

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

The Lord will keep you from all harm, he will watch over your life.  
Psalm 121:7

May we trust that God never forsakes us. Sometimes we forsake him, but we can repent and return because God will never leave us.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 4:00 pm  
Sunday 9:30 am

## GROUP STUDIES

### Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesdays 10:00 am  
Fellowship Hall  
or Conference Call  
at 339.209.5700

### The Chosen Bible Study

July 7<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 pm  
Education A & B  
Men & Women Welcome  
Contact the Church office  
to sign up.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Retirement Celebration for Pastor Gary

June 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>  
after worship service  
Fellowship Hall

### Treasure Lies Movie Showing

June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am  
Choir Room

## SCRIPTURE FOR SERVICE

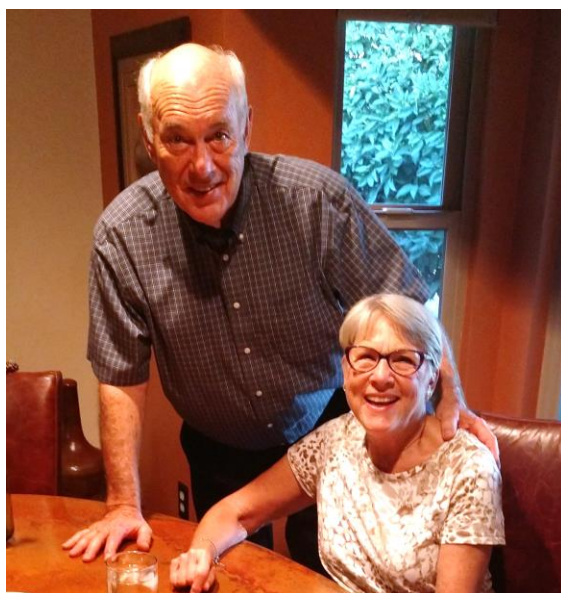
Lesson: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13  
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32  
Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

# MIDWEEK MESSAGES

June 16, 2021

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOWELL: A LEGACY OF CARING

Pastor Gary Ulrich is retiring this weekend as Pastor of Care & Ministry for American Lutheran Church after serving since May of 2013. Together, with his wonderful partner in life & ministry, Pastor Gary and Kathy made a marvelous difference in the spiritual life of our congregation. Pastor Gary excelled in encouraging the laity, a term which means "of the people." It can simply mean non-clergy but for Pastor Gary, it was a term of respect for the gifts of time, talent, treasures, and tender care members of the church can share with one another. Pastor Gary is a delight to work with as he is well-grounded theologically and energetic in his approach to ministry. His Lutheran identity is shaped by Luther's insights into "the priesthood of all believers." It is not just for the pastors to have the privilege of serving as care ministers but is a ministry opportunity for all believers.



Gary and Kathy helped our Stephen Ministry program retain a high sense of engagement and enthusiasm by working well with our Leadership Team, consisting of numerous trained Stephen Ministry Care Givers as well as the multitude of Care Receivers we are privileged to serve. He expanded our Communion ministry by training lay leaders to make personal appointments with home-bound members and for

some, the invitation to lead communion services at different retirement communities. He loved preaching the Word during worship, leading Funeral/Memorial services, and visiting those in the hospital, Rehab/Care facilities, and their home. He has helped Pastor Judith prepare for taking on the leadership of Care Ministries and has been a dear friend and colleague to me over the past nearly 3 years.

When I arrived to begin ministry with this dear congregation in October 2018, the Ulrichs' welcomed me with gracious hospitality. As Debbie needed to attend to our move and arrived 6 weeks later, Gary and Kathy's initial friendship and care formed a solid foundation for my call. In fact, with Debbie visiting family these past few weeks, they invited me over for food and fellowship from which this picture is taken. What a warm, hospitable couple!

In our conversations, I learned of the sustained commitment of American Lutheran Church to minister to those experiencing the pains and frustrations of life within the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Your ministry has made a wonderful difference, friends! You have carried on the tradition of Caring Ministry and left it in good shape. Working with Pastor Judith, Lori Kellar, our Stephen Ministry Leadership Team and so many fine members, we are ready to continue this tradition and release you fully in retirement joy with each other, your family and this congregation that is proud to call you brother and sister in Christ.

### **Well done, good and faithful Servants!**

Dear members and friends of ALC – Please attend this coming weekend services at 4 pm on Saturday or 9:30 am on Sunday to celebrate after each service with Pastor Gary and Kathy. After they take some family time during the summer, I look forward to their engagement as congregational members in the fall.

Love,

*Pastor Lowell*



Pastor Lowell

### **WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM GOD?**

What do we expect from God? I often ask God to give my family good health, to protect them from harm, to heal if there is a sickness. I am sure that I am not that different from many of you with my requests. I also know that I can be impatient if God is slow or doesn't answer my requests in the time I want them to be answered....or I may think He does not answer them at all and I may feel that He has let me down. Sometimes I need to remember that God has given us the greatest gift of all: His Son, who has given us everlasting life.

I think we should really ask ourselves "What should we give to God?". We should give our love, talents, respect, honor, obedience, and many other virtues. This is what I love most about our mission statement....it speaks to what we should give...."To proclaim the love of Jesus Christ, to invite others to participate in our faith community, and to be a blessing to all in word and deed." This mission statement gave us the guidance last year in our "Stewardship for All Seasons: Sparked by the Spirit" campaign. It will continue to give us guidance as the stewardship team identifies what we can do and how we can grow. Then we can identify the many ways we can grow as a church, following our mission statement, and so we can give back to God. You will be hearing more about this campaign in the early fall. In the meantime, ask yourselves "what should we give to God?".

In awe of what God has given us,  
Terri Polk, ALC member

### **BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE:**

Do you have experience in writing grants? Please contact the office at 623-974-2512 or by email at [info@alcsuncity.org](mailto:info@alcsuncity.org).

### **AMAZON SMILE**

Sign up for AmazonSmile and select American Lutheran Church of Sun City as your preferred charity at [smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0292293](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0292293). Remember to shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon app, and AmazonSmile will donate to us at no cost to you.