighbor, or one of the people at church.
3. Explore other personal faith formation opportunities- go on a walk, journal, try new foods, read an interesting book on the Christian faith, or join the bible study.
4. Share something on social media that is happening here at First.
5. Invite someone out to lunch or coffee and share your answer to the question.
6. Lastly, get involved with what your church is doing: helping with our food pantry, VBS, Manna Nights or simply come to an event and be friendly with someone you don't know, and then see what the Holy Spirit might do with that!

Whatever you decide to practice or reflect on this summer, know that I am with you and continue to be excited about the many possibilities we have to continue growing. I end with this prayer:

*“God is always speaking to you. He never leaves you alone, and He never will. May all of us allow the Holy Spirit to shape our minds and hearts. May God’s Word mold us more and more every day into the image of Jesus Christ our Lord.” Amen.*

Enjoy your summer and see you in church!

In Christ,  
Pastor Luis Ochoa

#### In Response to the Good News of Jesus Christ:

##### Our Purpose...

Gathered to worship!  
Sent to witness and serve!

##### Our Vision...

To become more diverse, creative, nurturing, and welcoming within our congregation and in the wider community.

##### Our Guiding Principles...

We will follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We will read, teach, and preach God's Word faithfully.

We commit to prayer and worship as a way of life.

We invite people to know Jesus Christ.

#### Reconciling in Christ Welcoming Statement



“First Evangelical Lutheran Church/La Primera is committed to being a radically loving and welcoming community of faith, centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Therefore, in faithfulness to the Gospel and our Lutheran heritage, and to the best of our ability, we promise to provide programs, ministries, and pastoral care to all who seek God in this place. All are welcome here, including persons of every race, ethnicity, creed, class, age, gender, marital status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.”

The Messenger is a monthly publication of First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mesa, Arizona. Please submit information by email to [felc@firstevlutheran.com](mailto:felc@firstevlutheran.com) or in written form to the church office by the 15th of the month prior to publication.



**First Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*Serving our neighbors is our FIRST priority!*

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Mondays through Wednesdays:  
8:30AM-2:30PM**

**Staff**

Luis Ochoa, Pastor  
Christine Stoxen, Pastor  
Joy Petroff, Admin. Secretary  
Jose Salazar, Pianist

**Congregational Officers**

Sarah Shaw, President  
Ellen Riske, Vice President  
Kathleen Rogers, Treasurer  
Traci Laasch, Secretary

**Congregational Council**

Corinne Cursi	Rhonda Schmidt
Diane Johnson	Sarah Shaw
Traci Laasch	Sharon Shields
Ellen Riske	Sara Velasco
Kathleen Rogers	

**Contact Us**

Phone: (480) 969-7221

Fax: (480) 969-7222

Email: felc@firstevlutheran.com

Web: www.firstevlutheran.com



**Now you can bring your  
Change for Change offering  
ANY day of the month!**

Look for the jar in the narthex and  
contribute any time you walk by it!

Sundays at 9:30 AM



Livestream link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@felutheran/streams>

**Congregational Discussion Meeting**

**June 2 after worship,  
with a potluck.**



Food Assignments:

A - H Main Dish

I - P Side Dish

Q - Z Dessert



Join us for the next luncheon!  
 May 14 at 11:30 AM  
 Autumn Moon Chinese Buffet

# CHINESE CUISINE



The Food Pantry is in need of cereal and pasta noodles.

There is an abundance of red sauce, but not noodles.

If you'd like to donate, please bring your donation to Traci or Richard.

Thank you!





MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 3/31/24	Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Actual 2023	Budget 2023
Offerings	\$39,178	\$28,500	\$26,695	\$28,500
Other Income	\$24,034	\$24,624	\$18,999	\$18,999
Total Income	\$63,212	\$53,125	\$45,694	\$47,499
Expenses	\$51,332	\$53,445	\$37,016	\$45,138
Inc. Less Exp.	\$11,880	\$-320	\$8,5678	\$2,361



# "Scuba" Family VBS 2024

## Wednesday Evenings in June

Set up- 5 PM

Dinner- 6 PM

Programing- 6:30-7:45 PM

Closing- 7:45 PM

Clean up-8 PM

### **Thursday Evening Adult Study**

**with Pastor Bernie**

#### **"Bonhoeffer- The Cost of Discipleship"**

Thursdays at 6:30 pm

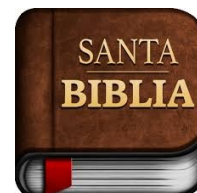
Meet in the Youth Room of the CLC or on  
Zoom Meeting ID: 819 2738 4925

Passcode: 684974

For more information or register to be part of this new study contact Pastor Bernie at [bernie@htlutheran.com](mailto:bernie@htlutheran.com) or call/text at 480-521-6130.

### **Spanish Bible Study followed by fellowship**

Spanish Bible Study will meet  
Wednesdays at 6 PM  
in the Conference Room.



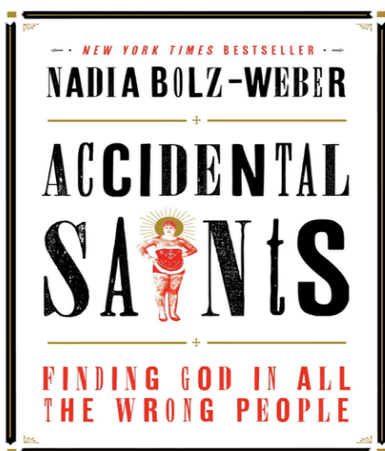


Pastor Bernie leads  
Zoom Bible studies

Wednesdays at 6:30 & 9 AM

Call (480) 963-4127  
for Zoom link.

Or join in person at  
Holy Trinity



Monday Morning Book Club

“Accidental Saints”

Mondays at 8 AM on Zoom

Meeting ID: 838 1436 2438

Passcode: 132468



Join us!

1989 W Elliot Rd, Chandler 85224  
on Mondays at 6:30 PM for a  
beverage and rousing discussion of  
current social issues.

### FELC Council Special Meeting Minutes on April 7, 2024

**Present:** Corinne Cursi, Traci Laasch, Ellen Riske, Rhonda Schmidt, Sarah Shaw, & Sharon Shields.

**Absent:** Pastor Luis, Diane Johnson, Kathleen Rogers, & Sara Velasco.

Meeting held after church service.

Traci moves to approve the quote for \$2417.01 from Johnson Controls to perform preventative maintenance on the leaking valve. Rhonda seconds the motion.

6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

No other business discussed.

Traci Laasch

### Council Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2024

**Present:** Pastor Luis, Corinne Cursi, Diane Johnson, Traci Laasch, Ellen Riske, Kathleen Rogers, Rhonda Schmidt, Sarah Shaw, & Sharon Shields.

**Absent:** Sara Velasco

#### Opening Prayer & Council Orientation

Sarah called the meeting to order at 10:42 AM. Pastor Luis opened the meeting with prayer.

#### B. Review and Approval of Council Minutes for March 17 & Special meeting on April 4, 2024

Kathleen moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2024 & April 4, 2024 Special meeting as recorded; Rhonda seconded. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

#### C. Review and Approval of Reports

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Pastor's Report: See report.
3. President's Report: See report.

4. Approval of Reports: Ellen moved to accept reports as given; Sharon seconded. Council unanimously approved the reports.

#### **D. Old Business**

Grants: Quarterly reports due - Teresa will send out reminders.  
 Property Repair List: continuing.  
 AC issue: on hold.  
 Pastor Luis/Santa Trinidad discussion: entering third year of MOU.  
 Alarm Calls: updated call list for alarm company.  
 Special Events coordinator at FELC - Rhonda for funerals. - closed  
 Other old business: 67 spices collected for Food Pantry.

#### **E. New Business**

Other new business - none

#### **F. Adjournment and Closing with the Lord's Prayer**

Sharon moved that meeting be adjourned; Ellen seconded. Council unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

**Next Month's Meeting:** May 19

**Upcoming Events:** Congregational discussion with Pastor Luis - June 2 meeting with potluck. Help with Set up/take down or find volunteers: Sharon, Diane, and Kathleen Note taker: Traci  
 Synod Assembly June 13-15

### **PASTOR'S REPORT**

#### **Faith Formation & Sunday School:**

Faith formation had their annual Easter egg hunt and kids, and their families had a good time . Thank you so much to our faith formation team, volunteers, and our youth for making this event successful. Faith formation team is meeting to plan for the end of school year and summer activities.

#### **High School Youth Group & Confirmation:**

High school and confirmation youth will be working together on a service projects next month. We are also working on getting ready for our Summer trips that include the ELCA youth gathering in New Orleans and Campformation in Prescott.

#### **Confirmation & High School Youth Activities For April:**

- Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> - **Movie Night** Fellowship at Pastors House
- Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> - **Service Project** Feed My Starving Children
- April 28<sup>th</sup> - First Communion Class

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- HT Grant in progress. We are Live on Facebook and YouTube each week. Final step is to get new sound board setup. Randy has been testing and it is almost ready.
- Synod grant for the youth – to be used to set up the nursery/Sunday School space.
- Attended the First Place yard sale event for April.
- Attended First Place monthly meeting to be a part of the discussion regarding becoming a non-profit
- Met with Pastor Chris and the council president at Holy Trinity to start looking at the MOU before Pastor Chris goes on her sabbatical as we will be entering our 3<sup>rd</sup> year on September 1st.
- Working with the property committee to relocate a storage unit from the school area to the corner of the parking lot to be used for tables, chairs, and canopy storage.
- Working with Joy to confirm the alarm call list

# 2024 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly

# EMBODY THE Word

*"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."*

— 1 Corinthians 12:12

*Synod Assembly is taking place June 13-15 at Love of Christ Lutheran Church in Mesa.*

*Evan & Kathleen Rogers will be representing First Evangelical.*

*A couple of components of this year's assembly are highlighted below.*

## 2024 Grand Canyon Synod Bishop's Election

At our 2024 Synod Assembly, we will elect a bishop of our Grand Canyon Synod.

This process will be led by the Bishop's Election Committee. The Committee was formed to educate, inform, and guide our Synod through this process. Please pray for our Committee, our Synod Assembly Planning Team, and all discerning a call to serve as bishop as we prepare for this important time in our life together.

### WHAT DOES A BISHOP DO?

The bishop is elected by the Synod Assembly to a six-year term and is a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and can be elected for up to two full terms consecutively. The office of bishop is a full-time, salaried position.

The bishop is a pastor, leader, and administrator.

*Even if you are not representing FELC at the Synod Assembly, you can be a partner.*

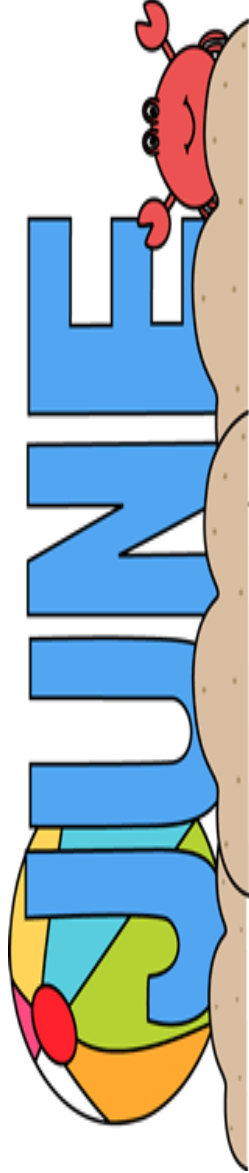
This year, the Synod Assembly isn't just a gathering—it's a chance to make a tangible impact in the lives of those in need. As part of our registration process on Thursday evening, June 13, 2024, attendees will have the unique opportunity to assemble Hygiene Kits for the Grace Room at Grace Lutheran Church in Phoenix. To facilitate this impactful project, we've set up an Amazon Gift List containing all the necessary items to create 100 hygiene kits.

To contribute, simply visit our Amazon Gift List by June 1, 2024, and select items you'd like to donate. Here's the link to view the Gift List and place an order: <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/AZZ0G2O8SJ2O>



# MAY 2024

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p>FRC = Family Resource Center GR = Great Room S = Sanctuary</p>	<p>OCR = Olsen Conference Room CCS = Concordia Charter School HT = Holy Trinity</p>	<p>3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR</p>	<p>2 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 6:30 PM Bonhoeffer Discussion Study - HT/Zoom</p>	<p>3 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 11:30 AM LSS Flourishing Families</p>	<p>4 10 AM LSS Zumbini - GR 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR I-HELP - Great Room</p>	
<p>5 6th Sunday in Easter 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR Podluck/Forum re: lectionary VBS Team Meeting - GR</p>	<p>6 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR</p>	<p>7 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11 AM FRC Triple P 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - OCR</p>	<p>8 11:30 AM 1st PI Coordinating Comm - OCR 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 5-6 PM LRC Family Connections 5-7 PM LSS-SW Food Pantry - Courtyard</p>	<p>9 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 9:30-11:30 AM Mesa Migrant 6:30 PM Bonhoeffer Discussion Study - HT/Zoom</p>	<p>10 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 11:30 AM LSS Flourishing Families 3 PM LSS Financial Literacy Class</p>	<p>11 10 AM LSS Zumbini - GR 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR 12 PM LSS Milo &amp; Moxie (Fire Safety)</p>
<p>12 7th Sunday in Easter 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR</p>	<p>13 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR</p>	<p>14 NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11 AM FRC Triple P 11:30 Dining @ Autumn Moon 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - OCR</p>	<p>15 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR</p>	<p>16 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 6:30 PM Bonhoeffer Discussion Study - HT/Zoom</p>	<p>17 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 11:30 AM LSS Flourishing Families</p>	<p>18 10 AM LSS Zumbini - GR 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR I-HELP - Great Room</p>
<p>19 Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR 11 AM Church Council - OCR</p>	<p>20 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR</p>	<p>21 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11 AM FRC Triple P 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - OCR</p>	<p>22 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR</p>	<p>23 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 6-8 PM First Place Carnival 6:30 PM Bonhoeffer Discussion Study - HT/Zoom</p>	<p>24 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 11:30 AM LSS Flourishing Families</p>	<p>25 12 PM LSS Family Connections &amp; Birthday Celebration</p>
<p>26 Holy Trinity Sunday 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR</p>	<p>27 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>28 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11 AM FRC Triple P 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - OCR</p>	<p>29 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR</p>	<p>30 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 6:30 PM Bonhoeffer Discussion Study - HT/Zoom</p>	<p>31</p>	



# JUNE 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			FRC = Family Resource Center GR = Great Room S = Sanctuary OCR = Olsen Conference Room CCS = Concordia Charter School HT = Holy Trinity * Off-campus			
June 1-August 31 Pastor Chris is on Sabbatical						
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Congregational Discussion/Potluck - GR	3 DEADLINE: BULLETIN	4 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11 AM FRC Triple P 5:30-8:30 PM ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families) - GR	5 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR Family VBS - GR, S, CCS	6 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 6:30 PM Bonhoeffer Discussion Study - HT/Zoom	7 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 11:30 AM LSS Flourishing Families	8 10 AM LSS Zumbini - GR 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	10 DEADLINE: BULLETIN	11 NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 9 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11 AM FRC Triple P 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	12 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 11:30 AM 1st Pt Coordinating Comm - OCR 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 5-7 PM LSS-SW Food Pantry - Courtyard Family VBS - GR, S, CCS	13 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 6:30 PM Bonhoeffer Discussion Study - HT/Zoom	14 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 11:30 AM LSS Flourishing Families 3 PM LSS Financial Literacy Class	15 12 PM LSS Family Connections & Birthday Celebration I-HELP - Great Room
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR 11 AM Church Council - OCR	17 DEADLINE: BULLETIN	18 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	19 Family VBS - GR, S, CCS	20 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	SYNOD ASSEMBLY	
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	24 DEADLINE: BULLETIN	25 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	26 Family VBS - GR, S, CCS	27 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 I-HELP - Great Room