



Newsletter

— April & May 2021

Community Lutheran Church

Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me, streams of living water will flow from within them."

John 7:38



2275 Ricca Rd, Bullhead City, AZ 86442;

Weekend Worship

Starting May 1, 2021:

Saturday, 8:30 am

Sunday, 8:30 & 10:00 am

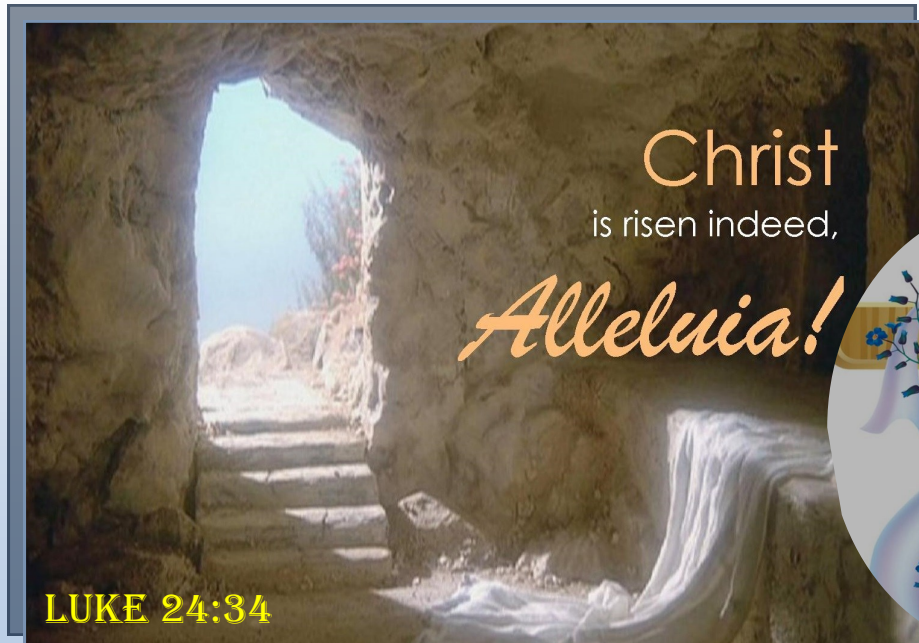
Office Hours

Tues.– Fri., 9 am to 1 pm;

928-763-2422

clcbhc.com

communitylutheranchurch@gmail.com



Mission Statement of Community Lutheran Church:

Living Christ's love in all we do.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TIM

“Easter Joy Is Finally Here!”

Happy Easter!

Bishop Deborah Hutterer of the Grand Canyon Synod wrote recently how this last year with the pandemic and so many other things happening was a longer version of the time of Lent. But now we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel with more vaccines being available. We are now worshipping in person at Community Lutheran Church, still with masks and social distancing to protect others from the spread of the virus. But things are now getting more back to normal. It’s like what a friend of mine from Nebraska says, “Resurrection is so much more fun than crucifixion is.”

Easter is upon us. April 4 was Easter Sunday. And even though God’s grace and love is still with us through Jesus during times of trials, still it is easier to praise God when the fullness of life is upon us through the resur-rection.

But even in the Easter story, the risen Jesus still bears the wounds of the cross and his disciples will face persecution in the years to come. But for now, the church is given its calling and mission to bear the light of Christ’s salvation in order to bring hope to the world around us. God doesn't abandon us and God brings healing and peace to our lives through Jesus Christ.

Have a blessed and joyful Easter season.



“THE HOLY SPIRIT”



[Since the Day of Pentecost is on May 23, I thought I’d write a devotion about the Holy Spirit.]

On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into our lives as the church. We describe God as the Father when we speak of God’s loving dominion over our lives and the life of all creation. When we describe God as the Son, we are speaking specifically about Jesus Christ who shares in our humanity and shared in the worst of human nature on the Cross and brings us the best of human nature into our lives through our baptism into his resurrection. And when we speak about the Holy Spirit, we are talking about the mysterious and holy presence of God when we discover through our gifts that God is certainly present and active in our lives. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are the same God, but a Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are different ways of understanding our relationship with God.

We are first introduced to the Holy Spirit in Genesis 1:2 when God’s Spirit blew over the waters to stir up God’s Creation. In Genesis 2:7, God breathed life into man by blowing the Spirit into him.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word that is often translated as 'spirit' can also be translated as 'wind' and 'breath.' Throughout the Old Testament the Spirit of God is also referred to as "the hand of God." Life giving fire (in Exodus 3:2 and Acts 2:3) is also a revelation of God's Spirit, as well as life giving streams of water. And the Holy Spirit is also represented as a dove that brings new life (Genesis 8:11 and Matthew 3:16).

In the Book of Proverbs, Lady Wisdom is actually the Spirit of God and wisdom is always seen as a gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus refers to the Spirit as 'the Advocate' or 'the Counselor' (John 14:15-17 & John 14:25-26). The Spirit brings out the best in us.

In Romans, the apostle Paul insists that the Spirit gives us faith (Romans 8:9-11, 15-17, & 26-27).

In the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19, Jesus refers to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as being the same God. As a Jew, whenever Jesus spoke of the name of God, he was speaking about the identity of the one, true, God. The actual name of God that appears in the Old Testament was written "YHWH" and was never pronounced by the Israelites or by the Jewish tradition to this very day. The name means "I am who I am." So when Jesus said we are to baptize in God's name, now in the light of Christ's salvation we name God as "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

In John 14, Jesus distinguishes the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit from each other when he insists God will make Christ's work continue with his disciples after Jesus leaves them. And in Romans 8, the apostle Paul describes our new life with God by distinguishing what God has done through Christ and the Spirit – again distinguishing a difference between them.

The disciples received their calling to lead the church when Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit upon them in John 20:22 and when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in Acts 2:1-4.

There are many gifts given by the Holy Spirit. I already referred to the gift of life, faith, and the church as gifts of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:26-27 and 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5:5 insist that prayer is the work of the Holy Spirit. The marks of a true Christian in Romans 12:9-21 are the gifts of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 discusses how wisdom and spiritual discernment are gifts of the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 lists various gifts and callings that different Christians have that come from the same Spirit of God. 1 Corinthians discusses how the speaking of tongues (speaking in different languages and in spiritual languages that only God understands) and worship are gifts of God's Spirit when it helps someone else to know God better. 2 Corinthians 6:6-10 lists several more gifts of the Spirit. And Galatians 5:22-24 discusses the 'fruit of the Spirit.'

Again, the Holy Spirit is the one true God. It is the mysterious and holy presence of God that gives us the gifts that we don't always understand how we have them, but we are glad that we do. These gifts are God's doing and not our own. It is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

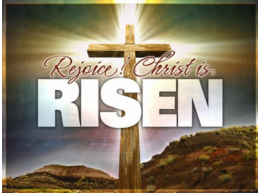
Close with this prayer:

Spirit of God, you have called us in our baptisms, you lead us in our lives, and you have given us gifts and talents to serve you and the rest of the world. Help us to discern our blessings and strengths and guide us to use them for the common good of all by your grace. Send us where you need us and give us faith and courage to trust you in all we do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Tim





CHRIST IS RISEN...HE IS RISEN INDEED!

We celebrated Easter just a short time ago. That is always a time when we experience an emotional roller coaster as we follow Jesus' journey through Holy Week, his death on the cross—for our sins—and the resurrection three days later!

They turned away from Him...Every year when we sang the songs that were part of our Easter Cantatas (when we were still able to do them), as we heard readings of the Passion Story on Good Friday or when I read Matthew 27:11-54, I am moved to tears. Why?

Well, a couple of reasons... First, our Lord and Savior, who was sinless, died on that cross for OUR sins. He died that we might have everlasting life! Second, we are no different than those crowds that shouted "Crucify Him!" Or, "Save Barabbas!" Barabbas who was a murderer! Are we innocent?

When Jesus was before Pilate, it was the crowds...the people...who shouted: "Crucify Him." It was the people who chose to have the prisoner Barabbas released rather than Jesus. It was the people who said, "His blood is on us and on our children." His blood is on us...we weren't there, but was it truly "those people?" Or should we not include ourselves? Yes, they turned against Him. But how often do we betray others...not only Jesus but others we love?

They mocked Jesus...Our Lord and Savior was mocked...He who took our sins upon Himself and died for us so that we might be saved was mocked. And are we innocent? Have we not at some time teased, laughed at or otherwise mocked others...and maybe even our Lord? Haven't we "joined the crowd" when we shouldn't have?

And then they crucified him. And yet in Luke 23:34, He says, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And He continues to come to us, bringing peace to us through the Holy Spirit.

He is our example...of unconditional, sacrificial love...of forgiveness...of loving our neighbors as ourselves...and of hope, grace and peace. And, because of Him, our sins are forgiven...

He suffered the flogging, the denial and betrayal, the mocking and death for us. Now we can celebrate every Easter with unbridled joy, knowing "He Lives" and because he died for us and our sins, we are saved! Yet we know we are guilty, we are sinful and yet we will have everlasting life!

We are truly blessed children of God!



*Wishing you Blessings now
And through each and every week!*

Stay Safe...Be Well!

Linda



I HEARD GOD LAUGH!



I'm currently ending my days by reading a few pages of a book called, "I Heard God Laugh" written by Matthew Kelly, a New York Times Bestselling Author. I am thoroughly enjoying it. The whole idea of the book is that we need to learn how to pray... and make it a daily (if not even more often) ritual---a habit. I'm going to share some thoughts from the book with you...

He opens the book with this statement: "Nothing will change your life so completely, absolutely, and forever like really learning how to pray."

He says when people ask him, "How do you pray?" He says, "This is how I pray." He uses what he calls the Prayer Process. The Prayer Process is a form of prayer that can teach us how to pray at deeper and deeper levels just by practicing it. He shared the Prayer Process as his gift of infinite value.

He asks all of us to commit to it for just 21 days. He suggests that even if you are totally worn out and don't have the will or the energy to pray for 10 minutes, you can still follow all seven steps of the process—even if it's just for ONE MINUTE! Just speak one line to God about one thing in each step. One of the cool things about the prayer process is that it can be expanded or contracted to fit each day and/or each person. His hope is that this will become the context in which each of us practices our daily prayer habit for the rest of our life.

Here is the Prayer Process:

Gratitude: Begin by thanking God in your own words for whatever you are most grateful for today.

Awareness: Revisit with Him times in the past 24 hours when you were not the best version of yourself.

Talk to God about them and what you learned from them.

Significant Moments: Identify and talk with God about something really outstanding or important that happened in your life today; explore what he might be saying to you through that event (or person).

Peace: Ask God to forgive you for any wrong that you committed today (against yourself, another person

or

Him). Ask God to fill you with deep and abiding peace.

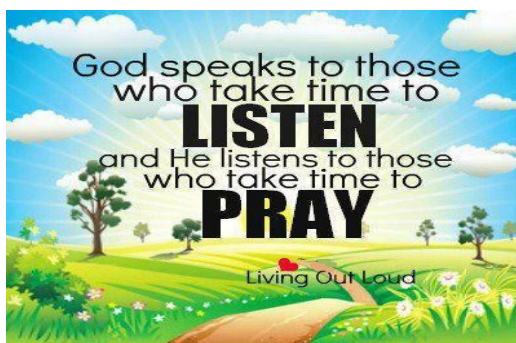
Freedom: Speak with God about how (and why) he is inviting you to change your life...so that you can experience the freedom to be the best version of yourself.

Others: Lift up to God anyone that you feel called to pray for today, asking God to bless and guide them.

Finish by praying the prayer our Father taught us: The Lord's Prayer.

Here's what I would say. This may or may not speak to you as exactly the way you want to pray. There really is no right or wrong way to pray. The important thing is that prayer should be a daily ritual...something we do without fail. And it is important to remember to thank God for all the blessings and gifts he gives us each day...not just ask for more from Him. It's also important to pray for others...those we care about and know they need prayer as much or more than we do. And, what better way to end our day than to pray The Lord's Prayer?

Make prayer a special part of each and every day! Talk to God...He listens! And yes, prayer matters!



Blessings always,

Linda



Stewards of Our Natural World

“God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.”
–Genesis 1:31

Type “glacier loss” into an internet search engine, examine photos of ice sheets today versus just a few decades ago, and you will draw the same conclusion as the world’s best scientists: We are losing ice, and fast.

But melting glaciers is just one of the many crises facing our natural world. Stressed by warming temperatures, rising sea levels, shifting weather patterns, acidifying ocean waters, and pollution of land, air and water, nature itself is under grave threat. Thousands of species of insects, plants and animals are going extinct as habitat, from coral reefs to rainforests to estuaries, is destroyed.

“Our planet is in crisis,” says campaignfornature.org. “The natural world is disappearing at an unprecedented rate.”

For God’s people, appointed as caretakers of God’s creation, this is not just troubling news but also a call to action.

This April 22, the 51st Earth Day, let’s dedicate ourselves to learning about and fighting for God’s creation. Here are some ideas:

- Learn about the growing crises and how they threaten our lives. Teach others.
- Pick one problem and make it a focus for education, awareness, and action in your family or congregation.
- Connect with nature by visiting a park or wild place near you.
- Pick up litter and trash from the street or public land.
- Learn about the plants and animals that live in your area.
- Plant flowers, herbs, vegetables, or trees.
- Advocate for public policies that will promote conservation.
- Find a special way to observe Earth Day in your family, congregation, or community.

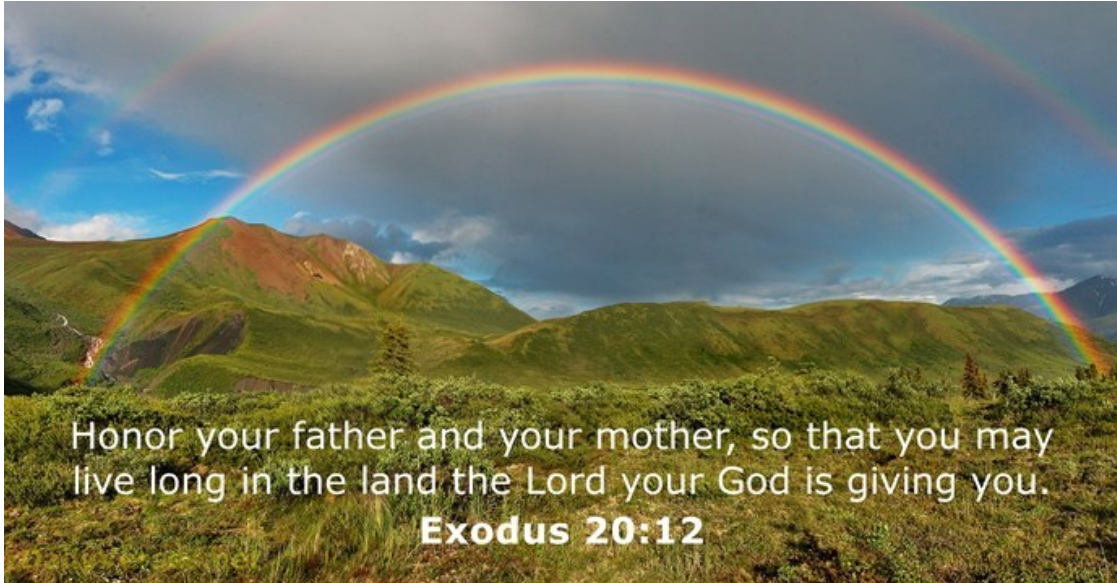
Our natural world is under threat, but God’s people can make a difference by caring and getting busy.

--*Rob Blezard*



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STEWARDS OF OUR ELDERS' WISDOM



“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” –Exodus 20:12

This month and next, as our culture celebrates Mothers Day and Fathers Day, God’s people can make the occasions much more substantive than just greeting cards, gifts, and dinners for a few select relatives.

Instead, we can lift up the knowledge, wisdom and perspective that we possess from not only the mother and father figures in our own circles, but all the older men and women who have enriched our communities with their lives and experiences.

The wisdom of the past has helped people of every age to navigate the challenges of their times. Many communities in the world honor, respect, and value as “elders” their oldest members. It’s something we surely can use in 21st century North America. Ours is a time of unprecedented change. – both in the sweep of change and in the speed at which things are changing.

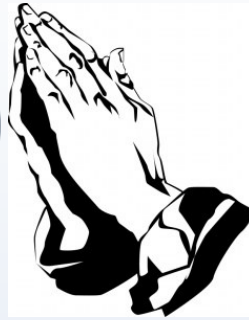
Our older members can give us perspective and patience and wisdom. Here are some ideas:

- *Engage elders about issues facing you, your congregation and community. Listen deeply. Take notes.*
- *Enter into their thought world: How do they frame issues? What are their underlying assumptions? What sources help inform and inspire them?*
- *Compare their approaches to seeing the world and navigating challenges with your own. What is helpful? What can assist you?*

Learning from our elder mother and father figures may be the best way to not only honor them, but also help us find our own way in life.

--Rob Blezard

PRAYER REQUESTS



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for all the persons whose names have been offered up by members and friends of the congregation.

We especially would like to lift up all those affected by COVID 19, and those who lost loved ones.

We pray for healing, comfort, guidance, strength, recovery, safe travel, and unrevealed needs, as well as for those with thankful hearts and for those who grieve.

If you know someone who would like to be included in the ongoing monthly prayer list, be it for prayer or thanksgiving, please let the office know!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays

2	Altamae Byers	9	Tom Shober
2	Chad Lelm	11	Constance Bender
5	Phyllis Adair	18	Steve Miller
5	Marilyn Simons	21	Madelyn Lock
5	Jacob Werchau	22	Marlys Weyer
6	Joann Hoffmeyer	29	Cheryl Wilson
8	Beverly Bentley	30	James Cumberland



April Anniversaries

21	Jared White & Chelsey White Beard-Larson	9
9	Albert & Elfine Lemke	66



May Birthdays

1	Francis Dunkle	22	Lee Werchau
2	Judy Swanson	23	Don Orth
3	Kenny Bergeron	24	Karen Barnes
3	Edson Hoffmeyer	24	Gloria Kanerva
10	Tom Thompson	24	Bev Christopherson
14	Joan Marques	26	Teddie Eastes
19	Mary Jo Kent	26	Carol Gallagher
20	Chris Lasky	30	Larry Kaul
21	Diane Newbold	31	Linda Miller



May Anniversaries

14	James & Joan Cumberland	72
17	Steve & Kate Larson	24
17	Frank & Gwen Gonzales	24
20	Robert & Karen Hough	62
30	Lee & Michele Werchau	29

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Calendar *of Events*

What took place in April.....

Easter Week



Easter Worship Services:

Maundy Thursday: April 1, 6 pm
 Good Friday: April 2, 6 pm
 Easter Sunday, Sunrise Service: April 4, 7:30 am
 Easter Sunday Services:
 April 4, 9:00 am & 10:30 am

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

May 1: Our Worship Service Times are changing to:

Saturday: 8:30 am
Sunday: 8:30 am & 10:00 am

May 13: Council Meeting at 6 pm

May 23: PENTECOST (— remember to wear red!)
 & Noisy Offering



Pastor Tim thanks everybody for their cards, gifts, prayers and well wishes during the Easter season!



A BIG Thank You to Carole Gallagher for decorating the church so beautifully during the Easter season!



Thank You

A NOTE FROM CAROL LOTT

It was a very hard decision and after many prayers. God and my children said it was time to move back to Washington.

May 9 will be my last Sunday and I pack the moving van and hit the road on the May 16.

It has been wonderful to make friends with so many of you. Thanks for our time together.

Your friend in Christ, Carol Lott

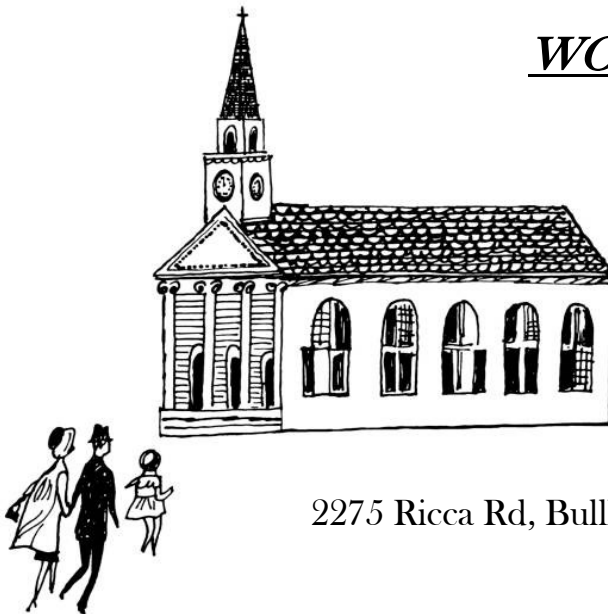


VOUNTEEERS NEEDED!

Greeters, Ushers, Communion Setup, Readers, Offering Counters.....

If you would like to make a difference and are able to help, please let the office know, or sign up on the sign-up sheets which are posted on the information kiosk in the Narthex.

WORSHIP INFORMATION



2275 Ricca Rd, Bullhead City, AZ Phone: 928-763-2422

Starting May 1, our Worship Service times are:

Saturday, 8:30 am
Sunday, 8:30 am & 10:00 am



May 23 is Pentecost! Remember to wear red!

You can find the recordings of our services along with the bulletin on our **website**
clbhc.com

as well as on **YouTube**, under **clbhc**.

Due to attendance being limited, please call or email us to reserve a place at the service of your choice. Once you attended a service we will automatically leave your name on the list for that same service the following week. Please let us know if you would like to change service times or won't be attending. Masks are required.



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Next Newsletter Edition: June & July 2021

