



Midweek Message -- May 22-May 29, 2022



From your Call Committee

The Call Committee is currently meeting twice a month. On May 9, they met via Zoom with Pastor Glenn Zimbelman who was assigned by the synod to be our Transition Coach. He oriented us to the Call Committee Process and will be our liaison with the Synod office going forward. We ask for your prayers as we discern the right candidate for our congregation. More updates forthcoming in the June Outreach.

- Friday AM Bible Study will be "Revelation" beginning in June, 2022 – dates to be announced.
- Carol Weber—ALC Treasurer—hours: Thursday 5/19 12-3pm; Friday, May 20, 9 am-12 pm
Call the Church Office for an appointment – (623) 974-2512
Church office hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

ELCA 35th Birthday

In this letter, former Bishop Lowell G. Almen encourages pastors, deacons, and congregations to remember with gratitude the 35th birthday of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) on April 30, 2022.

In the span of church history, 35 years is a very short period. Yet, for the ELCA, in terms of substantially lived history, the past three and a half decades have been highly significant. The births of The American Lutheran Church in April 1960 and the Lutheran Church in America in July 1962 were significant milestones along the way, but those churches clearly were seen by many as interim steps toward greater unity. Later, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches was created in December 1976, in a separation from The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

The predecessor church corporations were dissolved into the ELCA, specifically at 12:01 a.m. Central Standard Time on January 1, 1988, with the ELCA as the surviving corporation. Much already was under way in the ELCA in the months prior to that date.

Two recent periods in the history of American Christianity have seen highly significant changes. That has been true for Lutheran too. One period covered the 15 years between the end of World War II in 1945 and 1960: Massive growth in membership, especially with children, huge building programs of churches and parish education facilities, movement toward greater Lutheran unity with the mergers of 1960 and 1962, greater ecumenical awareness with the formation of councils of churches, expansion of church colleges and universities as well as social ministry programs, and the move from "mission fields" abroad to the formation of what then were known as younger churches.

The next period of massive change and dislocation took place between 2005 and 2020: Significant decreases in worship participation, sharp declines in membership in U.S. churches, signs of growing secularism in society, enormous loss of trust in clergy and church structures, inclination toward schismatic behaviors by some clergy and congregations, and the tendency especially in certain "evangelical" circles to ignore compassion for the needy, as Jesus taught, and instead to give allegiance to political leaders who urge division and hate, with some even viewing the teachings of Jesus as "socialistic."

Meanwhile, some churches, including the ELCA, have sought to become more inclusive and welcoming of all people. Substantial efforts of dialogue and mutual conversation have taken place not only between and among Christian churches but also in relation to Jewish and Islamic traditions. Full communion agreements for the ELCA and certain other churches have opened numerous arenas for common mission.

—The Rev. Lowell G. Almen



What's Happening at American Lutheran Church?

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| Sunday, May 22 9:30 am 10:30 am | Worship Cookies & Coffee | Sanctuary Fellowship Hall |
| Monday, May 23 8:00 am 1:30 pm 2:00 pm | Quilters Card Making Class Benevolence Committee | Multi-purpose Room Education C Lounge |
| Tuesday, May 24 10:00 am 1:30 pm 1:30-3:00 pm | Pastor's Bible Study ALC Council "Transitions" | Fellowship Hall Education A&B Lounge |
| Wednesday, May 25 | | |
| Thursday, May 26 | | |
| Friday, May 27 | | |
| Saturday, May 28 4:00 pm | Communion Worship | Sanctuary |
| Sunday, May 29 9:30 am 10:30 am | Communion Worship Cookies & Coffee | Sanctuary Fellowship Hall |

Scripture Readings for Easter 6, May 22, 2022 Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22-22.5; John 14:23-29
 Scripture Readings for Easter 7 May 29, 2022 Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26



Diakonia Retreat: Life of Faith Initiative

June 25 – 26, 2022

Presenter: Rev Dr. Craig Nesson
 Academic Dean, Professor of Theology and
 Ethics Wartburg Theological Seminary

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ
 1212 E Glendale Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85020
 Saturday, 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM
 Sunday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

You will join in several interactive presentations that will help you enhance your church community by offering a substantial encounter with God. You will leave with ideas on how serve our neighbors, where ever you encounter them and to make positive changes in your life and your church.

Cost: \$60.00 – Includes Dinner on June 25th and Breakfast & Lunch on June 26th

Register at: <https://www.diakonia.education/> > Events/Retreat

More information on Life of Faith Initiative here: <https://lifeoffaith.info/>

Everyone is welcome! You need not be a Diakonia student or graduate to attend.

Questions? Contact admin@diakonia.education