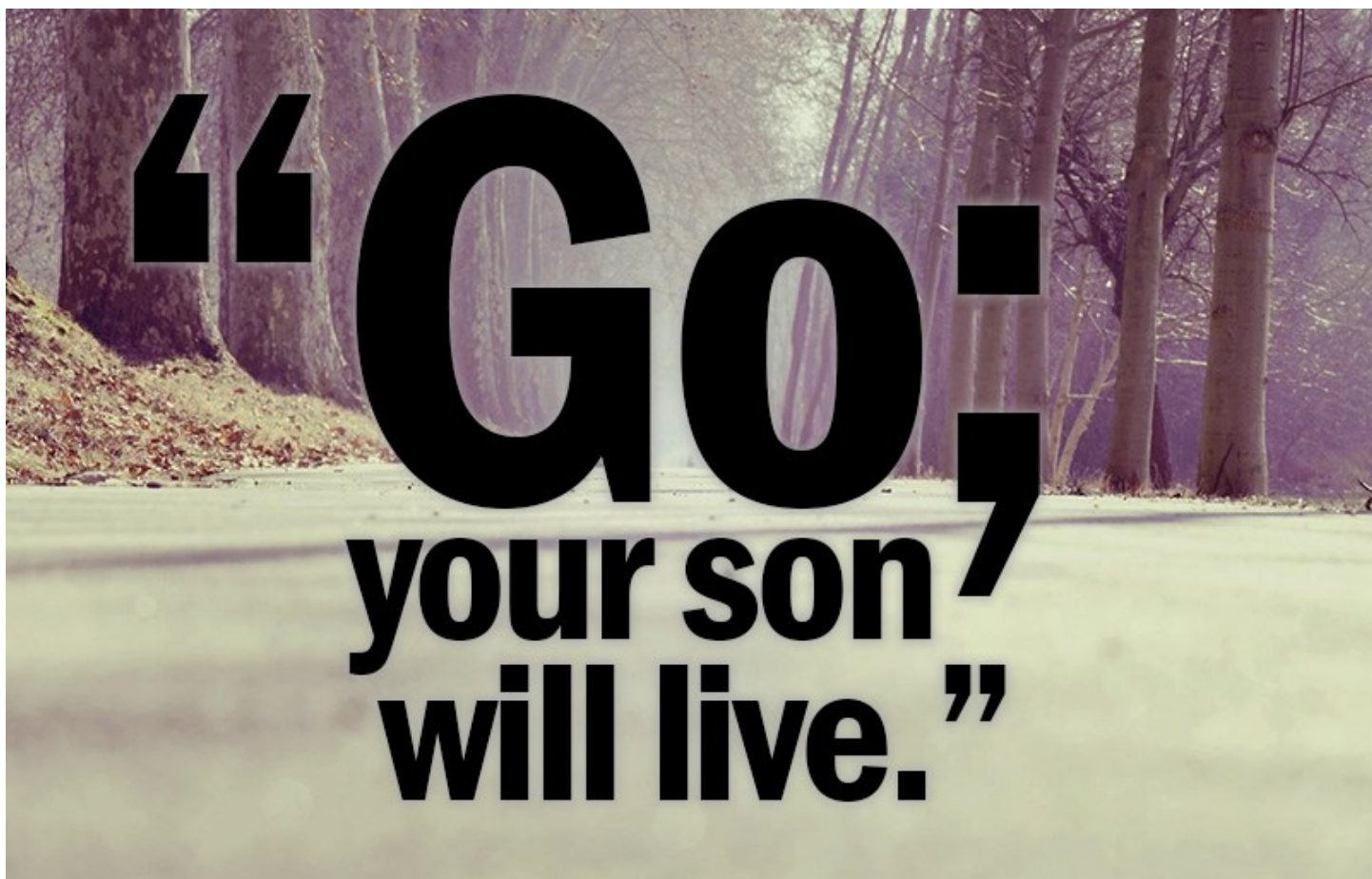


Sunday, July 21, 2024

9:30 AM

9th Sunday After Pentecost

Gathered to Worship!



**To join worship on YouTube,
use the link below:**

https://www.youtube.com/live/-w23vnM_KbI

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
142 North Date Street,
Mesa, AZ 85201
480-969-7221
felc@firstevlutheran.com

Pastor Luis Ochoa
Pastor Chris Stoxen
Pastor Bernie Carl
480-969-7221
Pastor@firstevlutheran.com

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



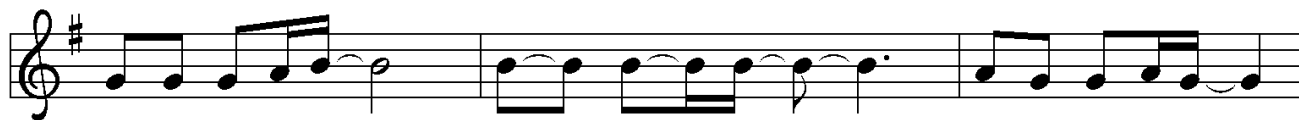
GATHERING SONG

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

ELW 860



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
 2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
 3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
 When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

GREETING

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.



CANTICLE OF PRAISE: THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



Refrain
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: The Lord be with you. **C:** **And also with you.**

A: O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

You may be seated.

WORD

FIRST LESSON Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 95

¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

² **Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**

³ For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

⁴ **In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.**

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

⁶ **Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;**

⁷ for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture,
 the flock under his care. Today, if only you would hear his voice,

⁸ **“Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,
 as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness,**

⁹ where your ancestors tested me;

they tried me, though they had seen what I did.

¹⁰ **For forty years I was angry with that generation;
 I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray,
 and they have not known my ways.’**

¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger,
 ‘They shall never enter my rest.’”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW page 188

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL John 4:46-54

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁶ Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

⁴⁸ “Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.”

⁴⁹ The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”

⁵⁰ “Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.”

The man took Jesus at his word and departed. ⁵¹ While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. ⁵² When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.”

⁵³ Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed.

⁵⁴ This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.*The assembly sits.***SERMON****Pastor Melinda Gapen***Please be seated.*

Hymn of the Day

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



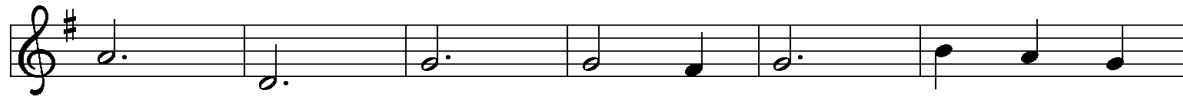
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

CHILDREN'S SERMON**APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land: Through the One who is the cornerstone of a firm foundation, join us together and build us up as a temple of mercy and peace. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the creation: Cause new trees to be planted. Restrain the melting of polar ice caps. Save land from destruction. Like a shepherd tends her sheep, raise up from among us caretakers of all you have made. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the leaders of nations and heads of tribes. Where peace seems far off, bring it near. Where justice seems fleeting, bring it to light. Where discord seems relentless, bring harmony. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the health and well-being of family, friends, and neighbors: Heal those who are sick especially those we name aloud or in our hearts. Give courage to all who struggle with addiction. Touch with your tender care all who reach out to you in pain. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly and for the faith communities, including ours, who were represented this week at the ELCA Youth Gathering: Nurture the faith of young people as they encounter new experiences and people. Break down dividing walls and inspire collaboration among people of every age. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for those who have died. Make us certain that in Christ we are no longer strangers and aliens but citizens with the saints in the household of God. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

A: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

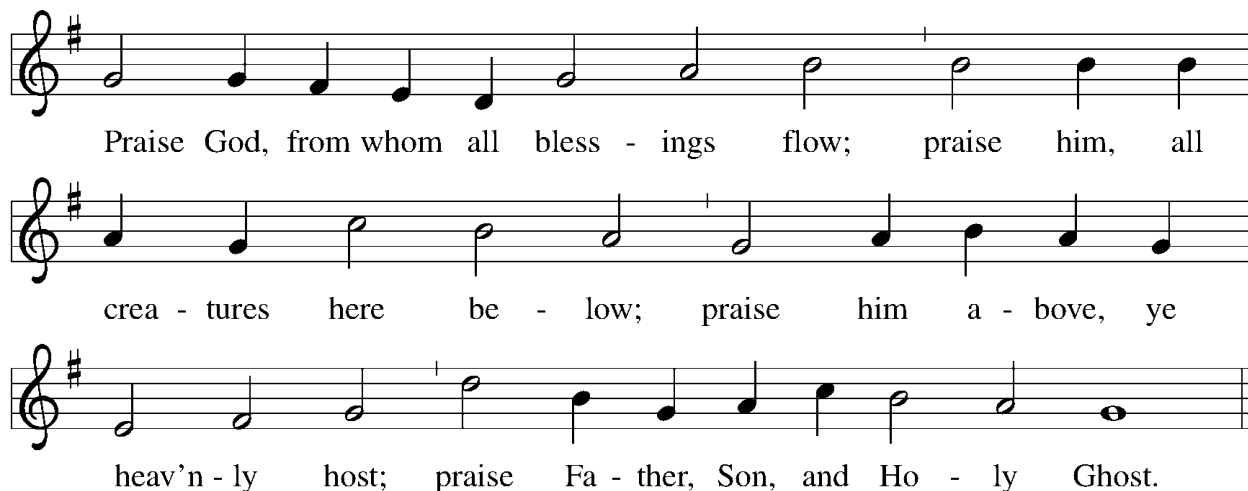
A: Let us share a sign of God's peace.



OFFERING

THE DOXOLOGY

ELW 884



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
 crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you:

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts:

C: We lift them to the Lord.


P: Give thanks to the Lord our God

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
 through our Savior Jesus Christ;
 who on this day overcame death and the grave,
 and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
 who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

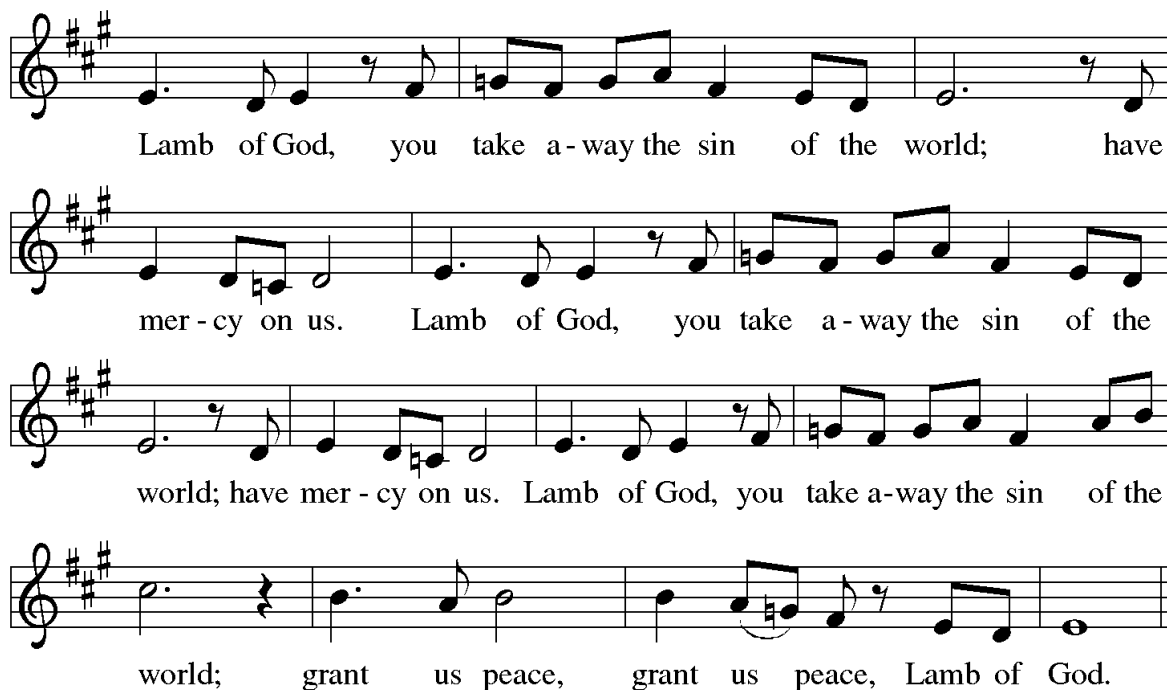
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The Gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

The assembly sits. We receive communion by kneeling at the altar; after receiving communion you may return to your seat.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

P: The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.



COMMUNION SONG

I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less you eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man and
 I am the life. If you be -
 you are the Christ, the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, you shall . . live for -
 drink of his blood, and drink of his
 lieve in me, e - ven . . though you
 Son of God, who have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world. . . .

Refrain
All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day."

Stand as you are able.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace.



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and may the blessing and peace of God be with you and the whole world. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

You Are Mine

ELW 581



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
 all will know my name. *To refrain*
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



Refrain
 Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine." *To stanzas 3 and 4*

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God!



Altar Servers

TODAY

Opening Prayer: Traci Laasch
 Assisting Minister: Don Johnson
 Lector: Diane Johnson
 Communion Asst: Ellen Riske
 Altar Guild: Ellen Riske

July 28

Opening Prayer: Don Johnson
 Assisting Minister: Corinne Cursi
 Lector: Evan Rogers
 Communion Asst: Kathleen Rogers
 Altar Guild: Kathleen Rogers



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 in the 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

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!”

Current 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.”

Staff Absences

Pastor Luis and Kathleen are back this week!

July 16-27 Joy vacation



Hymns on Tap
 Summer Edition July
 22nd at 6pm
 Fibber McGees

God's work. Our hands.



September 8, 2024

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.

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.



Pastor Bernie leads studies
Wednesday mornings at 7:30 AM

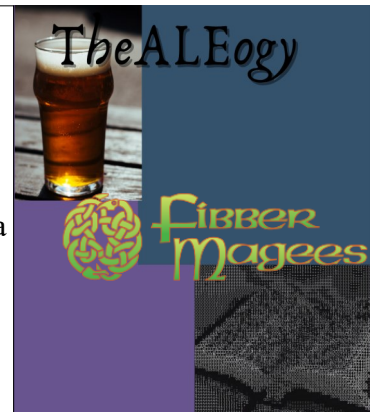
Join Zoom Meeting

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

Join us!

1989 W Elliot Rd, Chandler
85224

on Mondays at 6:30 PM for a
beverage and rousing
discussion of
current social issues.



**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!

Monday Morning 8AM ZOOM Book Club

Begins a NEW Book Study on Monday, 7/22
The Way of the Wolf, The Gospel in New Images
by Martin Bell

We read (or listen to) 1-3 Chapters per week

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83814362438?pwd=Qk4zYjhiWnJ5OE1yMFZ5SnR3RTdjUT09>

Meeting ID: 838 1436 2438 Passcode: 132468

Holy Trinity

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

**THE WAY
OF THE
WOLF**
The Gospel in New Images



Stories, poems, songs, and
thoughts on the parables of Jesus

MARTIN BELL