



# Central Lutheran Church

*Come Share the Spirit!*

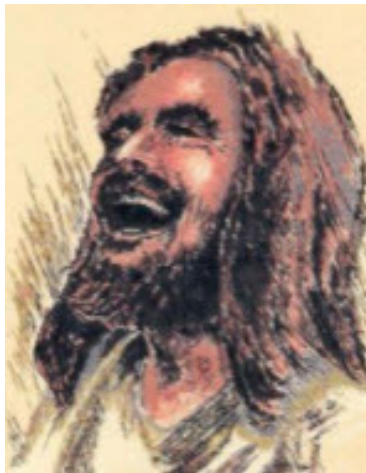
## Central Newsletter: December 2021

- Pastor's Message
- Council update
- Carolyn Stephens
- Candlelight - Christmas Eve
- Adult Community Education
- Evening Worship
- Dec. 12th Installation
- Prayer Requests
- Angel Tree Info



---

### Pastor's Message:



### Let's grow and have fun

Hola!

Well, that was about the extent of my Spanish, but I hope that improves over time. So, now you know, I don't know much about Spanish but there are many things I do not know, especially about you and Central Lutheran. As time goes by, we will learn much about each other. We will learn and grow. One of the best ways for that is to have face to face communication.

I really like face to face and I am not a fan of Zoom, Teams or any online replacement for face to face. That being said, there is much value in the technologies that we all have learned about over the last 1.5 years. I am about to now tell you something that may seem contradictory. I was and still am highly involved in technology in communication. My email is [pastordoug@centrallutheranaz.org](mailto:pastordoug@centrallutheranaz.org) I text at 402-235-6969 and have a twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn account and multiple websites. Face to face is still the best for communication, especially in resolving conflict.

In Matthew 18:15-17, Jesus specifically instructs us on how to deal with conflict. From the NIV, 15 “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

I want to hear from you directly. We will not always agree, but I will always listen. Call me, and we can sit-down over a cup of coffee, have a beer together or a glass of wine. Jesus continually taught at the table. Martin Luther was known for his table talks. Sitting down over food and drink helps a conversation and fosters a listening environment.

As you may have heard in my sermon on the first day of Advent, there will be change. Change for me, you, the congregation, the community, and God is always active in our changes. I have a lot to learn about this community. I am going to make mistakes, and so will you. The only one that does not is Jesus.

I am looking forward to growing in knowledge with you and finding some great ways to be actively involved in ministry together. As we await the birth of Jesus, let us walk together as we await one of the biggest events in a Christian life. Only superseded by the resurrected Christ who gave his life for you, me, and the entire world.

Let’s have some fun!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Doug



We welcome Bishop Deborah Hutterer of The Grand Canyon Synod as she presides over Pastor Doug's installation service Sunday, December 12. Our two worship services will be combined to meet for one special service at the Arizona City Church at 9:00 am.

Pastor Doug will begin with the advent lighting. Following her sermon, Bishop Deborah will preside over the installation service and communion. Coffee hour in Fellowship Hall will immediately follow Pastor Doug's installation. Since this is a combined service, fellowship be after the worship. Don't miss this opportunity to welcome our Bishop and to celebrate our Pastor's official start of our journey together as The Body of Christ.



*Church signage to make you smile!*

---

## *Church Council*

---

Greetings from the Church Council,

I would like to take a moment to wish the entire congregation a Merry Christmas from the Church Council. During this season, we will be celebrating Peace, Joy, Hope and Love; and we pray all these special gifts given to us this Christmas will continue throughout the coming year. This Christmas, we celebrate "Emmanuel" (God with us). Through God's presence working within us we are being healed, transformed, and made whole.

As we head into the Christmas season, we at Central Lutheran Church have so much to be thankful for. On November 21st, we welcomed Pastor Doug Dill and his wife Kris to Central Lutheran. His Rite of Installation is scheduled for December 12th with Bishop Deborah Hutterer officiating at the worship service. Please mark your calendars for this special day in the life of our congregation. We hope each and every member will be able to attend this service. Jill Lui and Arlan Bergquist are coordinating the event along with Pastor Doug. If you would like to assist in the planning of Pastor Doug's Rite of Installation, please contact Jill or Arlan. One service at 9am in Arizona City for the Installation service on December 12th, followed by refreshments.

I would also like to take a moment to thank Pastor Bob for serving as our interim pastor for the past ten months. His service to Central Lutheran Church has been nothing short of outstanding. Pastor Bob can now retire for the third time. He has indicated he will be available as a substitute pastor as needed.

On behalf of the Church Council, we wish you all a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year.

*Central Lutheran Church Council*

[Council Contacts - click](#)



---

## **Carolyn Joy Stephens**

**1931-2021**

As a new high school graduate, Carolyn Joy Samppala left her home in Mt. Iron MN and traveled by bus to California to start a new chapter in her life. There she resided in Vallejo with her older brother, Urho, and his wife.



Her older sister and her husband, Katherine and Ken Johnson, lived nearby and during one of Carolyn's frequent visits with them, they introduced her to Ken's Navy buddy, Leo Stephens. (Leo and Ken had met at radio school in Memphis TN, and were serving in Alameda CA).

Following the ensuing courtship, Leo and Carolyn were married on March 25, 1953 at a Wednesday evening church ceremony with a few family members and friends present. (Carolyn wore Katherine's wedding dress and Leo borrowed Ken's suit).

Soon after, the two couples purchased homes in Santa Clara CA, across the street from one another where they began to raise their families. Devoted parents, they were regular attendees at school events and supported all their children's

activities. After a 30-year career at Hewlett Packard, Leo transferred to HP's Veradale WA facility where he eventually retired and then moved to Loveland CO. Carolyn and Leo's last move brought them to Casa Grande where they became members of Central Lutheran Church, pastored by their son, Thom.

Leo died in September of 2009. Following a second fall and hip injury, Carolyn went to live with daughter and granddaughter, Lizabeth and Joscelyn, in Chandler AZ.



Just before her 90th birthday in October, Carolyn suffered a third hip injury from a fall. Recovery proved too difficult and she died on November 28th.

Leo and Carolyn's ashes will be buried in California. Their lights will continue to shine on their family. Carolyn was preceded in death by Leo, Ken and grandson Matthew. She is survived by sister Katherine (the last of the 14 Samppala children); children Lizabeth, Susan, Thomas (Alyson) and Mark (Connie); her 9 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren (youngest is Leo, born to Mckynzie on November 3rd.

---

## Financial Report

Hello and Merry Christmas from your treasurer.

I was able to get the financial statements done for November before the newsletter deadline this month so I will give you an update on where we are to date.

Income through November 30, 2021 was \$181,373.34 up \$3800 from 2020. Expenses were \$166,033.02 down \$52,160 from 2020, leaving us with a net general fund income of \$15,340.



I received the offering envelopes for 2022 and will place them in the mailboxes at Arizona City and give the ones for Casa Grande to John Pieschl to distribute at that site. Samantha and I will be working on the year end giving statements after the last Sunday of December and will also distribute those the same way. Sign-up sheet available at church for those wishing to receive offering envelopes.

I am looking for help in counting and depositing the offerings after church in Arizona City. The job takes about 15 to 20 minutes following service and I will be happy to train any volunteers.

Have a Merry Christmas and remember that Jesus is the reason for the season.

Your treasurer,  
Rick Hagen

---



## Christmas Eve

4 PM Arizona City

6 PM Casa Grande

Both candlelight services

---



*Join us in making quilts!*

## 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.

---



## On-site and Live Online Worship

- Worship Times 8:30am in AZ City.
- Worship Times 10am in Casa Grande.
- Worship is also available online.

### January 3rd - Monday Night Worship Service starts in Casa Grande -- 6:30pm

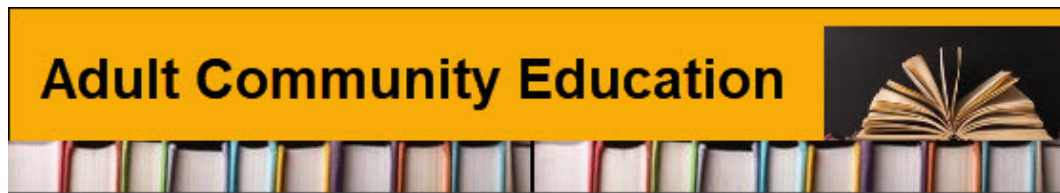
- Social distancing in seating AZ City and Casa Grande.
- Masks optional.

[CLC YouTube Channel](#)

On December 12th, one service, we will record 9am service on YouTube Live in AZ City. The other Sundays it will be live on YouTube in Casa Grande at 10:00am.

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.



## Adult Community Education

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms...If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.*

— 1 Peter 4: 10-11

December 2021 marks the completion of seven years of the Adult Community Education ministry. This annual milestone represents thousands of hours of helping people achieve their personal development goals through general education and English language learning. The ministry team, made up of many volunteers and a part-time tutoring coordinator, have been a living

example of God working through the Central Lutheran congregation to serve the community in meaningful ways.

Just as important are those who have donated to the Adult Community Education ministry. Over the years, they have faithfully supported an average annual budget

of \$18,000 to ensure the ministry team had the tools it needed to do the work, including curriculum resources, testing fees, and learning lab laptop purchases, replacements and repairs, along with funding for the part-time tutor coordinator's time to manage volunteer training, participant enrollment and orientation, daily tutoring schedules and learning resource development. The congregation's generosity has enabled important and lasting work that has changed lives and opened doors of opportunity for those it has served.

So, to all who have served and donated . . .



Central Lutheran Church Adult Community Education Ministry  
P.O. Box 677  
Arizona City AZ 85123

Questions? Email - [click](#)







### **“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.

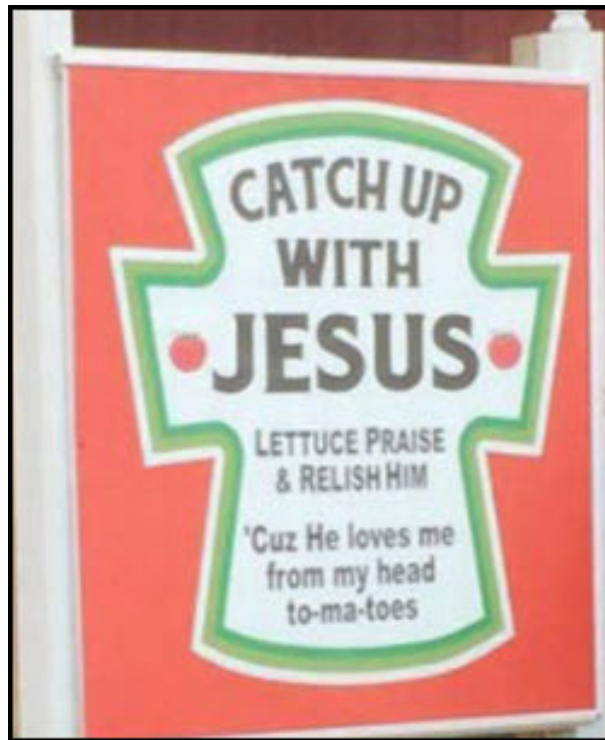
On the second weekend of each month we continue to prayerfully consider the challenge to double our offering. The reason for this proposal is the need to increase offerings and the belief many people have the ability to fulfill such a request. As we consider this challenge, we can ask ourselves, “how 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.

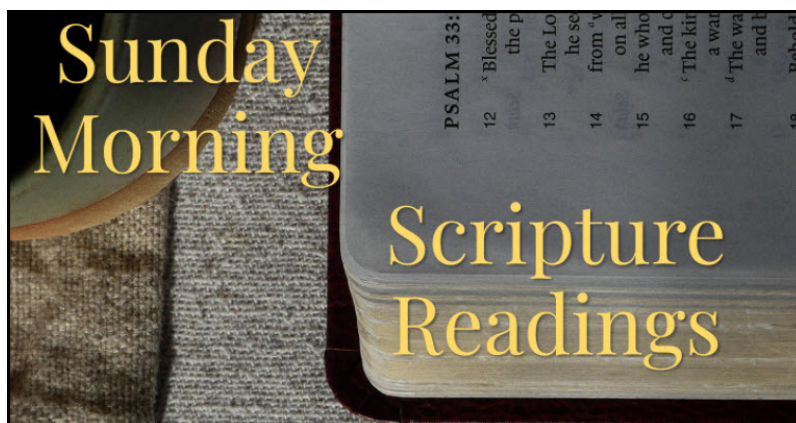
**MAIL your offerings (Casa Grande or AZ City) to:  
Central Lutheran Church, PO Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85123  
Also consider setting up REGULAR, AUTOMATIC GIVING through your financial  
institution or PayPal.**

---

We have shared some pictures from actual church signs in this newsletter.



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.



December

**Sun. Dec. 5 - 2nd Sunday in Advent**

*Readings*

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79 (78)

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6



**Sun. Dec 12th - 3rd Sunday in Advent**

*Readings*

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6 (6)

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

**Sun. Dec. 19th – 4th Sunday in Advent**

*Readings*

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55 (52)

Psalm 80:1-7 (7) {alternate}

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

**Fri. Dec. 24 – Nativity of Our Lord I, Christmas Eve**

*Readings*

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96 (11)

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

**Sun. Dec. 26 – First Sunday of Christmas**

*Readings*

Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148 (13)

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

---



# SHOW PRISONERS' CHILDREN THEY HAVE NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN!

## ABOUT ANGEL TREE® CHRISTMAS



Your love and caring shows through with your support of this program. Angel Tree children that Central Lutheran Church support have an incarcerated parent. Incarceration can strain family ties to the breaking point. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ in a tangible way by buying gifts, wrapping and returning to church by December 12th. Every Angel Tree child is also given access to a free, easy-to-read copy of the Bible in English or Spanish.

Angel Tree tags are still available in Arizona City on December 5th. Gifts are due back to the church on December 12th and will be delivered to families the week before Christmas.

Thank you for your support!!

Questions? Contact [Pat Jones](#) or [Linda Gal](#).

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



Quilting Group



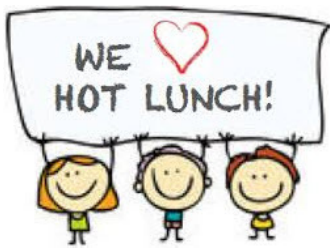
Grief support



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:

Aleata, Anna, Asher,  
Becky, Brooke, Bunny,  
Carole, Chris, Darcy, Erika,  
Evan, Faye, Fred and  
Kathy, Fritz, Gail, Gina,  
Glenda, Hal, Israel, Jamie,  
Janet, Jill, Josh, Judy,  
Karen, Larry, Leda, Lisa,  
Markie, Mary Kay, Mike,  
Mike T., Neil, Nikki, Nancy,  
Patty Jo, Riche, Robyn, Ryan and Rayne, 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.

## 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.

---

## Worship at Central

December 12th - one service - 9:00am in Arizona City

Christmas Eve 4:00PM in Arizona City, 6:00pm in Casa Grande

Arizona City ----- Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

Casa Grande ----- Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Evening worship starts January 3rd, 6:30pm

---

Online worship continues - follow on the [CLC YouTube Channel](#)

### 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.

---

## Our 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

# Messy Spirituality

Dealing with day to day life, keeping God in focus while not getting discouraged when we fail.

*Pastor Doug's Blog*

---

## Contact Us

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

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

### 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

---



**Unsubscribe:** You have received this e-mail because you provided your e-mail address to receive information from Central Lutheran Church. If you wish to be removed from this mailing, send your request to **Church Office:** [churchoffice@centrallutheranaz.org](mailto:churchoffice@centrallutheranaz.org).

©2021 Central Lutheran Church | P.O. Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85123

[Web Version](#)   [Preferences](#)   [Forward](#)   [Unsubscribe](#)

