



# Central Lutheran Church

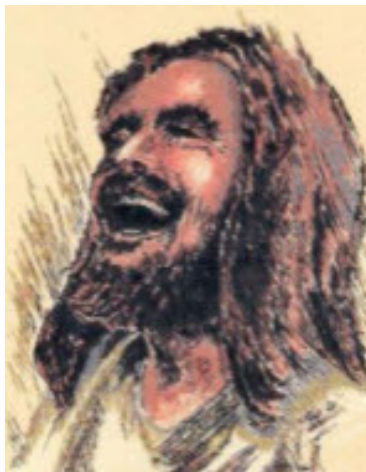
*Come Share the Spirit!*

## Central Newsletter: January 2022

- Pastor's Message
- Gospel Concert
- Lectionary
- Thrivent
- Council update
- Fritz Gardner
- Adult Community Education
- Evening Worship
- Prayer Requests
- Bible Study



### Pastor's Message:



### What is your Bible Doing?

Which Bible is the best Bible? Well, that can be open to interpretation....Arlan says "the Bible you read". Interpretation of the best Bible is also subject to when, who, intended audience, and what was used as a basis of the scripture, when translating. Interpretation goes very heavily into translation. For worship I use, in general, the New International Version, updated in 2011. Where is your Bible?

Let's start at a good point for translation. The best is no translation but to use the original Greek and Hebrew. Now here is a kicker, if you know modern day Hebrew and Greek, it will still be difficult to read Biblical Hebrew and Greek.

Languages change all the time and meanings morph and

develop. Some words used in English translations, never even existed, nor did the concept exist, in Biblical times. Fun fact, the Hebrew scriptures (Old Testament) did not have vowels and the words ran together. Have fun with that folks. Where is your Bible?

What to do, what to do? Find a translation you like. One that will keep you in the Bible. Careful not to choose a paraphrase version for Bible study. Doing so, you will miss out on some important words that make all the difference in understanding what God is saying. Use a paraphrase for devotionals if you like but not Bible study. Where is your Bible?

Here is the point when it comes to a Bible and my beliefs with regards to worship and study. Have a Bible with you always, paper or electronic it does not matter. Bring your Bible to church. Follow along with the readings, make notes, highlight, underline and even dog ear the pages. If you are not comfortable with making marks on your Bible, get some sticky notes. The Bible is the word of God, but the words of God are not dishonored, diminished or reduced in anyway by making notes in the Bible. The scriptures are Holy but the physical book, is not. Where is your Bible?

In contrast Muslims would say that the Qur'an (Koran) cannot be translated, because it would no longer be Allah's words. The major downside is, it is written in Quranic Arabic, which is not a common language for Muslims, except for their religious Book and prayers. This could be compared for us to still have worship in Latin or only in Biblical Greek and Biblical Hebrew.

Ultimately the point is, please consider bringing your Bible to worship. Open it up and use it. Take it home and open it again and again. Maybe you will see some of your notes. Hopefully your notes will be Holy Spirit guided and give you additional insight. Martin Luther wanted the scripture to be available to everyone, but it must be read for that to happen.

Peace and blessing in your reading.

Pastor Doug

**Where is your Bible?**



## Lectionary

Did you know that the scripture readings we have on Sunday, can come from many sources? Some pastors do sermon series that they make or use from other sources. Many Lutheran pastors use something called the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). This lectionary, which is: "a list or book of portions of the Bible appointed to be read at a church service (Definitions from Oxford Languages), is used by many denominations. The one we have been using is a three-year rotational lectionary, meaning the readings are repeated every third year. This particular lectionary was developed in conjunction with multiple denominations. For more information on this lectionary, see [www.commontexts.org](http://www.commontexts.org).

I like to do sermon series based upon books, topic in the Bible and much more. I believe reading the full story, getting more in-depth is the best way for the scripture text to be more fully understood. As such, having your own Bible, as I indicated in another article, is a good way to deeply engage in the scripture. Luther Seminary developed an alternative lectionary to the RCL. Theirs is a four-year rotational. The big difference is the readings are more continual in nature, allowing to tell each story more fully, rather than small portions as done in the RCL. On a given Sunday, there are often only two readings. Sometimes the preaching text is emphasized in the Old Testament and sometimes the New Testament.

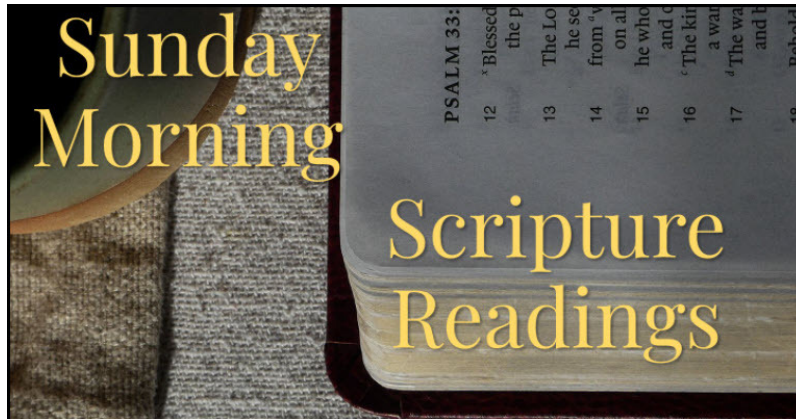
What does this mean for Central Lutheran? I am moving us to the Narrative Lectionary starting January 16th. That Sunday, we will be in the second week after the Epiphany. The readings will be John 2:13-25, Jesus cleanses the Temple. The second reading Psalm 127:1-2. So, as you can see, way less readings. That means that sometimes the lector will be reading the Gospel. The pastor is not the only one who can read the Gospel, so that will be a change. This also, means services could be slightly shorter, or I could just preach longer! It all depends upon the Holy Spirit. During

the summer, the lectionary does not have prescribed readings and we could use the RCL or do some sermon series. Let's see what the Spirit does.

I do hope you all find the readings fulfilling. I also hope you will bring your Bibles, follow along and take some notes during the reading and sermon.

Peace

Pastor Doug



Date	Season	Theme	Gospel	Accompanying Reading
1-2-2022	Christmas	Jesus Says Come and See	John 1:35-51	Psalms 66:1-5
1-9-2022	Baptism of Lord	Wedding at Cana	John 2:1-11	Psalms 104:14-16
1-16-2022	Epiphany	Jesus Cleanses the Temple	John 2:13-25	Psalms 127:1-2
1-23-2022	Epiphany	Nicodemus	John 3:1-21	Psalms 139:13-18
1-30-2022	Epiphany	The Woman at the Well	John 4:1-42	Psalms 42:1-3

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## *Church Council*

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Greetings from your Church Council,

We have all been through so much over the past 21 months and are thankful God has been at our side during this journey. Church attendance is increasing as we begin to return to something resembling pre-pandemic times. If you are aware of anyone who used to attend worship services regularly and you have not seen them recently, please reach out to them with an invite to attend church again and experience what we have to offer with our new pastor.

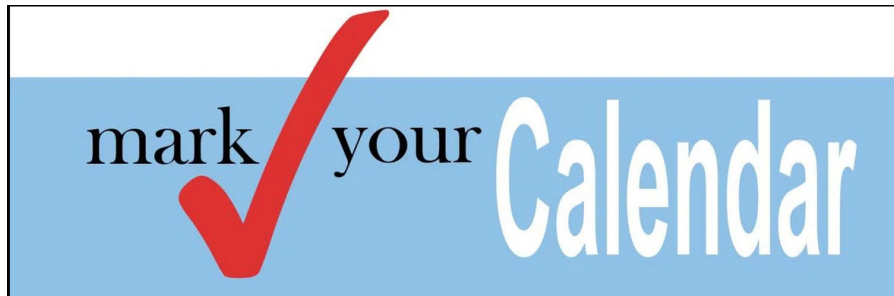
If you have not had the opportunity to visit “one on one” with Pastor Doug, please stop by the Casa Grande church on Wednesdays during his office hours. He will have the coffee pot on and would love to spend some time chatting and getting to know each of you.

Our annual meeting will be held on January 30 in Casa Grande immediately following the 10AM service. Please plan to attend if at all possible. There will be an election to fill open seats on the Council and the Endowment Committee. Contact Gary Erickson, Council President, if you have an interest in serving.

In closing I would like to share a recent quote I received from This Day's Thought.org: “Our lives are destined to become like the life of Jesus. The whole purpose of Jesus’ ministry is to bring us to the house of the Father. Not only did Jesus come to free us from the bonds of sin and death, He also came to lead us into the intimacy of His divine life.”

Blessings and God’s peace to each of you,

Gary Erickson, [Council President](#)



## **Gospel Concert**

Did you hear the good news? The good news is another way to say Gospel. Why am I telling you this? Some will say they do not like Gospel Music, but not all Gospel music is the same, but they all are telling of the Good News of God. So the Good News, Gospel, in song format is coming to Central Lutheran, not once but twice!



On February 4th at 3 PM, there will be a free Gospel Music Concert at Central Lutheran in Arizona city. During the event there will be a free will offering to help support the Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat ministry in AZ. Then at 7 PM, there will be another concert at the Casa Grande site. Go and spread the Good News, tell others of this Word of God, the Gospel can be heard at Central Lutheran, and it will be sung to all that have ears to hear.

Block out your calendar. Dave Anderson & Roger Walck are “gospel concert musicians”. They sing a WIDE variety of music from a set of old Sunday School songs (with the audience picking the songs they remember from years ago), to their opening medley “This Is The Day; Jesus, Name Above All Names, How Great Thou Art”, Steve Green’s song “Find Us Faithful”, to Andrae Crouch’s song, Through It all, to a medley of old gospel songs including “His Eye Is On The Sparrow”, “It is No Secret”, “It is Well With My Soul” \_and others.

See you and your friends there.

Offer to pick them up and bring them.

## Thrivent

Do you have investments or insurance through Thrivent? Have you heard of Thrivent? From the Thrivent website, "We've always held the belief that humanity thrives when people make the most of all they've been given. To ensure we can continue to inspire generations to make financial choices guided by their Christian values, we're supporting our current clients - and opening our doors to new ones. And we're meeting their needs in more ways than ever before. Because when more people make the most of all they've been given, our impact amplifies."



Why am I telling you about Thrivent? Because if you are a member or are interested in being a member, there is a significant financial advantage to Central Lutheran. Yes, there is free money waiting and it needs to be used, directed and we would love to see it come to Central Lutheran.

Many accounts allow for at least one Action Team and some allow for Two Action Teams a year. An Action team is a way to financial support missions in the congregation. The Christmas Eve advertisement in the paper was paid for with a \$250 Action Team. The upcoming concerts are being partially funded through Action Teams. Need help applying for an Action Team for use at Central Lutheran, see Pastor Doug or your Thrivent Rep for help.

Did you also know there is something called Choice Dollars? These are free funds to be used for your favorite charity. We hope you choose to direct those Choice Dollars to Central Lutheran. You can do this quarterly or once a year but direct them please. If you do not, they go away, and your charity does not get the free money. Just like the Action Teams, if you do not use them, you lose them.

When Kris and I came to Central Lutheran, we brought our two Action Teams each, meaning we have the opportunity to help fund \$1,000 in ministry. We also direct all of our Choice Dollars now to Central Lutheran. My daughter Becky, this year directed one of her Action Teams to Central Lutheran. Won't you help support Central Lutheran with your Choice Dollars and Action Teams?

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## Financial Report

Greetings to all my fellow Central Lutherans. Hope you all had a blessed Christmas season and wishing you a Happy New Year.

Samantha and I have been working to get the year end accounting work completed and we are close. Last year giving statements were prepared for all with the majority of them going unclaimed. This year we have decided to send statements on request. There will be a sign up sheet at both churches and you can request your statements to be delivered via email, US mail or in your church mail box. Offering envelopes for 2022 have been distributed to all who



have used their envelopes in the last quarter. If you would like envelopes for 2022 there is also a sign up sheet at both churches.

I have been asked not to publish financial information in the newsletter going forward as it becomes public information. If anyone would like to see our financial statements please email me at Rhagen9236@aol.com and I will get that information to you.

Thanks to all for your generous offerings in 2021. It is appreciated.

Your treasurer,  
Rick Hagen

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## CLC Quilting Group

Our Central Lutheran Church Quilting Group is back quilting! We would welcome anyone who would like to help work on quilts. We donate to various charity/non-profit groups.



One quilting group meets twice a month, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 9:30 to noon at the Arizona City church location (12921 S. Sunland Gin Road, Arizona City). Contact Kathy Richards (520) 431-7430 for more info.

A Thursday quilting group meets in Arizona City, with more information to come in the bulletins. Contact person is Mary Gilbertson.

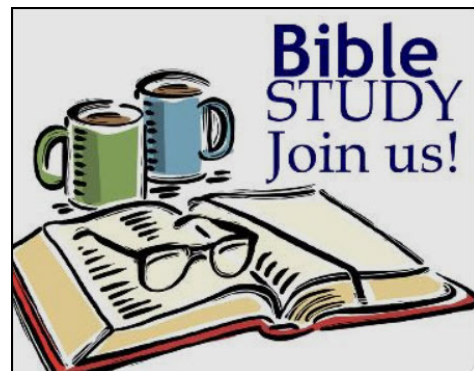
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## Lutheran Reformation

**Date:** Wednesdays, starts January 12th

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Where:** Arizona City Church Site  
Pastor Bob leading this bible study.



## Join Pastor Doug:

**When:** 3rd Monday of each month - starts Jan 17th

**Where:** Casa Grande

**Time:** 8:30 am.

Rotating topics to be picked by group. Bring your Bible, coffee cup, and an appetite for the Holy Spirit.

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## **On-site and Live Online Worship**

You  
are  
invited!

Join us weekly for worship in  
Arizona City or Casa Grande! OR  
join us online - YouTubeLive.



- Sunday Worship Times 8:30am in AZ City.
- Sunday Worship Times 10am in Casa Grande.
- Monday Worship Times 6:30pm in Casa Grande

### **Worship online - CLC [\[YouTube Channel\]](#)**

- Social distancing in seating AZ City and Casa Grande.
- Masks optional.

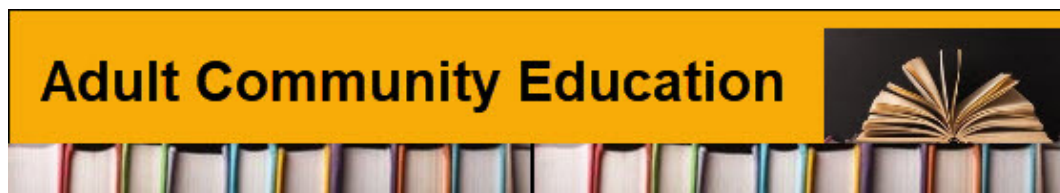
Live Worship Service ONLINE thru YouTube Live at on the [Central Lutheran Church YouTube Channel](#).

[Print the Sunday Bulletin](#) ahead of time and enjoy "live" online worship each Sunday.

## **Our Worship**

Our focus is on the good news shared by God through Jesus Christ, and is celebrated through the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion.

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### **A New Year for the Adult Community Education Program**

January 2022 is the beginning of the eighth year of ministry for the Adult Community Education Program, and it begins with good news from the ELCA Grand Canyon Synod. The Synod Grants Committee awarded a Project Support Grant in the amount of \$7,000 to Central Lutheran Church. The Project Support Grant is for a



specific, new, or continuing project that serves one or more of the [Grand Canyon Synod Strategic Plan](#) goals. “We are delighted to support your project,” wrote Theresa Thornburgh, the Grand Canyon Synod Director of Administration and Events. Grant funds were prioritized for projects that seek to mitigate the effects of the current pandemic and included ministries that address food insecurity, unemployment, homelessness, and health inequities.

Since the program's inception in January 2015, the Adult Community Education team has served almost 90 participants to

help them achieve personal development goals in language learning or general education. The ministry team has supported 13 earned GED certificates. A high school diploma offers job applicants an advantage for employment and opens the door to higher education pursuits. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, those with a high school diploma earned about 25 percent more per week than those without a high school diploma. Also, the unemployment rate for high school graduates is 3.8 percent compared to 5.5 percent for those who have less than a high school degree. That's not to mention one of the main benefits of a high school diploma: it represents hard work and dedication that transfers to success in the workplace and at home.

The Adult Community Education Program ministry team offers in-person and video call appointments with a tutor once or twice a week. General education tutoring improves participants' knowledge and skills in math, reading, writing, science and social studies, the subjects of high school equivalency tests to obtain a GED certificate. GED test preparation tutoring is available in Spanish and English. Participants work one-on-one with assigned tutors through an individual study plan that prepares participants to pass the GED exams. Language learning sessions develop conversation skills for speaking and understanding English in daily living. Teachers work one-on-one or with small groups to improve language fluency.

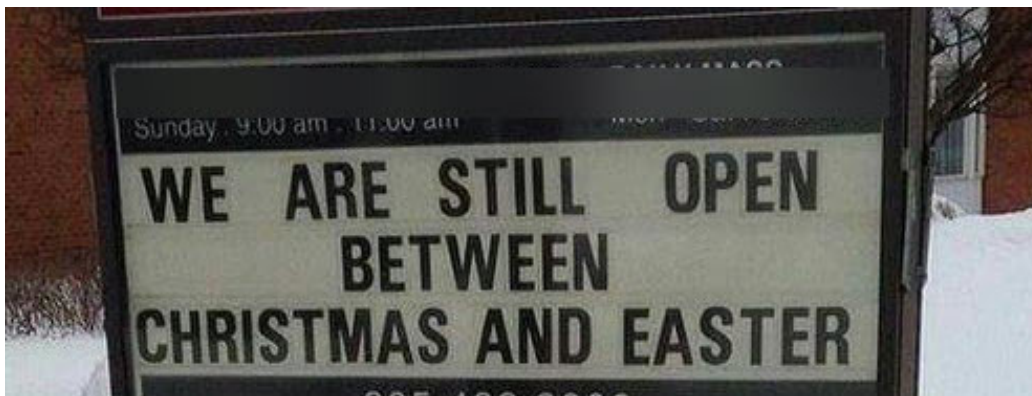
Program services are available at no charge to participants. In the past, the CLC congregation has allocated a portion of its operating budget to fund program expenses which include the part-time volunteer coordinator's salary, laptop purchases and maintenance, and testing fees. Dedicated offerings and special gifts from members and non-members have met most of the program's needs. However, due to reduced congregational giving during the pandemic months, funding the program to the same level next year will be challenging. Anticipating the shortfall for 2022, leadership has pursued grants and welcomes special gifts from congregation and community donors. The Synod Project Support Grant will help to sustain this ministry for another year.

If you would like more information about the Adult Community Education Program, go to the [GED/ESL page](#) on the church website. If you would like to volunteer as a GED tutor or English language coach, [\[Click here\]](#) To make a donation that helps cover testing fees (\$200 per participant) and online curriculum subscription costs (\$750 per year), direct the donation to: Central Lutheran Church Adult Community Education Ministry  
P.O. Box 677  
Arizona City AZ 85123

Have questions? Send an [email](#)

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*Church signage to make you smile!*



### **“What You Have First Given Us”**

**Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

On the second weekend of each month we continue to prayerfully consider the challenge to double our offering. The reason for this proposal is the need to increase offerings and the belief many people have the ability to fulfill such a request. As we consider this challenge, we can ask ourselves, “how come I don’t give more?” Thank you for your contributions to our growing ministry.

Please continue to support CLC. Please note if you wish to designate funds.

**MAIL your offerings (Casa Grande or AZ City) to:  
Central Lutheran Church, PO Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85123  
Also consider setting up REGULAR, AUTOMATIC GIVING through your financial institution or PayPal.**



**Remember to bring in non-perishable food to the Food Bank. A Food Bank Box is set up at both church sites for your donations.**

**Click on images below to find out more about the program! You can help in so many areas of CLC outreach!**



Quilting Group



Grief support



Community Food Pantry



Travel Samples



Eloy Free Hot Lunch Program



Manna Bags



Youth Group



Shield a Badge



Volunteer - ESL



GED training/volunteer opportunities



Church Photo Directory



Prayer requests

**Remember in Prayer**

**Please include in your prayers:**

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Aleata, Anna, Asher, Becky, Brooke, Bunny, Carole, Chris, Darcy, Dorsch Family, Doreen, Erika, Evan, Faye, Fred and Kathy, Fritz's family Grieving his death, Gail, Gina, Glenda, Hal, Israel, Janet, Jill, Josh, Judy, Karen, Larry, Leda, Lew & Alice, Lisa, Markie, Mary Kay, Mike, Mike T., Neil, Nikki, Nancy, Patty Jo, Riche, Robyn, Ryan and Rayne, Sandy, Samuel, Sylvia.



Let us know if any names could be removed or new names added.

**Military Service:**

Send us names for Prayer List and Military Servicemen.



Our prayers are with the **Alfred "Fritz" Gardner** family on his death. Fritz was a founding member of Central Lutheran Church and has served the church for years.

Gone from our sight, but never our memories; gone from our touch, but never our hearts. Fritz left his mark on Central Lutheran Church.



**Council:**

President - Gary Erickson  
Vice President - Steve Gal  
Treasurer - Rick Hagen  
Secretary - Lois Irvin

Current members: Peg Brady, John Pieschl, Mary Pietrini, Dick Jones, Gary Linafelter, Skip Simes

Council Meetings: Third Tuesday of each month

Council Minutes are posted at each church site on the bulletin board.

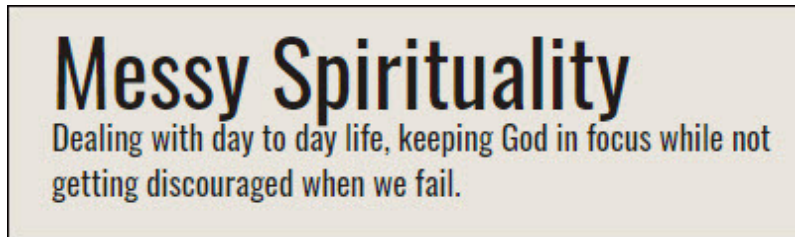
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## Central Lutheran Church Mission

*"We are a Spirit-filled community of loving and caring, light-hearted people who joyfully invite all to share, through the Gospel, the love of Christ."*

### Multi-Site Ministry

- Draw upon resources to meet the needs of each campus
- Use of congregational resources based on needs
- Programs at one or both sites
- One governing body, one budget
- Staff active on both campuses
- Capital projects at both campuses



*Pastor Doug's Blog*

## Contact Us

**Pastor Doug Dill:** [PastorDoug@CentralLutheranaz.org](mailto:PastorDoug@CentralLutheranaz.org)

**Website:** [www.centrallutheranaz.org](http://www.centrallutheranaz.org)

Sunday Bulletin/Announcements/Prayer requests available on the website

### **Arizona City Campus**

12921 S. Sunland Gin Road (PO Box 677), Arizona City, AZ 85123

PH: (520) 466-5024

### **Casa Grande Campus**

324 N Sacaton Street , Casa Grande, AZ 85122

PH: (520) 316-9659

**For mail service use PO Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85123**

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