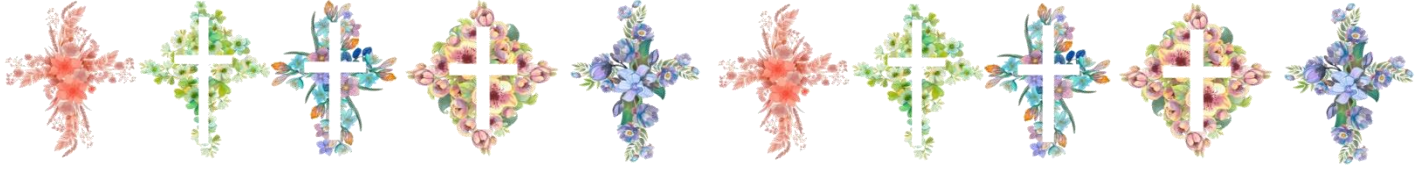


## The Messenger – March 25, 2024 Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church



### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Disciples and friends of Sierra Lutheran,

It has been a very busy and involved first couple of months as your new pastor: adapting to a water main break, searching for a new home, preparing and leading Lenten Wednesday services, attending various committees, learning people's names, and a youth lock-in, with Holy Week and Easter Sunday yet to come. As a result, it has taken me a little while to get around to saying, "Thank you." Thank you for your warm welcome and enthusiasm in accepting me and my ministry in your midst. I can't tell you what a joy and privilege it is to serve among you, and just how much fun I am having being your pastor. Again, thank you.

That having been said, I hope that you all will make the effort to be present this Holy Week, either in-person or online, to share in the story that makes us Christian, that empowers us to be God's ministers of faith, hope, and love. And if nothing else, to understand why Pastor Kurt says in Communion, "Do this to relive me," and not "Do this in remembrance of me," which we've heard our entire lives. Here is yet another opportunity to grow in your faith journey with God.

Speaking of growing in faith (and understanding), with input from many folks, I will be restarting in April an adult Bible study. There will be a Wednesday 10 am class and a repeat on Thursday at 6:30 pm each week, meeting in the Music Room. The first topic is still to be determined.

Also, on Sunday mornings, starting in May, I will begin an adult (and youth) confirmation class. This is not the confirmation class you had back when you were a child. The purpose of this series is to give participants a deeper understanding and appreciation of the history, culture, and language contexts that the Bible was written in so that you can get more out of your own personal / devotional reading of the Bible. The ultimate goal is to help you grow in your relationship with God and thereby live a Christian life more deeply. Big words will not be used!

I look forward to seeing you this coming week, and especially on Easter Sunday.

Happy Easter,  
Pr. Kurt

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### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A VERY SPECIAL HOLY WEEK AT SELC!

- ✦ **Maundy Thursday Service - March 28** at 6:30 pm Why does Pastor Kurt say, "Do this to relive me"?
- ✦ **Good Friday Service - March 29** at 6:30 pm "What's good about Good Friday?"

### EASTER SUNDAY - March 31

**7:30 am** - Breakfast provided by the SELC Council - This will be a family friendly event. We have prepared gift bags for the children in attendance at our breakfast or after our worship service. This is in lieu of our Easter egg hunt that has been held in the past. Be sure to stop by the Narthex after worship if your children or grandchildren are with you for worship.

**9:00 am** - Festival Worship Service - Join us as we walk with the angsty angel who asks, "What am I going to do?!?!"

### **SPRING FLOWERS FOR EASTER!**

On Easter morning the cross that was shrouded in black on Good Friday will be moved to the patio. Now shroud in white representing Christ's Resurrection and new life. On Easter morning you are invited to bring a plant of spring flowers to place under the cross on the patio. Their beauty, fragrance, and symbolism give hope for new beginnings and life. After the Easter service, take your plant home to remind you of the resurrection of our Lord and the promise of new beginnings.

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### **MEETING FOR CONSTITUTION VOTE**

**Sunday, April 7 at 10:30 am**

We will have a meeting in the Fellowship Hall to vote on the new constitution. *No Faith Formation held.* To ensure everyone has sufficient planning time, I'll announce it in church March 24 and 31, and we'll send out postcards around March 25.

If a change is required, the entire constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions will go back to the Synod for approval. It will most likely be several months before we can vote to approve the next iteration of the constitution.

Thank You, Deb Koltveit, Council President

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### **WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM MEETING**

The meeting will be moved to Monday, April 8 at 11:00 am due to Easter holiday.

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### **GENERATIONS IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT)**

**Sunday, April 14 - 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

Everyone is welcome! Join us for a special GIFT on Autism. There are many among us who are somewhere on the Autism spectrum. Join us with our special guest speaker, Dr. LeSuer. We will have donuts, fruit, hard boiled eggs, and cheese sticks. And COFFEE!! The more we can learn about people who differ from us, the better we are able to show love! Let's fill the Fellowship Hall with our love!

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### **2024 SELC CHALLENGE**

**In support of ELCA World Hunger's 50th anniversary**

Our challenge is to raise funds of at least \$2500 to purchase Safe Water Access through ELCA Good Gifts. As of March 25<sup>th</sup>, there is \$1,821.15 in the well project fund.

ALL donations given through SELC will be matched by our Trust Fund. By meeting or exceeding our 2024 Challenge, we can help over 1000 families gain access to clean, safe water. Lack of access to safe water is one of the biggest challenges to overcoming poverty.

If donating with a check, please make your check payable to "SELC" with "Well Project" in the memo line. You may also make a secure online donation at our website, [selcaz.org](http://selcaz.org) by choosing "Well Project" under online giving. There is also a jar marked "Well Project" in the narthex for donations.

"Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." —1 John 3:18

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**THE NEXT QUARTER OF CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONALS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR PICKED UP AT THE WELCOME CENTER OR THE CHURCH OFFICE MIDWEEK.**



### NOTICE TO THRIVENT MEMBERS

March 31 is the last day to allocate your 2023 Thrivent Choice Dollars. You may go online to Thrivent.com and follow the prompts - or - call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and ask for Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you have a specific designation for your dollars, let the financial secretary, Sandy Stephenson, know.

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### GCS HUNGER LEADERS NETWORK

**Calling all hunger champions** – Join this network of the Grand Canyon Synod! Meet to hear updates on national and local Hunger and Food Insecurity efforts and initiatives, to learn from one another, and to share with the group what's happening in our congregations. Anyone interested in alleviating hunger is welcome. Prepare to be encouraged and supported!

**Tuesday, March 26 @ 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87438171116>

**Meeting ID: 874 3817 1116**

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### LONELINESS AND CHRISTIANITY

**Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 1-4 pm - Reception to follow.**

**Living Water Lutheran Church - 9201 E. Happy Valley Road - Scottsdale, AZ**

**Register for free by April 5, 2024, Space is limited.**

Northeast Valley Consortium (NEVC), in conjunction with the Grand Canyon Synod, and California Lutheran University, presents a timely and pertinent presentation. How to live and serve faithfully to those within our community

Loneliness has been called a public health crisis. Recent research suggests that it is helpful to think of loneliness like we think of hunger or thirst—as a sign to get our attention and prepare us for action. Christian faith gives us two types of action to respond to loneliness: 1) connecting with others and 2) cultivating aloneness with God. We will explore both types of action in our time together, with large group exploration and small group breakouts to go deeper into opportunities to serve and to grow. *A Virtual option to attend will also be available.* For more details or to register go to <https://www.gcsynod.org/calendar/loneliness-and-christianity-seminar>

### This Week at SELC - March 25- April 1, 2024

TUE 3/26	9:00 AM	Shepherd's Fold Chapel - Sanctuary
	6:00 PM	Fellowship Hall Reserved
WED 3/27	6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
THR 3/28	9:00 AM	Stitch In Time Quilters - Fellowship Hall
	10:00 AM	Bell Rehearsal - Music Room
	6:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service - Sanctuary
FRI 3/29		Church Office Closed on Fridays
	6:30 PM	Good Friday Service - Sanctuary
SAT 3/30		
SUN 3/31	7:30 AM	Easter Breakfast for ALL - Fellowship Hall
	9:00 AM	Easter Worship Service
MON 4/1		Church Office Closed