

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Wait for the Lord and He will make all things right."
Proverbs 20:22

When we take things in our own hands without consulting with God first, we are making an unhealthy decision that can lead to difficulties. Depending on God is the most peaceful path we can chose. God provides the map, and we are to do the footwork.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 9:30 am

EVENTS

Pastor's Bible Study

On break until September 14th at 10:00 am in-person in Fellowship Hall or by phone at 1-339-209-5700

The Chosen Bible Study

Continuing
Wednesdays
6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Grief Journey

Tuesdays
1:30 pm-3:00pm
Fellowship/Lounge

Card Making Class

Mondays
1:30 pm
Education Room A/B

SCRIPTURE FOR SERVICE

Lesson:

Ephesians 5:15-20

Psalm

34:9-14

Gospel:

John 6:15-20

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

August 11, 2021

Welcome Pastor María!

(Bio by Pastor María)

American Lutheran Church is so excited to welcome Maria del Rosario Valenzuela (Mary of the Rosary – translation)! As she says, it is a good name for a Lutheran Pastor. She will be joining ALC for a few months to assist with the Care Ministry. We are so blessed to have you here, Pastor Maria!

"I am a native of Arizona, born in Winslow. Before I was ordained in 1989, my husband and I were involved in ministry in Surprise at the El Mirage Lutheran Center, now Pan De Vida Lutheran Church.

After ordination, I served as Coordinator for Latino Ministry of the Grand Canyon and Rocky Mountain Synods. In 1990, I received a call to start a ministry, Cristo Rey, in El Paso, Texas, where I served as pastor while my husband, Reinaldo, led the community outreach. To date, the ministry of Cristo Rey continues serving the border community assisting the larger church in learning about the Latino culture in that area.

In 1977-2002, I served as Director for Latino Ministry for the ELCA in Chicago. When I returned to Arizona, I served at Messiah Lutheran Church part-time. Due to declining membership, the congregation decided to give up the building. A Spanish-speaking Lutheran congregation was born, Vida Nueva. In 2003-2007, I served as Pastor of Care at American Lutheran Church in Sun City, Arizona.

In 2007, I again served part-time as Coordinator for Latino Ministry for the Grand Canyon Synod, working directly with Charles Newman and John Schaumburg.

Since then, I have served part-time at Vida Nueva, Alleluia and once again at American Lutheran Church during the summer. In November 2016, I really retired.

God has opened doors and given me opportunities that I never imagined. I am so blessed."



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOWELL

I look forward to worshipping with you each week! Whether you join in person, online or by receiving a hardcopy of the sermon, it is an honor to encourage you with the love of God. For this upcoming weekend, we have the following Epistle reading excerpt from Ephesians 5:15-16:

“Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time...”

Making the most of the time is a great subject matter and I am including a section of this week's preaching on the topic of Procrastination. I imagine all of us suffer from putting off what would be best done today but taking it to extremes can diminish our productivity and enjoyment of life. It is a deeply personal topic and sometimes best introduced with a sense of humor. I saw the following quotes on the internet blog “Elephant on the Road” written by a young woman from Chile named Melissa. She offered up these observations:

“I'm not procrastinating. I'm proactively delaying the implementation of the energy-intensive phase of the project until the enthusiasm factor is at its maximum effectiveness.” 😊

And ***“I put the pro in procrastinating.”*** Well done in poking fun, Melissa!

I encourage you to keep the key “building-blocks” of faith-formation active in your life. Worship is at the center of our encouragement and studying the Bible for all its worth is wonderfully beneficial. Regarding Bible study, please note, after a vacation break, Pastor's Bible study (either in-person in the Fellowship Hall or via the phone at 1-339-209-5700) will resume Tuesday, September 14th at 10:00 am. And I look forward to Men's Bible study restarting under Marlyn Wahlstrom's gentle guidance on October 21st from 8:00 am-9:00 am in Education Room A&B.

I preached on prayer last weekend, using the metaphor of the life-giving water, ranging from flowing waters found in our own tributary of prayer and the powerful rushing river of prayer when we join in common intent. For sure, prayer procrastination is not a wise use of time so let us activate our mutual commitment to pray for others, with others, in the joy of the Holy Spirit in this marvelous season of Pentecost. May God “spark us” through the Holy Spirit to worship, study and pray!

Blessings and Peace through the Lord!

Pastor Lowell

Pastor Lowell



DAVID LIVINGSTON MEMORIAL SERVICE

Friday, August 13, 2021

8:00 a.m. Arizona Time

Livestreamed at

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahUrbana>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC49CHZbjYZoLfZ19sfit2sw/>