

Sunday, October 22, 2023

9:30 AM



Worship Book & Program

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxfrBg2q8WQ>

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

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

PRELUDE

Jose Salazar

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Chris Stoxen

OPENING PRAYER

Laura O'Connell

*Please stand as you are able.***GATHERING**

Bishop Deborah K. Hutterer

P In the name of the Father, and the Son ✠, and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Through the grace of the one who created, who redeemed, who sustains -- we gather today to celebrate our past, embrace our present, and engage in our future.

C **Thanks be to God.**

You, God, have gathered us in: Where earth and heaven embrace, where the past, present, and future come together, where new and old are renewed and cared for, where familiar and unfamiliar join as your family.

C **God, you are good to us.**

P You, God, have gathered us in: Where prayers have been raised, peace has been shared, the gifts of Communion have been received, baptisms celebrated, your love and compassion has been made known.

C **God, you are good to us.**

P You, God, have gathered us in: Even if we feel strange because this place and those around us are unknown; if we are tired and worn by life and concerns; if we are uncertain because we do not know what is before us; if we think we do no need or are beyond your grace.

C **God, you are good to us.**

P Bless those who have gone before; show your wisdom in those we will meet; rest your peace on our hearts and minds; plant your will within our deepest desires, so as we go forward, may we say through your grace,

C **God, you are good to us. Amen**



GATHERING SONG

Gather Us In

ELW 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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GREETING

Rev. Luis Ochoa

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

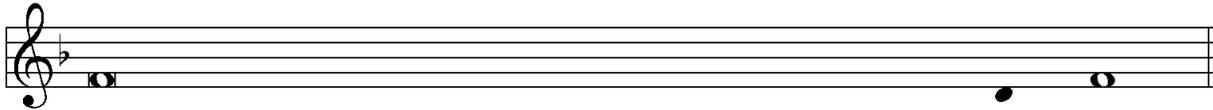
And also with you.

KYRIE

Jim Craig



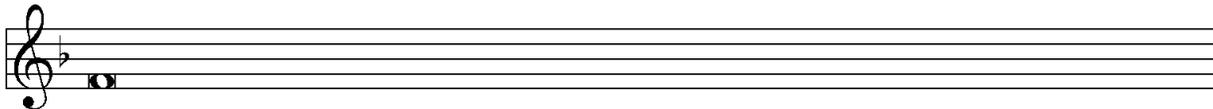
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



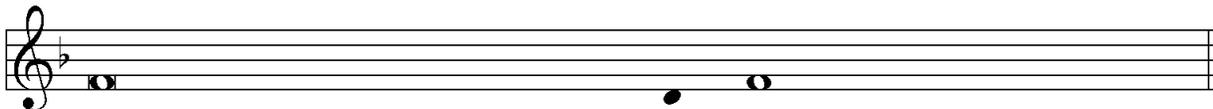
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



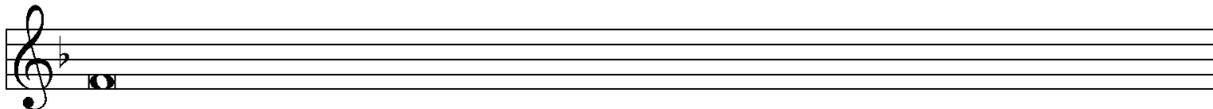
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



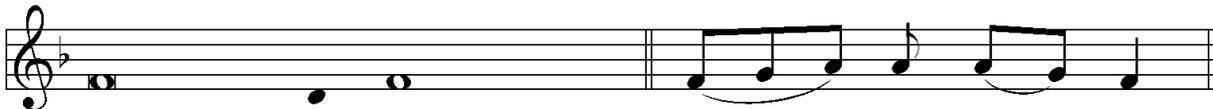
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

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



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

Rev. Luis Ochoa

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.....

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

You may be seated.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Corinne Cursi

1 John 5:4-10

⁴For whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. ⁷There are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree. ⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW page 188

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.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

Rev. John Schaumburg

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

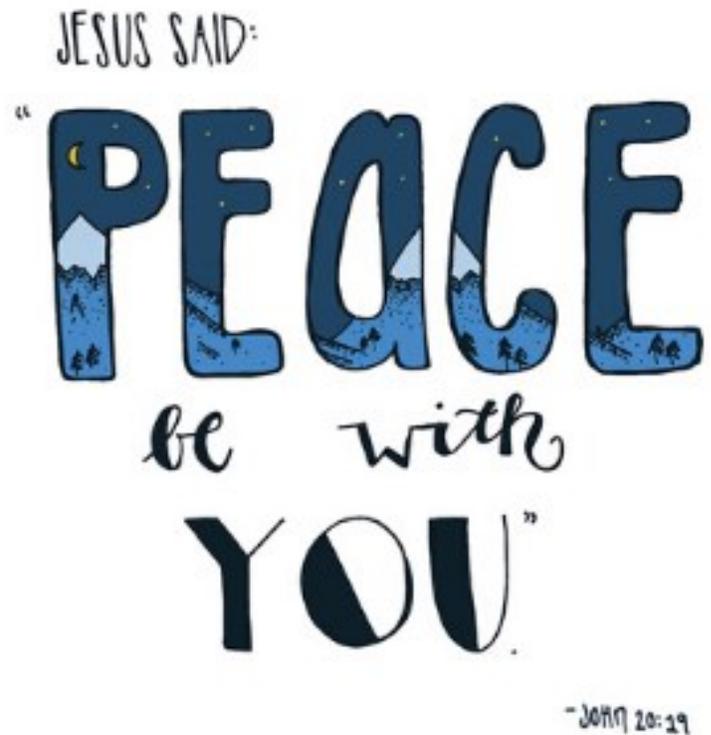
³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated.

SERMON



Rev. John Schaumburg
Pastor of First Evangelical Lutheran 1999-2012

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Are Welcome

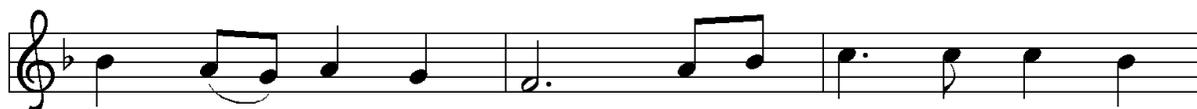
ELW 641



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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APOSTLE'S CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

Rev. Luis Ochoa

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 THE PEOPLE

-Rev. Chris Stoxen, Sharon Shields, Ellen Riske, Diane Johnson

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants (*especially*). Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering (*especially*). Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

Diane Johnson

And also with you.

Let us share a sign of God's peace.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Chris Stoxen

OFFERING

ANTHEM

Bell Choir

OFFERING SONG

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 884

The musical notation consists of three staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is written in treble clef. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost." The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a final double bar line.

OFFERING PRAYER

Sharon Shields

Let us pray.

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

Bishop Deborah K. Hutterer

The Lord be with you:

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts:

We lift them to the Lord.

Give thanks to the Lord our God:

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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

P: Let us lift our voices as we sing the Lord's Prayer.

Our - Fa - ther who art in hea - ven ha - llo - w be - thy name
King - dom come - Thy will be done - on earth as it is - in hea -

ven thy Give us this day - our dai - ly bread and for - give us

our tres - pas - ses as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst - - us - -

- And lead us not in - to - temp ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from all -

- e - vil for Thine is the king - dom and the po - wer and the glo - ry for - ever - - A - -

men A - - - - - men A - - - - -

men

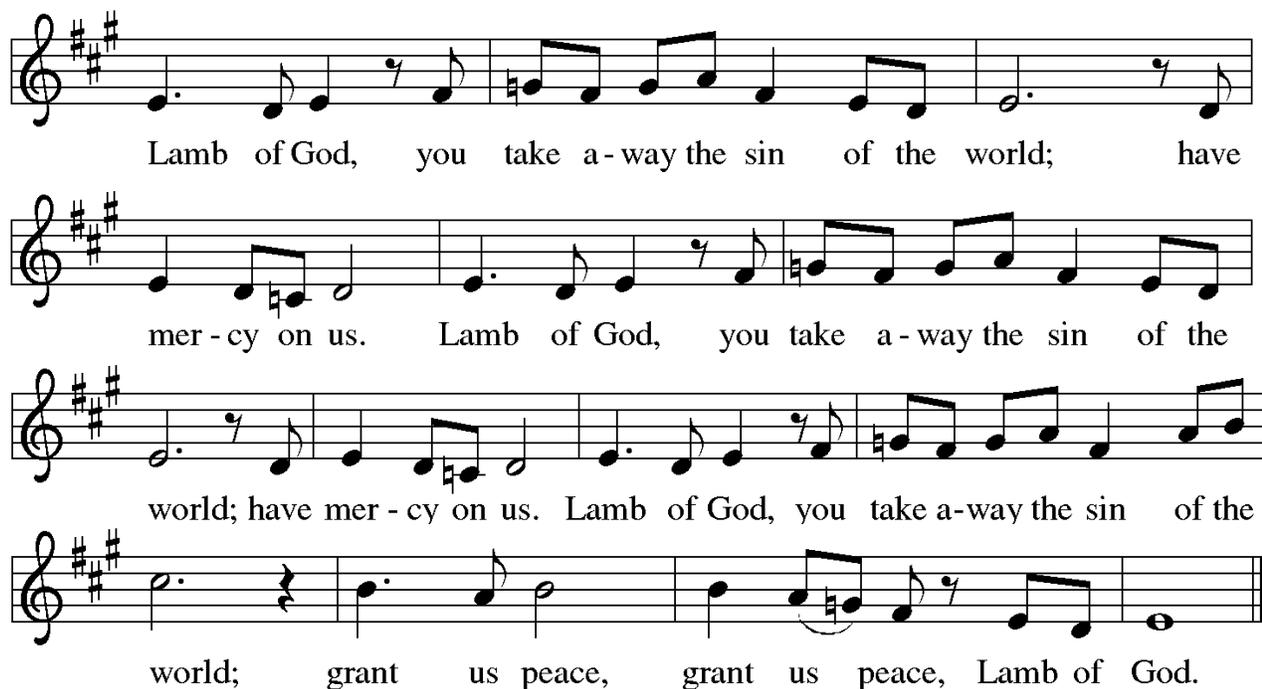
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly sits. We receive communion at stations; after receiving communion you may return to your seat.

LAMB OF GOD



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.

ANTHEM

A Mighty Fortress

Bell Choir

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.



COMMUNION SONG

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual



COMMUNION SONG

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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*Stand as you are able.***BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Traci Laasch

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Bishop Deborah K. Hutterer

God go before you to guide you. God go behind you to protect you. God go beneath you to support you. God go beside you to befriend you. Be not afraid. Let the blessing of Almighty God + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit descend upon you, settle in around you and makes its home in you. Be not afraid. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Dear Christians, One and All

LBW 299



1 Dear Chris - tians, one and all, re - jice, with ex - ul -
 2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay, death brood - ed
 3 My own good works all came to naught, no grace or
 4 But God had seen my wretch - ed state be - fore the



ta - tion spring - ing, and, with u - nit - ed
 dark - ly o'er me, sin was my tor - ment
 mer - it gain - ing; free will a - gainst God's
 world's foun - da - tion, and, mind - ful of his



heart and voice and ho - ly rap - ture sing - ing,
 night and day; in sin my moth - er bore me.
 judg - ment fought, dead to all good re - main - ing.
 mer - cies great, he planned for my sal - va - tion.



pro - claim the won - ders God has done, how his right
 But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; my life be -
 My fears in - creased till sheer de - spair left on - ly
 He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; he did not



arm the vic - t'ry won, what price our ran - som cost him!
 came a liv - ing hell, so firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
 death to be my share; the pangs of hell I suf - fered.
 choose the eas - y part, but gave his dear - est trea - sure.

DISMISSAL

A: Following the worship service we will gather in The Close Garden for a Service of Remembrance.*

Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE MUSIC

*For those who do not wish to attend this service, the history books are on display in the Great Room. Enjoy fellowship and coffee! Commemorative mugs will be available.



Grand Canyon Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

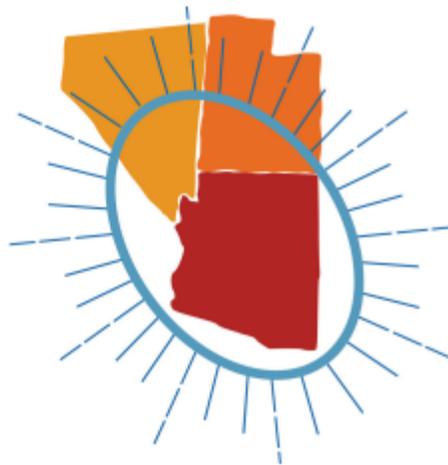
**Today we welcome
Rev. Deborah Hutterer
of the Grand Canyon
Synod, aka your bishop.**



Fun fact, you are a member of the Grand Canyon Synod, along with congregations and new mission starts in Arizona, southern Nevada, and Saint George, Utah!

As members of the Grand Canyon Synod, we are one of 65 synods in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the largest Lutheran church body in the United States, with 3 million members.

We believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor together in one mission as the church.



Scan this QR code to learn more about your impact across the church and world through the Grand Canyon Synod, or visit www.gcsynod.org for resources and info.



The Close Memorial Garden



The concept of the Close originated 25 years ago during the 50th Anniversary celebration. The following year (1999) the church council approved the plan to proceed with the Garden.

Upon hearing that the council approved beginning the Garden development, a member responded by giving a \$25,000 gift to the 50th Anniversary Fund in memory of her husband.

The Close Memorial Garden was dedicated April 8, 2001. Over the years, numerous memorials have been given, providing for the upkeep of the garden.

The ministry of the garden is to keep “Close” our loved ones with commemorative plaques and/or by placing the cremains (ashes) into the earth of the garden and saying prayers of thanks to God for the memory of loved ones.

To date 205 plaques have been mounted upon the walls of The Close Memorial Garden.
43 sets of cremains have been buried here.
Countless prayers have been offered.



Service of Remembrance

The Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta, presiding

Siblings of Jesus, let us Bless this Close Memorial Garden and rejoice in its holy use. May it continue to honor God.

Gracious God. Let Your blessing be upon this Memorial Garden and grant that it may give You glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We dedicate this garden.

For the comfort of all who mourn,

We dedicate this garden.

As a place of peace and refuge for those who seek solace and comfort,

We dedicate this garden.

For the beauty of Your creative hand revealed in nature,

We dedicate this garden.

In faith that the whole family of Christ will be inspired by love and good will to all,

We dedicate this garden.

In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve Your church, in loving remembrance of those who have finished their pilgrimage here on earth, and in the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord,

We dedicate this garden.

We now, the people of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, bless this garden in the hope that its beauty will comfort this community and be a witness to the Hope that is ours.

May this garden say, "Come," to those who find their way here.

May it be a place where the gift of laughter will rise above our troubles, where treasured stories will be shared to make us wiser, where the pain of loss will be embraced with arms of hope and trust.

May it help, God's servants, healing and helping each other, as those who have gone before us, healed and helped us.

Amen

As we bring this remembrance to a close, we read aloud each loved one interred in these sacred grounds and ring a bell to commemorate their lives:



Elmer Steinmann	2002
Marcella Van Kirck	2002
Lilly Rustvold	2002
Harold Rodesiler	2003
Dorothy Jaster	2003
Alberta Hecker	2003
John Bradley	2004
Winifred Rorvick	2004
Gladys Rodesiler	2004
Helen Steinmann	2004
Howard Jaster	2004
Lois Plymale	2005
David Phillip Helland	2005
Clifford Rorvick	2006
Dirk Dyslin	2006
Phillip C. Helland	2007
Dizz Dyslin	2007
Don Birberick	2007
Sue Poppe	2007
Ronald Eugene Lundhagen	2008
William Henry Boettcher	2008
Maxine Y. Lundhagen	2008
Sean Jones	2008
Charles St. John	2008
David Gilbert	2009
Kenneth Sallman	2009
Darlene Shackle	2009
Vernon Beck	2010
Ada M. Cetrone	2010
Helen Ruth Hofland Hoffman	2010
Geraldine Elaine Valleskey	2010
Edward Walter Pease	2013
Vasillius Constantine Vovakes	2013
Roger A. Mortensen	2013
Raymond Shackle	2018
Jon David Rhodes	2021
Mary Elizabeth Kilber	2021
Rosemary Ellen Dyslin	2022
Annamarie Dyslin	2023
Don Plymale	2023
Steven King	2023



Readers: Corinne Cursi, Ellen Riske

Bell Ringer: Colin Sharpe

1948 - 2023
History of First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Mesa, Arizona

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I, with them.
 Matthew 18:20

75 Years Ago ~ a “Faithful Few” must have had this scripture in their hearts, minds and prayers as they dreamed of a Lutheran Church in Mesa, Arizona! After months of knocking on doors, 35 families gathered October 3, 1948, in the Mesa Women’s Club under the leadership of Mission Pastor, **Rev. Ragnar Kastman**, also the pastor at a Phoenix Lutheran Church. The cost for using the Women’s Club Building was \$5.00 per Sunday!

By the end of 1950, a name for the church had been decided and the first sanctuary for “First Evangelical Lutheran Church” was built at its current location of 142 North Date Street, Mesa, Arizona. As with most church building projects at the time, it was built mainly with donated labor! Historian, Rosann Lenhart Lawhead, said the first 15 years were dedicated to “growing physically, spiritually and doing God’s work.”

First Lutheran is very thankful and honored that three of the chartered members, children who were in the 35 original families, are still a part of our church family today: Mic Laasch, Larry Rawls and Bonnie (Allum) Johns.

The first fulltime pastor for this new church was **Rev. Carl Olson**, serving 14 years from 1949 until his retirement in 1963. During his tenure, membership grew to 536 adults and 229 children. Pastor Olson not only guided First Lutheran, but also had a regular radio broadcast and was very instrumental in the start of Mesa Lutheran Hospital.

Among the church’s early outreach programs were cookies for Sunshine Acres Children’s Home, bandages and thread to an African Mission, sewing for the American Red Cross and clothing, food and medicine donations to a Lutheran Navajo Mission.

Rev. Howard Hahn, Jr. served as pastor of First Lutheran for 27 years, from December 1963 to December 1990. By 1968 membership had reached 1,055. The church added the summer Vicar Program, St. James Acolyte Program, a full range of Sunday School Classes, several choirs, Christian Movement, and a professional Kindergarten School. Several Ladies’ Bible Study Groups had formed by then which were active in service projects.

Construction of the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen were completed in 1972. The Learning Center and the Fireside Lounge, dedicated to Pastor Howard Hahn, Jr., were completed in 1985.

Assistant **Pastor Norman W. Aronson** served the congregation from 1969 to 1971.

During the 1970s several men from First Evangelical Lutheran were encouraged by Pastor Hahn to become “Sons of the Ministry.” This included **Rev. John Schaumburg**, who was ordained in 1972 and after serving in Flagstaff, returned to the church he grew up in and became First Lutheran’s pastor. He served 13 years, from 1999 to 2012.

Other “Sons of the Ministry” included **Michael Shaw** (1973), **Shealds Smith** (1975), **James Benson** (1978) and **Randy Parshall**, who served 9 years as First Lutheran’s Assistant Pastor (1978-1987).

Two “Daughters of the Ministry”, **Kathleen (Kit) Neeley** and **Trudy Tannen**, started preparation of ordination at First Lutheran.

During those years, the church sponsored a Vietnamese refugee family and helped the AA Women’s Halfway House.

Rev. Edward Petersen served as pastor from 1991 to 1997. He organized a Contemporary Worship Service, the Maricopa Health Care-a-Van program, Stephen Ministry, Fall Festivals and “Meet Your Neighbor” Saturdays.

With no called pastor in 1997, **Rev. Dick E. Hamblin** brought leadership to First Lutheran in 1997-1998 and guided the 50th Golden Anniversary Celebration. He inspired plans to build “The Close”, a Memorial Garden and space for outdoor events, which came to fruition from the 50th Anniversary and was dedicated in 2001.

When **Pastor John Schaumburg** returned to First Lutheran (1999-2012), the original 1951 church sanctuary space was remodeled into a “Great Room” for programs and social events. A Conference Room with historical cabinets was dedicated to Pastor Carl Olson.

Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta was ordained at St. Peter Lutheran Church in 2009. He became First Lutheran’s Senior Pastor in 2013, serving until 2016 (8 years). As Latino Ministry Developer for the East Valley, he began “La Primera”, a Spanish Worship Service at First Lutheran.

It was an extra blessing in 2004-2019, to have Linus Jung as our pianist when a new Memorial Grand Piano was added to the sanctuary, made possible with special donations.

Rev. Melissa Harr was ordained at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in 2011 and became our Interim Pastor. She served until November 2018. Pastor Melissa was assisted in ministry by Lynda Maraby, a licensed Lay Minister and seminary intern, Cassandra Chavez.

A pastoral call was made to **Rev. Abel Arroyo** in November 2018. He was installed at First Lutheran on December 16. A severe back injury forced Pastor Abel to give up his call in August 2019.

In October 2019 **Rev. Dana Reardon** became First Lutheran’s Interim Pastor. She guided the church through the Covid-19 pandemic and served until September 2022.

In October 2022, First Evangelical Lutheran entered into a three-year partnership with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Chandler. **Rev. Christine Stoxen**, **Rev. Bernie Carl** and **Rev. Luis Ochoa** are currently providing pastoral leadership to First Lutheran.

PREACHERS & ASSISTANTS

Preaching Minister

The Rev. John Schaumburg

Presiding Minister

Bishop Deborah K. Hutterer

The Close Memorial Garden Minister

The Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta

Pianist

Jose Salazar

Worship Assistants:

Jim Craig

Corinne Cursi

Diane Johnson

Laura O'Connell

Ellen Riske

Sharon Shields

Communion Assistants:

The Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer

The Rev. Dana Reardon

The Rev. John Schaumburg

Sharon Laasch

Barbie Luxem

Rick Luxem

Ushers:

Mick Laasch

Kathleen Rogers

Don Johnson

Gail

Randy Gamble

Virginia Daniels

Thank you for joining us to celebrate all that God has done and continues to do at First Evangelical Lutheran Church!

If you would like to support our ongoing ministries electronically, please use one of the options below.



<https://pay.firstevlutheran.com/c5c4db5b-61c2-4187-9dee-f70>

Continue to visit our website:

<https://firstevlutheran.com/>

Photos and videos of our time shared together will be added soon!

LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Emcee

Sarah Shaw, Council President

GRACE for the Meal

Rev. Chris Stoxen

Celebrate the Past

Sheriann (Olson) Van Zandt

Laura (Hosick) O'Connell

Embrace the Present - Community Connections

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest: Connie Phillips

Concordia Charter School: Margaret Roush-Meier

Anthony Aranda

Engage the Future/Strategic Ministry

Rev. Luis Ochoa

Rev. Chris Stoxen

Closing Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

ELW 654



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.