



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

**Mission Moments**  
July-August 2024  
**Volume 19 Issue 7-8**

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

**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.

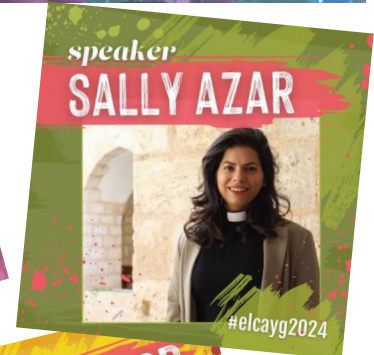
**Reconciling in Christ Welcoming Statement**



"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.

**What fun the youth will be having in July at the ELCA Youth Gathering!**



**Tuesday-Wednesday, July 16-17**

July 12-21 Pastor Luis at ELCA Youth Gathering  
July 14-21 Kathleen vacation  
July 16-27 Joy vacation



**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**

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**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>



**RECONCILING IN CHRIST**

As briefly mentioned at our Congregational Discussion meeting in June, our Reconciling in Christ welcoming statement needs to be updated to include our commitment to racial equality or anti-racism. Council has updated it. Our current statement is on page 1 of this newsletter. Below is the proposed new one. If you have any feedback for Council, please email the church office by July 31 at [felc@firstevlutheran.com](mailto:felc@firstevlutheran.com)

**Proposed Reconciling in Christ welcoming statement:**

“First Evangelical Lutheran Church/La Primera 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!”

## An Appeal from Pastor John Schaumburg



Greetings. In 2016 I co-founded a non-profit corporation entitled SEEDING MERCY. Its primary purpose is to provide agricultural assistance to the people of South Sudan, the world's newest nation and has a majority Christian population.

My co-founder is Mr. Aken Tong, a South Sudanese who I met while he was a student at ASU, majoring in Chemical Engineering and I was the Director for Evangelical Ministry (DEM) in the Grand Canyon Synod.

We have served more than a thousand people providing tools, instruction and acreage, assisting them to become more food secure. Please check us out on our website: <https://www.seedingmercy.org/>

We are expanding our outreach to include the sending of used clothes. Will you help us by donating your used clothes, shoes, hats, etc.? We also need banker boxes and large tubs with lids.

Begin by gathering your used clothes at your church, then bring them by my congregation, Bethlehem Lutheran, by appointment. We are located at 2745 N. 32nd Street, Mesa.

We will also accept monetary gifts to offset the shipping of the used clothes to South Sudan. Make your checks out to "Seeding Mercy" or give electronically on our website.

You may contact me directly by the email address or phone number listed below.

We thank you for your generous support and prayers.

Pastor John

[fishpastor46@gmail.com](mailto:fishpastor46@gmail.com) / 480-980-0397

(Pastor Schaumburg has served at First Evangelical for 13 years. He is now retired.)

**God's Work, Our Hands Sunday** is September 8. Wear your yellow shirt and bring a snack to share. After church service we will have a few items to work on in the Great Room.

More details to follow.

# God's work. Our hands.



## September 8, 2024



### MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 5/31/24	Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Actual 2023	Budget 2023
Offerings	\$57,021	\$47,585	\$54,825	47,583
Other Income	\$44,825	\$41,040	\$37,965	\$31,665
Total Income	\$101,846	\$86,625	\$92,790	\$79,248
Expenses	\$82,639	\$88,995	\$68,123	\$75,446
Inc. Less Exp.	\$19,207	\$-370	\$24,667	\$3,802

## Council Meeting Minutes for June 23, 2024

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

**Absent:** Kathleen Rogers & Sara Velasco

### Opening Prayer

Sarah called the meeting to order at 10:49 AM. Pastor Luis opened the meeting with prayer.

### B. Review and Approval of Council Minutes for May 19, 2024

Diane moved to approve the minutes of the May meeting as recorded; Sharon seconded. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

### C. Review and Approval of Reports

1. Treasurer's Report - already submitted
2. Pastor's Report - nothing to report other than Congregational meeting went well.
3. President's Report - nothing to report.
4. Approval of Reports: Rhonda moved to accept reports as given; Ellen seconded. Council unanimously approved the reports.

### D. Old Business

Grants: Keep a list of ideas since September starts grant writing season.

Property Repair List – continuing. Update for painting Great Room - paint is here and there is a volunteer to lead this project.

AC issue - on hold.

Mission Site Profile (MSP) - ongoing.

RIC - send out proposed updated welcoming statement to congregation through bulletin and newsletter for review in July.

God's Work Our Hands Sept 8

Projects - no ideas submitted to the office.

Homeless Youth Connection - collect school supplies and under garments- Rhonda taking the lead.

Writing cards to our shut ins, first responders - Sharon will bring the cards.

Cupboard clean up in Great Room Kitchen - Diane taking the lead.

Rhonda, Sharon and Diane - when giving information to Joy - keep in mind who, what, when, where, how.

Congregation to bring snack foods for Sept 8.

Ideas for another time:

Family Promise - personal care items - currently they have a good stock, so later.

Clean front of the church, figure out whirly thing to put up to deter pigeons - later when it is cooler.

Other old business - none

### E. New Business

Other new business - none

**F. Adjournment and Closing with the Lord's Prayer** Rhonda moved that meeting be adjourned; Ellen seconded. Council unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 11:31 AM. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## Marvin Janne

8/31/1931 - 5/28/2024

A Memorial Service will be held on August 29, 2024, 10 AM  
at First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Following the service there will be a noon luncheon, woodcraft display and memory-sharing  
at the Lakeshore Mortuary, 1815 S. Dobson Rd., Mesa.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations for Benches in the Close Memorial Garden,  
142 N. Date Street, Mesa, AZ 85201.



First Place  
Upcoming  
Events

Friday, July 26

6 PM

Concordia Charter School Gym



## Movie Night



Saturday, August 10

11 AM

First Evangelical Lutheran




Pastor Bernie leads studies  
Wednesday mornings at 7:30 AM

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87192961408pwd=3rRrOBqEJP60kbBL0UKV4XhOg2rEgT.1>

Meeting ID: 871 9296 1408  
Passcode: 145549  
Or join in person at Holy Trinity

TheALEogy



FIBBER  
MAGEES

Join us!

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



# JULY 2024



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 DEADLINE: BULLETIN	2 NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 6:30-8:30 PM ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families) - GR	3 NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	4 Independence Day OFFICE CLOSED	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 I-HELP - Great Room	
7 7th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	10 11:30 AM 1st Pl Coordinating Comm - OCR LSS Ice Cream Social - GR 5-7 PM LSS-SW Food Pantry - Courtyard	11 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	12 OFFICE CLOSED LSS Ice Cream Social - GR	13 LSS Ice Cream Social - GR
14 8th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	15 DEADLINE: BULLETIN	16 OFFICE STAFF VACATION CLOSURE* 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard LSS Ice Cream Social - GR 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	17 LSS Ice Cream Social - GR	18 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	19 OFFICE CLOSED LSS Ice Cream Social - GR	20 LSS Ice Cream Social - GR I-HELP - Great Room
21 9th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	22 DEADLINE: BULLETIN	23 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	24 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR	25 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	26 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM Infant Massage - GR 6 PM 1st Place Movie Night	27 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR
28 10th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	29 DEADLINE: BULLETIN	30 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	30	June 1-August 31 * Pastor Chris is on Sabbatical July 12-21 Pastor Luis at ELCA Youth Gathering July 14-21 Kathleen vacation July 16-27 Joy vacation		

# August 2024

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p>PRC = Family Resource Center GR = Great Room S = Sanctuary OCR = Olsen Conference Room</p>	<p>CCS = Concordia Charter School HT = Holy Trinity * Off-campus</p>	<p>June 1-August 31 Pastor Chris is on Sabbatical</p>				
<p>4 11th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR</p>	<p>5 DEADLINE: BULLETIN</p>	<p>6 NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 10 AM Messy Play - GR  6:30-8:30 PM ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families) - GR</p>	<p>7 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 5-7 PM LSS-SW Food Pantry - Courtyard</p>	<p>8 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard</p>	<p>9 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM Infant Massage - GR 3 PM LSS Financial Class - OCR</p>	<p>10 11 AM LSS PlaysPOT - GR  11 AM 1st Place Back-to-School Picnic</p>
<p>11 12th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR</p>	<p>12 DEADLINE: BULLETIN</p>	<p>13 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR</p>	<p>14 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 11:30 AM 1st Pl Coordinating Comm - OCR 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR</p>	<p>15 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard</p>	<p>16 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM Infant Massage - GR 3 PM LSS Financial Class - OCR</p>	<p>17  I-HELP - Great Room</p>
<p>18 13th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR 11 AM Church Council - OCR</p>	<p>19 DEADLINE: BULLETIN</p>	<p>20 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR  6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR</p>	<p>21 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR</p>	<p>22 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard</p>	<p>23 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM Infant Massage - GR 3 PM LSS Financial Class - OCR</p>	<p>24 11 AM LSS PlaysPOT - GR</p>
<p>25 14th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR</p>	<p>26 DEADLINE: BULLETIN</p>	<p>27 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR</p>	<p>28 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR</p>	<p>29 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Marv'in Janne Memorial</p>	<p>30 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>31  I-HELP - Great Room</p>