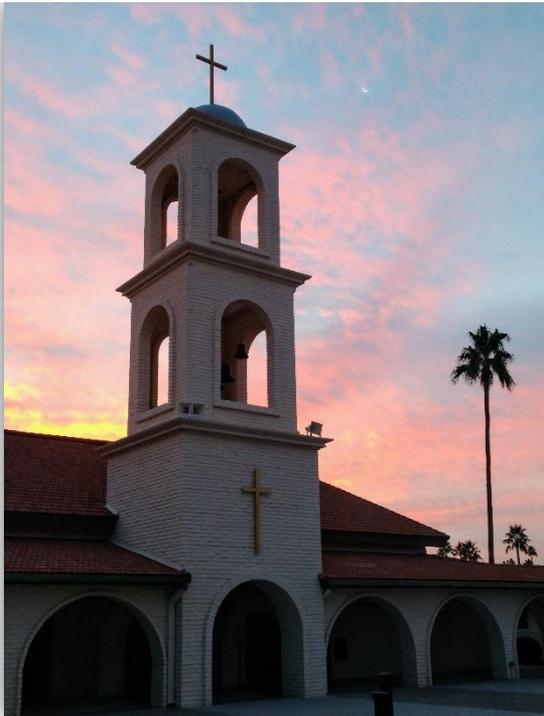


American Lutheran Church of Sun City

July 2020

Outreach Newsletter



MISSION STATEMENT

*To proclaim the love of Jesus Christ,
invite others to participate in our faith community,
and be a blessing to all in word and deed.*

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOWELL NELSON

Dear Members and Friends of American Lutheran Church,

Welcome to July - our country's 244th celebration of Independence Day! While the Resolution of Independence was passed by the Continental Congress on July 2nd 1776, the Declaration of Independence was made on July 4th including these precious words:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

As we survey our nation's history leading up to these very moments in which we live, equality for all takes tremendous effort, focus and extraordinary cost to implement. Think of the time, energy and expense to win the Revolutionary War, subsequent military actions, to create a Constitution with the Bill of Rights & further amendments, to weather the debilitating price of lives lost in the Civil War, the length of time endured for women's voting rights, and the renewed struggle for Civil Rights for African Americans. Do we still hold these truths to be self-evident? Will our nation work together to make these treasured ideals correspond with reality?

I believe this is a time of renewal for the Church, the body of Christ, to step forward and bring hope in the midst of despair. The Church makes a different declaration than a statement of independence. As people of faith, we offer a “Declaration of Interdependence.” We state our dependence upon God and our need for each other. Confirmation is our mutual intent, both as individuals and as congregations, to commit to the ongoing covenant God made with us in our baptism including:

- Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.
- Serve all people, following the example of Jesus.
- Strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we have tremendous freedom to live in love. From Galatians 5:

“For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery... For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Martin Luther wrote “On the Freedom of a Christian” in 1520 and succinctly summarized this God-given freedom with a holy commitment to love our neighbor (i.e., everyone we meet):

A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”

Now is the time for the Church of Jesus Christ to step forward in faith, proclaiming forgiveness in Jesus Christ for when Christ sets you free, you are free indeed! With this foundation, we can move forward in faith.

“Dear God, bless us to be a blessing in word & deed for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.”

Love,

Pastor Lowell



WELLNESS MINUTE

Should we wear face masks if we don't feel sick?

According to Mayo- Clinic:

People that have a compromised immune system, wear a mask in public places; and for those who are healthy, it's thought that masks are generally not that helpful for these reasons: They are not air tight and wearing one results in more face touching. However, the CDC recommends that healthy people wear homemade cloth masks in public settings and social distance, and this information will be updated.

If you wear a mask, follow these important steps:

- ✓ Keep your social distance.
- ✓ Keep your hands away from your face.
- ✓ Don't neglect washing your hands and stay home if you feel sick.
- ✓ Remove your mask and either discard it, or if applicable, wash and let dry.
- ✓ As with everything, USE common sense and stay safe.

Lori Kellar

ALC Wellness

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

May was a good month for us! Our regular giving in May was 88% of our original budget. For the year to date, our regular giving income is down \$80k from our original budget. At the same time, our expenses are \$54k less than our budget. We have some reserves that we've held over from 2019. We also have the \$92,500 PPP grant from the SBA which is not included in this summary.

MAY 2020			
	Budget	Actual	Better/(Worse)
Regular Giving Income	\$ 88,000.08	\$ 78,272.33	\$ (9,727.75)
Operational Expense	\$ 98,339.29	\$ 94,336.66	\$ 4,002.63

YEAR TO DATE: JANUARY THROUGH MAY			
	Budget	Actual	Better/(Worse)
Regular Giving Income	\$ 579,886.13	\$ 495,396.52	\$ (84,489.61)
Operational Expense	\$ 516,777.11	\$ 484,973.08	\$ 31,804.03
Notes: Income includes regular offerings and excludes debt reduction, gift, memorial, and in/out revenue. Expenses include the principal portion of the mortgage payment and excludes gift, memorial and in/out expenses, which were not budgeted.			

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

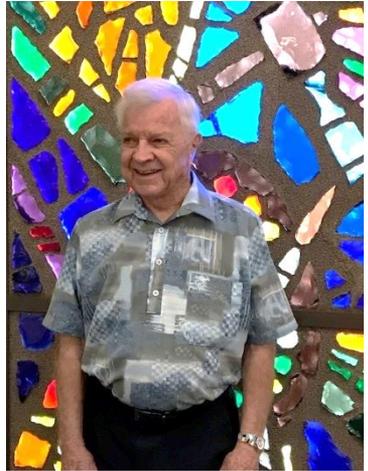
I love Psalm 23 paraphrased by Leslie Brandt that reads, “The Lord is my constant companion. There is no need that He cannot fulfill. Whether His course for me points to the mountaintops of glorious ecstasy or to the valleys of human suffering, He is by my side, He is ever present with me.”

As you may guess, many of my “mountaintop” experiences have come through music; hearing the congregation – each one of you – join in singing our beloved hymns accompanied on our magnificent organ is ‘glorious ecstasy’ indeed! Now we’re in the “valleys of human suffering” with the pandemic and our unified voices are silenced. And even when we return to public worship, congregational singing will be one of the last activities we can add because singing appears to create a greater risk of spreading the coronavirus than normal speaking. What a mountaintop experience it will be when we can sing again!

Along with the other activities ALC offers to keep us connected, I hope you’ll continue to not just passively *watch*, but to actively *participate* in worship through our online services. Thanks to our expert production team—Rick Lamb, Rolfe Blaiss and Oddesy Hernandez—the words to the hymn and psalm are displayed on the

screen so you can read/sing along with us, and we can pray The Lord's Prayer together.

Here's what you can look forward to this month: On July 5, George Zoske will direct the Christo Bells in an inspirational patriotic selection and we'll sing America the Beautiful. It will be so wonderful to hear them ringing again. Musical offerings by Angy Felcyn, Joanne Greathouse, Flash & Kathleen Helm with Winston & Sheri Schmidt will enhance our worship and they'll lead YOU in song. Reading scripture and leading the psalm response will be Denice Louderback, Pete Oppedahl, Brian Cooper-Keeble, and Debbie Nelson.



Keep a song in your heart!

Linda Shirck, Interim Organist/Worship Coordinator



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Greetings from the ALC Women's Ministry Board! There are no Women's Ministry events planned in July. However, we invite you to be working on items to donate to our Annual Holiday Bazaar on November 21, 2020. In the Fall, we will be collecting:

- Silent Auction Items
- Craft Items
- Gift Cards for Raffle Baskets

***During these trying pandemic times,
please take care and stay safe!***

Jan Powell

HAPPENINGS AT PAN DE VIDA

In the last E-Blast, I gave you some basic information about the history of Pan De Vida. Today, I called to speak with Pastor Mitchel from Pan De Vida, and he was eager to tell me about two opportunities Pan De Vida had to support the Phoenix community.

The first opportunity is with IHelp, an Ecumenical program where homeless individuals and couples (no couples with children at this point) sign up and get support for their move toward self-sufficiency. IHelp provides staff who assist with monitoring their clientele, basic living skills, building resumes, job interviewing, budgeting, etc. Pan De Vida (as well as other churches and organizations) provide IHelp clients, usually 4-5, with sleeping arrangements, supper, breakfast and a sack lunch one evening, one time per month. On Friday, June 19th, Pan De Vida hosted the clients of IHelp who are enrolled in this program. Moises and Maria Elena (congregation members of Pan De Vida) prepared the evening meal. Moises had a great interest in doing this, since he is a survivor of COVID-19 and wanted to give back as well as express his family's thankfulness. Angelina, another Pan De Vida congregation member, made masks for the staff and clientele, and anyone needing a mask, and she will be preparing the breakfast and sack lunches.

A second opportunity, due to their partnership with Community of Grace, was that Pastor Mitch received 40-50 prepared hot meals from Community of Grace. Pastor Mitch will distribute some of these meals to the clients from IHelp; he also called on Moises and Maria Elena, and they will be distributing about 30 meals to individuals in the community who they know need food assistance.



Angelina making masks

Giving—Helping—Reaching
Out—Mutual Support—Prayer—
Walking the Walk and Talking
the Talk—Building Relationships
and Partnerships— This is Pan
De Vida.

*Sincerely,
Terri Polk*

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

With the Arizona COVID -19 restrictions still in place and many members of groups away from the Sun City area for the summer, no activities are planned.

We hope it will not be too long before these restrictions can be lifted. However, I heard recently on the radio that 74 % of COVID deaths in Arizona are in the 65+ and specific health related age groups. So, please be truly vigilant. We see our three great grandchildren and other family members on video only.

I wear a mask and gloves when shopping. I sanitize my gloves as soon as I return to my vehicle before even starting the engine.

By the way, I try not to open our refrigerator too often. I'm sure it's saying "Now what do you want."

Blessings to all.

Bryan Cooper-Keeble

banddck@aol.com

623-376-6666

SUMMER GATHERING IN MINNESOTA

CANCELLED

ALC members that spend some of the summer in the upper Midwest have been gathering in Minnesota each August, but this year our gathering is cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to resuming our annual tradition next year in 2021.

Debra Hjortland

THRIVENT MEMBERS

Thrivent members, now is the time to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to ALC for benevolent purposes. Go to www.thrivent.com Search for Thrivent Choice, and specify ALC as your designated organization. There is no cost to you.

Benevolence Committee

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Gifts given to American Lutheran Church in memory of:

Audrey K. Goodrich

Jeremy Nixon

Curtis Bummer

Eugene A. Meier

Emil Kroepflin

Joyce DeVantier for Father's Day

Evelyn Nelson

Sharon and Kenneth Friedrichsen, Judith and Richard Laur

Gene Hersrud

Audrey Wedul, Colleen Gandrud, Sheila Harmell, Erwin and Arlene Johnson, Janet J. Harding

Gil Thoele

Stephany Takala, Sharon and Kenneth Friedrichsen, Janet J. Harding

Greta Berg

Kay and Arvid Peterson

Juanita Griffin

Stephany Takala

Judith Mae Kolstad

Gordon Kolstad

Theodor and Emma Friedrichsen and Don and Marguerite

Seeds our parents

Sharon and Kenneth Friedrichsen

Selmer and Inez Rodning

Stan and Dona Helseth

Seth W. Twichell

Roberta Lovell, Mary Beth Schipke, Willis and Shirley Stelter,
Duane and Gail Ilvedson,
Lynn and Ginny Marr, Erwin and Arlene Johnson

A gift was given for Special Music by Hugh E Hughes.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

We express our deepest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones.

RECENT DEATHS

Audrey K. Goodrich (5/21/20)	Wayne C. Baker (6/11/20)
Sanford E. Herrling (5/30/20)	Beverly A. Hawkinson (6/20/20)
Virgil A. Aarness (6/7/20)	Wayne W. Riley (6/20/20)

CENTENARIANS

Norma Carlsson (105)
Mary Graybiel (105)
Dorothy Noren (102)
Florence Johnson (100) Birthday
August 3

LOCAL ADDRESS CHANGES

Bob & Barb Middendorf
14515 W. Granite Valley Dr., E465
Sun City West, AZ 85375

MOVED OUT OF AREA PERMANENTLY

Joy Hiaring
1425 Jean Ave.
Billings, MT 59105-2574

American Lutheran Church of Sun City
17200 N. Del Webb Blvd
Sun City, AZ 85373

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Rev. Judith Rainforth Pastor
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George Zoske Director of Christo Bells
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Rolfe Blaess Sound



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Watch current sermons on our website, by typing in www.alcsuncity.org into the web bar of any browser and clicking **Worship** and then **Sermons and Devotions.**

You can also visit us on Facebook by going to www.Facebook.com/AmericanLutheranChurchofSunCity and clicking on the **LIKE** button.

