



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

Mission Moments

May-June 2026

Celebrating Seventy-eight Years of God's Amazing Grace

Summer 2026: A Season of Growth and Fellowship

As the final school bells ring and we transition into the warmth of summer, there is a palpable sense of excitement in the air. While the pace of the world often slows down during these months, our vibrant community is gearing up for a season filled with connection, learning, and renewed spirit.

Cool Comfort & Community Care

We are pleased to share that we have implemented a temporary fix for our AC system. This ensures a comfortable, cool environment for LSS to continue their vital day-to-day programs without interruption. Most importantly, it allows us to remain together in the Sanctuary for our Sunday worship services throughout the summer heat.

Upcoming Summer Highlights

Our calendar is brimming with opportunities for all ages to engage, serve, and grow:

- **Celebrations of Milestone:** We look forward to honoring our students during upcoming end-of-year graduations and celebrating our youth as they complete their First Communion classes.
- **Youth & Discovery:** Join us for a week of wonder at our June Wednesday evenings family Vacation Bible School (VBS) and the high-energy experience of Campformation at the end of June.
- **Fellowship & Connection:** The annual Men on the Mountain in Prescott gathering will continue, offering a unique space for reflection and camaraderie in the great outdoors.

Sunday Worship: Our weekly services remain the heartbeat of our community. This summer, we are blessed to welcome back Erin Hales, who will be providing our music while Rui takes a well-deserved sabbatical to visit family and friends in China.

A Note from the Pastor

As your Pastor, I am profoundly grateful for the dedication this congregation shows to one another. Summer offers us a unique rhythm—a time to reach out to our neighbors and strengthen the bonds of our fellowship in new ways.

I look forward to seeing each of you in the pews, at the mountain, or in the halls of VBS as we journey through this beautiful season together.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Luis E 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**

Worship With Us
IN-PERSON & ONLINE 9:30 AM

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

Staff

Luis Ochoa, Pastor
Joy Petroff, Admin. Secretary
Bob Stagger, Accountant

Congregational Officers

Traci Laasch, President
Sharon Shields, Vice President
Rhonda Schmidt, Treasurer
Ellen Riske, Secretary

Congregational Council

Diane Johnson
Traci Laasch
Ellie Orozco
Louie Orozco
Ellen Riske
Rhonda Schmidt
Sharon Shields

Contact Us

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Web: www.firstevlutheran.com

First Evangelical now accepts contributions via the Zelle app.

Search for
“felc@firstevlutheran.com”



**2nd Quarter
Change for Change:**

This quarter’s Change for Change offering will go to Reconciling in Christ and the work they do to ensure intentional welcoming and advocacy for LGBTQIA+ individuals who usually face exclusion and marginalization in churches.



**Spanish Bible Study
followed by Fellowship**

Mondays at 6 PM



**JOIN US FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We’re having fun in Sunday School!
Won’t you join us!

Join the Out to Lunch Bunch!

Tuesday, May 12, 11:30 AM



RESTAURANTE
Glady's
SALVADORENO
SINCE 2015

#Best Pupusas in Town in Mesa

1423 S. Country Club Dr.
Mesa, AZ. 85210
480-649-2541



Get excited for VBS!

Once again, Wednesday evenings in June
VBS will be the place to be!

Beginning at 6 PM

June 3, 10, 17, 24

Dinner

Crafts

Music

Classes for children & adults



Sunday, June 28

VBS Celebration Church Service
& Barbeque





First Family Singers

We are, once again this summer, raising our voices as First Family Singers.

Beginning in June will practice after worship the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month and sing in worship the 2nd and 4th Sundays. We will keep this schedule through August.

Join us!!

 A promotional poster for a concert. The background is a dark blue night sky with a silhouette of the Statue of Liberty on the left and a city skyline. A grand piano is the central focus. At the top left is a treble clef logo. Text on the poster includes:

- SCOTTSDALE SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA
- PRESENTS:
- DREAMS OF FREEDOM
- FEATURING GERSWHIN'S RHAPSODY IN BLUE
- A circular inset photo of José Salazar at a piano.
- JOSÉ SALAZAR PIANO
- SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS MAY 10TH 4:00PM
- STEINWAY & SONS logo and name at the bottom.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 3/31/26	Actual 2026	Budget 2026	Actual 2025	Budget 2025
Offerings	18,862	27,999	25,753	28,749
Other Income	31,715	28,200	33,266	33,423
Total Income	50,577	56,199	59,019	62,172
Expenses	58,080	67,602	81,101	58,817
Inc. Less Exp.	-7,503	-11,403	-22,082	3,355

**Narrative Lectionary**

This Scope and Sequence for Sunday School helped me connect all the lessons to the theme for the year and to see the bigger picture for each chunk of lessons and sermons. I hope you like it! Traci Laasch

Called by God, Blessed to Serve (Year 4, 2026)

The stories of the Year 4 Narrative Lectionary tell of God's invitation into relationship given to all people, and the ways in which God provides gifts of grace at every turn. While Abraham seemed too old to father a nation, Moses too quiet to lead a people, and David too young to take over Israel, we see throughout the Old Testament that God repeatedly calls the unexpected to step out in faith. As the people answer God's call, God never fails to equip them for the journey. Throughout Scripture, gifts of grace are given to those answering God's call, especially at some of the most trying moments. From gifts of manna in the wilderness to the promise of new life for the struggling Israelites, God's call to discipleship is never without God's blessing and provision each step of the way. As God chooses to dwell among us in Jesus Christ, God's commitment to relationship is distinctly clear. Jesus' invitations to abundant life reveal a relentless love that desires that all people know and serve God. His teachings reveal a kingdom that opposes traditional expectations of power and importance, always calling the least expected into God's mission of redemption. As the hope of the resurrection spreads, God's grace abounds in everyday moments and throughout the significant challenges of the early church. These early churches learn to rejoice, even in trials, always trusting in God's provision. Each of us are invited into a life of discipleship by our loving Creator. God's continued presence and abounding grace allows us to answer God's call, and through those blessings, to live in hope as we serve Jesus through our neighbor.

Living in Hope (Easter: May 3 to May 24, 2026)

The early church continues to proclaim the gospel, inviting others into the life of discipleship. These church leaders learn to live in hope, trusting that God's grace is sufficient even in trials. They continue to rejoice in God's goodness and love in all situations as they are equipped to serve in Jesus' name. As they answer God's call to be the church, the gifts of God's grace are ever present.



August 2



with ice cream sundaes!!!



**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes for March 29, 2026**

Present: Sharon Shields, Traci Laasch, Rhonda Schmidt, Elizabeth Orozco, Louie Orozco, Pastor Luis, Ellen Riske, Diane Johnson
Guest: Richard Schmidt

A. Devotional Traci opened with devotion. Traci opened meeting at 10:50 AM.

B. Review of Council minutes for February 22, 2026. Traci delayed minutes until April meeting.

C. Review of Reports

Treasurer's

Pastor's Report - There are several people who are attending and have indicated they would like to join. Pastor will meet with them.

D. Old Business

Grant Writing Committee – Youth Initiative for Nursery and Sunday School was granted for \$1700.

Liability – Correction from February - repayment of Endowment Committee mortgage payments have not been paused for 2026. Richard Schmidt will check to see who can stop the payments.

Membership – With new PowerChurch software inactive members have been identified. These will be contacted by phone and/or letter.

Annual Meeting - Council will update the congregation quarterly.

E. New Business

Chiller and next steps – Pastor met with the Bishop. Synod will help look for grants and other financial options.

Grant writing committee will look for grants to help with chiller repair. First Place is helping look for grants.

Temporary AC will be needed for the Food Bank, 4 offices, the Great Room and the sanctuary. Large evaporation systems are being considered. Ellen moved and Rhonda seconded that \$15,000 be authorized for purchase of office coolers and larger ones for the Great Room and Sanctuary. Vote passed.

April 12 is set for a congregational meeting to update on Ivan's quote and portable evaporation coolers.

Synod Assembly – Pastor Luis, Traci Laasch and Elizabeth Orozco will go as voting members. Louie will attend as a non-voting visitor.

F. Adjournment and Closing with the Lord's Prayer. Rhonda moved, Traci seconded, motion passed. Adjourned at 12:35 PM.

Ellen Riske, secretary



May 2, 2026

Mesa *AGLOW* Lighthouse

Concordia Charter School

142 N Date Street, Mesa, AZ 85201 [see map]

Fellowship 9:30 am – Meeting begins at 10:00 am



Brigette Metcalf is a devoted wife, mother, and soon-to-be grandmother, celebrating over 33 years of marriage. Her family—two sons who serve as pastors, along with their wives, are her greatest joy and foundation.

An ordained minister with the Assemblies of God, graduate of Evangel University, and AGWM world missionary; Brigette served 25 years in pastoral ministry in Arizona before answering God's call to Thailand, where she has ministered for over eight years. She co-pastors ICA Thailand alongside her husband, helping lead a diverse, multi-campus

international church with a focus on unity, discipleship, and the presence of God, while also serving as an executive pastor.

Brigette is an international speaker and the founder of Sealed, an anti-trafficking ministry, and Lasso Thailand, a Business as Mission outreach through a food truck and café. She has launched multiple initiatives including Banner Language Center, a refugee learning center, and Sealed Kids Club in Bangkok.

She also hosts the World Sealed Summit, uniting global leaders to combat human trafficking. Her life's mission is to see people restored, empowered, and transformed through the love of Jesus Christ.

Lord, give us new strategies from Heaven to reach people with the love of Christ



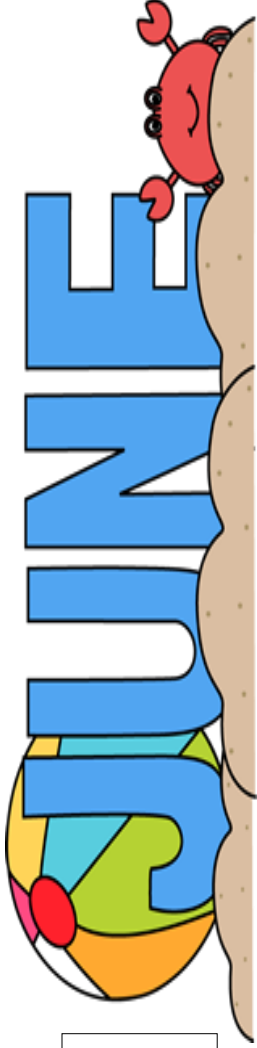
Deuteronomy 6:6-7 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.



2026

FRC = Family Resource Center
 GR = Great Room
 S = Sanctuary
 OCR = Olsent Conference Room
 CCS = Concordia Charter School
 * Off-campus

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 5th Sunday in Easter 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Town Hall Mtg - GR	4 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	5 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11: AM FRC Zumbini 5:30-8:30 PM ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families) -OCR	6 11:30 AM 1st PI Coordinating Comm - OCR 9:30 AM LSS Readiness Basketball - GR 3 PM FRC Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM FRC Kids in the Kitchen - GR 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal - S	7 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 9:30-11:30 AM Mesa Migrant	8 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM FRC Parent Café - GR 11 AM FRC Family Connections - GR	9 10 AM FRC Zumbini - GR 11 AM FRC PlaySPOT - GR
10 6th Sunday in Easter Mother's Day 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship -GR 4 PM Jose @ Scdl Center for the Arts*	11 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	12 NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11 AM FRC Zumbini 11:30 AM Out to Lunch Bunch* 1 PM FRC Financial Literacy Class 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - OCR	13 9:30 AM LSS Readiness Basketball - GR 3 PM FRC Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM FRC Kids in the Kitchen - GR 5-7 PM LSS-SW Food Pantry - Courtyard 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal - S	14 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	15 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM FRC Parent Café - GR 10 AM Flourishing Families -GR 11 AM FRC Family Connections - GR	16 10 AM FRC Zumbini - GR 11 AM FRC PlaySPOT - GR
17 7th Sunday in Easter 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 FRC Messy Play—GR 11: AM FRC Zumbini 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - OCR	20 9:30 AM LSS Readiness Basketball - GR 3 PM FRC Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM FRC Kids in the Kitchen - GR 5-7 PM LSS-SW Food Pantry - Courtyard 5 PM FRC Family Connections 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal - S	21 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	22 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM FRC Parent Café - GR 11 AM FRC Family Connections - GR	23 10 AM FRC Zumbini - GR 11 AM FRC PlaySPOT - GR
24 Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship -GR Final day of Sunday School Holy Trinity Sunday 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship -GR 10:45 AM Church Council - OCR	25 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	26 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11: AM FRC Zumbini 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - OCR	27 9:30 AM LSS Readiness Basketball - GR 3 PM FRC Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM FRC Kids in the Kitchen - GR 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal - S	28 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	29 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM FRC Parent Café - GR 11 AM FRC Family Connections - GR	30 10 AM FRC Zumbini - GR 11 AM FRC PlaySPOT - GR 12 PM FRC Family Connections/Birthday Celebration - GR



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 GR = Great Room
 S = Sanctuary
 OCR = Olsen Conference Room
 CCS = Concordia Charter School
 * Off-campus

2026

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	<p>1 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR</p>	<p>2 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11: AM FRC Zumbini 5:30-8:30 PM ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families)</p>	<p>3 9:30 AM LSS Readiness Basketball - GR 3 PM FRC Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM FRC Kids in the Kitchen - GR 6 PM Family VBS - GR, S, CCS</p>	<p>4 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard</p>	<p>5 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM FRC Parent Café - GR 11 AM FRC Family Connections - GR</p>	<p>6 10 AM FRC Zumbini - GR 11 AM FRC PlaySPOT - GR</p>
<p>7 2nd Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S First Family Singers practice 10:30 Fellowship—GR</p>	<p>8 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR</p>	<p>9 NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11: AM FRC Zumbini 11:30 AM Out to Lunch Bunch* 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR</p>	<p>10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 11:30 AM 1st PI Coordinating Comm - OCR 9:30 AM LSS Readiness Basketball - GR 3 PM FRC Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM FRC Kids in the Kitchen - GR 5-7 PM LSS-SW Food Pantry - Courtyard 6 PM Family VBS - GR, S, CCS</p>	<p>11 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard</p>	<p>12 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM FRC Parent Café - GR 11 AM FRC Family Connections - GR</p>	<p>13 10 AM FRC Zumbini - GR 11 AM FRC PlaySPOT - GR</p>
<p>14 3rd Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR</p>	<p>15 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR</p>	<p>16 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11: AM FRC Zumbini 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR</p>	<p>17 9:30 AM LSS Readiness Basketball - GR 3 PM FRC Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM FRC Kids in the Kitchen - GR 5-7 PM LSS-SW Food Pantry - Courtyard 5 PM FRC Family Connections 6 PM Family VBS - GR, S, CCS</p>	<p>18 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard</p>	<p>19 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM FRC Parent Café - GR 10 AM Flourishing Families - GR 11 AM FRC Family Connections - GR</p>	<p>20 10 AM FRC Zumbini - GR 11 AM FRC PlaySPOT - GR 12 PM FRC Family Connections/Birthday Celebration - GR</p>
<p>21 4th Sunday in Pentecost Father's Day 9:30 FELC Worship—S First Family Singers practice 10:30 Fellowship—GR 10:45 AM Church Council - OCR</p>	<p>22 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR</p>	<p>23 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11: AM FRC Zumbini 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR</p>	<p>24 9:30 AM LSS Readiness Basketball - GR 3 PM FRC Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM FRC Kids in the Kitchen - GR 6 PM Family VBS - GR, S, CCS</p>	<p>25 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard</p>	<p>26 OFFICE CLOSED 10 AM FRC Parent Café - GR 11 AM FRC Family Connections - GR</p>	<p>27 10 AM FRC Zumbini - GR 11 AM FRC PlaySPOT - GR</p>
<p>28 5th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC/VBS Worship—S Barbeque</p>	<p>29 DEADLINE: BULLETIN 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR</p>	<p>30 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM FRC Messy Play—GR 11: AM FRC Zumbini 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR</p>				