



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

Mission Moments

August-September 2025

Volume 20 Issue 8-9

Celebrating Seventy-seven Years of God's Amazing Grace

**A New Academic Year Has Started:
Reflecting, Rejoining, and Reaching Out**

Here we are again! While the Arizona sun still shines hot, the official end of summer marks the exciting beginning of a new academic year. This past summer was a vibrant mix of experiences for our congregation. We shared in many joys, from our youth embarking on enriching camps to families enjoying well-deserved summer trips. Amidst these moments of happiness, we also bid a heartfelt farewell to Jose. Through it all, we remained busy, connected, and committed.

As we step into this new school year, I'm filled with immense gratitude for each of you and all that you do for our community. Your dedication and hard work continue to make a profound and positive impact, and I'm truly blessed to witness it. My hope is that we carry this momentum forward, continuing to be a beacon of light and service to our community.

Upcoming Initiatives and Opportunities

Looking ahead, I'm excited to "bring to the table" several opportunities designed to deepen our faith, strengthen our bonds, and enrich our worship experience:

Acolyte Training: We'll be offering training for new and returning acolytes. This is a wonderful opportunity for our younger members to play a more active role in our services and learn about the traditions of our faith.

First Communion Classes: For those ready to take this significant step in their spiritual journey, we will be holding First Communion classes. More details will be shared soon.

Share Your Faith Journey: I also would like to invite some of you to share your personal faith journeys and stories with the congregation. There's immense power in hearing how faith has shaped individual lives, and it strengthens our collective understanding and connection. If you feel called to share, please reach out to me.

Welcoming Our New Pianist

We also have some exciting news on the musical front! We are thrilled to welcome our new pianist, Rui Xi who will be officially introduced to the congregation at the end of August. Their talent and passion for music will enhance our worship services and fill our sanctuary with beautiful music. Please join me in extending a warm welcome when they arrive.

As we embark on this new academic and congregational year, let's continue to support one another, grow in our faith, and make a meaningful difference in the lives around us. What are you most looking forward to in the coming months?

Your 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/
Santa Trinidad commits to being a loving and welcoming community of faith, centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ. We continue to proclaim this is a safe and inclusive place for all types of people. This includes all races, ethnicities, creeds, income levels, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, educational levels, family structures, political affiliations, marital statuses, physical or mental abilities. Equally important, we advocate for racial equality. All are welcome here - come as you are!

The Messenger is a bi-monthly publication of First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mesa, Arizona. Please submit information by email to 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
 Joy Petroff, Admin. Secretary

Congregational Officers

Traci Laasch, President
 Sharon Shields, Vice President
 Kathleen Rogers, Treasurer
 Ellen Riske, Secretary

Congregational Council

Corinne Cursi	Kathleen Rogers
Traci Laasch	Rhonda Schmidt
Ellen Riske	Sharon Shields

Contact Us

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Email: felc@firstevlutheran.com

Web: www.firstevlutheran.com



Worship with us
 Sundays at 9:30 AM

Livestream link:

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

First Family Singers

will be sharing their talents during the summer months,
 singing in worship the 2nd and 4th Sundays .

Rehearsals will be following worship the Sundays
 before (1st and 3rd Sundays).



Join the fun and fellowship
 while praising God in song!

Choir Rehearsals will start September 3
 6:30 in the Sanctuary.



The Change for Change Offering is back!

This quarter, we'll be supporting Rancho del Arte
 (K-6 after school program).

They are in need of:

colored pencils	mechanical pencils	spiral notebooks
loose leaf paper with 2-pocket folders	construction paper	
markers - they go through a lot of markers!		

Continuing through September, you can drop off your supplies at the box in the Narthex. If you'd rather donate money, just toss it in the Change for Change jar. We'll take care of the shopping for you!

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes for June 24, 2025

Present: Corrine Cursi, Traci Laasch, Pastor Luis, Ellen Riske, and Sharon Shields.

Absent: Kathleen Rogers, Rhonda Schmidt

A. Devotional & Prayer led by Pastor Luis at 3:58 PM.

B. Review of Council Minutes from May 27.

Since we do not have a quorum reports will be up for approval next month.

C. Review and of Reports

Treasurer's Report

Church Accountant Robert Stagger proposed that Council consider purchasing Powerchurch as the new software for our accounting. He has used it before and finds it easier to track individual funding lines and grants. This would require cost to purchase and Council will search for grants to pay for it. Robert can handle the conversion from our current software. This would take place January 1, 2026.

President's Report

D. Old Business

None

E. New Business

- Dead Tree Removal
- Three bids have been offered averaging \$10,000. Two more bids expected. Still under consideration.
- Check Signers
Two new signers have been added to the bank's list.
- Pastor would like to have a BBQ Potluck after church sometime over summer for congregational fellowship. October 26. (Reformation Sunday) is a possibility.
- Replacement pianist
One interview has taken place. One interviewed but is not sure, at this point, if will be available long term. Will be available to substitute for July and early August. Council hopes to find at least one more candidate.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Lutheran Social Services
A new one is necessary. Would like to create one for two years.
- Summer worship
Worship will stay in Sanctuary as long as AC in on.
- New Council Meeting times
Council will now meet on the last Tuesday of each month at 4:30 PM. No Council meeting this July.

F. Adjournment and Closing with the Lord's Prayer at 4:58 PM.

Special Council Meeting Minutes for July 27, 2025

Present: Corinne Cursi, Traci Laasch, Ellen Riske, Kathleen Rogers, Sharon Shields, Rhonda Schmidt & Pastor Luis.

Special Meeting began at 10:35 AM.

We discussed the trees in the courtyard. Porfirio, the company that does landscaping for FELC said he could trim the trees so they are safe. We don't want the branches falling on Concordia students or the roof of the buildings.

Rhonda moved that we accept the contract from Porfirio if it will cost \$5,000 in total to trim both trees. Sharon seconded. Approved.

Pastor will speak with Porfirio about the contract and working on completing this in the next two weeks on non-school days.

Briefly discussed hiring a new pianist since our July pianist was temporary.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 AM.

Next meeting: August 26 at 4:30 PM.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 7/31/25	Actual 2025	Budget 2025	Actual 2024	Budget 2024
Offerings	64982	67081	70371	66419
Other Income	89126	83831	59466	57456
Total Income	154108	150912	129837	123875
Expenses	161529	147164	122744	124045
Inc. Less Exp.	-7421	3748	7093	-170



Spanish Bible Study
followed by Fellowship
 Mondays at 6 PM



**JOIN US FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School will resume in the fall
on September 7.

See you then!

AUGUST 2023

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
31 12th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR			FRC = Family Resource Center GR = Great Room S = Sanctuary OCR = Olsen Conference Room CCS = Concordia Charter School C = Cafeteria/Fellowship Hall * Off-campus		1 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM LSS Family Connections - GR	2 10-12 LSS Drive-thru Backpack event 10 AM LSS Zumbini 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR
3 8th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	4 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	5 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 11 AM LSS Family Connections 6:30-8:30 PM ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics/ Dysfunctional Families) - GR	6 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR	7 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 8 AM Viewing Christian leadership seminar - OCR	8 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM LSS Family Connections - GR 8 AM Viewing Christian leadership seminar - OCR	9 10 AM LSS Zumbini 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR
10 9th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	11 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	12 NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 10 AM Messy Play - GR 11 AM LSS Family Connections 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	13 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 11:30 AM 1st PI 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	14 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	15 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 11:15 PM LSS Flourishing Families 12 PM LSS Family Connections - GR	16 10 AM LSS Zumbini 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR 12 PM Milo & Moxie (Fire Safety)
17 10th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	18 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	19 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 11 AM LSS Family Connections 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	20 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 5 PM LSS Family Connections - GR	21 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	22 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM LSS Family Connections - GR 6 PM 1st Place Bingo Night - C	23 Anna Schmidt's Baby Shower - GR 10 AM LSS Zumbini 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT 12 PM LSS Birthday Celebrations - GR
24 11th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	25 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	26 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 11 AM LSS Family Connections 4:30 PM Council Mtg - OCR 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	27 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR	2 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	29 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM LSS Family Connections - GR	30

SEPTEMBER 2025

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
7 13th Sunday in Pentecost God's Work. Our Hands. 9:30 AM FELC Worship—S	1 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry-Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 11 AM LSS Family Connections 6:30-8:30 PM ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families) - GR	3 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 6:30 Choir Rehearsal - S	4 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry-Courtyard	5 10 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM LSS Family Connections - GR	6 10 AM LSS Zumbini 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR
14 14th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	8 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	9 NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 10 AM Messy Play - GR 11 AM LSS Family Connections 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	10 11:30 AM 1st PI 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 6:30 Choir Rehearsal - S	11 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM Mesa Migrant - Great Room 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry-Courtyard	12 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM LSS Family Connections - GR	13 10 AM LSS Zumbini 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR
21 15th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	15 DEADLINE: BULLETIN NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	16 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry-Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 11 AM LSS Family Connections 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	17 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 5 PM LSS Family Connections - GR 6:30 Choir Rehearsal - S	18 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry-Courtyard	19 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM LSS Family Connections - GR 11:15 PM LSS Flourishing Families	20 10 AM LSS Zumbini 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR 12 PM LSS Milo & Moxi Fire Safety
28 16th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	22 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	23 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry-Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 11 AM LSS Family Connections 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	24 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 6:30 Choir Rehearsal - S	25 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry-Courtyard	26 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM LSS Family Connections - GR	27 10 AM LSS Zumbini 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR 12 PM LSS Family Connections/Birthday Celebrations - GR
	29 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	30 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry-Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 11 AM LSS Family Connections 4:30 PM Council Mtg - OCR 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR			FRC = Family Resource Center GR = Great Room S = Sanctuary OCR = Olsen Conference Room CCS = Concordia Charter School C = Cafeteria/Fellowship Hall * Off-campus	