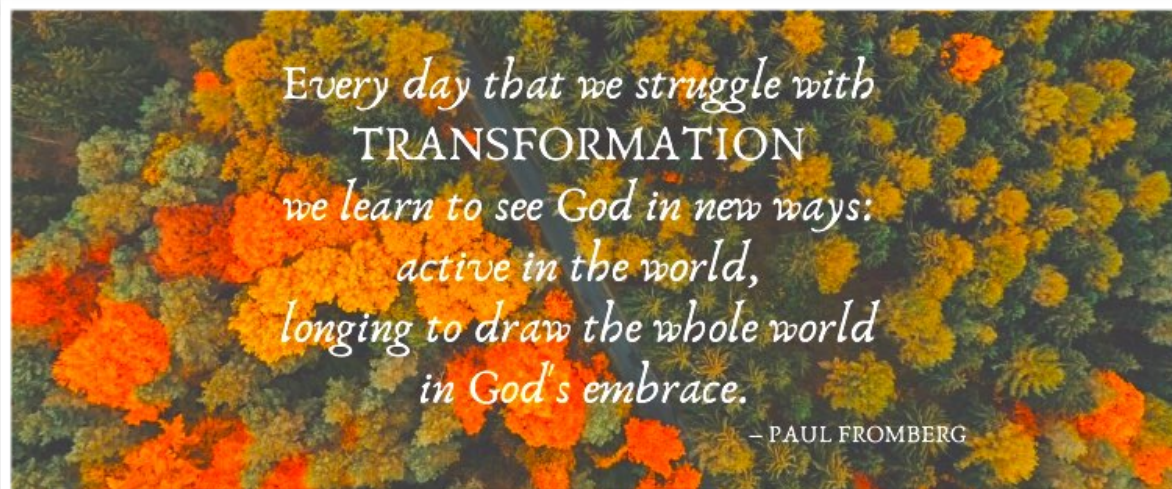


Grace Notes



A Publication of Shades Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA), Birmingham, AL | November 2019



– PAUL FROMBERG

Lutheranch Open House and Family Fun Day

Saturday, Nov. 23
10:00-3:00pm



Join us at Lutheranch for a day of games, food, and fun fall-themed activities for the whole family. Hit the bulls-eye on our new archery course, get creative in our craft barn,

ride a pony, compete in our scavenger hunt, catch a fish or go for a paddle on one of our lakes. We are excited to share all the fun things happening at Lutheranch. Gates open at 10 am and lunch is served starting at 11 am. Admission is FREE!

Please let us know if you are planning to go. If there is enough interest, we would be willing to transport up to 15 passengers in the church van.

Congregational Meeting **November 17 – 10:45am** **The Fellowship Hall**

Agenda includes:

- Voting on recommended Ministry Funding Plan for 2020
- Strategic Plan -
 - Update on Financial Stability goal including tentative ground lease offer
 - Update on Beloved Community goal: Transformation Ministry 2.0

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Pastor Eric Murray

CONJECTURES *Transformation Ahead*

Transformation, more often happens **not** when something **begins**, but when something falls apart or **ends**. Take the 16th century Roman Catholic Church as an example. It had become corrupted, entitled, greedy, and too tied to political power and ambition. The Church was beginning to show signs of crumbling and falling apart. Then Martin Luther came along and initiated a discussion meant to re-form (transform) the Church.

Experiencing the falling apart, the death even, of traditions and institutions, which have lost their effectiveness, often results in grief. The pain and fear of losing that cherished tradition can be so great that most of us will do anything to hold on to it. Yet, time after time after time, it is only through the “death” of something that new life comes.

This transformational period is usually experienced as a *disconcerting reorientation*, a period of chaos (hence, the “disconcerting part”) as one reorients oneself from that old thing to the new thing. Yet, even in the chaos, the transformational period follows a regular pattern: a process of letting go (let’s call it Good Friday), then living in the confusing dark space (Holy Saturday), and then awakening and *reorienting* to a new creation (Easter Sunday). On that first Good Friday and Holy Saturday, the resurrection and new creation were not yet visible. There was no hope of any life-giving future, only despair, grief, and a desire to hold onto what had been. Those first disciples were experiencing a disconcerting reorientation. The same is true in the process of transformation. As the old dies, and as we grieve that loss, it is hard to see the “new” that is coming.



Shades Valley Lutheran Church, for a very long time, has been grieving for a past that is long gone. It’s like we have been stuck on the other side of Easter, living in the confusing dark space of Holy Saturday. We’ve been stuck in a disconcerting re-orientation.

To help us get ourselves unstuck, your leadership team initiated our current strategic plan. More recently, in service to one of the strategic goals, we have elected to involve SVLC in “Transformational Ministry 2.0” (TM 2.0), a mission and spiritual formation initiative of our ELCA-Southeastern Synod. We’ll be joined by Faith Lutheran, Clay, AL, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Birmingham, and two or three other congregations, as well as a mission coach. (Join us at the annual congregational meeting on Nov. 17 to hear more about TM 2.0.)

We here at SVLC have been called into a time of transformation, a time to once again step forward in faith, trusting in the new creation of Easter. Yes, moving through the process of transformation means we will have to let go of some traditions and

ministries. As the Reverend Paul Fromberg of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco in his book [The Art of Transformation](#) reminds us: “*Transformation calls everyone to look beyond the way that things have always been done to see a new creation.*”

This is our hope and our faith. As Easter people, we take heart, because we know that our God is a God of resurrection and new life. Which means that we can trust God’s promises and let go of some old, cherished ministries; acknowledge, honor, and work through our grief; and, then reorient ourselves, trusting in the future God has in store for us, for the church, and for the world. And, as Easter people we have faith that God’s unfolding future for SVLC promises to be new life, a new creation.

Peace and Every Good,

Pastor Eric

WORSHIP & MUSIC



Why Worship on Sunday?

(edited and adapted from elca.org/worship)

When Christians gather for worship on Sunday it is a witness to Christ, his

resurrection, and the hope of his return. Sunday is the primary day on which Christians gather to worship because it is the day of Christ's resurrection and his appearances to the disciples.

Scripture carefully identifies Sunday, the first day of the week as the day of resurrection. The women find the tomb empty on the first day of the week (Matthew. 28:1; Mark 16:2; John 20:1); the risen Christ appears first on this day (Mark. 16:9; John 20:19).

The earliest Christians gathered before dawn on the first day of the week to read from Hebrew scripture and the witness of the apostles and evangelists, and to share in the Lord's supper (Acts 20:7).

In our culture, the tendency for Christians is to equate Sunday with Sabbath. It is important to note that when the first Christians gathered on this day, it was a day of work.

The Sabbath finds its origin in the Ten Commandments: "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy." The Sabbath recalls creation: "... on the seventh day God rested." Sunday points to the resurrection of Jesus. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession clearly argues that the Christian celebration of Sunday is not a continuation of the Sabbath observance (Augsburg Confession Article 28). Luther also taught that the appropriate behavior for Christians is to focus on the preaching, hearing and learning of God's Word, not on rest from work. (Small Catechism: Third Commandment).

Sunday, The Lord's Day promises the beginning of a new era where Christ reigns both in time and beyond it, in life and death yet beyond earthly ways. Assembling for worship on Sunday is a primary way that Christians live out their faith in the one who makes all things new.

SPIRITUAL LIFE MINISTRY

What do you get when you mix...

Courtyard Conversations with Pub Theology?

Find out on Thursday, November 14, 7:00-9:00PM

On Thursday evening, November 14, Pastors Eric and Pauline are building a fire pit campfire in the courtyard at Shades Valley. They would love for you to pull a chair up and join them around the fire as they facilitate Pub Theology.

Our topic for November is the "Golden Rule 2020 initiative". Follow the link or go to the Facebook event page for more details. All are welcome to bring a friend and join us.

Along with a desire to enjoy a campfire and the company of others, if possible, please bring your own beverage (and a snack to share). If you have one, a folding chair might be good, too. If it rains, we'll move inside.

November 14 from 7-9pm in the courtyard at **Shades Valley Lutheran Church.**



Sunday, Nov. 24 - 6:00pm
at Raleigh Avenue Baptist Church
in West Homewood

FAMILY MINISTRY



Children's Church

We will have Children's Church during the WORD section of worship (following Children's Message up to the Offering time) children

(PreK-5th grades) have the option of moving to the chapel for an abbreviated Sunday school lesson and craft.

Children's Church is based off of the Whirl Lectionary series from Sparkhouse. It follows the Year C lectionary that is being followed in our worship service. Stories for this month are: Jesus and Zacchaeus, The Sadducees Question, Working Together, King on the Cross.

Middle School Catechism

**Third Sun. of each Month~ 10:45AM
Bonhoeffer Room**

Confirmation Retreats	
Jan. 19-20	Lock-in at SVLC with Sr. High Youth & MLK Jr. Day of Service
Feb. 28-29	Lock-in at SVLC
May 2	Diaspora Spring Gathering @ SVLC
May 31	Rite of Confirmation
Optional Retreats/Camp	
March 13-15	SESLYO Assembly (Lutheranch)
April/May	Faith Alive! (Lutheranch) - Date to be determined
June 14-19	Affirm (University of West Alabama)

Senior High Bible Study

Wednesday evenings at 5:30PM.

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Activities

November 9-10, 2019
All Tennessee (Trinity, Hixon, TN)

November 17, 2019
Jr. & Sr. High Paintball Outing

February 9-10, 2020
All GA (Camp Grace, Roberta, GA)

March 13-15, 2020
SESLYO Assembly (Lutheranch)

June 14-19 Affirm (UWA)

Adult Sunday School



**November 10 –
Intro. to Mission:
A Study of Luke 10**

At the start of the Council Meeting in the Luther Room, there will be a 15-20 minute lesson. All are welcome to come to the lesson. You can leave once the lesson is finished or stay and listen in on the meeting.

**November 17 –
Congregational Meeting**

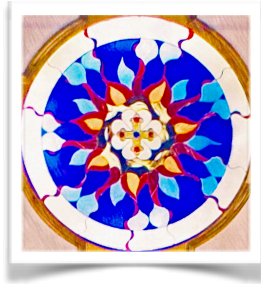
After worship in the Fellowship Hall.

November 24 – Hanging of the Greens

9:00am Chapel
10:30am Sanctuary (and finish Chapel if needed).

**December 1 –
Intro to Worship**

At the start of the Worship & Music Meeting in the Chapel, there will be a 15-20 minute lesson. All are welcome to come to the lesson. You can leave once the lesson is finished or stay and listen in on the meeting.



Around the Church

Are You Missing SVLC’s Wednesday Night Dinners?

So are we, and we could use your help. If you know of a caterer or chef — one willing to barter for use of a fully equipped kitchen in exchange for cooking meals for SVLC on Wednesday nights — please let your council members and Pastor Eric know.

Fountain Jesus is Risen!

As you know, recently Fountain Jesus experienced the fall and brokenness. But, thanks be to Rick Mittermaier for resurrecting...err, we mean, repairing Fountain Jesus. It was quite the redemption project, but Rick worked a miracle in healing Jesus broken body, even to the point of giving him a new paint scheme. Thanks to Rick, Jesus once again adorns our entry way fountain, welcoming our community to worship.



Wine & Beer Basket Silent Auction

Thank you to everyone who contributed to, bid on, or won (and thus donated) to this year’s Wine & Beer Basket Auction. We were able to make 17 big baskets to auction off at this year’s Oktoberfest. We raised a total of \$1,845 for our youth ministries. Thank you!

Oktoberfest Thank You!

Thank you to EVERYONE who donated time, talent and treasure in support of Oktoberfest. A special thanks to Caleb & Maria Hopkins; Mary Schabacker; Stuart, Sarah Beth & Braedon Hall; Greg Vitalis; Lane Graham; and Ellen Brake and her friend, Steve. Thanks again!

Hanging of the Greens

All are invited to participate in the Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 24 after the morning service. We will be putting together and decorating the Chrismon trees, as well as hanging garlands & wreaths. All are encouraged to participate in this festive project. We always have a good time. All ages welcome. So consider staying after the service on Sunday, November 24 to help with this fun community project.

Saints Alive (ages 65 +)

Advent Luncheon and Carol Sing

Thursday, December 5 from Noon - 1:30p in the Fellowship Hall at SVLC

We’ll provide the food and song. All you need to do is RSVP with Sarah Beth in the church office so we can prepare enough for everyone.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

November Birthdays

- 11/1** Anna Grace Walley
- 11/6** Rachel Levkoff
- 11/7** Owen McCormick
- 11/8** Gracie Schabacker
- 11/12** Olivia Galgano
- 11/16** Gordon Graham
- 11/16** Joseph Poole
- 11/19** Eve Graham
- 11/20** Pastor Eric Murray
- 11/22** Gaylia Malone
- 11/25** Quinn McCormick
- 11/28** Ron Turney

Prayer & Practices:

*Eating Together**

With Thanksgiving Day fast approaching, let us turn to Plum Village, a monastic community in France, founded by Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh for a practice of gratitude. Master Hanh, invites a contemplative, mindful approach to eating together. It's not only about the individual experience. It's also about widening our awareness of the earth and its inhabitants.

Hanh states, "We realize that many elements, such as the rain, sunshine, earth, air and love, have all come together to form this wonderful meal. In fact, through this food we see that the entire universe is supporting our existence.

We are aware of the whole [community] as we serve ourselves and we should take an amount of food that is good for us. Before eating, . . . we practice the five contemplations.

- This food is a gift of the earth, the sky, numerous living beings, and much hard and loving work.
- May we eat with mindfulness and gratitude so as to be worthy to receive this food.
- May we recognize and transform unwholesome mental formations, especially our greed, and learn to eat with moderation.
- May we keep our compassion alive by eating in such a way that reduces the suffering of living beings, stops contributing to climate change, and heals and preserves our precious planet.
- We accept this food so that we may nurture our brotherhood and sisterhood, build our [community], and nourish our ideal of serving all living beings.

Upon finishing our meal...Gratitude fills us as we realize how fortunate we are to have had this nourishing food to eat, supporting us on the path of love and understanding."

Thoughts & Prayers

Please join us in praying for the following:

Members...

Marti Rowe, Donna Snider, Gerry Arndt, Marie Dubois

In thanksgiving for the service & sacrifice of our Veterans as we observe Veterans Day.

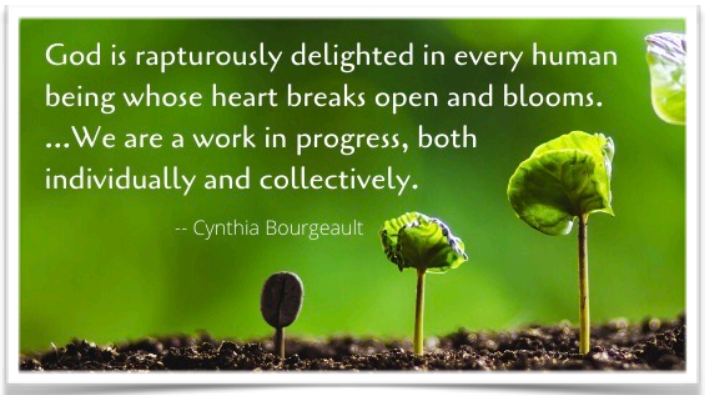
Friends and relatives...

Richard Hill , Becky Stensby, Benny Keister, Allen Stroud, Jana Thomas, Kinsley Green , Suzie Easterling, Cindy Hilton

Our Church...

Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and our Bishop Elizabeth.

Our ELCA – Southeastern Synod, and our Bishop Kevin.



* *Eating Together*, adapted from "Eating Together," Plum Village, <https://plumvillage.org/mindfulness-practice/eating-together/> and Richard Rohr, <https://cac.org/eucharist-weekly-summary-2018-07-28/>

Sunday Worship Scripture Texts for November

Date	First Reading	Psalms	Second Reading	Gospel
Nov. 3	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18	Psalms 149	Ephesians 1:11-23	Luke 6:20- 31
Nov. 10	Job 19:23-27a	Psalms 17:1-9	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27-38
Nov. 17	Malachi 4:1-2a	Psalms 98	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19
Nov. 24	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Psalms 46	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43

ELCA NEWS



The 32nd annual convention of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA (SES WELCA) was held September 20-22, 2019 at the Music Road Resort in Pigeon Forge, TN. The theme this year was Embrace Grace.

In addition to business sessions, there were speakers, workshops, bible study, worship services, and *many* opportunities to meet and talk with other Lutheran women from our synod.

Our speakers included: Rev. Jenny Barnes, Chaplain, (Sr. Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Fairfield Glade, TN.); Ken Jenkins, Keynote Speaker, (photographer and inspirational speaker based in Gatlinburg, TN.); Kandy Pflaster, Churchwide Representative, (WELCA Executive Board Member based in Cozad, NE.); Deacon Judy Aebischer, Bible Study Leader, (Christ Lutheran Church, Fairfield Glade, TN.); and Rev. Kevin Strickland (our newly installed Bishop of the Southeastern Synod).

Elections were held for two officers, three board members and four Triennial Voting Members. The SES WELCA officers are now: President - Patti Austin; Vice President - Elizabeth Drane; Secretary - Shirley Connelly; Treasurer - Karen Andrews; and Board Members - Billie Goepfert, Gloria Martin, Bernice Bland, Terry Chongulia, and Gabrielle Gifford. Our voting delegates for the 2020 Triennial are: Elizabeth Drane, Janice Hawkins, Kathy Hill, and Nyahaley Labor.

During the convention, all the cluster groups had a chance to meet. During our cluster (Diaspora, #7) meeting, we set the date and location for our spring meeting and I agreed to fill the vacancy of Cluster Coordinator for our group.

Upcoming WELCA events in 2020 to make note of:

- Our Cluster's Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at St. Marks Lutheran Church in Huntsville, AL
- The Triennial Women of the ELCA Gathering will be held July 16-19, 2020 in Phoenix, AZ. The theme is *Just Love*. Registration now open at welcatg.org.
- The 2020 SESWELCA convention, September 2020 in Atlanta, GA.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Stamp

SYNOD NEWS



Over the past year, bishops in Region 9, have been working to utilize our positions to address systemic issues facing women rostered ministers. Guided by the work of a core team of women leaders, in May 2019 all Region 9 bishops gathered to begin work on a "Bishops' Relational Agreement for Candidacy, Call Process, and Boundaries." We are thankful that in July 2019 this agreement was adopted and we are eager to share it now with leaders throughout the region. On this day when we celebrate the Reformation, we continue to be reformed in our work alongside women leaders.

When the social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: a Call to Action" passed at the recent churchwide assembly, it was accompanied by implementing resolutions. This relational agreement and our work together is a very clear way that we are living into this call for action and to be a church of gender-equitable leadership.



Please read the attached press release and relational agreement (links found at www.elca-ses.org). Know this is only the beginning of our work. The "Bishops' Relational

Agreement..." is a dynamic document which will be reviewed, adapted, and affirmed annually in July. Join me in praying for the Spirit's continued move in our region and throughout this church.

I look forward to walking together with you in this important work. This is important work and God has called us for such a time as this; to respect, honor, and uphold the whole Body of Christ.

Kevin L. Strickland

The Rev. Kevin L. Strickland
Bishop of the Southeastern Synod

NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	11/3 Daylight Savings Ends	11/10	11/17 Congregational Meeting	11/24
COFFEE	Joan Carlisle Lois Luther	G&S Vitalis Susan Summers	Gaylia Malone	Anne Scholl Candy Wallace
OPEN/ LOCKUP	J&S Trombley Clyde Stanton	J&S Trombley Stuart Hall	J&S Trombley Paul Schabacker	J&S Trombley
FLOWERS	Scholl/G&E Graham	G&S Vitalis/Schabacker	Anonymous/Kezar	Stamp/Arnold
USHERS	Terry Carlisle Phyllis Sullivan Jack Wallace Ed Kezar	Caleb Hopkins EJ Rauworth Len Capps Rick Lampkin	Kristin Bakkegard Lucas McDonald John Trombley Greg Vitalis	Scott Curlings Blaine Minton Bruce Montgomery Lane Graham
ACOLYTE	Julianne Minton	Astrid Hopkins	Mark Trombley	Grace Schabacker
CRUCIFER	Olivia Minton	Lucia Hopkins	Denton McDonald	Charlotte Curlings
LECTOR	Laura Kezar	Carolyn Galgano	Avery McDonald	Kaitlyn Hall
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Shannon Curlings Gail McCormick	Carolyn Galgano Rachel Rice	Ellen Brake Kenneth Curlings	Sharon Lampkin Amy Rauworth
LAY ASSISTANT	Greg Vitalis	Stephen Schrader	Gerald Parsons	Dot Underwood
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Pastor Pauline Farrington	Gretchen Sexton	Sarah Trombley	Maria Hopkins
NURSERY VOLUNTEER	Sarah Beth Hall	Susan Summers	Maria Hopkins	Gaylia Malone
ALTAR GUILD	Lori Walley Kristi Minton			

Shades Valley Lutheran Church

Ministers - Members of Shades Valley Lutheran Church

Staff

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 Director of Music – Rebecca Rehorst music@shadesvalleylutheran.org
 Pastor – Rev. Eric L. Murray pastor@shadesvalleylutheran.org

Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

ELCA-Southeastern Synod Bishop -- Rev. Kevin Strickland
 ELCA Presiding Bishop -- Rev. Elizabeth Eaton