

Candy Donations

As you know we do our annual Trunk or Treat every year and the children in the community really enjoy it! This year due to COVID-19 this will be a drive through event! But we still need candy to make this happen for the kiddo's if you would be able to donate individually wrapped candy you can drop it off in the church office or if you would like to donate funds for the purchase candy please note that on your offering envelope. Lets make this year another successful event for the kids! Even during COVID-19

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 September 26th 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.

Understanding the New Testament

Tuesday's at 2:00 pm and Wednesday's at 6:00pm
Discover the history behind the 27 books of the New testament and gain insight into the word at the time and the people who produced the text. This is a 30 minute video course with discussion following make plans to come!
Starting September 15 & 16

Shepherd of the Desert
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Shepherds Staff Newsletter
September 2020



Peace be with you! All who are wearied by the changes and chances of life, may you find your rest and your hope in Christ Jesus our rock and redeemer!

My Father always had a chair next to his bed. I always thought that chair next to his bed, is where he would sit to dress in the morning. The chair was on his side, up by the head of the bed, not at the foot of the bed. It was a wooden chair with a arched back... I always called it Daddy's chair. Now, Dad also had a chair in the living room which sat next to the T.V (this is before remote controls) so Dad could change the channel to watch the different three channels ABC, CBS and NBC.....There was of course PBS but there was no football, baseball, golf or sports on that channel. Even if Dad would fall asleep in his chair by the T.V you dare not change the channel because dad would wake and say "I was watching that!"

Later when Dad became sick and could no longer go up the stairs to his bed... a makeshift bed was brought into the dining room. No chair could be placed at the head of this bed because of going into the kitchen next to the buffet the chair now sat... This is where Dad would move to get dressed, when he could. However, during the time when he was in bed no one would sit in Dads chair. No one would dare sit in that chair even when it was empty. You did not sit in Dads chair only Dad sat in it. When he was not setting in it no one else sat in it, even if you would go to sit in it, Dad would move you away from that chair. At night when I would come in and Dad was in bed I would see Dad looking at that chair at his chair. I even suspected Dad was loosing it at times... I could swear Dad had an infatuation with his chair. I even saw him talking to his chair his empty chair, Dads chair, I have that chair and Dads chair is by no means an empty chair even though Dad has been in the church Triumphant for 30 plus years...

For in that chair Dad rested, in that chair Dad would rest his head, in that chair in that space, in that time Dad would talk to, have conversations with Jesus. It is where my father, my Daddy spoke to Jesus. Dad spoke to Jesus about me, my brother, my sister, his wife and family. Work, rest, play, pain, sorrow and joys because this is where he promised to be with us, in conversation through prayer. My Dad died in that chair, no not in that empty chair but in the arms, sitting in the lap, laying down his head resting in the Lord Jesus. In all comings and goings in life. The "Stranger" who is no "Stranger" is there. He loves you as he does my Daddy. Jesus loves you, know this.. Amen

I write this on the day before my youngest child Jacob is about to become a father also. May he and his son (August Robert) know of that presence and that peace, forever and ever Amen

Blessings in Christ's Love,

Pastor

Your Church Staff

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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 @ shepherdofthedesertelca.org

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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Or Current Resident

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WEEKLY WORSHIP
Saturday at 4:00 PM
Sunday at 9:30 AM
Holy Communion at every service



Council President David Christensen

Hello Church!

Believe it or not, WE HAVE SOLAR WORKING ON WALTON HALL!! By MY conservative estimates, we will have produced more energy than we will use in Walton Hall this month and even though we are paying a \$565 monthly payment for the solar, we are not going to be paying an APS bill of probably just shy of \$1000 for the Hall!! By my Blond math, the church has saved over \$300 this month in energy bills!

During these difficult times, that is NOT chump change! So let's keep remembering to turn off lights & A/C units when we leave a room and see how much we can help Shepherd stay on the black side of our financial ledger!

Our church family is slowly coming out of quarantine and coming back to worship IN church and it is FANTASTIC to see more & more souls sitting in the pews! We still have plenty of room for more, so don't let the naysayers keep you from an in-person church experience! The hymns we sang these last two weeks have people making a joyful noise unto the Lord and it was fantastic to hear people get caught up in the Spirit and attempt to drown out the Pastor!

It is a Joy to see you all IN church and my prayers are to see more of our family here at Shepherd of the Desert in worship! We have PLENTY of room for everyone! God is good ALL THE TIME!!!

David Christensen

Council President

Ministry September 2020

AT LAST! We finally have our solar panels operational! After many delays we officially have solar as of August 4th. We have the capability to watch energy production in 5 minute increments, not that that is necessary but we can verify all 65 panels are working on a daily basis. Now to reap the benefits of our Arizona sun all the while remembering to conserve energy whenever possible.

Slowly but surely we are starting to return to somewhat normal activities. We are starting Bible Study 3 times a week as we try to serve your needs as well as continue our Weekly Bible Study offered in the worship bulletin as well as on Facebook. Our in-person Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting September 15th.

Trunk or Treat is coming in a modified version this year but we are here for you, your grandchildren and our neighbors that join us. See you on October 31st. Please donate 'Trick or Treat' individually wrapped candy if you can since Shepherd of the Desert will be making treat bags. We are filling treat bags to be distributed this year to cut down on handling and possibility of passing germs.

With Pancake breakfast in the morning and Trunk or Treat in the early evening it will be a very busy day. We can use extra 'hands' for both of those activities. Please let us know if you are available to assist with either.

Don't forget to join us for Healthy Living on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month with a personal trainer, T.J. T.J. modifies each class to attendees needs.

If you have needs or requests please let us know. Pastor Daniel is available after each worship service in his office if you need to discuss something with him or just call the Study. We can't guarantee every request but we will try to fulfill your needs.

Don't forget: We are all in this together and contact us if you need assistance. You can find us on:

YouTube (Shepherd of the Desert Sun City)

Facebook (Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran, Sun City)

www.shepherdofthedesertelca.com .

Judy Yates

Assistant for Ministry

Mission September 2020

After a record breaking hot Summer we eagerly await the cool breezes of Fall. Creator God blessed us with seasons, although it may not seem so in Arizona. I challenge you to look at the respite provided by God in a different way, pondering the words I wrote nearly 50 years ago.

Autumn Proclaims The Creator

Come with me for a few tender moments with our Creator,
on a long walk in the vibrant beauty of His earthly gardens.

Feel light-hearted as you gaze upon the multi-colored paradise that surrounds
The startling kaleidoscope of color interspersed with spears of green.

The pine trees that knowingly point to their Maker, and
With each breath of the north wind the trees sing Jehovah's praises.

The trees are silent sentinels of the wondrous mysteries of nature,
Rooted in one spot, yet always proclaiming their freedom, as they reach to Heaven.

Eagerly the Maples shed their colorful crown of glory, seemingly in death.

Yet they have not suffered death, having lost only an earthly crown.

In Spring they shall wondrously burst forth, proclaiming loudly God's promise,
"Behold, I make all things new."

David Hargreaves

What we think is just out of reach is often all around us.

David Hargreaves

Assistant for Mission



Prayers and Offerings in the month of September. Pan de Vida is our recipient this month for our special offerings. This small community church specializes in tending to the spiritual needs of our Hispanic neighbors. Pan de Vida is located on Greasewood St. in Surprise and is led by Pastor Mitch Eichmann

Worship September 2020

Here we are, ready to return to school! Our bible studies start again on the 15th and 16th of this month. This time instead of having someone from the church giving the lectures we have a professor of History from Ohio State University presenting "Understanding the New Testament". Each of the sessions will consist of an about 30 minute video with questions and answers following.

This study will be a helpful aid in the understanding of the New Testament because it contains some interesting and helpful history reflections along with learning about those who were thought to have written the books. Understanding the time frame of when these books were written makes using them to direct us in this time frame easier. These courses have been written to aid not only the avid bible reader but also someone who is just beginning. I hope to see you there on either September 15th at 10:30 am or September 16th at 6:00 pm.

Yours in Christ

Chuck Hyland

Assistant for Worship