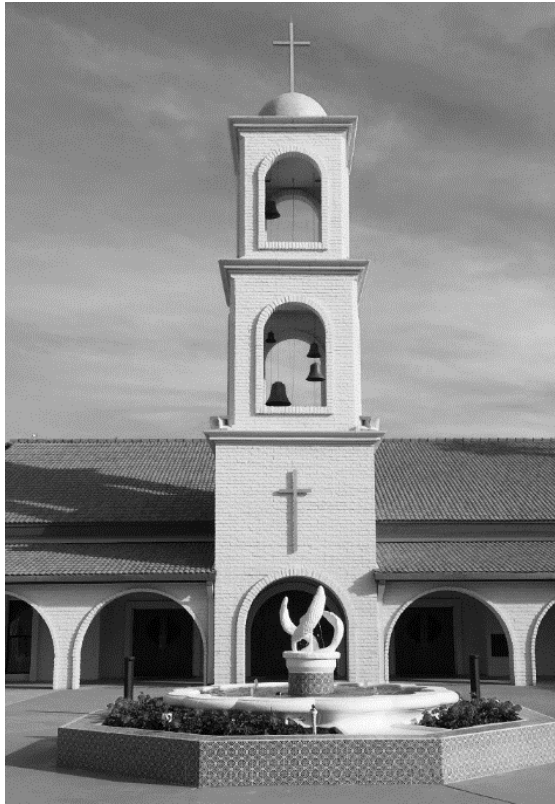


American Lutheran Church of Sun City

July 2019 Outreach Newsletter



MISSION STATEMENT:

To proclaim the love of Jesus Christ, invite others to participate in our faith community, and be a blessing to all in word and deed.

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Dear American Lutheran Church Family & Friends,

Welcome to July 2019! As we prepare for another summer month in Sun City, I give thanks for vital signs of congregational health at ALC. June's potluck was well attended by 117 folks and 20+ people gathered for Christian movies and discussion. ALC members are showing generous stewardship, which is sparking a sense of vitality.

The key to our faith life is weekly worship, both here and throughout the country as our associate members enjoy cooler weather. Our Presiding Bishop, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, wrote a great summary of worship's main components in last month's "Living Lutheran" which I include for our mutual understanding:

*"Liturgy is important—not each constituent part—but the basic structure of corporate worship: **gathering, word, meal and sending**. It's a discipline Lutherans willingly undertake because it helps individuals and the entire community express our connection with other Christians throughout the world and across the ages. When we gather, it's not simply a group of like-minded individuals. We gather in Jesus' name and we gather as the body of Christ. "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" (**Romans 12:5**). We gather in the presence of Jesus, God with us, in whom we all have our ultimate identity.*

***We gather around the word**—Scripture, preaching, song, prayer and creeds, but especially around the living Word, Jesus Christ. We are not the focus of our worship—God is. Worship is not primarily about "me" or about "us." Worship is not a performance for the community, but an offering directed to God. Jesus promised that when we gather in his name, he is in the midst of us. How would our worship change if we understood literally that Christ is present and we are offering Christ our worship and praise?*

***We gather for the meal.** Gathered around our tables, we are gathered around the one table. We are fed and forgiven, reconciled and released, crucified and raised. In the words of institution, we hear the Jesus story—the story of Jesus, broken and shed, who gives himself completely for the life of the world. If your congregation uses the prayer that surrounds these words, you also hear the history of salvation. While each individual receives God in the sacraments, no individual receives this grace alone apart from the rest of the community.*

***We are sent.** Gathered into one by the Spirit, carrying and bearing the word, never separated from the love of God in Christ Jesus, we are sent into the world.*

Some of the most important words spoken in the liturgy are “Go in peace. Serve the Lord.” Out we go, serving this world God so loves. Jesus meets us there—in our struggles, joys, life and death. Then we gather again in worship to be strengthened and restored.”

I thank Bishop Eaton for beautifully summarizing our worship experience from which we proclaim the good news of God in Jesus Christ, invite others to join us and bless others in word and deed. What a privilege to serve with you at our precious American Lutheran Church!

Love,
Pastor Lowell

Love,



Pastor Lowell

Invitation to Thrivent Members from Pastor Lowell

ALC is a generous church and I'd like to remind all of our Thrivent Financial Members that they have several special ways to enhance our congregation's generosity. Thrivent members have two ways of using member benefits that are absolutely no cost to each member but distribute Thrivent funds for ministry purposes.

One way is using **Thrivent Action grants** (up to \$500 in seed money for each member for special projects each year.) With the Benevolence Committee's help, we will learn how to use these funds to build ministry momentum for the remainder of 2019 and into 2020. The second way can generate a profound level of giving, generating tens of thousands of dollars by using **Thrivent Choice Dollars**. These dollars are Thrivent dividends given to American Lutheran for benevolence ministry on an annual basis. Again, the grants & Choice Dollars are provided at absolutely no cost to the member! The key is each member needs to direct Thrivent to designate these dollars to ALC so we can reach out to bless others in Jesus' name.

Thrivent does not release their Thrivent membership records to churches. However, by knowing who our Thrivent members are, the Benevolence Committee can communicate

with you to keep you informed on ministry projects that could benefit from your Thrivent membership. As we create a Thrivent community within our church, we will generate thousands of dollars to directly benefit ministry together. **Please let Diane Lewis (d.lewis@alcsuncity.org) know of your membership so we can build momentum in serving others.**

I love how our church is working together to support the Navajo Lutheran Mission/Rock Point, AZ. The Benevolence Committee invited their Executive Director, Kate Adelman, to share opportunities to strengthen their ministry last month. One priority is clean drinking water to protect the health of the community including precious children threatened with contaminants. This information was shared with the Women's Ministry team and they generously gave a \$3,550 grant to begin evaluating a potential reopening of a deep well for the sake of the community. More exciting information is forthcoming on how we plan to further help those in need and it is so exciting to see our church reclaiming its heritage of generosity.

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

The annual assembly of the Grand Canyon Synod was held in Mesa on June 14 and 15 this year. The theme was “Sing to the Lord a New Song” and much of the music in the liturgy of the worship services had been written by Pastor Dave Drach-Meinell, a member of our Synod from Las Vegas. Bible passages that referenced this theme were included especially in the opening worship. The 2019 Strategic Plan of the Grand Canyon Synod entitled “Better Together for the Sake of the Gospel” with the Vision statement “Communities Together in Christ Serving the World.” continued this theme. The Mission statement to “Communicate the Love of Christ, Connect Diverse People, and Create New ways of Outreach” is similar to ours here at ALC. I include this here because it is easy to think we are alone in this church universe with singular values that are not found elsewhere. It was very evident that although our members come from diverse cultures and experiences, our Core Values are “Grounded in the Grace of Christ”.

Another purpose of this theme was to emphasize the importance of recognizing our church is not stagnating or standing still but instead is vibrant and becoming more diverse. Another example is some of the Bible passages were read in Spanish or Navajo or Dinka by members attending the assembly.

A wide variety of workshops were presented such as Standing with Martin Luther in Public Witness; Church & Culture, Then & Now; and Congregational Security in an Insecure Time. I attended the security workshop and brought back information that will help us address those concerns. The Church & Culture Workshop identified how world events have affected the members of each generation and what current research reveals about faith formation in the 21st century.

Representatives from organizations connected to us such as Tina Kvittek, a regional gift planner with the ELCA Foundation, who has been consulting with our Trusts and Gifts & Memorials Committee, helped lead our group in discussion regarding the Synod strategic plan.

A Synod Assembly would not be complete without the usual business of electing and installing Synod Council representatives and Synod staff etc. and that was accomplished handily.

Judy and I appreciated the opportunity to attend with Pastor Lowell and Debbie Nelson and Sharon and Gary Grambow.

Dick Jorgenson,
Congregation President

WORSHIP & MUSIC

“When Christ’s people, the baptized, gather for worship they receive God’s love in word and sacrament, and through the gift of music, praise, pray, proclaim and recount the story of God’s grace in song.” (Anonymous)

I am grateful for the time I served as music assistant/accompanist under Tom Ohnesorge’s leadership, and pray that he will be led to greater things and new opportunities in his next chapter of life. We thank him for sharing his talents and love of the Lord through music and all the other responsibilities he took on during his tenure here.

God has now called me to assist with worship this summer in this transitional period, and we will welcome Janet MacDonald as our interim choir director when she returns from Minnesota in September. The Personnel Committee’s decision to hire us for an interim period is a wise one, allowing us time to plan and dream for the future, and to move at a more deliberate pace in selecting a replacement. Many of you know Janet from hearing her beautiful soprano voice; she is a recently retired high school music teacher, as well as an experienced church organist and choir director who will bring excitement and joy to our rehearsals and in worship. It is our goal to be a welcoming choir, who care deeply for each other, appreciate everyone’s contribution, and have fun making a joyful noise to the Lord.

This summer, I invite all singers to join the “Praise Singers” to lead the congregation in worship on July 20-21, and August 17-18. We’ll rehearse in the choir room on Thursdays, July 18 and Aug 15 at 2:30, but if you aren’t able to attend the Thursday rehearsal you’re still welcome to join us at 8:15 a.m. to learn the anthem for that Sunday. I’m also looking for soloists and/or small groups to sing or play an anthem during the summer months and would love to hear from you. I will be happy to help you choose a song and rehearse with you. Share your talents! Whether or not you’re here to sing with us this summer, we pray that you’ll consider joining the Celebration Choir in the fall. Rehearsals will resume on September 12, 2:30-4:00.

In Christ,

Linda Shirck, Interim Organist

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” – 1 Peter 4:10

SUMMER MOVIES FOR JULY!

Come cool off and discuss thought provoking films about grace, redemption, love, and Christianity in society.

- Bring a snack to share, if you wish. Tea/lemonade provided
- We will gather at 9:45 am and start the movie at 10 am
- Meet in Education A/B

Wednesday, July 10 – The Case for Christ

In 1980, Lee Strobel's award-winning investigative reporting earns him a promotion to legal editor at the Chicago Tribune. His wife's newfound faith in Christ compels Lee to utilize his journalistic and legal training to try and disprove the claims of Christianity.

Wednesday, July 17 – God's Not Dead 2

High school history teacher, Grace Wesley, comes under fire for answering a student's question about Jesus. Refusing to apologize, the school board votes to suspend her and threatens to revoke her teaching certificate. Forced to stand trial to save her career, Grace hires a young lawyer to defend her in court. He devises a powerful strategy to show the jury the historical significance of Wesley's classroom discussion.

Wednesday, July 31 – The Shack

After suffering a family tragedy, Mack Phillips spirals into a deep depression that causes him to question his faith in God. Why do bad things happen to good people? A visit to the shack reveals a unique look at the Trinity.

WELLNESS MINUTE

Care for Dry Skin

Dry skin is the most common cause of itching in older adults.

Keep your skin healthy by:

- ✓ Keeping baths and showers short and warm, not hot. Hot water can deplete natural oils in your skin. Bathing with water at about 90° Fahrenheit helps minimize this, as does keeping bathing times to less than 10 minutes.
- ✓ Cleansing gently: Most of the time, use soap only on the face, underarms, hands and feet. Even then, cleanse gently and use mild, super fatted or glycerin soaps or dry skin cleansers from brands such as Cetaphil, Dove, or Vanicream. Avoid aggressive scrubbing and lying in soapy water or a bubble bath. Many soaps such as antibacterial, perfumed and deodorant soaps can be harsh on the skin.
- ✓ Drying yourself gently: Brush excess water off with your hands and pat or blot yourself with a towel. Leave your skin moist. Avoid rubbing or wiping your skin dry.

- ✓ Moisturizing: Within a couple of minutes of bathing, apply moisturizing cream or ointment to trap moisture in your skin. A product in which petrolatum is one of the top three ingredients may be the best. Products containing glycerin, lactic acid or urea may provide an extra boost.
- ✓ Using a humidifier when air is dry. This is particularly helpful during the winter months if you live in a cold climate.
- ✓ Protecting your skin: Drink water throughout the day. Protect your skin from dry winds.

Lori Kellar,
ALC Wellness Ministry

WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

The Women’s Ministry Board wishes to offer a special ‘Thank You’ to each of you for your support of all of our projects. Because of your support we were able to send a check of \$3,550.00 to the Navajo Lutheran Ministries School in Rock Point, Arizona. The need was immediate for work on wells contaminated with arsenic and uranium, which are directly affecting the children and the community. Thank you for making it possible for us to send the check for work on the wells.

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES: The July meeting to make diapers and bandages for Global Health Ministries will be on Monday, July 22 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please continue to donate white t-shirts of all sizes and white sheets. **White sheets of any size are particularly needed!** All donations should be labeled Global Ministries and placed on the food gathering table in the Narthex.

2019 HOLIDAY BAZAAR: Before you know it our 2019 Holiday Bazaar and Lefse Sale will be here! It will be held on Saturday, November 23. We would like all crafters, woodworkers, jewelry makers, greeting card makers, knitters, quilters, and others to begin thinking about possible donations. The ‘‘Craft Boutique’’ at last year’s bazaar was very popular, and we look forward to expanding our selection of items. If you have questions, please call Marty Livingston at (614) 307-0113.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Thank you for your continued donations of items for our Operation Christmas Child boxes. This month school supplies are on sale and we are asking for donations of spiral notebooks (70 pages), boxes of crayons (24 packs) and pencils. Please drop your items in the marked red bins in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS & STEPHEN MINISTRY LIAISON

July 2019

Groups

I look upon the Neighborhood Groups of our ALC as the heartbeat of the Church. Right now the summer season is upon us. Many of our groups are inactive at this time of year. Members of their group have already left the area, or will very soon make their journey to another State, or a higher elevation in Arizona.

Fortunately some groups are still actively engaged here in the local area.

So, our Church is still ticking. The pulse of the Church is still beating. The Church will survive and will be here to welcome those who return with their stories of activity in cooler climates or even tales of their visits to other countries.

My wife Drinda and I are planning to visit family in Ohio, and on our way back to Phoenix in August we will stop in Shoreview MN to attend the Upper Midwest Get-Together at Incarnation Lutheran Church. This is being organized by David & Debra Hjortland. So, I hope to see many of our ALC members there.

In the fall, I anticipate inviting the leaders of the Neighborhood Groups to a meeting at ALC, to discuss ways we can increase participation, by more of those in our Groups who do not currently attend the meetings. This would hopefully improve the health of our ALC.

Please everyone, have a safe and worthwhile summer. Be careful as you drive around as the weather this year appears to be very unpredictable. May our Dear Lord keep you and hold you in the palm of His hand.

Stephen Ministry Liaison

There is very little activity involving Liaison. However, our Eucharistic Stephen Ministers are assisting the Pastors with Communion at Saturday and Sunday services throughout the summer at ALC.

Bryan Cooper-Keeble
Email - banddck@aol.com

• NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

First Thursday, July 4

No meeting for **2L** Royal Oaks this month

First Saturday, July 6

8:30 **2H** Happy Hour @ Royal Café

9:00 **2D** Thunderbirds no meeting till fall

Second Saturday, July 13

9:00 **3H** Jolly Comrades no meeting till fall

9:00 **3C** Care, Chatter, Comfort no meeting till Sept

Third Thursday, July 18

8:30 **1A** Quail Run @ Mercer's

Third Saturday, July 20

8:00 **5C/5E/5F** Grand West @ Memo's

9:30 **3A** Wanderers in homes

Fourth Saturday, July 27

9:00 **2M** El Dorado @ El Dorado

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Gifts that were given to American Lutheran Church in Memory of

Barbara Pitcher

By Charlotte Riebe

Earl Olson

By Maguerite J Johnson

Ed Jensen

By Karen Bjelland

Emil Kroeplin

By Joyce DeVantier

Janet Lindahl

By Joan Jordahl

Rev. Benjamin Nelson

By Chuck & Helen Rogness and Judy A Jensen

Wally Harmell; Abe & Arnold Harmell & Milan Susina

By Sheila Harmell

Carol Crain and Lori's Kellar's brother, Jeffrey

By Judy A Jensen, Gerald Hayes, and Glen Schulz

John Prinz

By Sheila Harmell

Genevieve Meier

By Judy A Jensen

Otto Wedul

By Chuck & Helen Rogness

Halo, our beloved canine

By Dana Oravec & John

Scott Paulson

By Chuck & Helen Rogness

Carol Crain

By Charlene & James Trageser, Marvin & Maryanne Winters, and Alice Carlson

Frank Marks

By Chuck & Helen Rogness and Judy A Jensen

Glenn Mobraten

By Chuck & Helen Rogness and Judy A Jensen

Kay Long

By James Becker & Terri Polk, Marvin & Maryanne Winters, Carol Jones and Elaine Thompson, Sheila Harmell, Judy A Jensen, Anonymous, Charlotte Riebe, Karen Bergfeld, Glen Schulz, David & Martha Livingston, Pamela & Edward Lenhart, Stephany Takala, Judith VanDevere & Larry Stage, Richard & Judy Jorgenson, Charles & Denice Louderback, Bernice Gil, Dorothy & David Held, Audrey Wedul, Joyce Wikum, Dennis & Cynthia Saxsma, Robert & Joyce Ferko, Phillip & Claire Long, Nancy Pribyl, Judy A Jensen and Barbara Farwell

GIFTS WERE GIVEN TO ALC:

The Music Department in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary by George and Joyce Zoske; in memory of my wife, Bev Krause by Floyd Krause; for our 69th Wedding Anniversary, May 28, 1950 by Donald and Ramona Stroh; by Alger & Lois Arness in memory of our daughter, Pastor Carolyn Arness, who passed away on June 28, 2018

To Property & Grounds by Ann Jones

Thank you

My sincere gratitude to Pastors, staff, and members who gave so generously to me. All the calls, cards, caring, hugs and memorials at the passing of my father, Glenn Mobraten and Husband, Frank Marks. It is truly a blessing to be part of this family of friends in the love of fellowship and worship. Thanks to everyone!

Sincerely, Lola Spitz

MEETINGS – ANNOUNCEMENTS – ACTIVITIES

American Lutheran Church of Sun City UPPER MIDWEST GET TOGETHER!

The annual Upper Midwest summer get together for American Lutheran Church of Sun City will be held Wednesday, August 14, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Incarnation Lutheran Church in Shoreview, Minnesota (note that this is a new location). The cost is \$10 per person (\$20 per couple) and lunch is included. Reservations are due by August 1. There is no special program – this is a time to reconnect, socialize, and have fun with our American Lutheran Church of Sun City friends. The location of Incarnation Lutheran Church is 4880 Hodgson Rd, Shoreview, MN 55126.

To attend, send attendee names and a check (made out to David Hjortland by August 1), to David & Debra Hjortland, 24 Osprey Ct, North Oaks MN 55127. If you have questions, you can call David at 612-790-9216 or e-mail Debra at deb.hjortland@gmail.com.



ALC CAMPUS BIBLE STUDIES

Pastor's Bible Study ~ Every Tuesday, 10 am, in the Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Lowell Nelson.

Men's Bible Study ~ Every Thursday, 8 am, (see calendar) Lectionary study.

ALC Grief Support Group

A NEW DAY - ALC grief support group meets on Tuesday at 10 am in the Lounge. It's not necessary to sign up...just show up. We welcome you.

PLEASE NOTE!! The grief Support Group will not meet during the 5 Tuesdays in July. We will reconvene on Tuesday, August 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lounge.

Alcoholics Anonymous

The AA Group meets at American Lutheran Church. These are referred to as "closed meetings". Closed meetings are for AA members only or for those who have a drinking problem and desire to stop drinking. Meetings are Mondays, 7:00 pm and Wednesday evenings, 6:00 pm, in Education Room C. For more information, call Judie at 623-337-7747.



Al-Anon is a worldwide, 12-step fellowship, which offers hope, support and self-care information to anyone concerned about the drinking or drug use of a friend or family member. It has one purpose: To help loved ones of alcoholics by practicing the 12 steps. Meetings are Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in Ed Room A/B. For more information, call Claire at 507-288-6353 or Nancy at 858-735-7456.

Lutheran Thrift Shop, 10615 West Peoria Ave, Sun City, 623.815.7061

<http://www.wvlutheranthrift.com/>

Come by and chill with us! Don't miss "*Christmas in July*", our most popular event of the year. Open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm for your shopping pleasure. Specials deals on everything Christmas throughout the month. And of course, our great prices on appliances, books, clothing, furniture, kitchen utensils and other gently used items are always available.

Come by and volunteer with us! We are on track this year to donate \$450,000 to local churches and charities! But we always need more volunteers. You can spend as many or as few hours a week with us as you want, and be part of something pretty special. It's fun, it's fellowship and you would make a difference.

Want to be a part of this amazing ministry? Call today for your shop tour and see where you might be able to help!

Keep up with the WVLTS on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/westvalleylutheranthriftshop/ Please "Like" us today!

Directory Changes

We express our deepest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones.

Centenarians

Carol Howland (107)

Mary Graybiel (104)

Norma Carlsson (104)

Dorothy Noren (101)

Dorothy Hootman (100)

Milan Susina (100)

Maxine Kaiser (100)

Eleanor Simons (100)

LOCAL ADDRESS CHANGES

Larry Stage & Judie VanDevere-Stage

10631 W Gulf Hills Dr

Sun City, AZ 85351

Phone: 623-337-7747

Duane & Linda Reuer

20025 N 81st Ave

Peoria, AZ 85382

Phone: 623-544-4430

REMOVED FROM ROLLS BY DEATH

Samuel F Anderson (05/23/2019)

John Prinz (05/24/19)

Marie King Toews (05/27/19)

Karrell (Skip) Clark (06/05/19)

REINSTATED

Mrs. Jane Wagner

10748 W Lariat Ln

Peoria, AZ 85383-5905



American Lutheran Church of Sun City
17200 N. Del Webb Blvd
Sun City, AZ 85373
Phone: 623.974.2512 – Fax: 623-974-2515
www.alcsuncity.org

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Lowell D. Nelson Senior Pastor
l.nelson@alcsuncity.org

Rev. Gary R. Ulrich Pastor of Care Ministry
g.ulrich@alcsuncity.org

Rev. Gary R. Garvey Care Ministry
(On Seasonal Leave)

Rev. Paul Benson Visitation Pastor
tkbrn@cox.net

MUSIC MINISTRY

Linda Shirck Interim Organist
l.shirck@alcsuncity.org

Janet MacDonald Interim Choir Director
janetamacdonald@gmail.com

George Zoske Director of Christo Bells
gzoske@mac.com

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Julie Ochs Financial Coordinator
j.ochs@alcsuncity.org

Diane Lewis Parish Info /Admin Asst.
d.lewis@alcsuncity.org

Carol Weber Financial Consultant
c.weber@alcsuncity.org

Lori Kellar Wellness Ministry
l.kellar@alcsuncity.org

Judy Gilmore Communications/Admin Asst.
j.gilmore@alcsuncity.org

Dave Tigges Property / Grounds

Rolfe Blaess / Sound (seasonal)