

Sunday, July 28, 2024

9:30 AM

10th Sunday After Pentecost

Gathered to Worship!



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

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Dhshi2qAVLQ>

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.**



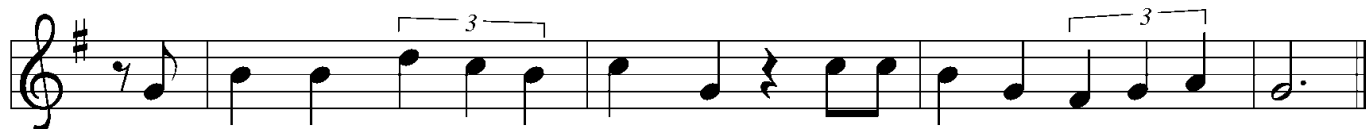
GATHERING SONG

He Came Down

ELW 253



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

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: Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

You may be seated.

WORD

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness

from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 96

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

² **Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.**

³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.**

⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

⁶ **Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.**

⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

¹² **Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;**

let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

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 Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)³ And everyone went to their own town to register.⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly sits.

SERMON

Pastor Luis Ochoa

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day

Soon and Very Soon

ELW 439



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

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.

God of generations, you work in us far more than we can ask or imagine. Bless the church you have called into being across time and space and fill it with the power of the Spirit for loving service. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of field and forest, streams and seas, you are the fullness of all things. As grains of wheat grow upon the earth and fish swim in the waters, sustain your creation. Protect harvests and give every person food in due season. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God beyond borders, you rule all in all. Bless the work of humanitarians and peacekeepers, shield those who live, work, or serve in harm's way, and bring an end to war and conflict. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of healing, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We remember any who are sick or suffering, especially those we name aloud or in our hearts, families in our community who endure hunger, those who seek asylum or citizenship, and our beloved for whom death is near. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of grace, you root us and ground us in love. As you inspired our ancestors in this place in their ministry, sustain us also in new endeavors, that your glory may be made known, and your lovingkindness shared anew. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all, your love in Christ surpasses all knowledge. We give thanks for the departed who have come to know the fullness of your grace. Join our voices with theirs and all the saints in singing your praises. 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.

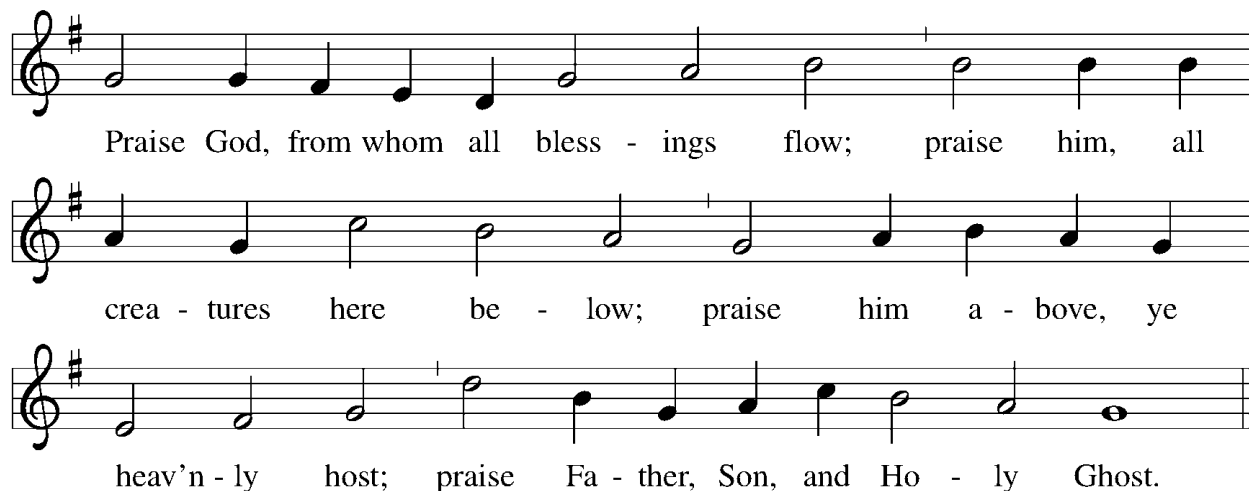
C: And also with you.

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.

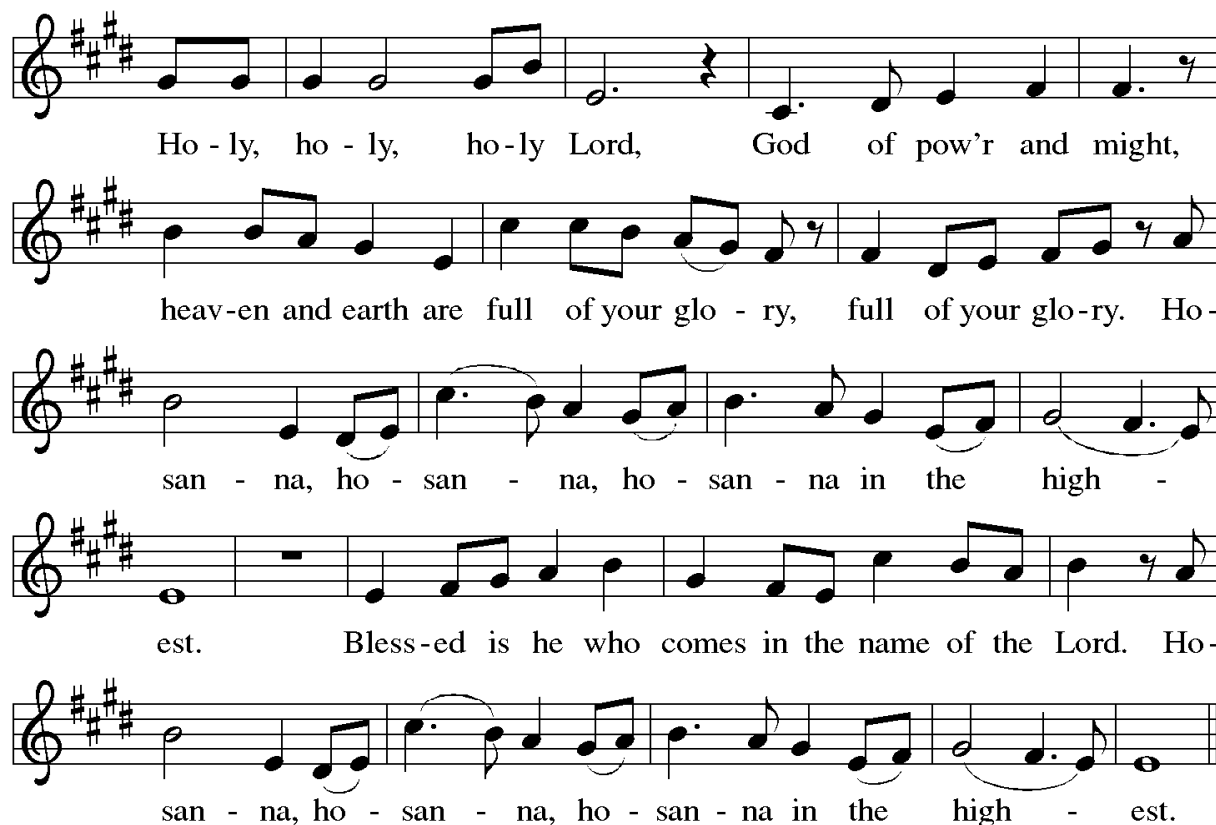
P: Give thanks to the Lord our God

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.**

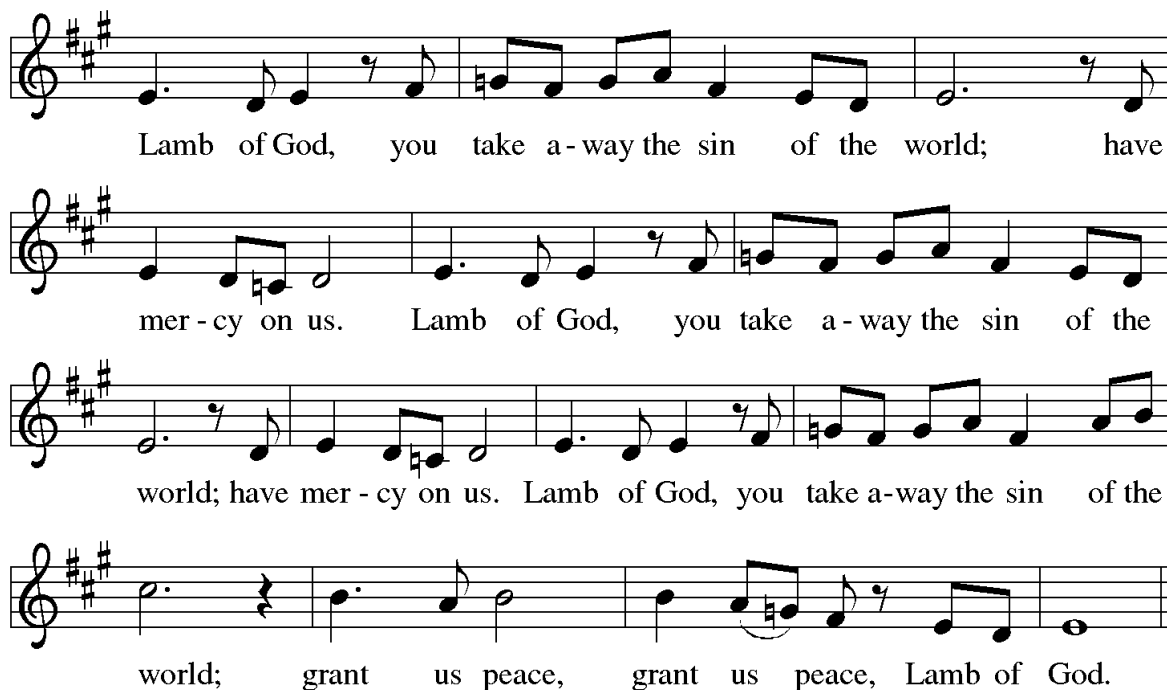
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1	Gen - tile	or	Jew,	ser - vant	or	free,
2	Man - y	the	gifts,	man - y	the	works,
3	Grain for	the	fields,	scat-tered	and	grown,



Refrain

wom - an	or	man,	no	more.	
one	in	the	Lord	of	all.
gath - ered	to	one	for	all.	

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

Joy to the World

ELW 267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God!**





Altar Servers

TODAY

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

August 4

Opening Prayer: Evan Rogers
 Assisting Minister: Ellen Riske
 Lector: Corinne Cursi
 Communion Asst: Rick & Barbie Luxem
 Altar Guild: Rick & Barbie Luxem



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.”

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 / 480-980-0397

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



Pastor Bernie leads studies
Wednesday mornings at 7:30 AM

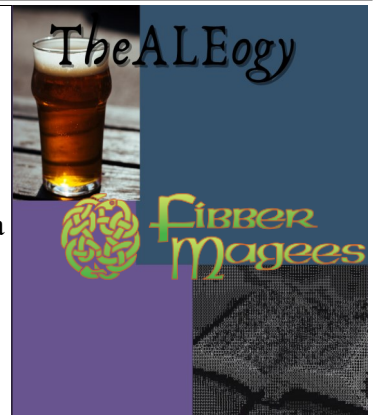
Join Zoom Meeting

<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.



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.



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

Sponsored by

Grand Canyon Synod Growing in Faith: Diakonia Program

Saturdays, August 3rd, 10th, 17th, 2024

9am-12noon MST via Zoom

\$35/student

Have you ever asked yourself:

What does God want of me?

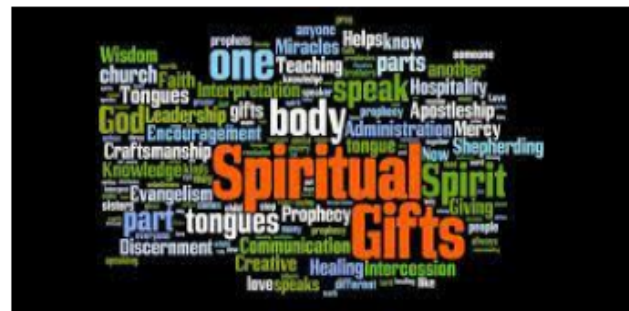
What kind of ministry is God calling me
to?

How am I to serve God?

Do I have a spiritual gift?

What is it?

How am I to use it?



To help answer these questions, consider attending “*Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts*”,
brought to you by the **Growing In Faith: Diakonia Program in Arizona**.

For more information and to obtain registration information,
check your July/August FELC newsletter.