



American Lutheran Church of Sun City
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

MID-WEEK MESSAGES

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for staying connected during this time of social distancing to protect yourselves and your neighbors from COVID-19. Please remember that our opportunities to connect include weekly online worship, which can be accessed on our website, www.alcsuncity.org; Tuesday Pastor's Bible study at 10 am @ 339-209-5700 and Men's Bible study on Thursdays at 8 am at the same phone number. Love, Pastor Lowell

INSPIRATIONAL VIDEOS by JANE BRAMBILLA

Jane Brambilla, ALC choir member, has shared two special videos (Mother's Day and Easter) with our congregation. One features her grandchildren in Illinois while Jane accompanies them in Sun City! You can find the videos on our Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, simply click the following links:

Pete's video of the kids and Jane <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJdTWyuUXdQ>

Jane sings "How Beautiful" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dh2DppXgOSo>

Thank you, Jane for sharing the inspiration!

UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – from Wally Brambilla

In late March, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed congress and the President then signed the bill into law. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is a part of the CARES Act and is meant to help small businesses, and non-profits (including churches) make payroll costs and cover other expenses over a period of 2 to 2.5 months. Loans are offered by the Small Business Administration and are limited to a formula tied to payroll costs, and will be fully forgiven when used for payroll, interest payments on mortgages, and utilities. Encouraged by the ELCA and our Grand Canyon Synod, our Church Council discussed the program and voted to apply. We (ALC) applied to our local bank (Amtrust) and were approved for a loan of \$92,500. We received the funds last week and deposited them in a separate account so we could easily track how we use them and be able to prove that we used them solely for payroll, mortgage interest and utilities.

What is our financial situation?

We are healthy but not wealthy. We have some reserves, but with the Coronavirus restrictions we are in uncharted territory. There is no reliable data as to when the restrictions will be lifted so that we can return to normal worship activities.

We project our regular giving income to be 60-80% of budgeted income. We project expenses to be 70-90% of budgeted income. We expect net monthly losses to average \$20,000 per month through October. Our reserves will be reduced \$80,000 to \$100,000 by the end of October.

If our projections are too optimistic, we could be in some financial distress by the end of the year. That is why we accepted the SBA PPP loan/grant of \$92,500.

Question of Separation of Church and State

The intent of the First Amendment allows citizens the freedom to practice any religion of their choice, and it also prevents the government from officially recognizing or favoring any religion.

A Protestant Pastor and writer from IL wrote this:

“A decision not to participate in the PPP program would be a mistake, in my view; but if churches are seeking a theologically constructive approach to taking the money, might I suggest this: Walk humbly; walk the walk to which Jesus has invited us. If your congregation does take the money, see it as an invitation to do better for your community. Pass on that money to your community through innovative approaches that do good. Do not take the money and run. Take the money and walk.”

UPDATE FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE from Sharon Grambow

Please join us in welcoming James Gerber, DMA, as the new Organist/Worship Coordinator for American Lutheran Church. After an exhaustive search that spanned the United States from east coast to west coast and in between, the Personnel Committee along with our experienced interview team of Terri Polk, Council President; Janet MacDonald, Linda Shirck, Jane Brambilla and Pastor Lowell Nelson, unanimously chose James to lead this important part of our ALC ministry. The Personnel Committee comprised of Sharon Grambow, Dave Hjortland, Maryanne Winters and Chuck Allis extends a huge thank you to the interview team for their insight and guidance in this process.

James comes to ALC most recently from Wayne Presbyterian Church in Wayne, Pennsylvania where he is currently serving as the Assistant Minister of Music. James has Arizona roots though and spent five years at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Phoenix as the Music Associate. He has his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Organ Performance from Arizona State University. James even has performed on ALC's world-class pipe organ in the past as part of the Central Arizona American Guild of Organists' annual marathon organ recitals.

James has over 22 years of experience providing musical direction and leadership. He is dynamic and polished, energetic and has a team spirit. In his own words, James' call to ministry is an important part of his spiritual journey and character which contributes significantly to his commitment to artistry, creativity, and professionalism.

James will be joining the ALC ministry on August 31, 2020, just in time to help Pastor Lowell and Janet plan the fall worship season. We are delighted that James will be joining ALC and look forward to our opportunity to welcome him home.