

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Do not be overawed when a man grows rich, when the splendor of his house increases; for he will take nothing with him when he dies, his splendor will not descend with him."

Psalms 49:16-17

May we live our Resurrection faith and be faithful in sharing with others and not trying to store up our riches for ourselves. We are called to be generous in our being the hands and feet of Jesus as we enjoy God's creation. May we find joy and peace in giving from our hearts.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

with Pastor Judith

April 13

[Peace Be with You](#)

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am

Sunday 10:30 am

GROUP STUDIES

Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesdays 10 am

In Person in

Fellowship Hall

and/or Conference

Call 339.209.5700

Men's Bible Study

Thursdays 8:00 am

In-Person in Edu. A/B

and/or Conference

Call 339.209.5700

Women's Book Study

Fridays 9:00 am

Fellowship Hall

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

April 14, 2021

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JUDITH

Greetings,

May we experience the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ this day and everyday as we continue to celebrate this Easter Season. May our Resurrection faith sustain us during this time of the pandemic and beyond. Finding peace in the midst of difficult times is often a struggle. And for some it is a constant struggle, even when times are not difficult.

Is something getting in the way of you feeling peaceful? If so, is it because you may be living in the past with regrets or living in the future with fear?

We have all been given the gift of peace. It is up to us whether we want to receive it and open the gift and be grateful for the gift.

I have a special story to share of a Christian man who was on his deathbed. I was called in by the family to minister to him. As usual, my schedule was full for the day so I hesitated, wondering what I needed to cancel so I could respond. But the Holy Spirit inspired me to get in my vehicle immediately and drive to this family in need.

The man had grown weak but was trying to share his life story with me as I listened intently. I was so inspired by him as his loving wife sat beside him on the bed. By the time I left I had listened, visited, prayed and shared communion with him and his wife.

As I drove away, I thanked God for being able to be involved in this ministry of presence and to be so touched by his spiritual journey. I planned on visiting him another time but, alas, I received a call from his daughter that he had died the next day. He had left his earthly home but not before he shared that having communion and being with a pastor was on his list of wishes before he took his last breath. He spoke of the significance of his communion experience. He made closure with his family at all levels as they lovingly let go of him and turned him over to his eternal home with Jesus Christ. This Christian man and his family witnessed the peace that passes all understanding.

This is such a beautiful true story of one of my brothers in Christ whom I would never have known if God had not called me to American Lutheran Church Sun City.

I am forever grateful for what this man brought into my spiritual journey. I knew him for a very short time, but he taught me so much about life and death. We will never stop growing spiritually as we continue to respond to where God wants us.



As this man experienced peace on his deathbed, I pray that you enjoy the peace of Jesus Christ no matter what the circumstances are for you today. Peace be with you as you experience life on life's terms.

Love in Christ, Pastor Judith

"DOUBTING THOMAS" By Terri Polk

I really enjoyed this week's gospel about "doubting Thomas". I have often found myself doubting - maybe not in the same way Thomas doubted when the others told him they had seen Jesus after His death on the cross and resurrection. In the gospel account, the apostles told Thomas that they knew it was Jesus because of the punctures in his hands from being nailed to the cross and the stab wound in his side from being pierced, but Thomas doubted, and I have had my doubts also. I, like Thomas, like to "see things for myself". I like to draw my own conclusions and I like to be in control. Isn't this where so many of us get in trouble? How did I get to this point?

When I was younger, I believed anything my parents told me...they would not lie, they were my parents. I had learned to trust them. When I was younger, I would sit in fields of dandelions and blow the dandelion heads off. I couldn't see my breath, but my parents told me that my "blowing" caused them to float off. I liked to fly kites and I couldn't see the wind, but I believed that the wind "caught" my kite and made it fly. My parents told me so and I trusted them. And, after I saw "Peter Pan" I even thought I could fly - so I would climb to the top of the swing set and J-U-M-P off and flap my arms. My parents asked me to stop before I broke a leg, and I did (unless I didn't think they were looking)! Oh, sorry...I digress.

How did I get to the point where I could believe in the unseen before, but had my doubts now? Perhaps this is one reason why Jesus has reminded us that we should be more like little children, trusting and believing in some things we cannot see. Perhaps this is also where "trust" comes in. Let's explore this further in our next few messages.

In AWE of Our God,
Terri Polk, ALC Member

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

ALC is blessed with truly amazing volunteers in every area of Ministry. I want to share some insights from their inspiring lives for the encouragement of all! -Toni Molck, ALC Ministry Operations Coordinator

ANN SKIDMORE

Ann serves American Lutheran Church in many important roles — she is an Office Volunteer, Stephen Minister, Usher, Chair of Gifts/Memorials, member of the Benevolence Committee and leads the Angel Tree Outreach.

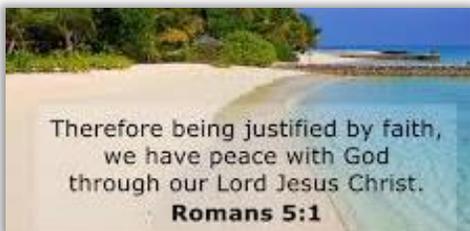
Originally from Wisconsin, Ann enjoys going back for visits in the Summer but loves living in Arizona full-time. Ann and her husband, Ken, spent many years happily travelling in their RV where they discovered their love of Arizona. After several years of going back to Wisconsin in the summers, in 2004 they bought a house in Sun City and moved here permanently. After Ken's death in 2009, Ann became a member of ALC in 2010. Ken had three children when they married, and Ann now has 10 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren!!



I asked Ann what her favorite vacation destination was — she said that although they did a lot of backpacking and camping, her most beloved adventure was hiking the Grand Canyon. "It was always unique and awesome." She added that, if possible, she would love to do more travelling in an RV someday.

I also asked Ann what some more of her favorites were: Favorite sports team — GREEN BAY PACKERS, WITHOUT QUESTION! Favorite sport — pickle ball. Favorite book — For Whom the Bell Tolls by Hemmingway. Favorite TV show — NCIS (Criminal Investigation with Mark Harmon). Favorite Bible verse — "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1

When describing her roles at ALC, Ann said, "I feel as though I was called to ALC to be a blessing to all in word and deed. I can do that in Stephen Ministry as a caregiver. I can be a blessing by ushering, also by assuring gifts from memorials and benevolence go to appropriate places. In the Office, I can be a positive voice on the phone or in person for whatever the need may be and offer help and resources if desired." Her reason for volunteering: "Because I CAN! And some day I won't be able to. God called me to volunteer, and I knew it was what I needed to do. The mission of the Church aligns with my personal feelings and beliefs. My favorite part of volunteering is the people, offering a listening ear, putting a smile on someone's face. My favorite role is being a Stephen Minister because it is a personal help ministry that I feel I gain as much as I give. There is nothing quite like it."



Her words of encouragement to anyone in the Congregation who may be considering volunteering: "Maybe try something different than you ever done before. Being a Senior Community, Volunteering is a different kind of adventure. There's something here for everyone. Come join me!"