



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## November 2019 All CAPS Newsletter

### for the ELCA Congregations of the Capital Conference, Phoenix

All Saints Lutheran Church  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Iglesia Luterana Vida Nueva  
Mount of Olives Lutheran Church

Native American Urban Ministry  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
St. Andrew Lutheran Church  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
Trinity Lutheran Church

Celebra con nosotros  
EL DIA DE  
**LOS MUERTOS**  
SABADO/  
SATURDAY  
NOVIEMBRE 2,  
2019 5PM-8PM

Ven a disfrutar de  
nuestras deliciosas  
comidas típicas de  
México y Centro  
América

Como el tradicional :  
Pan de Muerto,  
cavaleritas de azucar,  
mole, tamales, atole, y  
más!

### *Day of the Dead Celebration* *Faith Lutheran Church* *November 2 @ 5:00 pm*

Dia de Los Muertos is a popular Mexican celebration. Its origin dates back to the Mesoamerican cultures that inhabited the Mexican territory before the arrival of the Spaniards, such as the Mexican, Maya, Mixtec, Texcocan ethnic groups. Originally, according to the Mixtec calendar, it is celebrated during the ninth month of the solar year, to honor the deceased. It takes place on November 2, although celebrations begin on November 1. The ritual aims to honor the life of the ancestors, the dearly departed. All kinds of offerings are placed on an altar that is raised in their memory as a gift.

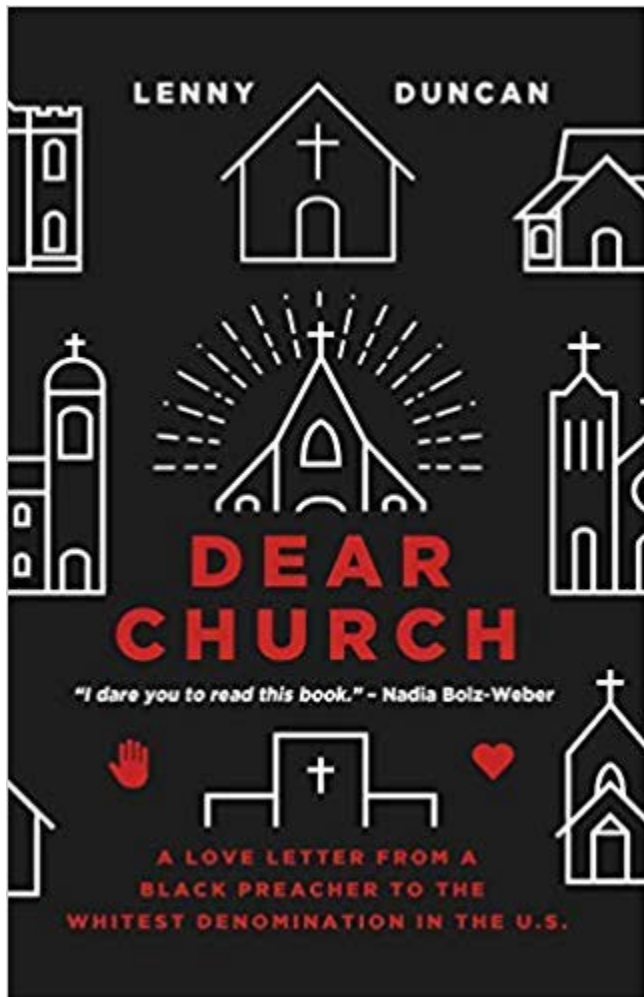
The presence of the family dead is celebrated, and that day they return home to be with their relatives and to be nourished and enjoy the offerings that have been dedicated to them.

Faith Lutheran Church is proud to host a Day of the Dead celebration this year on **Saturday, November 2, from 5pm-8pm in Parish Hall**. There will be an altar and traditional Mexican food and beverages to enjoy. Come and celebrate with us!

### ***Phoenix CROPWalk @ Grace Lutheran Church, Phoenix, Sunday, November 4*** ***1:30 pm Check In, 2:00 pm Walk***

Each year, people of faith of various traditions gather to raise awareness and funds for local and global hunger through the CROPWalk. A one to three mile walk that happens in large cities and small towns throughout the United States, the CROPWalk is the oldest of all fundraising walks and funds both local food security efforts as well as global hunger relief programs. This year, the local designee of the Phoenix CROPWalk is HART Pantry in Peoria which serves teenagers who experience food insecurity over the weekends when they cannot access school meals. Congregations may sign up as a team by contacting Pastor Sarah Stadler ([pastorsarah@graceinthecity.com](mailto:pastorsarah@graceinthecity.com), 602-318-6876), or individuals may register on the CROPWalk website: [www.crophungerwalk.org/phoenixaz](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/phoenixaz). Those who wish to support our efforts but cannot walk are welcome to donate at [www.crophungerwalk.org/phoenixaz](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/phoenixaz)!

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Book Club**  
**Wednesday, November 20**  
**12:00 pm - 1:30 pm**



The book for this month's book club is *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Pastor to the Whitest Denomination in the US* by Lenny Duncan.

Lenny Duncan is the unlikeliest of pastors. Formerly incarcerated, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make all the headlines, but Duncan sees something else at work--drawing a direct line between the church's lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. The problems the ELCA faces are theological, not socio-logical. But so are the answers.

Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, *Dear Church* offers a bold new vision for the future of Duncan's denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. *Dear Church* rejects the narrative of church decline and calls everyone--leaders and laity alike--to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice.

It is time for the church to rise up, dust itself off, and take on forces of this world that act against God: whiteness, misogyny, nationalism, homophobia, and economic injustice.

Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus.

Join us for a discussion of the book in its entirety on November 20, at 1200 pm in the conference room at Our Saviour's Lutheran, 1212 E Glendale Ave.

### ***With Hope... We Prepare for New Challenges***

Ted Bolsinger, author of *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Incharted Territory*, identifies some of the most daunting challenges facing congregational life. He writes:

*"The culture is changing, the world is changing rapidly, and churches are facing change on an unprecedented scale. Churches and church leaders are becoming increasingly irrelevant, even marginalized.*

*But the church is also at an exciting crossroads. We are entering a new day, new terrain and a new adventure. We are not alone. The Spirit of God goes before us. The mission of Christ will not fail. Yet, we have to learn to lead all over again."*

Such challenges are not new topics of conversation among the pastoral and lay leaders of the Capital Conference. To focus, deepen, and advance these conversations, a task force including Mike Valder, Don Stevens, Lara Forbes, and Mark Holman has been planning an approach to identify some of our most pressing common challenges, and then explore creative ways to address them through collaborative efforts.

**We build on strengths!** Already, the congregations of the Capital Conference are cooperating through shared Confirmation programs and youth ministry. Many congregations have participated in pulpit exchanges, and some congregations have ventured into sharing staff. There will be more opportunities ahead as we imagine ways of being *Church Together!*

**We need you. You will be invited.** In February, the Task Force will offer an event to launch some necessary and hopeful conversations. Then, we will face the challenging facts of contemporary congregational life; and, we will identify and plan for additional creative approaches addressing our separate and shared mission.

In February, two elected leaders from each Capital Conference congregation, along with their pastors, will be invited to participate in these timely conversations. Watch for further announcements regarding this February event.





THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY WORSHIP

# Now Thank We All Our God

## ALL ARE WELCOME

Join us for an evening of Christian prayer, thanksgiving, fellowship & song with music from combined adult and bell choirs.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, AT 7 PM

Join us for coffee and dessert after the prayer service.

## SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

5524 E. Lafayette Blvd., Phoenix, AZ 85018

### HOSTED BY:

The Bridge United Methodist Church • Faith Lutheran Church  
Grace Lutheran Church • Lincoln Heights Christian Church  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church • Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Shepherd of the Hills United Church of Christ  
St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

Please bring a non-perishable food item for ICM. There will also be an offering collected for ICM during the service.



2nd Annual  
**Holiday  
Bazaar**



Faith Lutheran Church

801 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ 85014

Saturday, November 16, 2019

9:00am ~ 4:00pm

Join us for a variety of vendors selling seasonal crafts, gifts,  
and many other products & services.

Tasty foods, including homemade tamales and baked goods  
will also be available for purchase.

We'll also have special events and door prizes for you to win.

**Spaces are still available!!!!**

If you have a product you would like to market  
or some type of craft or baked good that you would like to sell,  
we would love to rent a space to you. (Spaces are just \$25 each.)

Contact Manny Soto-Griego at 602-717-7729.

