

# Shepherd of the Desert

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Shepherds Staff Newsletter July 2020



Peace be with You!

I am writing this in June for July but June does not seem much like June and I expect July will not seem much like July... The Grace of our Lord God in Christ Jesus is Yours!

Things have not seemed the same since mid March. Then again, as I remember conversations with my parents and grandparents things did not seem the same to them (as I was growing up) which I had considered simply the way they were... if not "always" were. This "changing" could be said about school, work, economy, neighbors, and neighborhoods, the clubs, the restaurants, the barber, the beautician, the bars and yes, the church.

"The "Changing church": beyond denominationalism, beyond the loss of the distinctions of Christianity... beyond the renewed individualism, beyond the culture we live in which makes it hard for people to imagine being led by God. Then as now, heightened by the pandemic and the changing ethos of this day as opposed to 1867( after the Civil War and the reconstruction with the imposition of "Jim Crow") or 1967 (the race riots, integration, Vietnam War protests...) or you pick and name the time....the reversal is perhaps inane if not simply pointless.

What we must be clear about is what God's promises in Christ are for us, for our neighbors (from God's understanding of neighbors. Luke 10) and to bring those promises alive. The promises are to be brought alive through our living, through our loving that all ordinary and extraordinary people can understand and so embody that love reflected of God in Christ, made real by the Holy Spirit. It is through the One who is the same (in an ever changing world) yesterday, today, tomorrow and forever.

And on that my hope is built on nothing less...

So Brothers and Sisters in Christ What are you afraid of for God is in Love with You!

Blessings

Pastor

### Your Church Staff

Pastor Daniel, Senior Pastor  
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623-933-1359 or 623-215-4312  
Lorraine Miller, Organist  
sodorganist@qwestoffice.net  
Kristen Wood Admin. Secretary  
sodsecretary@qwestoffice.net  
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Victor Lozano, Custodian  
Contact the church staff at  
623-933-1359

Our Worship service is now on Facebook and Youtube if you would like to watch Worship just search Shepherd of the desert Sun City or check out our website @

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*

### Your Church Council

David Christensen President  
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## Council President David Christensen

Greetings Church Family!

Another month is in the history books & we're still alive & kicking! More and more people are coming back to worship and even with our "social distancing" we have room for plenty more ! Our Fathers house is a SAFE house and we should know we are safe in it and be glad for that!

Once again, I give thanks to all you who have been digging even deeper into your pockets and getting the churches bills paid! Our expenses are down significantly so even with fewer people attending, we are paying our bills. The PPP grant is giving us a HUGE help also with keeping our staff paid & the phones manned!

The Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise (monsoon season ya know!) we will see you IN church and we will welcome you with open arms and hang about 6 feet apart! Long distance welcomes! LOL.

Dave Christensen

Council President

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

Thursday starting at 11am

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



### Worship July 2020

Here we are in the time after Pentecost. This means it is now the time for learning! In this time frame the church would be holding "Bible Studies" and coming together to study the scriptures and thereby fortifying our faith and bringing us closer to God. Then armed with the knowledge and strengthened by the Eucharist, we may go out into the world and bring with us what we have learned to others.

We all know that because of this terrible "Pandemic" we cannot join together for study but that does not preclude us from studying at home. Starting in the first week in July the church will be putting a self-study bible study on the web site and in the weekly bulletin. It will be something we all could do and have fun doing it at our leisure. It is my hope and my prayer you will join me taking time to spend with our Lord by reading, investigating learning more about the Holy Scriptures. Also, if you come upon a question you cannot find an answer to, the Pastor or I would be happy to help you out.

Yours in Christ,

Chuck Hyland

Assistant for Worship

## Mission July 2020

It is amazing that a half year has already flown by, especially given the aloneness and isolation many are experiencing during the health crisis that has literally swept the world. In my seventy-five years on this earth there have been many times of great turmoil and crisis that I have experienced, and by the Grace of a loving God I have survived. I am here now so I guess that He is not yet done showering His blessings upon me.

During times of great distress there is a particular passage that helps me to persevere no matter what the challenge. I love Joshua chapter one verse nine. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." It is not a suggestion that maybe you should not be concerned during these very trying times. It is a commandment that we are to follow. We often, and even daily, break commandments, but God forgives us and welcomes us back when we go to Him in prayer. So please join me in thanking God for our many blessings and ask for strength and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that we may persevere in any and all challenges that we may face. He is with you now and always. Amen!

May His peace reign in your hearts,  
Dave Hargreaves

## Ministry July 2020

Finally, after months of waiting, the solar panels are installed but still waiting for the APS meter even though all inspections have been done and approved. A couple more weeks and we will finally be generating power!

Thanks again for those that have donated above their normal worship donations for the installation of solar. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! It is not too late to make a one-time donation or a pledge to cover one or more monthly loan payments. Please consider making an extra donation.

I would like to urge everyone to register with Fry's and Amazon in their cash back bonus programs. You select your favorite charity (hopefully, Shepherd of the Desert), and it doesn't cost anything and you aren't giving up your Fry's points, it is totally separate. The latest Fry's check received was for 3 months and we received for the 19 families enrolled earned us a donation of \$40.24. It doesn't matter how much you spend or how often you shop, all the percentages add together until the end of the quarter. Amazon has also sent their donation for the last month of \$22.00.

Don't forget to patronize Harris BBQ on Thursdays in our South parking lot. The food is excellent, the Harris Family is friendly and they do make a weekly donation depending on their daily sales. In the last month they alone have donated \$215.00, please help them and that in turn helps Shepherd of the Desert.

Don't forget: We are all in this together.

Judy Yates

Assistant for Ministry





## 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

## Best Pancakes in Sun City

The price is right.... **FREE!!!!** Come enjoy breakfast the last Saturday of each month from **8:00am-10:00am in Walton Hall Saturday June 27th** This will be a drive up / take out due to **COVID-19 precautions. Please call the church office if you wish to pick up an order.**

**623-933-1359**

