

## SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEKEND'S SERVICE

Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7

Psalm 148

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

# MIDWEEK MESSAGES

December 23, 2020

## MESSAGE FROM ALC COUNCIL PRESIDENT

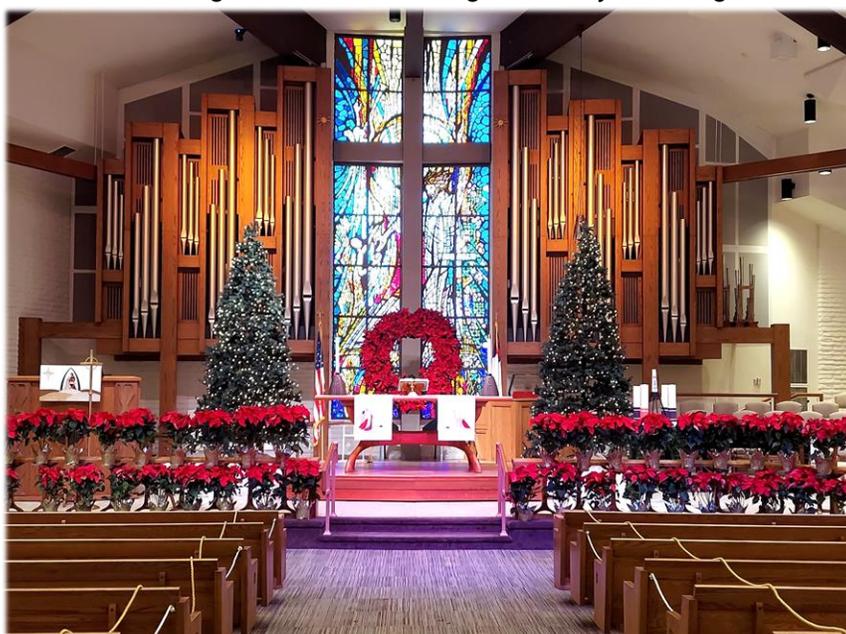
Thank you to those who have been able to return your statement of intent and were “Sparked by the Spirit”. I know that many mailings were unfortunately delayed. For those of you who have not yet taken the opportunity to return your statement, we invite you to be “Sparked by the Spirit” and either go online, mail your intent to the church, or drop it off in our secure mailbox outside the church office. Council members will begin to work on “thank you notes” and also phone calls to those we have not heard from. These calls will begin sometime after the Christmas holiday.

2020 has been quite the year. We have been asked to mask, socially distance, refrain from restaurants, bars, sporting events, etc. Many of us have complied, some of us have not. We are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel—the vaccine, for those who can safely receive it—but we still have to get there. The coronavirus has continued to surge. Community spread in Maricopa County has increased and has now topped one of the metrics we have used to guide us. (We were using the metric of 10% community spread and it is now at or above 10.9%.) Many hospitals in our area are closed to the guideline we set of 95% full; we are currently at 92.5% which is at the high alert/high caution range.

Your ALC Council met on 12/22 to discuss the above information and asked the question, “What should ALC do?” There was lively but respectful discussion. We discussed the warning of the possibility of a surge after Christmas, just as there was after Thanksgiving. We discussed the fact that people can make their own decision to come to ALC or not. We discussed the impact on staff, volunteers and our congregation. After this discussion, the council voted to “pause” our in-person services for the month of January. This was not an easy vote. We know not everyone will agree with it. However, we all voted out of an abundance of care and concern for our congregation. We will continue online services and will communicate through our Midweek Messages, phone “Connections”, neighborhood group phone calls and of course our monthly Outreach Newsletter.

We hope you will continue your support of ALC as we made this difficult decision and as we meander through this maze. Council has looked to God to be our guide. The message “Love your neighbor as yourself” has been continuously mentioned in our Pastors’ sermons and we are trying to practice this. Please continue in faith-filled prayer, regardless of how you stand on this issue. We will work through this and we can’t wait to get back to celebrate together in worship and song. Let us continue to look to God as our guide as we celebrate our mission: “To Proclaim the Love of Jesus Christ, To Invite Others to Participate in Our Faith Community, and To Be a Blessing to All in Word and Deed”.

In Community,  
Terri Polk, ALC Council President



## POINSETTIAS

Ann Skidmore in celebration of our Lord  
Annette Garm in memory of Family and Friends  
Barbara Kurtis for Janet Harding  
Bev and Russel Flatland  
Bob and Jackie Echenbacker  
Char Riebe in memory of Loved Ones  
Colleen Gandrud for Don  
Craig and Linda Cain for Parents and Grandparents  
Dale Berwick and Marilyn Shellerud in honor of Pearl  
Dale Fink in memory of his Mother Clara Fink  
Diane Baker in memory of Husband Wayne and  
Granddaughter Ashley  
Dick and Judy Jorgenson  
Helen Teply in Memory of Husband Rob and Daughter Trish  
Teply-Markoski  
In memory of Marvin Betcher  
Janet Erdahl in memory of Husband Lee  
Jeanette Danielson  
John and Betty Leyse in Honor of Jesus  
JR and Shirley Olson  
Judy Morrison and family in loving memory of Husband,  
Father and Grandfather Percy Morrison  
Linda and Bob Shirck in memory of Eileen Mannett  
Michelle Hannah in memory of Kyle Matsko  
Nancy and Myron Missling  
Olga Redstrom in memory of Mother and Father  
Richard and Judy Jensen in honor of Faith and Family  
Rita Van Stelle  
Sandra Sue Richards in memory of Husband Bob Richards  
Sheila Harmell  
Sheila Worley  
Steve and Char Skrabak in Honor of their 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Suzanne Shotts in celebration of Godmother Marge and  
memory of Parents Agnes and Albert  
Suzanne Shotts in memory of Godfather Paul Berdis and  
Loved Ones  
Vi and Don Anderson dedicated to the glory of our Lord Jesus  
Christ



## ANGEL TREE

Please read below a text from a local mother impacted by the Angel Tree. This was shared with us from a contact at Central Baptist Church.

*"Hello,*

*I just wanted to take the time to thank you guys very very VERY much. I really, really want you guys to know that you guys doing this providing my kids a Christmas gift from him. Really really really made a difference for my kids today.*

*They've had a really hard time not having their dad around and then of course the craziness of the pandemic. I bust out crying when I walked in my home today. I kind of didn't know why. I guess I wasn't expecting for my kids to be screaming up and down with excitement and joy that presents from my daddy my daddy sent me that I just didn't know that it matters to them and how much of an impact that was going to have on THEM or even how emotional it would be for us.*

*Thank you all so very much I'm truly blessed and thankful for your generosity and understanding. I pray you all know how much this means to me and makes a difference when a child has an absent parent.*

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH & MERRY CHRISTMAS."**

Blessings,  
Angel Tree Ministry

## A REMINDER

Just a reminder that you can view Christmas services, Blue Christmas, and special Christmas music on our website, [www.alcsuncity.org/servicesanddevotions](http://www.alcsuncity.org/servicesanddevotions).