

THE MESSENGER

← MONTHLY EDITION →

The Monthly Newsletter of Shades Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA) + Birmingham, Alabama + November 2020



From Our Synod Bishop, The Reverend **Kevin L. Strickland**

We are now living in the eighth month of the global pandemic of COVID-19. I am in awe of the deep care you all have shown to one another during these hard months. I have seen churches come together and in many ways in showing love to the neighbor. Our digital platforms have proved to be evangelism tools of sharing the good news of Jesus, in ways we never would have imagined.

Within six months of COVID's arrival to the U.S., almost 200,000 Americans have died. At this current rate, within another year (unless an effective vaccine is widely accepted by the American public) we may have as many deaths from COVID as from the 1918 influenza pandemic. With 100 years of advances, we may still see just as many die because we grew tired. . . could not budge our individual desires for the good of humanity. There are nations around the world who have 1/10th of the deaths (or less) as they adopted national strategies of physical distancing and wearing masks. We do not have a national strategy. Yet, the ELCA should not underestimate its ability to lead and change the current course of events. Though we remain in the throes of this terrible disease we can still change the outcome. The congregations that are remaining closed are saving lives; this may not be apparent for weeks or months to come, but the data is clear: not gathering saves lives.

It is nearly impossible for me or our synod leadership to give exact advice on what is best for each of your communities... Especially given that we are a four-state synod, with four different governors who are making four different phasing plans. What I can say, is, if you are slowly phasing in, I urge you to stop at whatever phase you are currently in and live there for the next few months. Continue taking all the precautions you already are to mitigate any further risk for at least the remainder of 2020.

As a synod, we will not be holding any in person gatherings in 2020 of any kind. We are already beginning to make decisions about early 2021, but much of that will depend on where we are with this virus, its vaccine and our response to this in the next few months.

*"I know this is hard.
I know we are all weary.
I know we are tired of
living in this reality.
I know!
But continue fighting
the good fight and we
will get through this."*

It will take all of us doing our part. I, along with your synod leadership, stand ready to continue offering support and guidance as we walk this journey together. Thank you for all you are doing in combating this virus and helping to save lives.

Journeying together with you!

+Bishop Kevin L. Strickland

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Pastor's Column

The Reverend Eric L. Murray,
Pastor

As many of you are aware, SVLC has elected to move to a hybrid worship expression on Sundays.

This expression includes both in-person worship as well as worship from home via ZOOM or YouTube.

For those worshipping in-person, we have sought to mitigate the risk by creating an outdoor worship space in the upper parking lot with marked and distanced spaces where you may sit. In addition, we have all committed to wear masks, observe a 6 foot social distance, refrain from physical contact, and elect to stay at home if we are not feeling well.

As I am sure you are aware, the numbers nationwide are trending upward and with falling temperatures and the onset of flu season, chances are great that we may see a third wave of this virus. We need to prepare ourselves for the likelihood that due to this virus surge we will not be able to move to worship inside anytime soon. But, for now though, we will continue with our outdoor in-person and ZOOM hybrid services,

On Sunday, November 15 and 22, I will be vacationing and completing some continuing education. On those Sundays we will follow the Service of the Word liturgy and use ZOOM exclusively (no outdoor, in-person worship on those Sundays.)

As we continue in this strange, anxious, fearful time, we do so confident in God's promise to be *with us always to the end of the age* (Matt. 28:20). And, in this "mean-time" we trust in God's faithfulness, even when our faith may falter. We trust that *nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Not death nor life, nor anything else in all creation.*

Peace and every good,

Pastor Eric



Sundays: Worship at 9:30am:

Nov. 1 - Holy Eucharist, In-Person & Zoom

Nov. 8 - Holy Eucharist, In-Person & Zoom

Nov. 15 - Service of the Word, ZOOM only

Nov. 22 - Service of the Word, ZOOM only

Nov. 29 - Holy Eucharist, In-Person & Zoom

Mondays:

Quilters: Mornings ~ 9:00am - Noon. Come when you can, stay as little or as long as you wish. If you can tie a knot, you too can create quilts for the world.

Tuesdays:

7:00am - Matins (Morning Prayer) ZOOM

Wednesdays:

7:00pm - Vespers (Evening Prayer) ZOOM

Thursdays:

Noon - Lectionary Bible Study- Zoom

Join in Worship

Zoom link:

[https://zoom.us/j/
8657480226](https://zoom.us/j/8657480226)

Meeting ID: 865 748 0226

Password: 0226

Or, you may follow this link to our YouTube

channel: [https://
www.youtube.com/
channel/
UCOhtq8Tm5Hx0ilG9kH-
jbmA?](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOhtq8Tm5Hx0ilG9kH-jbmA?)





**Payers of Intercession...
for our community:**

**Please join us in praying
for the following
members...**

Shari Williams upon the death of her father, Mick; Gerry Arndt; Amy Harper; Sallie Buchanan; Marti Rowe; Ann Veren.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving
for**

**November
Birthdays**

- 11/1 Anna Grace Walley
- 11/6 Rachel Levkoff
- 11/7 Owen McCormick
- 11/8 Gracie Schabacker
- 11/12 Olivia Galgano
- 11/16 Joseph Poole
- 11/19 Eve Graham
- 11/20 Pastor Eric
- 11/22 Gaylia Malone
- 11/25 Quinn McCormick
- 11/28 Ron Turney

and friends and relatives...

Richard Micelli , Lily Beam, Mike Johnson, Nancy Ozimek, David Surratt, Kinsley Green

**our congregation,
our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
and our Bishop Elizabeth;
our ELCA – Southeastern Synod,
and our Bishop Kevin.**

RENEW: *be transformed by the renewing of your minds; be renewed in the spirit*



**Family Faith
Formation:**

**All Saints' Sunday,
November 1,
10:45am**

On Zoom

Parents and children (PreK-5th grade) join us this Sunday as we launch a new year of Family Faith Formation. Via Zoom we will introduce this year's curriculum, formatted for you and your family to use at home.

Watch for an email with log-in info. If you are unable to attend at the time of the meeting, we will post a video of the launch on our YouTube channel. Hope to see you at the launch this

Advent 2020 and Holden Evening Prayer

This Advent SVLC is excited to join with our sister congregations [Shepherd of the Hills, Faith, and Messiah (Montgomery)] to bring you Holden Evening Prayer via ZOOM, Wednesdays, December 2, 9 & 16 at 7pm. Each congregation will contribute to the music, with a different pastor preaching the homily each week.



Synod Advent Craft Day

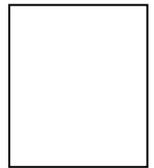
November 15, 2020 ~ 3-5pm EDT / 2-4pm CDT (via zoom)

This Advent, might we create beauty as a way to help us pray through the days, give a reminder or hope to someone, and joyfully anticipate the joy of Christ as Christmas?

Register [HERE](#) now!



**Shades Valley
Lutheran Church**
720 Shades Creek Parkway
Birmingham, AL 35209



CLOCKS FALL BACK to Standard Time this Weekend



**Join Your Shades Valley Lutheran
Faith Community for**

All Saints Sunday

Outdoor, In-Person Worship Service
This Sunday, November 1
9:30am - 10:30am
(Simulcast on ZOOM & YouTube)

 **Southeastern Synod**
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

All Saints Service

November 1
4pm EDT / 3pm CDT

Join us on elca-ses.org

