



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

**Mission Moments**  
September-October 2024  
**Volume 19 Issue 9-10**

## ***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 bi-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.

## **Fall is Coming**

***Isaiah 40:8 - "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."***

Fall, a season that reminds us of endings and beginnings. Once thriving leaves now drop from their branches bursting with color but dying. Beautiful summer flowers are going into hibernation and colder temperatures (*we hope*) are ahead of us as long days full of sunshine move out. Change is happening; it happens in our homes, churches, and our personal lives.

Fall reminds us that the flow of God's creation is never ending. We are caught between summer and winter in the uniqueness of autumn. Though the season brings many endings, there is the joy with fabulous scents and colors of orange, yellow, and red; we know it is the end of summer and the start of a new season.

As we enjoy the changes of fall, let it remind us of a vital truth. I believe God intends for us to see the seasons as a reminder that no season comes that stops God's Word. God's good news is here through every change, through every heart break, through every earth-shattering event; through death itself, the Word of God stands! So may this fall season bring hope and new beginnings to your faith journey.

Pastor Luis Ochoa



**Monday, September 2**





**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

**Phone: (480) 969-7221**

**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>**



**Choir rehearsal begins**

**September 4, 6:30 PM  
 in the Sanctuary.**

**Snacks will be provided.**



**Do you need a nametag?  
 Or does yours need updating?  
 There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex!**

# God's work. Our hands.



September 8, 2024

9 AM worship

10 AM - Noon

## SERVICE PROJECTS

There are many projects for you to choose from.:

1. Cookie decorating for first responders.
2. Signing cards for our first responders.
3. Cupboard clean up - cleaning and organizing the cupboards in the Great Room kitchen.
4. Homeless Youth Connection - we are collecting school supplies and undergarments. If you have any school supplies or new undergarments, please bring them and Rhonda will get them to the Homeless Youth Connection.
5. Concordia Charter School will have a few projects for us.
6. Visiting our members who are no longer able to come to church.

Don't forget to sign up to bring something for the noon potluck lunch  
after our fun day of service for God.

Noon POTLUCK

**The sign up sheet is on the office door**

## Council Meeting Minutes for August 18, 2024

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

**Absent:** None

### Opening Prayer

Sarah called the meeting to order at 11:09 AM. Pastor Luis opened the meeting with prayer.

### B. Review and Approval of Council Minutes for June 23, 2024

Kathleen moved to approve the minutes of the June meeting as recorded; Rhonda seconded. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

### C. Review and Approval of Reports

1. Treasurer's Report - report submitted
2. Pastor's Report - report submitted
3. President's Report - none this month
4. Approval of Reports: Ellen moved to accept reports as given; Sharon seconded.

Council unanimously approved the reports.

### D. Old Business

Grants: creating a plan of what grants are needed for  
Property Repair List –

lights in kitchenette - requires electrician

paint for Great Room – here

trees in courtyard - receiving quote to remove

AC issue - trying to get repair scheduled

Mission Site Profile (MSP) - began to work on it.

RIC - finish survey, congregational approval needed at Annual Meeting

Other old business - none

### E. New Business

Council Retreat - At FELC Sept. 7, 2024, 12-3 PM

Other new business - procedure for badges - who needs them, update Council member badges

### F. Adjournment and Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Rhonda moved that meeting be adjourned; Sharon seconded. Council unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

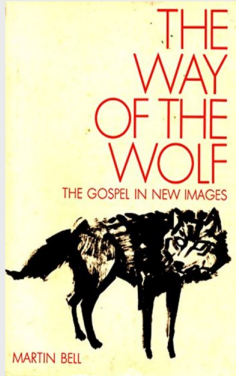
**Next Month's Meeting:** Council Retreat/Council Meeting September 7 from 12-3 PM and if needed, September 15 for Council Meeting.

#### MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 7/31/24	Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Actual 2023	Budget 2023
Offerings	\$70,371	\$66,419	\$74,549	66,417
Other Income	\$59,466.	\$57,456	\$50,831	\$44,331
Total Income	\$129,837	\$123,875	\$125,380	\$110,748
Expenses	\$122,615	\$124,045	\$96,912	\$105,154
Inc. Less Exp.	\$7,222	\$-170	\$28,468	\$5,593







## Join the Monday 8AM ZOOM Book Club Mondays at 8AM

We're beginning a NEW Book Study  
*The Way of the Wolf, The Gospel in New Images*  
by Martin Bell

We discuss 1-3 chapters per week

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83814362438?pwd=Qk4zYjhWbWJ5OE1yMFZ5SnR3RTdlUT09>  
Meeting ID: 838 1436 2438 Passcode: 132468

Contact the church office if you want more info  
or to get on the email reminder list with ZOOM link.



## Spanish Bible Study followed by Fellowship

Mondays 6 PM  
Conference Room.




Pastor Bernie leads studies  
Wednesday mornings at 7:30 AM


### Join Zoom Meeting

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

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



**TheALEogy**



Join us!

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



# INTERNATIONAL *Pot Luck*

Savor Every Moment and Indulge in  
Flavorful Creations!

All are invited to bring a dish to share or  
enjoy the catered international foods from  
restaurants in our community.

### SHARE DISHES:

- Savory Meals
- Family Secret Recipes
- Sweet Desserts
- Food from Different Cultures

Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 6 pm

In the gymnasium at Concordia Charter School





First Place

Halloween

# TRUNK OR TREAT

THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER

31

AT 7:00PM

NORTH PARKING LOT OF  
FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



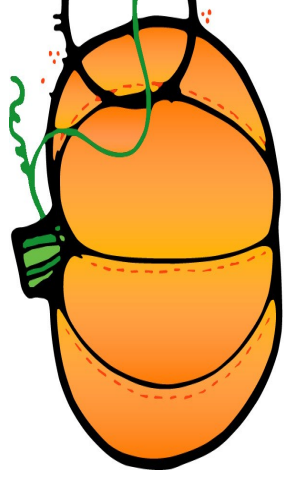
We need you and your trunk to  
make this night a success!

Can't come with your trunk? We  
also need donations of candy!  
Bring to church or drop at the office.

# SEPTEMBER 2024

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> 15th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	<b>2</b> Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	<b>3</b> DEADLINE: BULLETIN 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 6:30-8:30 PM ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families) - GR	<b>4</b> 7:30 AM Zoom Bible Study 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 6:30 Choir Rehearsal - S	<b>5</b> OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	<b>6</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Infant Massage - GR 11:45 AM LSS Parent Café - GR	<b>7</b> 10 AM LSS Zumbini 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR 12-3 PM Council Retreat - OCR 1-HELP - Great Room
<b>8</b> 16th Sunday in Pentecost God's Work, Our Hands. 9 AM FELC Worship—S 10 AM Work Projects- GR Potluck - GR	<b>9</b> DEADLINE: BULLETIN 8 AM ZOOM Book Club 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	<b>10</b> NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 10 AM Messy Play - GR 1 PM LSS Financial Literacy Class - OCR 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	<b>11</b> 7:30 AM Zoom Bible Study 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	<b>12</b> OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM Mesa Migrant - Great Room 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	<b>13</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Infant Massage - GR 11:45 AM LSS Parent Café - GR	<b>14</b> 10 AM LSS Zumbini 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR
<b>15</b> 17th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR 11 AM Council Meeting (if needed) - OCR 12-1 PM Confirmation Orientation - HT	<b>16</b> DEADLINE: BULLETIN 8 AM ZOOM Book Club 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	<b>17</b> 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	<b>18</b> 7:30 AM Zoom Bible Study 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	<b>19</b> OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	<b>20</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Infant Massage - GR 11:45 AM LSS Parent Café - GR	<b>21</b> 10 AM LSS Zumbini 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR 12 PM LSS Milo & Moxi Fire Safety 1-HELP - Great Room
<b>22</b> 18th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	<b>23</b> DEADLINE: BULLETIN 8 AM ZOOM Book Club 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	<b>24</b> 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 6:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	<b>25</b> 7:30 AM Zoom Bible Study 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 6 PM 1st Place International Pot Luck - CCS 6:30 Choir Rehearsal - S	<b>26</b> OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	<b>27</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Infant Massage - GR 11:45 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM LSS Birthday Celebrations - GR	<b>28</b> 10 AM LSS Zumbini 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR
<b>29</b> 19th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	<b>30</b> DEADLINE: BULLETIN 8 AM ZOOM Book Club 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	FRC = Family Resource Center GR = Great Room S = Sanctuary OCR = Olsen Conference Room CCS = Concordia Charter School HT = Holy Trinity * Off-campus				





# GET TOGETHER 2024

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b> 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 5:30:30 PM ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families) - GR	<b>2</b> 7:30 AM Zoom Bible Study 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 6:30 Choir Rehearsal - S	<b>3</b> OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	<b>4</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM Infant Massage - GR	<b>5</b> 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR  I-HELP - Great Room
<b>6</b> 19th Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	<b>7</b> DEADLINE: BULLETIN 8 AM ZOOM Book Club  6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	<b>8</b> NO LSS-SW Food Pantry 10 AM Messy Play - GR 1-3 PM LSS Triple P4 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	<b>9</b> 7:30 AM Zoom Bible Study 11:30 AM 1st Pl 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	<b>10</b> OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 9 AM Mesa Migrant - Great Room	<b>11</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM Infant Massage - GR 3 PM LSS Financial Class - OCR	<b>12</b> 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR
<b>13</b> 21st Sunday in Pentecost 6 AM Youth serving Pancakes @ Grace Lutheran* 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR 11 AM Church Council - OCR	<b>14</b> DEADLINE: BULLETIN 8 AM ZOOM Book Club  6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	<b>15</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 1-3 PM LSS Triple P4 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	<b>16</b> 7:30 AM Zoom Bible Study 3 PM LSS Raising a Reader - GR 4 PM LSS Kids in the Kitchen - GR 6:30 Choir Rehearsal - S	<b>17</b> OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	<b>18</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM Infant Massage - GR	<b>19</b> 11 AM LSS PlaySPOT - GR 1 PM Montino wedding - S  I-HELP - Great Room
<b>20</b> 22st Sunday in Pentecost 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	<b>21</b> DEADLINE: BULLETIN 8 AM ZOOM Book Club  6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	<b>22</b> 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 1-3 PM LSS Triple P4 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	<b>23</b> 7:30 AM Zoom Bible Study 3 PM LSS' Milo & Moxie - GR 6:30 Choir Rehearsal - S	<b>24</b> OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard	<b>25</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM LSS Parent Café - GR 12 PM Infant Massage - GR	<b>26</b>  8 AM - 2 PM LSS October Fest - GR
<b>27</b> Reformation 9:30 FELC Worship—S 10:30 Fellowship—GR	<b>28</b> DEADLINE: BULLETIN 8 AM ZOOM Book Club 6 PM Spanish Bible Study - GR	<b>29</b> 9 AM LSS-SW Food Pantry- Courtyard 10 AM Messy Play - GR 1-3 PM LSS Triple P4 5:30-8:30 PM ACA - GR	<b>30</b> 7:30 AM Zoom Bible Study  6:30 Choir Rehearsal - S	<b>31</b>  6-8 PM Trunk or Treat - parking lot		