

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

October 7, 2021

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOWELL

This past weekend, I preached upon the theme of "Soli Deo Gloria", to God alone be the glory! This Latin phrase was a rallying cry for Reformers of the Church 500+ years ago and still expresses our faith in God's abiding presence. Ranging from praise and thanksgiving for all of creation to our fervent personal prayers arising from painful life experiences, God's glory is ever present in the highs and lows of life. "Soli Deo Gloria" embraces both the deeply personal belief and our broad common commitment for this congregation and the Lutheran Church to boldly move forward in faith.

At worship this past weekend, I made two announcements regarding ministry at ALC; one regards a young pastor to join us for 3-6 months to assist with pastoral care and worship after Pastor Judith's departure. Rev. David Sivec will join us October 16th after 3+ year's work as a mission redeveloper at Celebration Lutheran Church in Peoria. Despite best efforts of the Pastor and congregation, Celebration tenderly ended its ministry this past weekend. In the highs and lows of life, "Soli Deo Gloria!" Pastor David's season of work here will be a double blessing. Pastor David will encourage us as a pastor through sharing his spiritual gifts and we will also bless him as he prepares for his next call through our loving encouragement. This congregation is good at appreciating pastors, and I look forward to our time together before he ministers to a new congregation. I love God's delightful sense of humor as I had been searching for a retired pastor and He sent us a 34-year-old! ☺

After the sermon, I announced my intention to retire from full-time ministry at ALC effective the first half of 2022. This decision came after discerning my capacity to lead with the energy and enthusiasm required for over the next 3+ years. I intended to work with you to discover a strategic vision for our congregation and enjoy ministry momentum building to celebrating ALC's 50th anniversary in 2025. However, last year's health challenges still linger for me; and while feeling ever so much better, I do not possess the stamina to lead for multiple more years. The pandemic has challenged our congregation, and I am ever so thankful we are proclaiming the Gospel, inviting others into ministry, and seeking to bless others in word and deed. I enjoy the ministry of our church, and I hope you see that deep satisfaction. However, extensive creative work is required to revise and devote into new ministry opportunities for ALC. I discern it is best to retire to fully rest and fully recover to enjoy family life and new ways to serve God for the remainder of my life. "Soli Deo Gloria!"

ALC has a splendid Church Council, and I appreciate working together here at ALC. I love working at a church where while we may be occasionally surprised in our work together, we have no secrets. It is due to the strength of the Church Council and our congregation that I share my retirement decision so early in the process. The Church Council will

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Hebrews 4:12a
"Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword..."

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

ProMusica Concert
October 17th 3:30 pm

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

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
Thursdays 8:00 am
In-Person in Education A/B
and/or Conference
Call 339.209.5700

SCRIPTURE FOR SERVICE

Lesson:
Hebrews 4:12-16
Psalm 90:12-17
Gospel:
Mark 10:17-31

take the lead in working with Bishop Deborah Hutterer in finding a fine pastor to join you in ministry. I have full confidence in the Council's leadership team under the guidance of President Sharon Grambow and Vice President Ron Prekker who will serve as President next year. Sharon will provide an overview of next steps for the congregation at this coming weekend's worship services and in next week's Mid-Week Message. Each Church Council member is interested in your thoughts and concerns, so please engage in the process including praying for their leadership stamina in the days ahead.

"Soli Deo Gloria" is a way of expressing confidence in the future because we know God holds our future in his loving hands. I look forward to working with Pastor David and Pastor Maria during these beautiful fall months. I look forward to the process of God bringing a brand new Senior Pastor to join ALC in the new year. I look forward to months of exciting ministry ahead of us and for ALC's faithful ministry for the sake of the Gospel in the years ahead. I thank God for the opportunity to be the Church together!

"Soli Deo Gloria!"

Pastor Lowell

Pastor Lowell

CONNECTIONS CALLING TEAM

Our prayer is that we can continue the Connections Calling Team to keep in touch with our brothers and sisters in Christ at American Lutheran Church. We are in need of several volunteers to make calls to about 20 people once a month. Thank you.

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PROMUSICA ARIZONA

THE COMMUNITY CHORALE & ORCHESTRA OF NORTH PHOENIX

ProMusica Arizona Presents.....
a time to celebrate and experience the
joy music brings to our lives!

October 16 & 17, 2021

ANTHEM | Saturday, Oct 16 @ 7:00 p.m.
Boulder Creek HS Performing Arts Center

SUN CITY | Sunday, Oct 17 @ 3:30 p.m.
American Lutheran Church

For tickets and information visit:

[https:// PMAZ.org](https://PMAZ.org) or call 623-326-5172

Children 15 and under are FREE!

