

Shepherd of the Desert

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Shepherds Staff Newsletter June 2020



Peace be with you Brothers and Sisters of the Resurrection, may the Hope built on Jesus Christ strengthen you to meet the days before us with the reality of things not yet seen. ( Hebrews 11:1)

I have heard so many people seeking a return to the "Normal". We hear and see it on T.V, the radio, in print, on the Web, and upon the lips of the young and the old, students, teachers, parents, wives, husbands, grandparents and the list continues. "When will we get back to the way things were... to the normal?"

Of course, what we understand as the "normal" will never again be. We hear that over and over and over. The news, radio, the government, the scientist, the economists, even the leader of the church, synagogues, mosques speak of the "New Normal". Yes, the "New Normal", people speak of the "New Normal...but understand, there will be "No New Normal", what there will be is an ongoing "Changing Normal, as it always has been.

The concept of the word "normal" is something that is always getting redefined, as one considers the norm is redefined in our ever changing world. When and where we encounter the "Changing Normal" is through grief in the loss of what we thought or understood as the norm or "Normal". It is with loss and through grief that the normal is redefined. If you need assistance or pictures to help your understanding, simply look at your high school year book. There is the normal before marriage and the normal after marriage...The normal before children and the normal after children...The normal we have as we work and the normal after we retire...

Those who are old enough to remember the "norm" before WWII and the normal after WWII. With each conflict (Civil war, WWII, Korean, Vietnam...) The normal practice of medical procedure , medicine and surgery were changed and are changing.

I pray you understand, that we are constantly changing and things cannot be the same. Yet, in the midst of all this, there is a reason to hope. Our Hope is built on nothing less than Jesus Christ, because the spirit of the Risen Christ is in us we can move forward with the confidence that God is still at work and that God's will is done even when it may appear to be thwarted. Even when things are abnormal, when things are appearing as "not well" we are not abandoned by God. More, it means committing ourselves to living as we believe it and giving reason for the hope in us, by proclaiming the presence of God through Christ by the Holy Spirit....

Blessings in this "changing normal" and the love of Christ be with you always,

Pastor

Your Church Staff

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Victor Lozano, Custodian  
Contact the church staff at  
623-933-1359

Mission:

*"Created, Redeemed and Called by God, we reach out to all, by sharing our gifts and he unconditional love of Jesus."*

Vision:

*"To be an intergenerational congregation that puts the Love of Christ into action from one generation to another and from our community to our world".*

Your Church Council

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## Council President David Christensen

Hello Church!

Greetings and God's Blessings to you all! Believe it or not, Shepherd of the Desert is alive and well! The church sends its thanks for all who have helped keep Shepherd up and running during this time of trial! It is absolutely amazing how many of you dug deep and kicked up your offerings! Though most were not able to attend services, while not here in person, you were definitely here in Spirit! Cast your fear aside and enjoy the day that God has blessed you with!

Your Life's adventure awaits you this day, make the most of it!

Blessings!

Dave Christensen

Council President



### **BEST BBQ IN ARIZONA! HARRIS SMOKEHOUSE BBQ**

(and yes, it is....try it)

Thursday starting at 11am

Beef, Pork, Chicken, and fish plus sides and more!



### Ministry June 2020

We are excited and want to share with you that our solar installation is moving forward since we have gotten approval from aps. Estimated installation date is the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June.

A Stimulus Grant has been applied for and received. This grant will pay 2 ½ months of salaries for employees. We would like to thank everyone who has continued to support our congregation during this time. Hopefully, we will be together soon.

#### Guidelines for Worship during Covid-19

Sanitize your hands before helping yourself to a bulletin.

Please know your temperature will be taken upon arrival

Social distance of 6ft min. between everyone

Sitting 1 (or family group) on each end of every other pew.

Remember, we will survive this; we are stronger together.

Peace be with you,

Judy Yates

Assistant for Ministry

Please don't hesitate to call the church office if you need assistance.

Find us at:

Office: (623) 933-1359

Facebook: Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran, Sun City.

Online: [www:shepherdofthedesertelca.org](http://www.shepherdofthedesertelca.org) you can now watch Weekend Worship just find the link on our website

(see above).

## **Mission June 2020**

We are still in the turmoil created by the Corona Virus Pandemic and many of are still feeling isolated and alone. Shopping has become difficult in stores and a great number of people have turned to online shopping, despite their desire for social contact. Segments of an economy are reopening, but with a very different set of rules. Yet! We are a people of hope grounded in faith.

Wow! We have just finished celebrating the 7 weeks of Easter, the awesome resurrection of our Lord Jesus, the Christ who promised us that He is going before us to Heaven to "prepare a place" for us. While others live in fear, we live each day in hope and blessed reassurance.

I arise each new day with a prayer on my lips thanking God for the breath of life. Remembering that we also that we just celebrated Pentecost, I give thanks for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who sustains me each day and provides me with the strength to face whatever lies ahead.

Yes we are still in the grip of a pandemic that has in many ways changed our lives and our habits, but I would also remind you that we are in the grip of a Lord and Savior that loves us. I am reminded of Psalm 139 where we are assured, "O Lord, you hast searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my getting up, you understand my thoughts...you Lord are acquainted with all my ways." He even knew us in our mother's womb. Join with me in giving thanks to Creator God who loves us and sustains us and may you always remain firmly in His loving grip.

In His Service,

Dave Hargreaves

Assistant for Mission

## **Worship June 2020**

We have come to the time of restart! This means that we are not going right back to how things were done before this pandemic but we are going to start slow and steady adhering to the CDC requirements to keep all of us safe. As you already know, we have been holding services all along but with strict compliance with the recommendations of social distancing and personal contact. Also, we have been sanitizing the entrances and all of the pews after each service. During the service we no longer do the passing of the peace by contact but with a simple nod to each other.

As far as communion is concerned, we are asked to make our hands into a "throne"(this is done by placing one hand upon another with the palm up) and the Pastor will place the wafer on it. This is the other thing about the communion; you will only receive the wafer, which is totally considered proper by the whole church, as the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

The Pastor is very disappointed, and wishes he could but he will not be greeting people as they come in or when they leave after service except in his office/study if there is a need.

We will be following these conditions until we are certain that we are free from this terrible contagion. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call the office and someone will be more than happy to help you out. We look forward to seeing you again even under these difficult circumstances.

Yours in Christ,

Chuck Hyland

Assistant for Worship

Thank You!

During this unprecedented time in our nation our congregation thanks you for your generous financial support. The sharing of your gifts support the ongoing mission ministries and worship in Christ as we care for the needs of others and needs and makes the unconditional Love of God known.

May all you wonderful

Dads enjoy a  
*Happy Father's Day*

**Best Pancakes in Sun City**

The price is right.... **FREE!!!!** Come enjoy breakfast the last Saturday of each month from **8am-10am in Walton Hall Saturday June 27th** **This will be a drive up / take out due to COVID-19 precautions. It would be helpful if you called the church office if you wish to pick up an order. 623-933-1359**

**Healthy Living**

Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month

We have a personal trainer that meets with us and helps us with a 30 min. structured workout at 6:00 followed with fitness and nutritional discussion from 6:30-7:00pm.

Healthy Living does not meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Contact David Christensen for more info or call the church office. 623-933-1359



**SHEPHERD OF THE DESERT**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH