



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."

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Sometimes it seems like we are living in a time in history when everything is being rethought and nothing is certain. It is a little like taking a visit to the shore and while we are standing completely still the ocean waves are eroding the sand beneath us.

I am someone who likes change and variety and yet I like some structure around me. It is not possible to "color outside the lines" if there are no lines.

Celebrating Juneteenth and then Fourth of July makes me feel a little like that. No one taught me about Juneteenth or the Tulsa massacre when I was growing up. They lifted up the best ideals of this country but did not share its darkest moments. The good thing about that is that I grew up believing that its best is possible. The bad part is that I did not know the legacy that others had suffered through and were scarred by.

Did you know that the British freed the slaves of the colonies in rebellion just as Lincoln freed the slaves in the states in rebellion? The difference is that the British lost the war so that proclamation was moot. It was a tactic of war.

Learning that made me rethink much about what is permanent and what is changeable, what I have been taught and what is really true. And it brought me back to scripture. "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

I believe in the highest ideals of this country that I was taught even if in our sinful nature we have not lived up to it, but that is all subordinate to my belief that God will ultimately make all things new.

Our faith is not our politics and our politics are not our faith.

In the midst of all the shifting sand our God is unchangeable and the God who loved us so much he died for us will love us into eternity. All of us. Black and white and brown and gay and straight and male and female and those who don't identify as either. If I missed any category, God did not miss it and God loves those who fit that category or don't fit any.

When people fail you and nations and politicians and even supposed loved ones fail you, God will never fail you. God will hold you when the sands shift and put you high on a rock as the tides rise.

I celebrated Juneteenth and I will celebrate July Fourth and remember the best of what we stand for as a nation and yet my confidence does not lie there.

Weekly we gather to celebrate the Eucharist and when we gather, God shows up and I trust in that. That is a celebration that predates the Fourth of July. That is a true celebration that will continue even if this nation falls and it will continue not only to remind us of what is true and good, but to strengthen us with Christ's very lifeblood as we live into the kingdom of God.

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
Carmen Guerrero	Connor Schmidt
Diane Johnson	Rhonda Schmidt
Don Johnson	Sarah Shaw
Evan Rogers	Gwen Stewart

Senior Vicars

Marilyn Bloom, RN	Ellen Riske
Mary Kilber	Evan Rogers
Laura O'Connell	Kathleen Rogers

The Messenger is a monthly publication of First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mesa, Arizona. Please submit information by email to felc@firstevlutheran.com or in written form to the church office by the **15th of the month** prior to publication.



Wall Mural

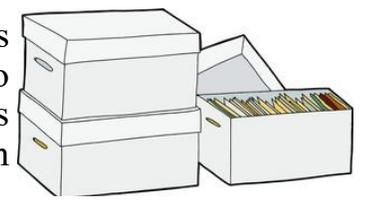
What themes, quotes, pictures, etc would tell the neighborhood who we are?

How can these be depicted on a wall mural in our parking lot?

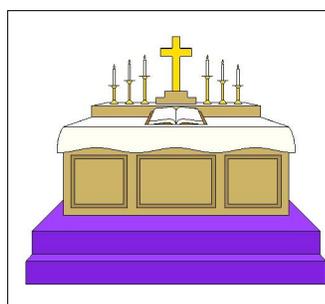
Please submit your ideas to the office.

Archive File Cleanup

Rhonda Schmidt is heading a task force to clear out the many boxes of files and bulletins in our balconies.

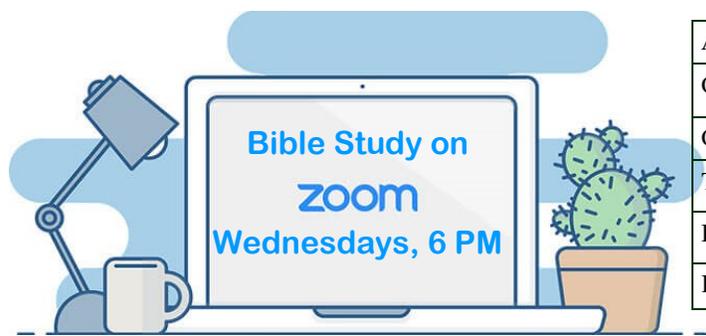


Anyone is welcome to join her team when they meet to look over miles of paper from our history.



Plans are to return to the sanctuary for worship in the late summer with a continued online presence.

More info as we get the logistics worked out.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 5/31/21	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020	Budget 2020
Offerings	\$55,672	\$97,250	\$51,423	\$51,200
Other Income	\$30,906	\$29,165	\$30,224	\$33,630
Total Income	\$86,577	\$126,415	\$81,647	\$84,830
Expenses	\$74,510	\$78,458	\$68,292	\$76,122
Inc. Less Exp.	\$12,067	\$47,957	\$13,355	\$8,708

Masks still required on campus at this time.



We urge everyone that is able to be vaccinated to do so. If you need assistance, please contact the office.

Change for Change Offering
 on July 25 will support
 FELC Facilities Expense

John Smith 55th Year of Your Town 51921	DATE July 25, 2021
PAY TO First Evangelical Lutheran Church	
As many dollars as makes cents.....	SSSSSSSSSS
MEMO Change for Change	<i>Joyful Giver</i>
12 34 56 78 98 76 54 32 10	

Council FELC Council Meeting Minutes - June 13, 2021

Present: Pastor Dana, Corinne Cursi, Diane Johnson, Evan Rogers, Kathleen Rogers, Connor Schmidt, Rhonda Schmidt, Sarah Shaw

Absent: Carmen Guerrero, Gwendolyn Stewart

A. Opening Devotion/Prayer: Pr. Dana opened the meeting at 10:35 AM.

B. Review and Approval of Council Minutes for April 11, 2021: Kathleen called attention to Joy's note that she (Joy) had updated the directory insofar as she could with information available and would proceed with the photo directory as images came in. Kathleen moved to accept the May minutes as submitted. Rhonda seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously by Council.

C. Reports

1. Treasurer's Report: Kathleen sent out financials to Council earlier in the week. She states the Benevolence expense shows an increase as it is for two months, April and May. In terms of income to expenses, we are up by ~\$12,000. This would allow us to turn on the AC in the sanctuary for Sunday worship.

Kathleen sent Council a list of vendor payments for the first 5 months of 2021. She will continue to provide this to Council quarterly.

2. Pastor Dana's Report: Pr. Dana reports she attended a meeting for Interim pastors that was mainly about stewardship. She attended the Synod Assembly. Everything seems to be "business as usual". She reports that the breakout sessions addressed how to increase membership. Overall, giving in the Synod has increased. Pr. Dana states that she learned that every church has an association with a church in a different country. Our church is the Lutheran Church in Mexico.

Pr. Dana would like to show "The Chosen" on Tuesdays at lunch in the Great Room. She will put out an invitation to see if people would like to start now or wait until the fall. Episodes will be shown with time for discussion afterwards.

3. President's Report: Sarah attended the Synod Assembly. She states that online voting is allowed so we may be able to do that in our next congregational meeting. The focus was on growing our community through partnering with other churches, setting up food banks, and being part of the community. She will give information to Joy to continue work on the directory.

4. Report on La Primera: No update.

5. Report on Youth: Connor reports that youth meetings are on hold.

6. Report on File Data Cleanup Task Force: Rhonda reports that Catherine Craig, Rhea Galvan and Anna Schmidt have sorted through seven boxes of bulletins. They will continue to meet to clean up the old files.

7. Approval of Reports: Corrine motioned to approve the reports and Evan seconded. The reports were approved unanimously by Council.

D. Old Business

1. Church Constitution: Sarah reports that the Ellen is working on the updates. Once she is done with that, Council will review and revise the amendments.

2. Mural: Rhonda recommends that we start asking for ideas so we can work on sketches for the mural. FELC would like to include Concordia, LSS, and the surrounding community in designing and painting the mural. Kathleen and Sarah will disseminate information about the mural to them. We would like to know what represents them in this community. Kathleen wants to know if there is a unifying theme. Once we get some ideas, we can determine the overall theme.

3. Covid-19: Sarah and Randy Gamble are working on the logistics so we can start worshipping in the sanctuary.

4. MSP Update: Council met regarding our mission statement. Sarah has information from the congregational meeting and will put that together. Kathleen will provide updated budget information update to Sarah for the MSP. Sarah will ask Joy for an update on the number of FELC members. Once we have all the information for the MSP, our transitional coach, Pr. Doris Nolan, will review it and meet with Council. Then the MSP will be reviewed by the congregation before posting.

5. Pianist: Two pianists have applied. A final decision has not been made yet.

6. New Roof: No update.

7. Window Glass Repair: Kathleen said that Universal Glass will repair the window for under \$500. They are scheduled to come Monday June 14 for the install. It should be finished this week. It may be worth having security cameras on the church. Item closed

8. Concordia HVAC Lien: Kathleen has not been approached about a lien. She isn't sure that the HVAC install has been completed yet. If there are any concerns she will contact Sarah. Item closed.

9. Johnson Repair and Comparison Shopping: Kathleen has been working with Johnson Controls on quarterly maintenance. One of the valves was in the wrong mode, but this was done by a Johnson Controls technician at the prior check-up. She does not expect to get a bill for this. Kathleen will comparison shop for a different HVAC company after our yearly agreement is up. Item closed.

10. Other Old Business: None.

E. New Business

1. Concordia Lease Extensions: Kathleen recommended that we accept the Concordia Lease Extensions as submitted by Margaret. Rhonda motioned to approve the Concordia Lease Extensions and Connor seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by Council.

2. Vendor Payments: Addressed in Treasurer's report.

3. Cursillo: Sarah shared the letter from Denny Hanson, president of Arizona Lutheran Cursillo. They are looking for another venue. Kathleen reports that they have been moving their items out. They left several carts that Margaret from Concordia says they can use. There are several 12' long heavy wooden tables and older folding chairs that Kathleen will check to see if we want to keep any of them. Margaret has offered to put the items we don't want on Offer Up. Kathleen will let her know if we want her to do this.

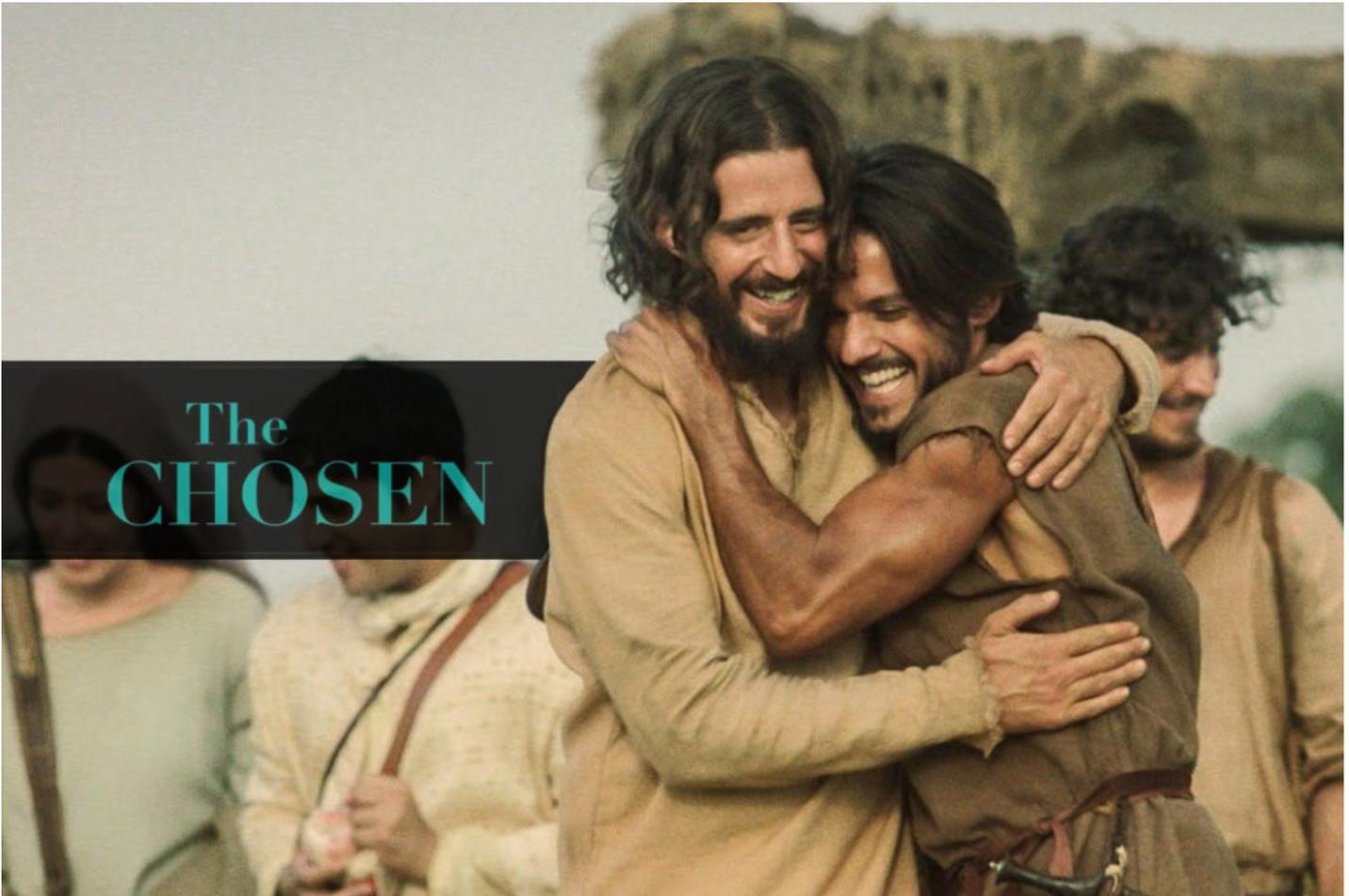
4. Community Outreach: Pr. Dana reports that there is a Hispanic pastor in the neighborhood. She will meet with him.

5. Photographs of Pastors: Pr. Dana states that Pr. Arroyo's photograph is not up on the wall of previous pastors. Sarah will contact him for a photo. Council requests that Pr. Dana also provide a photograph.

6. Other New Business: None.

F. Adjournment: Corrinne motioned that the meeting be adjourned and Evan seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 and Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: NO meeting in July, next Council meeting is August 8, 2021



We have been talking about watching The Chosen together and discussing it here in the Great Room at First.

My suggestion is Tuesday at noon and that we each bring a brown bag lunch.

How much interest is there in this idea?

Is there a time that would be better?

Please let Joy or me know if you are interested in this format or if you have ideas for another arrangement.



Pastor Dana

It's Vacation Time!

Ok, maybe not for everybody but **I** will be on vacation July 3-12.

(I will be visiting family in South Dakota).

Kathleen will be in the office during the morning hours. The office will be closed July 5.

I will be emailing the July 11 bulletin early so keep it in your inbox until you need it! ;)

HERE'S HOW we'll Church

Sundays at 9:30 AM

In person in the Great Room and virtually on Zoom.

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

Please email your e-address to
dreardon0@gmail.com so a link can be sent to you.

WELCOME  BACK!!!!!!!

OFFICE HOURS

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

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