



New Covenant Lutheran Church

December 17, 2020



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New Covenant Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten | 480-391-1264 | 480-391-3786 fax

This Sunday

Christmas Concert of Worship

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

NO In-person Worship This Sunday
Online Worship Sunday at 10:00 am

In-person worship has paused for now due to the rising number of positive COVID cases. Please check our website at www.newcovenantaz.church/regathering for details.

ONLINE WORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS:

New Covenant Lutheran Church will continue to hold online worship services.

We use Facebook Live for our online worship services. You do not have to have a Facebook account to watch the service.

FACEBOOK: go to New Covenant Lutheran Church's Facebook page at 10 am Sunday to see the video live. Our Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/NewCovenantAZ

*Christmas Concert
of Worship
This Sunday at
10:00 am on
Facebook Live*



PASTOR'S CORNER

Hello Church,

In my podcast, I have started to unpack “the Acts of the Apostles”, known commonly as the book of Acts. One of the things that **I am continually amazed at is how the lives of the Apostles had become so radically different in just a few months.** Their Rabbi Jesus whom they had followed for three years had been crucified, raised from the dead, ascended into heaven and then they received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Now they were going to the Temple – preaching there and calling fellow Jews to repent and to turn to God.

How do the Apostles go from having their Rabbi around to not having him around – at least physically anymore? And how do they go from living with fear and threats to being transformed into trusting lives, confidently proclaiming Jesus in the temple – even as they are thrown into prison for it? **I find it hopeful that their confidence and power certainly comes from Jesus Christ and not from them.** Thankfully, they had faith in the power of God for their lives.

Well, here we are – one week away from Christmas Eve – and what an unusual Christmas it will be. But God has given us Jesus Christ and his apostolic message is still being proclaimed to audiences like us who need to hear it. This message comes to us during this time of year through the Word and Sacrament and through the gift of music – and if not in person, we can hear it digitally. And it is still proclaimed boldly not because we have any power to do so, but because this proclamation comes from God, in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. **I hope that you will find opportunities to hear this message, worship with us and respond as we look forward to the hope of a New Year, with new intentions of turning to God.**

One of the ways that we can express our love and our faith is through our offerings of commitments, gifts and tithes. Last Sunday you heard from several of our church members on why it is important to give especially during a pandemic. Earlier this week you received a letter from me about our Commitment Sunday this Sunday. **I hope that you will prayerfully consider how you can share in the ministries of this church.**

This Sunday we will proclaim God's Word through New Covenant's Concert of Worship. I hope that you will follow us and worship on Sunday or whenever it is convenient for you as we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent and prepare for our Christmas celebration. The Concert of Worship is a gift from many people – Patti Kruse, Suzanne Miller, Carl Dees, Clarey Dees, Ali Hosseini, Mary Cole and many other musicians, readers and presenters. But I think that they would all say that it is not them, but Jesus Christ who offers this Word – the Gospel, through music. They are merely God's instruments. **Please join us at 10:00 am as we worship this Sunday!**
Pastor Steve

December Mission Project



Thank you for your generous donations! The gifts have been delivered to the five families and five seniors New Covenant adopted for the holidays.

STEWARDSHIP



Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

Please prayerfully consider a pledge to the 2021 General Fund. **Commitment Sunday is this weekend.** You can complete your pledge online on our website (www.newcovenantaz.church) or print the card from there and send it to the office.

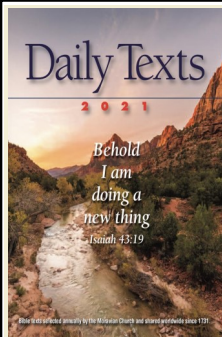
Christmas Eve Services

3:00 pm: In-person on our patio! Sign up on our website, bring a chair and wear a mask.
5:00 pm: Candlelight service on Facebook Live.

Offerings can be mailed to:

New Covenant Lutheran Church
15152 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Online go to: www.newcovenantaz.church
Click on Donate Now



Daily Texts 2021 are available!

Daily Texts 2021 is a devotional book with Old Testament verses, New Testament verses, and a prayer for each day of the year. The books are \$10 each, payable by cash or check (made out to NCLC). Contact the office to make arrangements for getting copies to you.



Sunday School for 3rd - 5th graders is taking a break until 1/10/21.

2020 Caroling Sunday

This masked event is scheduled for **3:00 pm this Sunday.** Meet at the church and don't plan to carpool with other than your family! We'll wear



masks, stay outdoors, sing socially distanced and bring cheer to several dear friends. Did I mention we'll have loads of fun? 😊

CALLING ALL STEPHEN MINISTERS or BEFRIENDERS, or TRAINED SUPPORTERS

We need YOU!

This Christmas season and into the new year is likely to be especially challenging for many of us. Helpers from nearby Lutheran churches (New Covenant, New Journey, Living Water and Christ the Lord) are coming together to provide "virtual" support - for prayer, for conversation, for fellowship - all in a safe online environment. Whether you are a trained supporter or would like to connect with one, contact Pastor Jen Smith at admin@ctlcarefree.org to learn more about being church together during these days.