



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

142 North Date Street Mesa, Arizona 85201

Mission Moments

August 2022
Volume 17 Issue 8

Celebrating Seventy-four 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 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.

"But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart is joyful because of your saving help. I will sing to the Lord who has dealt with me richly."
Psalm 13: 5-6

The scriptures were not given to us for the good times so much as for the times when we struggle. There seems to be so much anxiety right now. We are just coming out of a pandemic (or more precisely learning to live with a pandemic) and inflation and economic uncertainty make us worry.

One of the things I like in the scripture is the way that the writers will point to times past when God had been there for them and help God's people to remember God's faithfulness in that way.

We don't have to be limited by examples in the scripture to bolster our faith. We can see examples all around us from our own personal history of how God has been there for us.

We can also look to the history of this congregation of the times when God has been here for us, gathering us together and supporting us. I have not been here that long, but I can point to how God kept us together during the time when we could not gather. I am sure that those of you who have been here for any length of time have many more stories of how God was there during tough times or during transitions to hold you together as the people of God in this place.

We are facing a transition now and so what might be helpful is if we wrote our own psalms. Psalms are always honest about the difficulties and fears we face but then turn and remember how in other difficult and scary times God has been with us.

I think I am going to start writing psalms. In them I will include not only personal supplication, but also prayers for all the people at First as you move forward.

Here is my first one:

Lord, you who held us together when we could not see that we would ever be gathered together again, be with us now as we are not sure where we are going, but know that you are going ahead of us.



Pastor Dana



OFFICE HOURS

Mondays through Wednesdays:
8:30AM-2:30PM

Staff

Dana Reardon, Pastor
Joy Petroff, Admin. Secretary

Congregational Officers

Sarah Shaw, President
Rhonda Schmidt, Vice President
Kathleen Rogers, Treasurer

Congregational Council

Corrine Cursi	Evan Rogers
Annmarie Dyslin	Kathleen Rogers
Diane Johnson	Connar Schmidt
Ellen Riske	Rhonda Schmidt

Contact Us

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Change for Change Offering

on August 28 will support
ELCA World Hunger



Sundays at 9:30 AM in the sanctuary or on Zoom

To join Zoom Worship

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89382528280?pwd=QURCdmlRY0dmdDNQYWgrQXpmNkl6QT09>

Meeting ID: 893 8252 8280

Passcode: bible

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

75th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, October 22, 2023



zoom
Bible Studies

Wednesdays

4 PM MST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4129065370?pwd=L3N6WU00ZzZ6K3l0V0RLWXFxUUViQT09>

A Cup of Generosity

Pastor Dana Karen Reardon

I read an article the other day that suggested that generosity is an early sign of Alzheimer's. My first reaction was to laugh, because I have often told people that God has early Alzheimer's. I say that because it tells us in the psalms that God not only forgives our sins, but also forgets them. That is one way that God is generous to us. And that is a good thing.

After I stopped laughing however, I decided that this is something I should think about seriously. It is true that when people begin to have memory deficits, they often change their usual patterns and are susceptible to being taken in by people who prey on their confusion.

And while generosity should always be a part of how we operate, being good stewards of what God has given us means thoughtful careful generosity.

I want to invite everyone of every age to be thoughtful and prayerful about how we use and share what God has given us. If we are intentional about this, we will have an idea about where it is good to give and where it is foolish and even dangerous to give. As Jesus taught us, "Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil."



Thinking and planning and praying about it now while we can think clearly may help keep us from being taken in and being robbed of what we have and therefore our ability to share what we have where God would have us share.

I often lift up LSS and LWR and LDR and LIRS because I know that what we give will be used well and that a high percentage of what we give actually goes to helping. God may touch your hearts to help people in other ways and through other organizations and that is good but check them out. Ask for advice and prayerfully take it.

Knowing that generosity can be an early sign of dementia is not the same as saying that everyone who is generous has dementia. Establish your generosity on God's generosity and give graciously where you are sure that God people can be helped the most.

**50th Celebrating Your Special
Anniversary of Ordination**



Hello Members of Shepherd of the Hills and First Lutheran!

I would like to announce that Pastor John Schaumburg will be celebrating 50 years of ministry on September 2, 2022.

If he made an impact on your life and you would like to help me celebrate this dedicated pastor, I encourage you to send a card or letter to the following address:

Rev. John Schaumburg % Amy Schaumburg 6610 E. University Dr. Unit 176 Mesa, AZ 85205

I will collect these letters and present them to him all together as a surprise on September 2nd. Thank you!

Sincerely, Amy Schaumburg

Council Meeting Minutes - July 17, 2022

Present: Pr. Dana, Corinne Cursi, Annemarie Dyslin, Diane Johnson, Ellen Riske, Evan Rogers, Kathleen Rogers, Connor Schmidt, Sarah Shaw

Guest: Pr. Chris from Holy Trinity

Absent: Rhonda Schmidt

A. Opening Devotions/Prayer: Pr. Dana opened the meeting with prayer at 10:36 AM

B. Review and Approval of Council Minutes for June 19, 2022

Kathleen moved to accept the June minutes. Connor seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Reports

1. Treasurer's Report: Kathleen reports that for the month of June expenses exceeded income. This was due to the quarterly AC maintenance fee and the expense of repairing a sprinkler water leak. We are mostly on target with our budget. There is not a lot of activity in our designated accounts. There were a few gifts donated for the youth. There was nothing new in vendor reports.

2. Pastor Dana's Report: Pr. Dana reports that she will do a blessing for the first day of school at Concordia tomorrow. She received an email from Door Dash that they will make deliveries for non-profit organizations. This may be helpful for the food pantry. She is signed up for an informational meeting with Door Dash. She will also share the information with LSS.

3. President's Report: Sarah reports that the letter for the upcoming meeting congregational town hall was sent to all members. She hasn't received any feedback from members yet. If anyone on council receives feedback, please share with her and the rest of the council.

4. Report on Youth: Connor reports the Youth Retreat in California was very successful. The youth stayed in a local church and went to a farm for service projects which included weeding, planting, and helping with the farm animals.

Upcoming youth events:

July 24, 2022 - "Stockholder" report by the youth on the retreat

July 31 - Ice skating

5. Approval of Reports: Ellen moved that all reports are accepted as given; Connor seconded. Council unanimously approved the reports.

D. Old Business

1. Church Constitution: No update

2. Mural: No update

3. COVID-19: Pr. Dana will continue to check the CDC report for Maricopa County. She sends out a weekly email regarding mask wearing during service. If numbers increase, she will decide if communion is "walk-through" again and announce during the service. Connor suggests that Zoom members that are Sunday readers be shown on the large screen in the sanctuary. Council agrees and Sarah will update the system to allow that.

4. Post 'Interim' Brainstorm: Sharing a pastor, updated MSP, 3 models available for partnership with other congregations presented by Pastor Miguel, current contract through Sept 2022, partnering with Holy Trinity to start October 1 if approved by congregation on July 31, work to start overlap and partnering, how we can work together through September for smooth transition.

5. 2022 Goal for Visioning Strategy: Action to Invite 100 - pledge cards, membership roll, flyers on car windows or to pass when inviting, postcards. Diane will complete a list of apartment complexes near FELC and send to Kathleen. Kathleen will call the apartment complexes to see if they will include an FELC postcard in the rental informational packets.

6. FELC 75th Anniversary: Scheduled October 23, 2023.

7. Roof Repair: Kathleen reports that until the endowment committee can get funds, we should wait to move forward. Sarah will have Richard address this when he returns from vacation. Ellen will contact Thrivent for the forms.

8. Anchor with Holy Trinity MOU: Pr. Chris attended the council meeting and states that Holy Trinity is excited about partnering with FELC. They feel it will be mutually beneficial. She will not be able to attend the town meeting at FELC on July 24, but may be able to have Pr. Bernie or Luis attend. Any FELC members that have questions can contact FELC council.

9. Other Old Business: None

E. New Business

1. God's Work Our Hands Sunday Sept 11: Pr. Chris is happy to partner with FELC for God's Work Our Hands" service projects on September 11. Ellen will contact Pr. Chris for information regarding projects each church is planning for that date. Holy Trinity is currently planning to assist Concordia with their garden and putting together supply packages for other people in need in other areas of the state. Ideas for FELC service projects are welcomed. One idea is to clean out the FELC food bank. Connor will assist with an online sign-up list.

2. Other New Business:

A. Annemarie states that LSS would like to use the gift shop as an additional workspace. Kathleen will contact LSS and Joy and determine a reasonable cost to rent the space. Ellen will assist as needed.

B. Annemarie reports that there is a new lock on the south door in the Great Room and no handle on the inside of the door. Per Kathleen, that door should not be opened except in an emergency, but she will check on a handle. Joy has two copies of the key to the door and they will only be available through the office.

F. Adjournment and Closing with the Lord's Prayer at 11:39 PM: Connor moved to adjourn and Annemarie seconded.

Upcoming Meetings:

- July 24 2022: Town Hall meeting regarding partnership with Holy Trinity
- July 31, 2022: Congregational meeting to vote on partnership with Holy Trinity



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 6/30/22	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	Actual 2021	Budget 2021
Offerings	\$72,434	\$57,000	\$66,198	\$58,750
Other Income	\$37,998	\$37,998	\$36,739	\$34,998
Total Income	\$110,432	\$94,998	\$102,937	\$93,748
Expenses	\$95,620	\$93,594	\$91,506	\$93,925
Inc. Less Exp.	\$14,812	\$1,404	\$11,431	\$-177



First Lutheran/Holy Trinity Partnership

On Sunday, July 31, members of First Lutheran voted to enter into partnership with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Chandler.

A transition will begin September 1.

Holy Trinity will be providing worship leadership, pastoral care, stewardship programming, as well as continuing our joint youth programming. We will be working together in outreach activities such as God's Work /Our Hands Day of Service.

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding is available for anyone who desires to know the specifics of the partnership. Contact the FELC office to have one sent.

The church council is available to answer any question you may have.

Let us welcome this opportunity to grow into the future God has prepared for us!



Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts Retreat

Sponsored by
Grand Canyon Synod Growing in Faith: The Diakonia Program
August 6, 13, and 20, 2022
9AM-12noon via Zoom

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?

Perhaps you have asked yourself these questions.

To help you answer them we are sponsoring a retreat called Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts. Through a series of exercises and conversations you will be guided in a process of discernment about your gifts. By the end of the retreat you should know the gifts God has given you and begin to understand how God wants you to use them.

Our retreat leader is Rev. Stewart McDonald. A long-time Diakonia instructor, he is leader of the courses in the Tucson and Grand Canyon Synod Online cohorts: Images of the Church in the Bible and Beyond; and Daily Life of a Christian. He has led this Spiritual Gifts retreat a number of times. Participants have found this process to be very enlightening and practical as part of their faith development journey.

So come join us on this adventure of discernment and answer the questions you have been asking yourself. All are welcome!

Register at <https://www.diakonia.education> >Home Page >Events/Retreats

Zoom Link will be provided

Questions - Contact: Kim@diakonia.education

