



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

Mission Moments

June-July 2025

Volume 20 Issue 6-7

Celebrating Seventy-seven Years of God's Amazing Grace

Summer's Here: Embracing the Arizona Heat and New Adventures!

It's officially summer, and as the Arizona heat ramps up, my heart is filled with gratitude! I'm so thankful for all the opportunities to spread my wings and blessed to work with such an awesome group of people and a congregation that's always willing to try new things. This summer we'll dive into our summer series, focusing on the books of **Jeremiah and Revelation**. We will also be celebrating Christmas in July with a special offering to help our next-door neighbors, Concordia Charter School.

Upcoming Summer Highlights!

Vacation Bible School (VBS): Wednesdays in June!

Our annual Family VBS is back every Wednesday evening in June! We'll have engaging programming for adults with different activities each week, along with fun activities for our young kids based on the biblical story of Noah's Ark. Don't miss out!

High School Senior Recognition: Celebrating Arthur!

On Sunday, June 8, we'll be celebrating and blessing our high school senior, Arthur Ruelas, with a special Quillow presentation and luncheon. Let's all come together to honor his achievements!

Men on the Mountain: Fellowship Campout

Our "Men on the Mountain" event will take place in the Brookbank Point Camp Area, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, June 19-22. Youth members from both Holy Trinity and First Evangelical will be participating in this enriching experience.

Confirmation Camp: Faith and Adventure Await!

Our junior high and high school youth are gearing up for an unforgettable experience at Camp Pine Rock in Prescott, AZ, June 30-July 4. Get ready for a week of faith formation and adventure!

As the famous author and poet Maya Angelou once said, *"Nothing can dim the light which shines from within."* Remember, summer is a wonderful time to reflect on the past few months and brainstorm ideas for the fall. As your pastor, I'm here to walk alongside you!

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
 Jose Salazar, Pianist

Congregational Officers

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

Congregational Council

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Corinne Cursi | Rhonda Schmidt |
| 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



RECONCILING IN CHRIST



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!



Confirmation

Congratulations to Joleen Ochoa
 She was confirmed June 1, 2025

Her verse:

Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Vacation BIBLE SCHOOL Noah's Ark

Every Wednesday in June join us for an evening of learning and fun. Dinner will be provided for all in attendance.



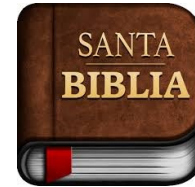
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|
| | June | |
| Wednesday | 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th | 6-8PM |

142 N Date Street Mesa, AZ



Spanish Bible Study
followed by Fellowship
 Wednesdays at 6 PM

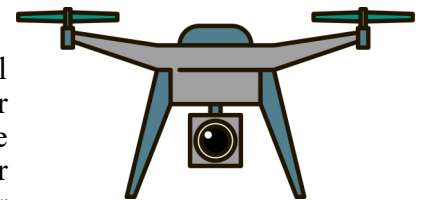


The last Sunday School class of the season is June 8.
 We will resume in the fall on September 7.
 Enjoy your summer!

Dramatic Rescue at 45 feet!

By Randy Gamble

The other day I arrived at the church on a mission: a mission to collect aerial views, using my quadcopter drone, above and around our small campus for possible future inclusion in First Lutheran's pictorial history. My drone contains a built-in high-quality 4k video camera that has collected spectacular shots from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to the San Diego shoreline over the past four years.



So, from the north parking lot I launched my DJI Mavic Pro, as the manufacturer calls my drone, into the air. The first sixty seconds of the flight were flawless. It sprang immediately skyward as I steered it about forty feet up to cross Date Street (it was clear of traffic, of course) and positioned it to overlook the church's east side, its most photogenic side, from about sixty feet above, bathed in the pale light of the morning sun. Unfortunately things went downhill from there.

Flying over a very tall ponderosa pine tree, I lowered the drone into a better position. From my viewpoint in the parking lot, it looked like I had cleared the tree. But I hadn't. I guess my depth perception was a little off, and before I knew it, I watched my "toy" snag a pine branch and quickly tip off-balance, dropping and vanishing into a thatch of needles. Well, that didn't look good, I thought. My drone's sensors are supposed to warn me when it's perilously close to an object, but it must've taken the day off.

After reluctantly concluding that rescuing a pricey drone was going to cost me some money, I contacted Julio Tree Care & Landscaping. Then (thank you, Joy) I contacted Cathy, the manager of the townhouse complex, near where the tree and my drone were standing over. Cathy was most cooperative in making arrangements for me, Julio and his tree care professionals to enter the townhouse complex.

Julio's guys wasted no time while his main guy, clad with ropes and other protective gear, scurried up the tree, quickly reaching the highest branches. With the foliage being pretty dense at the top, he had to look around for several minutes until, Eureka! He found it!!

Julio's guy was good! Clutching a safety rope in one hand and my drone AND a reacher stick in the other, he slid back down the tree and handed me my drone in nearly pristine condition, save for a drop of harmless pine tar on its top side and a little dust on the propellers.

All's well that ends well, right? Needless to say, I won't be in such a hurry next time. It costs too much!

Did you happen to come across any organizations for Change for Change but lost the paper?

Extra copies are in the Narthex and Great Room.
Please write down the organizations' names and their needs.

Return the paper to the office or give it to Traci. Thanks!



**Join the Lunch Bunch
Tuesday, June 10 at 11:30 at**



Mexican Grill

328 E. University Dr.
Mesa AZ 85201



The Church Office's
4th of July
observance will be
Monday, June 30.
Office closed.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

| As of 2/28/25 | Actual 2025 | Budget 2025 | Actual 2024 | Budget 2024 |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Offerings | 49322 | 47915 | 52743 | 46250 |
| Other Income | 62551 | 70042 | 491036 | 42375 |
| Total Income | 111873 | 117957 | 101846 | 88625 |
| Expenses | 113013 | 102878 | 82639 | 88995 |
| Inc. Less Exp. | -1140 | 15079 | 19207 | -370 |



**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
April 29, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes**

Present: Corrine Cursi, Traci Laasch, Pastor Luis, Ellen Riske, Kathleen Rogers, Rhonda Schmidt, and Sharon Shields. Absent:

A. Devotional & Prayer led by Pastor Luis at 4:03 PM.

B. Review and approval of Council Minutes of March 9

Kathleen moved to accept, Rhonda seconded. Motion carried.

C. Review and Approval of Reports

Treasurer's Report

Discussed options for requesting the remaining I-HELP funds be repurposed to Pastor's Discretionary fund for food and other help for needy neighbors.

Pastor's Report

President's Report

Sharon moved to accept, Rhonda seconded. Motion carried.

D. Old Business

Grants

Current committee includes Diane Johnson, Kathleen Rogers, Corrine Cursi and Sarah Shaw. Kathleen volunteered to be writer and Sharon volunteered to be editor.

E. New Business

Change for Change

Should we keep monthly? If so, will need to find some new partners. Or should we switch to quarterly. Decided to ask congregation for recommended partners to support.

Auto loan for Pastor Luis

Pastor requested a loan to help with purchase of a car. As he is not receiving travel payment as part of his contract Council decided to approve request. Approval had previously been handled via e-mail to Council members.

Fire Panel

Kathleen updated that replacement had been found, purchased and installed.

Family Restroom Toilet Leak

Rhonda advised that Richard Schmidt had repaired and resealed toilet.

Dead Tree Removal

A member will introduce a professional remover to Pastor and Traci to begin initial consultation.

Check Signers

Joy would like additional check signers to relieve burden on current signers. Sharon and Corrine volunteered.

Retreats

Pastor would like to schedule a retreat day with Council to get to know him and his family.

He is also considering ways for a congregational retreat or social get-together.

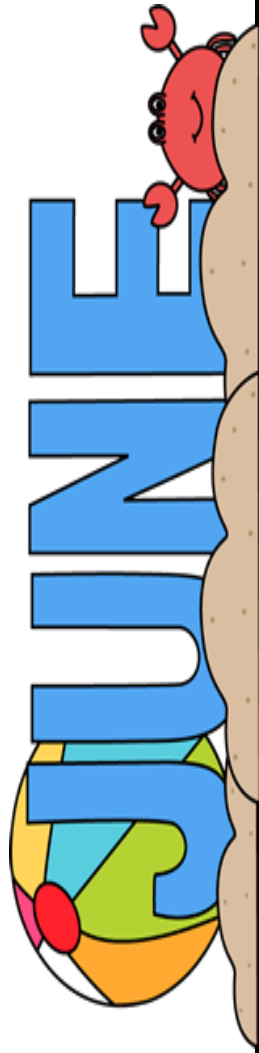
New Signs

Our PR consultant showed Council some ideas for new signage at the front of the church.

Traci moved and Sharon seconded to end meeting.

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

Next meeting: May 27 at 4 PM.



JUNE 2025

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 7th Sunday in Easter 9:30 FELC Worship—S 3 PM Jose's Student Recital - S | 2 DEADLINE: BULLETIN | 3 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11:15 AM FRC Infant Massage 5:30-8:30 PM ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families) - GR | 4 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 6 PM Family VBS - GR, S, CCS | 5 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard | 6 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM FRC Parent Café - GR 11 AM FRC FRC Triple P - GR 12 PM FRC Family Connections - GR | 7 10 AM FRC Zumbini - GR 11 AM FRC PlaySPOT - GR |
| 8 Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship –GR 11 AM Church Council - OCR | 9 DEADLINE: BULLETIN | 10 NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11:15 AM FRC Infant Massage 1 PM FRC Financial Literacy Class | 11 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 6 PM Family VBS - GR, S, CCS | 12 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard | 13 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM FRC Parent Café - GR 11 AM FRC FRC Triple P - GR 12 PM FRC Family Connections - GR | 14 10 AM FRC Zumbini - GR 11 AM FRC PlaySPOT - GR |
| 15 Holy Trinity Sunday 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship –GR | 16 DEADLINE: BULLETIN | 17 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11:15 AM FRC Infant Massage 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR | 18 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 5:30 PM FRC Family Connections 6 PM Family VBS - GR, S, CCS | 19 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard | 20 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM FRC Parent Café - GR 11 AM FRC FRC Triple P - GR 11:30 AM Flourishing Families -GR 12 PM FRC Family Connections - GR | 21 10 AM FRC Zumbini - GR 11 AM FRC PlaySPOT - GR 12 PM FRC Family Connections/ Birthday Celebration - GR |
| 22 2nd Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship –GR | 23 DEADLINE: BULLETIN | 24 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11:15 AM FRC Infant Massage 4 PM Church Council - OCR 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR | 25 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 6 PM Family VBS - GR, S, CCS | 26 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard | 27 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM FRC Parent Café - GR 11 AM FRC FRC Triple P - GR 12 PM FRC Family Connections - GR | 28 10 AM FRC Zumbini - GR 11 AM FRC PlaySPOT - GR |
| 29 3rd Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship –GR | 30 OFFICE CLOSED (call it early 4th of July) | <div> <div>FRC = Family Resource Center GR = Great Room S = Sanctuary</div> <div>OCR = Olsen Conference Room CCS = Concordia Charter School * Off-campus</div> </div> | | | | |



| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|--|-----------------------|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 6 4th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR | 7 OFFICE CLOSED | 1 6:30-8:30 PM ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families) - GR | 2 | 3 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard | 4 Independence Day OFFICE CLOSED | 5 |
| 13 5th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR | 14 DEADLINE: BULLETIN | 8 NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR | 9 11:30 AM 1st PI Coordinating Comm - OCR 5-7 PM LSS-SW Food Pantry - Courtyard | 10 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard | 11 OFFICE CLOSED | 12 |
| 20 6th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR | 21 DEADLINE: BULLETIN | 15 DEADLINE: NEWSLETTER 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard LSS Ice Cream Social - GR 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR | 16 | 17 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard | 18 OFFICE CLOSED | 19 |
| 27 7th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR | 28 DEADLINE: BULLETIN | 22 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR | 23 | 24 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard | 25 OFFICE CLOSED | 26 |
| | | 29 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR | 30 | 31 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard | | |