

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Lord teach me your ways.
Show me how to live. Guide me in
your truth, and teach me, My God,
my Savior.

Psalm 25:4-5

As we continue this earthly pilgrimage, it is important to ask our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to help us to learn the lessons of this most difficult time. We may sometimes feel discouraged, but we must continue to pray our way through each day. When we open ourselves to possibilities, we will find opportunities for spiritual growth as we pray these verses from this beautiful Psalm.

When attending a Saturday or Sunday service, please note: To sit with family or guests, you need to enter the Sanctuary at the same time because of the pews being roped off for social distancing.

SCRIPTURES FOR SERVICE:

Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30

Psalm: Psalm 145: 1-8

The Gospel: Matthew 20:1-6

a political rally supporting any candidate or political party." I will leave it to your good judgment how you seek to pray for our country, but it is vitally important to do so. We will continue to pray for our elected leaders to demonstrate good judgment and concern for we, the people. We pray each week during our worship services and on Mondays during our Intercessory Prayer time at 2:30 pm. I am already looking ahead to a reinvigorated National Day of Prayer Service on Thursday, May 6th, 2021. Martin Luther had a keen observation on prayer; "To be a Christian without praying is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." So, keep on breathing and keep on praying!

Our son Andrew is married! Our eldest son, Andrew, married his dear fiancé, Kendra Amick, on September 6th in the Catskill Mountains of New York. While we profoundly missed participating in the wedding due to pandemic concerns, Debbie and I are absolutely delighted in their marriage and look forward to celebrating together in God's perfect timing. Two down, one to go! Just teasing, Joe... 😊

Love,
Pastor Lowell
l.nelson@alcsuncity.org
402-651-5555

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

September 16, 2020

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOWELL NELSON

Pastor Lowell's Ministry Musings

Great News re: "The Walk for Water!" Pastor Kate Adelman of the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission informed us work has started on the well to provide water for the Rock Point community. As you know, the pandemic has deeply affected the Navajo Nation over the past 6 months; but thank God, now is the time to bring this fresh source of water to the community. I am so pleased with our congregation's support of this project and look forward to a community celebration in Rock Point this fall.

The Joy of Generosity! I am so thankful for our congregation's ongoing reflection of God's loving abundance. Through unprecedented pandemic times and our normal summer lull, we are \$23,818 in the red, or 3% behind in covering our \$781,048 in expenses. As we regain momentum with both online and in-person worship services and many members returning from summer breaks, let us commit to the Lord's work with joy and enthusiasm. By the ongoing grace of God, we can build ministry momentum together!

The Power of Prayer! Prayer is vital to laying hold of the promises of God and connecting deeply with others. I was informed of a Prayer March on Saturday, September 26th, from 9-11 am MST led by Rev. Franklin Graham from Washington, D.C. As your pastor, I am cautious of any politization of prayer; and as Rev. Graham led prayer at the RNC in August, that claim could be asserted. However, the Prayer March website states, "This is a dedicated prayer march. Not a protest. Not

HOW DO WE SEEK FORGIVENESS?

Forgiveness. Pastor mentioned this topic again this week. Two weeks in a row the Gospel has focused on this. God must have been stressing this for a reason. Fortunately for me, this week I had a wonderful opportunity to talk with Pastor Lowell about forgiveness. Let me share some thoughts and give you a glimmer of what we talked about.

I think forgiveness is a word we often take for granted, especially when we “ask” for forgiveness. It’s like saying “I’m sorry” should negate what we have done wrong and that’s all we need to do. When we ask for forgiveness, we should truly mean “Please forgive me for what I have done wrong” or “I was wrong when I did this, please forgive me”. The person who is on the receiving end of this statement can be helpful by asking, “How are you going to avoid doing this again?” or “What will you plan to do differently if you find yourself in a similar situation?” These questions can also keep us from “enabling” others in what could be continuous dysfunctional or harmful behavior.

Pastor Lowell mentioned a book called The Five Languages of Apology by Gary Chapman and Jennifer Thomas that discussed the topics of apology and forgiveness more thoroughly. I think this might be a “good read” for me and probably many others. I also could benefit from a “life review” to assess how I asked for and gave forgiveness and see if I need a “redo”. How about you?

*Thoughtfully,
Terri Polk, ALC Council President*



HOW TO REGISTER FOR ALC WORSHIP SERVICES

1. Call the church at 623-974-2512 or register online at www.alcsuncity.org by NOON the FRIDAY prior to service. EVERY PERSON ATTENDING MUST BE REGISTERED AS THERE IS A LIMIT OF 50 PEOPLE.
2. On the Welcome page, click on the link listed below the service you want to attend.
3. You will be redirected to another page, Realm. Input your information: first and last name, email, and phone number.
4. Click Next.
5. On the page that loads, click on ADD A GUEST if there is anyone else that will go with you, OR each person can register separately.
6. Click Next.
7. Ensure the information is correct on the screen; if so, click Next again.
8. Click Register and you are done. You will receive a confirmation email from Realm.