



**First Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
231 W. Smoke Tree Lane
Prescott, Arizona
www.firstlutheranprescott.org

Until we follow these instructions, we would be wise to think twice before we demand our simple solutions to the nation's complex problems. Pray for the peace of the nation.

Pastor Fred Piepenbrink

July Newsletter 2021

NEWS IN BRIEF



Our Duty to Government

A lot has been discussed and written about elected officials and how they are "running" the government. Most of it is uncomplimentary. This seems to be especially true when things are not going well for the nation, although this is not always the determining factor. Even in times of prosperity and happiness, someone will find something bad to say about someone in power. Some talk-show hosts will spend hours every week bemoaning the same issues. It seems that neither they nor their listeners get tired of it.

The Word of God devotes far more instruction to the citizens of a nation than to those in governmental offices. Perhaps this is the case because a government is only as good as its people. If the people are immoral, corrupt, and greedy, the government will be the same. We usually get what we deserve.

So what kind of citizens would God have us be? Because the role of government is to promote the general welfare of its people against the dangers from within and without, we are obligated to honor all governmental persons as God's representatives (Romans 13:5-7). We are to speak well of those in authority (Acts 23:5). We are to obey those who have been placed in authority over us (Titus 3:1), except where such obedience would require disobedience to God (Acts 5:29). We are to cheerfully pay taxes (Matthew 22:21). We are to seek the welfare of the government by voting intelligently and by offering the use of our time and talents in public service (Jeremiah 29:4-7). And finally, we are to pray for all in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

Our Sunday morning worship time will change from 9:30 am to 10:45 am starting Sunday, July 18.

This time change will allow Pastor Tim Henning to conduct worship services at both Hope Lutheran and First Lutheran.

On Sunday, July 4, a special voters' meeting will be held after worship for the purpose of electing a new church officer. Obviously, the meeting will be very short.

On Sunday, July 11, a potluck will be held following the worship service to enjoy some fellowship and to thank Pastor and Diana Piepenbrink for their time of service with us.

Pastor Fred and Diana wish to thank the members of First Lutheran Church for the privilege of sharing the gospel of Christ Jesus with them for the last six months. Thank you for welcoming us so warmly into your family of believers and making our stay here most enjoyable. This will be a chapter in our lives that we will always remember and cherish. First Lutheran is a congregation of faithful believers who have an obvious love for the Lord and a willingness to share their faith with the community and the world. Each of you is gifted by the Lord in special ways, and you are using those gifts to his glory. May the Lord continue to bless you as you face the future with courage and optimism, knowing that the Lord's plan is to prosper you and give you hope (Jeremiah 29:11).

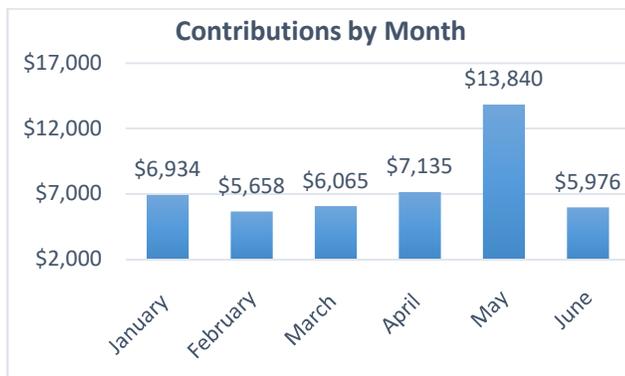
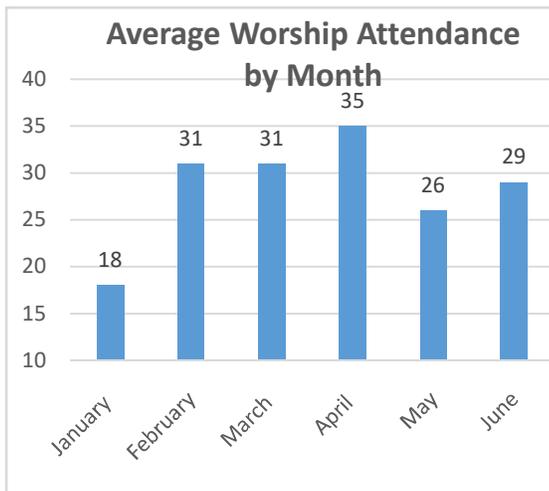
Congratulations to John and Kimmy Mata, who have purchased a new home in the Dewey-Humboldt area. This move, of course, would mean quite a distance to travel to church on Sunday mornings. I emailed the Matas about that and expressed my concern that they might find it

inconvenient to remain members of First Lutheran. What follows is in part their response back:

Our family has decided to continue to fellowship and attend services in First Lutheran despite the drive. We don't want to miss our friends and the fellowship we truly enjoy from the church. Be assured that we will remain members of First Lutheran Church.

We thank the Lord for such faithful and dedicated members.

Church Statistics



Schedule: Altar and Communion Set-Up:

Month	Volunteer
July	Lorraine Johnson
August	Janet Ragan
September	Sharon Radichel
October	Sandy Smith

July birthdays:

Martha Mata	7/2
Walt Tidwell	7/11
Diana Piepenbrink	7/19

July wedding anniversary:

Fred & Diana Piepenbrink	7/23
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Note: If your birthday or anniversary is missing from our newsletter, please let Sharon know.

The code has been changed for the lock box outside the fellowship door where the key is stored. If you need to know it, please contact Sharon.

The following is a resolution that was passed unanimously by Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church on June 27, 2021:

Topic: Merging with First Evangelical Lutheran Church into one two-site congregation.

Whereas: Hope Lutheran was informed of the resolution from First Lutheran of Prescott, AZ,(February 28, 2021) seeking to merge with us into a one, two-site congregation, and . . .

Whereas: The members of First Lutheran wanted to be assured that if the one new church deemed it beneficial in the future for the two campuses to function independently again, that an amiable and peaceful separation would take place, and . . .

Whereas: We, as God's people, take Jesus Christ's Great Commission to heart, which says in Matthew 28:19, 20, "Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and by teaching them to keep all the instructions I have given you. And surely I am with you always until the end of the age," and . . .

Whereas: We also, as God's children, recognize that we are to love one another as Christ has loved us and demonstrated that love by becoming a servant for us and by offering himself up as the atoning sacrifice for sin, and . . .

Whereas: Christ-like love compels us to love our fellow believers and those in our communities for whom Christ died, and . . .

Whereas: First Lutheran, the mother congregation, seeks the help of Hope Lutheran of Chino Valley, AZ, its daughter, so that the Word of God may continue to be proclaimed from that site, and . . .

Whereas: Hope Lutheran has been greatly blessed to carry out Christ's mission and ministry in our time, and . . .

Whereas: One merged congregation would benefit both of the current groups of people (both in Prescott and Chino Valley) enabling the congregation to carry out its Christ-given mission to the fullest under his blessing, then be it . . .

Resolved: that Hope Lutheran merge with First Lutheran church into a two-site, one congregation, and be it further . . .

Resolved: that Hope Lutheran inform First Lutheran of its decision, and be it further . . .

Resolved: that Hope Lutheran, in the spirit of Christian love and cooperation, seek the implementation of this merger for the glory of God and the welfare of God's people, and be it further . . .

Resolved: that we pray to the Lord of the Church, that he pour out his blessings on this merger in order that those who are his believers may grow in the grace of God and that those who are not yet in the family of believers may come into it through our proclamation of the Gospel, and be it finally . . .

Resolved: that the God of all grace fill us with joy, purpose, and hope as both congregations merged may serve our Savior Jesus Christ together in the spirit of peace in this place and at this time.

Proposed by unanimous vote of the Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church council, June 6, 2021.