



American Lutheran Church of Sun City  
17200 DEL WEBB BLVD. SUN CITY, ARIZONA, 85363  
P: 623.974.2512 F: 623.974.2515  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020**

### MID-WEEK MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOWELL

Dear Friends and Family of ALC,

“Communication” means “to share”; and in the midst of our “physical distancing” pandemic world, this is an ongoing challenge. I use the phrase physical distancing as I detest the more often used phrase, “social distancing.” If we cannot keep socially connected, we run the risk of disastrous cultural changes, both on the micro and macro level ranging from breakdowns in our own families, our church, our state and to the nation itself. We need to stay connected with God and each other. In the history of our church, public worship was the primary means of building community and sharing life together. As we began plans to reopen a month ago, Grand Canyon Synod recommended a simple policy to re-engage in public worship using the CDC guideline of restarting only after two weeks of daily decline in COVID-19 cases. If you’ve been following Arizona/Maricopa County results, we are nowhere near meeting that threshold.

I understand there is a temptation to restart in spite of best evidence-based practices. We want to worship together, and we want communion in the best sense of the word - with each other and with God! Certainly, the two-week restart standard is cautious, but I think it is full of common sense. Over 75% of COVID-19 deaths in Maricopa County are people over the age of 65; and if you add ages 55-64, you have over 88% of fatalities age 55 and older. This age range encompasses the vast majority of our congregation. Accordingly, we will need to continue using technology, such as online worship, to proclaim the love of God in Jesus Christ.

I want to hear your thoughts; in this email blast (and in letters to those without email), we have a survey to gather congregational opinion regarding a variety of topics related to our church and worship. Please take the time to share your thoughts and opinion. We’ll plan on sharing the results in two weeks, so please don’t delay in your response.

Remember, no pandemic can rob us of our greatest means of communicating with God: prayer! **Pray, Pray, Pray!** Let us renew our diligence in praying for our church and dear members, our community, state, nation and world.

*With deep appreciation,  
Pastor Lowell*



### A BEGINNING LOOK AT PAN DE VIDA

Pastor Nelson reminded us in his sermon this past week that we need to listen to others, to have compassion---really listen. We also need to listen to people to get a better understanding of who they are and the situations they have been in. I hope this article, and future articles, will help us develop a better understanding of the Pan De Vida congregation, the services they provide, and how our relationship is important to both congregations. In the past 30 years, give or take a few, American Lutheran Church, along with several other churches and programs in the Sun City area, have been helping the Pan De Vida congregation through monetary support as well as some programming support.

Did you know that Pan De Vida is the second oldest Latino congregation in the Grand Canyon Synod? San Juan Baptiste, in the Tucson area, is the oldest and has its origins in 1977. Pan De Vida was organized in the 1980’s. Pan De Vida serves many people who are marginalized and may need assistance through English as a Second Language classes, tutoring, food pantry, housing assistance, and more.

Over the course of the last 40 years, Pastor Maria (now retired) and Pastor Mitch have continued to provide worship, leadership and support to the Pan De Vida congregation. Their roles have been many and varied. Everything from teaching Bible studies and recruiting, outreach, evangelism, starting communicant and education classes, and being involved in community events and activities.

Pan De Vida has had to respond to many changes which have definitely impacted the rate of growth of the congregation. Some of these changes have included anti-migration legislation, economic changes, language and education challenges, and housing development (causing many members to lose their jobs and move). Even though Pan De Vida has faced many changes and challenges with its growth, Pastor Mitch says, “We can either close the doors or continue our outreach and look at what we have accomplished.”

In our next article, we will look at some of the accomplishments that Pan De Vida has made to help instill a sense of hope and future in the community.

*With compassion,  
Terri Polk; ALC Council President*



## SUMMER GATHERING IN MINNESOTA CANCELLED

ALC members that spend some of the summer in the upper Midwest have been gathering in Minnesota each August - but this year our gathering is cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to resuming our annual tradition next year, in 2021.

*Debra Hortland*

## HEROES AND HEROINES

Do you know someone at American Lutheran Church who has gone “above and beyond” either in church and/or community volunteerism? If you would like to nominate them, simply email me ([tpolk127@gmail.com](mailto:tpolk127@gmail.com)) or call me at 317-258-7590. Leave a message if you need to, and I will get back with you.

*Thanks!*

*Terri Polk*



## FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The following are some **preliminary** (not final) financial results for the month of May:

Our regular giving income was \$77,766 or 89% of budget and higher than we projected. Expenses were \$75,001 or 71% of budget and also higher than we projected. The net result, though, is that our giving income for May exceeded our expenses. Thank you to our faithful givers for your continued support of American Lutheran Church. Look for final financial results in the July Outreach.

	Budget	Projected	Actual	% of Budget
<b>Regular Giving Income</b>	\$87,818	\$52,691	\$77,766	89%
<b>Operational Expenses</b>	\$105,340	\$66,847	\$75,001	71%

## HOW TO ACCESS WEEKLY SERMONS, OUR WEBSITE, YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK

Hello everyone!

The following are directions on how to access our online resources:

1. Website
  - a. To access our website, please open any internet browser on your phone or computer, such as Google or Internet Explorer. Click on the address bar and type in <http://www.alcsuncity.org/> . Then press ENTER.
2. Sermons and Devotions
  - a. Once on the website, click on the WORSHIP tab, and then click on SERMONS AND DEVOTIONS.
  - b. Click on the arrow in the center of the video to play it. For previous videos, click on the sermon title that appears on the upper left corner of the video along with the icon of the church to be redirected to our YouTube page with previous videos.
3. YouTube
  - a. To access our YouTube page directly, click on the address bar of any internet browser. Type in <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbpaGz0rEpgGJ34zfR8rNJg> . Conversely, you can type in [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) . Then, click on the search bar and type in American Lutheran Church of Sun City. Click on the channel with the following picture:
  - b. Then, click on the red SUBSCRIBE button. To receive notifications whenever new videos are uploaded, after clicking the subscribe button, click on the bell icon that appears to the right of it. Then, click ALL.
4. Facebook
  - a. To access our Facebook page, click on the address bar of any internet browser and type in <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLutheranChurchofSunCity> .
  - b. Then click on the LIKE button.

*Thank you,*

*Odyssey Hernandez*