

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"...we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy." – James 5:11

We must show compassion as we persevere in these days of trials and tribulations. Reach out to others who are lonely and hurting each day as we share mercy that has been modeled by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Greetings,

Please contact me at ALC if you are interested in joining a Connections Calling Team. I can also be reached via email at j.rainforth@alcsuncity.org. In this time of social distancing, it would be a blessing if we could all minister together with special acts of kindness as brothers and sisters in Christ.

My intentions include giving my partners in ministry a list of parishioners to visit with on the phone. It is my concern that many are wanting more contact with others at a time when that has become more difficult to accomplish. We are a wonderful community of faith-filled people, and I believe we are stronger together than alone. I pray many of you will respond to my request if you have any questions or would like to help me in this outreach activity.

Pastor Judith Rainforth



We are excited to announce the start of our Stewardship program, "Sparked by the Spirit." Over the next month, we will share ministry plans and invite you to review and pray about your intent for giving in 2021. Join us in our mission to Proclaim, Invite, and Bless.

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

November 11, 2020

PASTOR LOWELL: VETERANS DAY GRATITUDE & THANKSGIVING GENEROSITY

Veterans Day, observed annually on November 11, is a tribute to military veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. While Memorial Day honors those who died while in service, Veterans Day honors all military veterans including those still with us. On behalf of our congregation, thank you to each ALC member who served our country! May God continue to bless our current military members and their families as they carry on this legacy of bravery and service.

As you recall, our Thanksgiving service includes thanksgiving to God and expressing our gratitude to our veterans. Although this year's service will be online during this time of pandemic concern, we will continue this wonderful tradition including Dan Reed's trumpet accompaniment to our musical offerings.

One key difference with an online service is we need to send our Thanksgiving offerings to the church. Whether through added to weekly worship offerings, dropping them off at the office, or mailing them to ALC, please send your generous contribution. Every single dollar raised from our Thanksgiving offering is given to the West Valley Food Pantry's ministry housed at St. John's Lutheran Church in Glendale. Please make your check payable to American Lutheran Church with "Thanksgiving" in the memo line, and we combine our gifts to make one major gift, ideally in the range of \$5,000. Online giving options are available also through our website.

Let us ensure our legacy of generosity by working together on this Veterans Day and throughout the Thanksgiving season.

Love, Pastor Lowell



THANK YOU FOR THIS DAY: A SHORT PRAYER

Dear God, sometimes I just wake up and pop right out of bed going about my day without thinking of You or thanking You for the many gifts You have given me. Please forgive me for this "rush". Help me to take time each morning to give you thanks and prayers. Help me to remember to thank You for my health, my family, my friends. Help me to pray for others who may be facing challenges in their lives. Help me to remember You throughout my day. Remind me to be of comfort where it is needed, to smile and be supportive of others. Please give me patience and do not let me rush to judgement. Help me to be empathetic to others as well as to "feel" my feelings. Give me grace, humility, assurance and confidence in my interactions with others. And, as this day ends, let me remember to say, "Thank you for this day".

Terri Polk, ALC Council President

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEKEND'S SERVICE

Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Psalm: Psalms 90:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

TAIZÉ ADVENT SERVICES

Join us for Taizé Advent services on Wednesday evenings, December 2nd, 9th and 16th at 6 p.m. Taizé Worship will be led by Pastor Judith Rainforth, Dr. James Gerber and Janet McDonald with the same COVID-19 guidelines as we follow for weekend services.

RETURN OF OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES

Saturday, Nov. 14, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 15, 9:00 -11:00 a.m.

LEFSE SALE

Lefse sale in the Courtyard

Nov. 21, 9-11 a.m.

Nov. 21, 4-5 p.m.

Nov. 22, 10-11 a.m.

DAILY PRAYER CONCERN TEAM

If you would like to pray for the ALC daily prayer concerns, please contact the Church Office at 623-974-2512 for a prayer concern list or email me at t.molck@alcsuncity.org.

Thanks and God Bless!
Toni Molck, Operations Coordinator

ANGEL TREE

We will be participating in the Angel Tree Ministry again this year. More to follow as plans move forward.

POINSETTIAS

Support the decorating of our church for Christmas; cost is \$12 per poinsettia. Please stop by or contact the church office to sign up and purchase.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! On November 20th at 9:30 a.m., the Friday Morning Bible Study will be resurrected!!! We will combine Zoom with 10 members in the Fellowship Hall. At first, we will just work out the "kinks" and have a short devotional and prayer requests. If this works, we will work on a regular study starting after the first of the year!! I will need to know who is interested because no more than 10 can be in the Fellowship Hall, and those participating in Zoom will need the "invitation". My email is digagarvey@gmail.com, and my number is 575-551-4207. Please let me hear from you!

Looking forward to getting together on the 20th!!! Dianne Garvey

WEEKLY VIDEO SERIES

Join our weekly video series where we will watch a video or movie followed by discussion. We will begin on Thursday, Nov 12th, at 9:30 a.m., and every Thursday thereafter except during the holidays. The numbers will be limited to 10 people, and we will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall for no longer than 45 minutes. Refreshments will not be served. Please email me at j.rainforth@alcsuncity.org to register for this group. I will host more sessions as necessary to accommodate the number of reservations.

Prayerfully, Pastor Judith

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

I am pleased to announce an in-person Advent bible study on Wednesday, December 2nd and 9th at 10 a.m. in Edu. A/B and will be limited to a 45-minute session. We will be limited to 10 people. Please be advised that no food/drink can be served/shared, but you may bring your own. Please remember to bring and wear your mask during this time. For those who prefer a Zoom session, I will hold the same study on Friday, December 4th and 11th at 10 am. The study will be like a "Lessons and Carols" format. We will study the scripture and listen to music as it applies to the prophesy and birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Overlapping this will be our Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. Should more than 10 be interested, I can hold a second Wednesday session at 1:00 pm on both December 2th and 9th. Please let me know by either email or phone if you are interested in attending this in-person study and what time. If the Zoom session is preferred, please let me know that, as well. Thank you. It will be so good to be together in-person or by Zoom!

Debbie Nelson, deborahnelson@cox.net, (402)651-3635

MEDITATION GROUP

We will be continuing our Meditation Group on Friday mornings at 9 a.m. All are welcome to join us for a time of spiritual renewal as we sit in silent prayer and meditation. Please come quietly into the Chapel and we will gather with masks and physical distancing that will keep us safe and healthy. I am looking forward to this time with a community of believers while we focus on the presence of God, remembering the verse from Psalm 46:10: "Be still and know that I am God." Please email me at j.rainforth@alcsuncity.org to register for this group, as we will limit it to 10 people and meet for no more than 45 minutes.

Prayerfully, Pastor Judith Rainforth