



## FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Celebrating Seventy-four Years of God's Amazing Grace*

Mission Moments  
March 2022  
Volume 17 Issue 3

### **In Response to the Good News of Jesus Christ:**

#### **Our Purpose...**

Gathered to worship!  
Sent to witness and serve!

#### **Our Vision...**

To become more diverse, creative, nurturing, and welcoming within our congregation and in the wider community.

#### **Our Guiding Principles...**

We will follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We will read, teach, and preach God's Word faithfully.

We commit to prayer and worship as a way of life.

We invite people to know Jesus Christ.

#### **Reconciling in Christ Welcoming Statement**

"First Evangelical Lutheran Church/La Primera is committed to being a radically loving and welcoming community of faith, centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Therefore, in faithfulness to the Gospel and our Lutheran heritage, and to the best of our ability, we promise to provide programs, ministries, and pastoral care to all who seek God in this place. All are welcome here, including persons of every race, ethnicity, creed, class, age, gender, marital status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression."

#### **Contact Us**

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Lent sneaks up on me every year. We go from Epiphany which is the season of light into a time that seems darker and more somber. It is the opposite of what the world is doing. We celebrated a season of light while the hours of daylight were short and now that the days are getting longer and we see more hours of light we move into lent.

I have to imagine for many centuries when the streets and our homes were not so well lit that this was much more evident. It makes sense that we would celebrate the season of light when it is dark, as a reminder that Christ is our light and that God is with us even in our darkest time. But why get somber when it starts to get light?

I am not totally sure I have an answer to that question, except that we are preparing for an even more glorious time of light when Christ is risen. Lent does not need to seem dark however, merely thoughtful.

Just as the world and the church year are often at odds with each other so too our lives may not coincide with the seasons. I remember doing a funeral during lent and the deceased person's favorite hymn was full of Alleluias and the family worried that we couldn't sing it. I said at the time that for us it is Lent, but for those who have gone before it is certainly Easter. And this whole pandemic thing makes me think that we have been in Lent for years.

But even in Lent we still celebrate the resurrection every Sunday. God knows we need it. God knows that we will forget that we are loved that much and will need reminders of that love during the dark times and during the tough times and so we hear that every Sunday as we celebrate the Eucharist.

God will be with us throughout everything. And God will strengthen us for the life to which God calls us.

This year for Lent I have ordered materials from Lutheran World Hunger. Everyone will get a poster and there is a devotional book which you will be sent online. If you do not have capabilities for that we have copies for distribution.

As we are reminded every week how much God loves us, we also remember that there are people that God loves who are in need and could use our help. God has given us so much including enough to share. These devotionals will help us to remember all that we have been given. And that what we have been given is so that we can help others.

This year I am thinking more about giving and less about giving up. If you are in the habit of giving something up for Lent which involves saving some money, I invite you to donate whatever you save to Lutheran World Hunger.

We also continue to share the love of God with others by inviting them to church or bible study. If you have not yet signed a pledge card, then please do so. There are many ways to invite including in person, sending a link to our worship, sharing on Facebook, etc.

Pastor Dana



**Staff**

Dana Karen Reardon, Pastor  
Joy Petroff, Admin. Secretary

**Congregational Officers**

Sarah Shaw, President  
Rhonda Schmidt, Vice President  
Kathleen Rogers, Treasurer

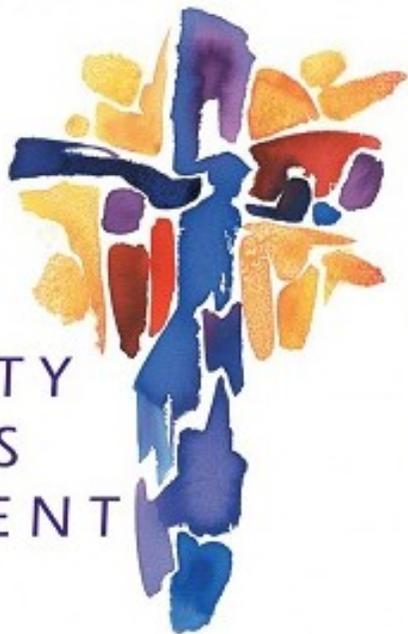
**Congregational Council**

Corrine Cursi	Kathleen Rogers
Diane Johnson	Connar Schmidt
Don Johnson	Rhonda Schmidt
Evan Rogers	Sarah Shaw

This is a monthly publication of First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mesa, Arizona. Please submit information by email to [felc@firstevlutheran.com](mailto:felc@firstevlutheran.com) or in written form to the church office by the 15th of the month prior to publication.



**March 2**  
**6 PM in-person**  
**and on Zoom.**



THE  
FORTY  
DAYS  
of LENT

**JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY LENTEN  
WORSHIP USING HOLDEN EVENING  
PRAYER IN PERSON & ON ZOOM**  
**6 PM**

*Lent* IS A TIME TO  
**GROW**  
CLOSER TO JESUS  
**SUNDAYS IN  
LENT**  
**9:30 AM**  
**IN PERSON &  
ON ZOOM**

	John Smith 856 Your St. Your Town 94321	DATE Mar. 27, 2022
<b>PAY TO</b> First Evangelical Lutheran	SSSSSSSSSS	
As many dollars as makes cents.....		
<b>MEMO</b> Change for Change	<i>Joyful Giver</i>	
1234 5678 9876 543210		

**Change for Change Offering**  
on March 27 will support  
ASU Campus Ministry



**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sept. 11**  
**2022**

## Council Meeting Minutes - February 13, 2022

**Present:** Pastor Dana, Corinne Cursi, Diane Johnson, Evan Rogers, Kathleen Rogers, Connor Schmidt, Rhonda Schmidt, Sarah Shaw; Ellen Riske present via Zoom

**Absent:** Annmarie Dyslin

### A. Opening Devotions/Prayer:

Pastor Dana opened the meeting with prayer at 10:41 AM

### B. Review and Approval of Council Minutes for January 09, 2022:

Kathleen moved to accept the December minutes. Rhonda seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### C. Reports

**1. Treasurer's Report:** Kathleen presented the financial statement as of the end of January, Fiscal Year 2022 and the vendor payments for 1/1/2022 through 1/31/2022. Of note is sizeable giving for Christmas and Advent that was posted in January as well as the ELCA benevolence tithe. New irrigation lines were installed (Treasurer's Report by Minor Group, page 2, entry #70). The fountain needs to have the filter changed, be cleaned, and possibly resurfaced. Sarah will follow-up.

**2. Pastor Dana's Report:** Pastor Dana reports that a new coach has been assigned to FELC, Glenn Zimbelman. Pastor reports that she may have to take some time off for family health concerns.

**3. President's Report:** Sarah states that Mr. Zimbelman has also reached out to her. She felt the congregational meeting went well last Sunday.

**4. Report on Youth:** Rhonda reports that there was a "Buddy Program" youth meeting recently where older and younger youth from Holy Trinity and FELC were paired up and played games for 2 hours. Everyone enjoyed being together. The ELCA Youth Convention in Minneapolis this summer has been cancelled due to Covid-19. However, the youth from FELC and Holy Trinity plan on going to a summer camp in California. Rhonda and Connor have passed their background checks. Rhonda is cleared to be a chaperone and Connor a volunteer driver for the youth group. The wall mural in the parking lot will be start during spring break (March 7-11) as a service project. Rhonda will check with Margaret at Concordia and LSS for design ideas. Emma and Kaylee Shaw members assisted with the FELC food bank on Wednesday evening. They were a big help! In summary, the youth meet 1x/month for Bible study, 1x/month for a service project, 1x/month for confirmation, and 1x/month for recreation.

**5. Approval of Reports:** Evan moved that all reports are accepted as given; Corrine seconded. Council unanimously approved the reports.

### D. Old Business

**1. Church Constitution:** No update.

**2. Mural:** The youth group will paint the mural during spring break, March 7-11, 2022. The design will be finalized and donations will be requested for supplies.

**3. COVID-19:** This item is closed.

**4. Post 'Interim' Brainstorm:** Sarah will contact Pr. Chris at Holy Trinity regarding a "partnership" model. Ideas from members are welcomed.

**5. Pastor Isaiah's Church:** This item is closed.

**6. Termites in Great Room:** Kathleen is waiting for Western Exterminating to set up a date for treatment.

**7. 2022 Goal for Visioning Strategy:** "Action" is for the congregation to invite 100 people to FELC. Pledge cards and postcards are ready. Sarah will split up the membership list for Council to contact members in March. We could invite the members that aren't currently attending to Easter services in April. There will be one more 1- 2 hr "Visioning" session with Al Loveland and the congregation. It will be scheduled within the next four weeks.

**8. Assembly:** Registration is now open. Sarah will send out an email for delegates and the congregation will vote on who will attend.

**9. Other Old Business:** None.

## E. New Business

### 1. Officers:

President: Sarah Shaw was approved as President by the Council, 8 ayes, 1 abstention. Vice-President: Rhonda Schmidt was approved as Vice-President by the Council, 8 ayes, 1 abstention. Treasurer: Kathleen Rogers was approved by the Council, 8 ayes, 1 abstention. Secretary: Diane Johnson was approved by the Council, 8 ayes, 1 abstention. Officers will be installed next Sunday, February 20, 2022.

**2. Financial Secretary:** Kathleen is now acting financial secretary, but this position should be filled by member of FELC. One member was identified as someone who may be interested and will let Council know. If anyone is interested, please let Sarah know. The congregation will vote on a member to fill this position.

**3. Endowment Committee:** Richard Schmidt and Lawrence Shaw have agreed to serve. There are 3 more positions that are open. If anyone is interested, please let Sarah know.

**4. "Dinner Church":** Rhonda reports that she went to a dinner held by Pr. Chris from Holy Trinity. There were 7 attendees that shared dinner and a short church service. Rhonda said that it was very well-received. This is a way to invite people that are not church members to share with us. Rhonda will pilot a "dinner church" at her home.

**5. Building Maintenance:** Kathleen reports that Joy is gathering quotes from local businesses to replace the worn carpets outside the church entrances. They are a tripping hazard. Diane stated that it would be nice to repair the steeple so that it could be lit up at night. Rhonda will check with a local crane company for quotes and Sarah has been working on getting an electrician to check the lighting. Special donations/gifts will be requested for each of these projects, "Cut a Rug" and "Light It Up", during church services.

**6. FELC 75th Anniversary:** This is coming up in October 2023 and Pr. Dana states that Joy has already alerted members it's time to start working on it. Evan will invite Bishop Hutterer to the celebration. Sarah will try to arrange to have all the FELC pastors' photos up in the Great Room.

**7. Other New Business:** None.

## F. Adjournment and Closing with the Lord's Prayer at 12:01 PM

Evan moved to adjourn and Connor seconded.



## MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 1/31/22	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	Actual 2021	Budget 2021
Offerings	\$9,380	\$9,417	\$4,869	\$19,250
Other Income	\$6,333	\$6,333	\$5,833	\$5,833
Total Income	\$15,713	\$15,750	\$10,522	\$25,083
Expenses	\$12,776	\$15,515	\$12,550	\$15,467
Inc. Less Exp.	\$2,937	\$235	\$-2,028	\$9,616

## Worship: Sundays at 9:30 AM

In person in the Sanctuary (masks required) and virtually on Zoom.

To join the Zoom worship experiences, we need your email.

Please email your e-address to [dreardon0@gmail.com](mailto:dreardon0@gmail.com) so a link can be sent to you.

### OFFICE HOURS

Mondays through Wednesdays:  
8:30AM-2:30PM

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**142 North Date Street**  
**Mesa, Arizona 85201**

### Contact Us

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