

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*"If you say, "The Lord is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent."
Psalm 91:9-10*

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am
10:30 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

ProMusica Concert
Oct. 17th 3:30 pm

**Organ Recital by
Dr. James Gerber**
Oct. 24th 3:00 pm

**Distribution of Operation
Christmas Child Boxes**
Oct. 16th 4:30 pm–5:15 pm
Oct. 17th 9:00 am–11:45am

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
Thursday, Oct. 21st 8:00 am
**In-Person in
Education A/B**
and/or Conference
Call 339.209.5700

SCRIPTURE FOR SERVICE

Lesson:
Hebrews 5:1-10
Psalm 91:9-16
Gospel:
Mark 10:35-45

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

October 13, 2021

LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings from the ALC Council Members.

Last week Pastor Lowell announced to the congregation his intention to retire from ministry by the second half of 2022. Although we will be sad to lose Pastor Lowell as the spiritual leader of ALC, we understand how his health challenges will impact his ability to lead at the level that he and we believe is needed going forward. American Lutheran is at a pivotal place in our church history. In less than 4 years, 2025, we will be celebrating our congregations' 50th Anniversary. This year, we embarked on a multi-year stewardship campaign that we will expand upon in 2022 and beyond. And after 18 months of isolation and physical distancing due to COVID, we are getting ready to re-open our campus to welcome our friends and neighbors back to worship and celebration with us.

On September 28th, Council convened for our regular monthly meeting. Bishop Deborah Hutterer was invited to join the Council meeting to share the options that are available to the congregation. The Bishop walked Council through the various scenarios available to us under the Synod guidelines.

The first option would be a traditional Call to Ministry. This would take place after Pastor Lowell's retirement and involve establishing a Call Committee as defined by our Constitution and by-laws, bringing in an interim Senior Pastor and then going through the call process. Under this option, the interim pastor would not be eligible to be called as the Senior Pastor.

The second option would be to name a "bridge" pastor now that could serve 2-3 years and then would be able to be "called" by the congregation should the congregation and "bridge" pastor decide that was appropriate.

After carefully deliberating on the options explained to us, Council voted to work with the Bishop's office to bring in a "bridge" Senior Pastor. We believe this decision meets the needs of ALC today and as we move toward 2025. Let me explain:

There were three main issues that Council considered. First, under a "call", it would require Pastor Lowell to retire, an interim Senior Pastor is named, then a Call Committee would be formed to go through the process of bringing a new Senior Pastor. This could take up to a year or more to complete. Additionally, the interim pastor is not eligible to be called to ALC. So, while we know that the interim would give 100% of their time and energy to ALC, because we and they know they will not be here long term, we will likely be in a "maintenance" mode until the new pastor is called. Council was concerned that with all the things we want to accomplish over the next 3+ years, we would lose precious momentum.

With a "bridge pastor", the Bishop will work with Council to identify a candidate for ministry that could be called should the congregation decide to do that. This candidate would work with ALC to continue to move us forward toward our strategic goals and initiatives. The Bishop has already begun the search for candidates for consideration for ALC. Council will establish a committee of Council members that will work with the Bishop's office to identify the perfect candidate.

Timing has been tentatively established as having the "bridge pastor" ready by the Congregational Meeting in January.

Council will provide regular updates and communication on the process using weekly updates, the monthly Outreach, and through announcements during services. If you have any questions or comments, I invite you to reach out to a member of Council or to me directly.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Lowell and this process as we move forward.

Prayerfully,



Sharon Grambow



AMERICAN LUTHERAN SUN CITY

Wednesday Night Alive is starting next month!! Come to the WNA Gala on November 3rd. Tickets for the Dinner will be \$12 and will be available to purchase the weekend of 10/23 – 10/24. At 4:30 pm, we will have the Cimarron Sidekicks and at 6:00 pm, The Desert Aires!

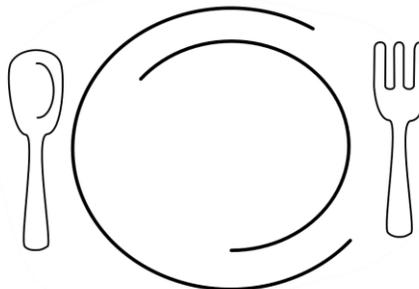
4:30 Cimarron Sidekicks



The Cimarron Sidekicks will perform your favorite songs of the silver screen, television and radio, along with the old cowboy standards we all love, with great vocal harmonies, foot stompin' instrumentals and plain, old-fashioned good fun!

5:15 Catered Dinner

Chicken Cordon Bleu, Wild Rice Pilaf, Caesar Salad, Glazed Carrots, Cheesecake with Cherries



6:00 The Desert Aires



The Desert Aires, an award-winning men's barbershop and a capella chorus from Sun City, will entertain us with a variety of uplifting musical selections.

Meal tickets must be purchased in advance no later than noon the prior Monday so that we have a count of the number of meals to prepare. Telephone reservations are NOT taken. Meal tickets may be bought at the WNA table after each church service, in the Fellowship Hall after the preceding WNA meal, in the Church office (open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.), or on the Church's website, www.alcsuncity.org. Only cash or checks are accepted when buying a meal ticket in person. A credit card is necessary for purchasing tickets via the ALC website.