



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Central Newsletter: June 2021

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Pastor's Message:



Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church. If we had a cake with candles on we would have to have a huge sheet cake with a couple of thousand candles on it.

As I reflect upon the entire history of the church I think about all the people over the couple of thousand years who have carried the message of Jesus and God to others as the church grew to where we are today. Perhaps it is said well in the words of the hymn, "For All the Saints." There have been thousands and thousands of faithful followers of Christ who have carried on the calling to be church to others. When I think about all the people in my life who have influenced me to become a pastor and have supported me in that ministry I've had, I am eternally thankful for them.

Please remember those who have brought you to where you are today and give thanks for them. And remember that you, too, are blessed with the calling to carry on the mission of Christ to the world in which you reside.

Let us keep the ministry of Christ going and press on with the help of the Holy Spirit to help the church grow.

Pastor Bob Kleinke

PH: 507-273-2705

[Email](#)

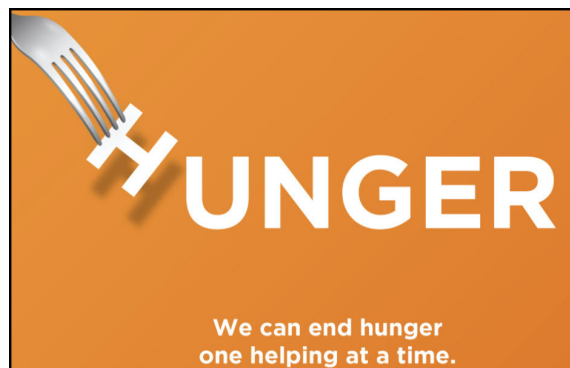
I found this poem in my mother's handwriting and I thought I would share...

God has not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God has not promised
Sun without rain, joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God has promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way,
Grace for the trials
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy,
Undying love.

P.S. My mother died at the age of 62 about 30 years ago.

Pastor Bob



Golf - June 5th - Join us

We will have a fellowship golf outing at Robson Ranch Golf Course on Saturday morning, June 5th. The cost for 18 holes for non-annual Robson players is \$30. We are also asking each golfer for a minimum of \$10 to be given to the **ELCA World Hunger program**. Our plan is to have both men and women playing. We also hope to raise a good amount of money for World Hunger. Please plan to join us. **Call** if you would like to join us!



Pastor Bob Kleinke
PH: 507-273-2705

Church Council

Greetings

Our indoor worshipping at both Church sites is going well. We are now worshipping without face coverings if congregants so chose. Oh how nice it is to see actual smiling faces in church!! We are keeping social distancing in place in the pews until further notice. We are planning to resume normal communion as soon as we exhaust our current supply of the wafer & grape juice cups we have been using during the pandemic. The 10:00am service (& occasionally the 8:30am service) is being live streamed and recorded for later viewing on the CLC YouTube channel.

Your Church Council has established a Call Process Expense Fund to financially support the very important process of calling our next pastor. Retired Pastor and CLC Member John Donovan has stepped forward to lead this fund raising effort. He addressed the congregation at our church services on March 28 and you can read his second letter to CLC Members and Friends in this newsletter. I am delighted to report we have received donations directed to this Fund from about 25 family units and we are over 80% of our \$20,000 goal. I ask each of you to pray how you might be able to support our effort of calling our next pastor. Whatever amount you are able to give will help and be greatly appreciated.

One of the council's summer projects will be looking into the possibility of hiring a part time church secretary. Pastor Thom never wanted administrative help. The Call Committee is finding during their interview process prospective pastor candidates are asking why we don't have administrative staff. As we investigate this potential need, we will keep you informed. If you know anyone who might be interested in this part

time position, please have them contact me or one of the council members.

Blessings and God's peace to each of you,

Gary Erickson, Council President
[Church Council Contacts](#)

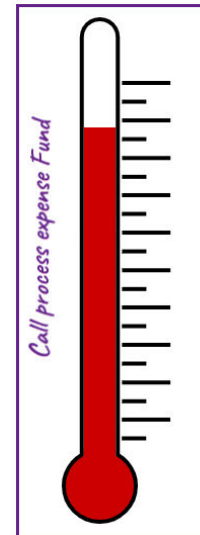
Call Process Fund Going UP

May 14, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Just over one month ago, I wrote to you regarding Central Lutheran Church's ongoing efforts in calling a full time Pastor. In addition, I noted the Church Council's establishment of a Call Process Expense Fund. There is good news to report on both of these topics.



The Grand Canyon Synod Office has provided the names and profiles of three pastors to our Congregation's Pastoral Call Committee. The Call Committee will review the information provided, and in the very near future schedule interviews with each of the three. If one of the candidates looks to be a "good fit" for the Congregation, then the process could move to the next step. If none of the three are a "good fit", then the Synod will be asked to provide additional names, and the process will continue.

The Call Process Expense Fund, as you may recall from my first letter, has a goal of raising \$20,000 in order to cover the cost of the new pastor's commercial moving van expenses, from wherever that Pastor is presently located in the United States. Any monies that exceed the cost of moving expenses will be used to supplement summer worship offerings to pay the Pastor's salary and fringe benefits. As you no doubt realize, with a year of Covid restrictions mandating no worship services, the lack of normal congregational offerings has greatly affected the Congregation's budget. The good news here is that so far the Expense Fund has received just short of \$11,000. In just one month, over half of the goal has been given. Thanks be to God!

In the first letter, I quoted from a recent Prayer of the Day: "Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully, and act

courageously." It is because of our church family's belief in this way of living that they have responded to the need so generously. As I thought about this faithful and courageous way of life, some words from the hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness came to mind. The chorus reminds us, "Morning by morning new mercies I see, All I have needed Thy hand hath provided, Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me." The message is that all we have in this life is a gift from God.

Your gifts can be made at worship, by mail to P.O. Box 677, Arizona City 85123, or by credit card or PayPal on the Church website: <http://centrallutheranaz.org/church/arizona-city/> .Please designate your gifts to the "Call Process Expense Fund". Whatever the amount that you are able to give, will help, and be greatly appreciated.

Yours in Christ's service, and for the Church Council of Central Lutheran Church,

John Donovan, Member of the Congregation
Phone: 906-287-0675 email: MSUCJ59@aol.com

There are no updates on the call process, however, we appreciate your donations to the fund. Church leaders hope to be able to update you soon although we know finding the right minister for Central may take some time. Your patience is appreciated. We are blessed to have Pastor Bob leading the worship.



In His Service,

Kara K. Cooper
[Call Committee chair](#)

Call Committee:
Arlan Bergquist
Jim Freng
Tim Irvin
Gary Isaacson
Ron Jung
Jill Lui

Updating CLC Web Photo Directory -

Are you in the CLC Photo Directory? Or would you like your picture updated? Picture taking:

* June 6th - AZ City Church Site, before/after church

* June 13th - Casa Grande Church Site, before/after church

This is not an address/phone number type directory.



CLC Web Photo Directory - is for you to connect with others with the same interests, same state and help you remember names!



Youth continue to meet

Youth and Pastor Bob are meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Casa Grande site. All grades of young people are invited for 90 minutes of discussion, games and snacks. If parents have questions, please call

Kara Cooper at 520- 560-4529 or visit with Pastor Bob.

Worship Schedule: Inside and Live Online Worship

- Social distancing in seating AZ City and Casa Grande.
- Masks optional.
- Communion will stay the same (individual servings).
- Worship Times 8:30am in Arizona City.
- Worship Times 10am in Casa Grande.
- Worship is also available online. CLC [YouTube Channel](#)



10am LIVE ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE in Casa Grande (except **June 6th we will be "live"** at 8:30am in AZ City)

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.



Can you donate 3-4 dozen cookies?

Can you bake or buy treats for the free lunch program? Treats do not need to be individually wrapped, but they do need to be "finger food". In Casa Grande or AZ City **stick your treats with a "hot lunch" tag**

in the church fridge or freezer (plate, bags or boxed) for delivery to the program site (let Pastor or Sandy know they are in the freezer).

Did you know that veterans, elderly, parents, children can get a good meal at the Eloy Hot Lunch program? No questions asked. This is a community outreach program for CLC where you can help!

St. Vincent de Paul serves a hot meal to people who need a meal three days a week!

CLC provides the dessert for the Eloy Hot lunch program on Wednesdays. Ideally we would like to stock our freezer with treats for the program! Questions? Contact/email [Sandy Christopher](#).

Financial Report

June 2021

As summer rapidly approaches and our winter visitors have headed to cooler climates we continue to march forward here at Central Lutheran Church. We have raised over

\$17,000.00 as of May 28 over 80% of our goal of \$20,000.00 to fund the call of the new pastor. Thanks to all for your generous contributions.

Our regular offerings are down 18% over last year however our expenses are also down substantially. As we move into our slow season please remember that even as attendance drops our expenses don't.



Thank you in advance for your continued financial support of our Church. Have a blessed month.

Blessings,
Rick Hagen, Church Council Treasure

Added note:

As of May 30th we went over \$20,000 - THANK YOU!



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 site on the bulletin board AND on the church website under [Leadership](#).



Adult Community Education: Great NEWS!

Adult Community Education Program Receives ELCA Synod Grant

On April 30th, the ELCA Grand Canyon synod announced the award of a \$4,000 Vitality and Innovations grant to the Central Lutheran's Community Education ministry. The synod's Vital Right-Sized Ministries Vitality and Innovations Grants are intended to help congregations become vital and healthy by defining their values, strengthening their mission, noticing their context, and evaluating their ministry.



Dick Jones, Community Education Ministry's Church Council Liaison, commented that *"receiving this grant for the Adult Community Education Program is very exciting. The Program is a very important ministry of Central Lutheran."* He added, *"Due to the impact of COVID on the 2021 church budget, all program budgets were cut. We are grateful for this grant and, along with continued gifts from the congregation member, this ministry will stay on track through the rest of the year."*

Central Lutheran's submitted grant application emphasized how, through God's inspiring Spirit, the Community Education ministry contributes to a vital and healthy congregation.

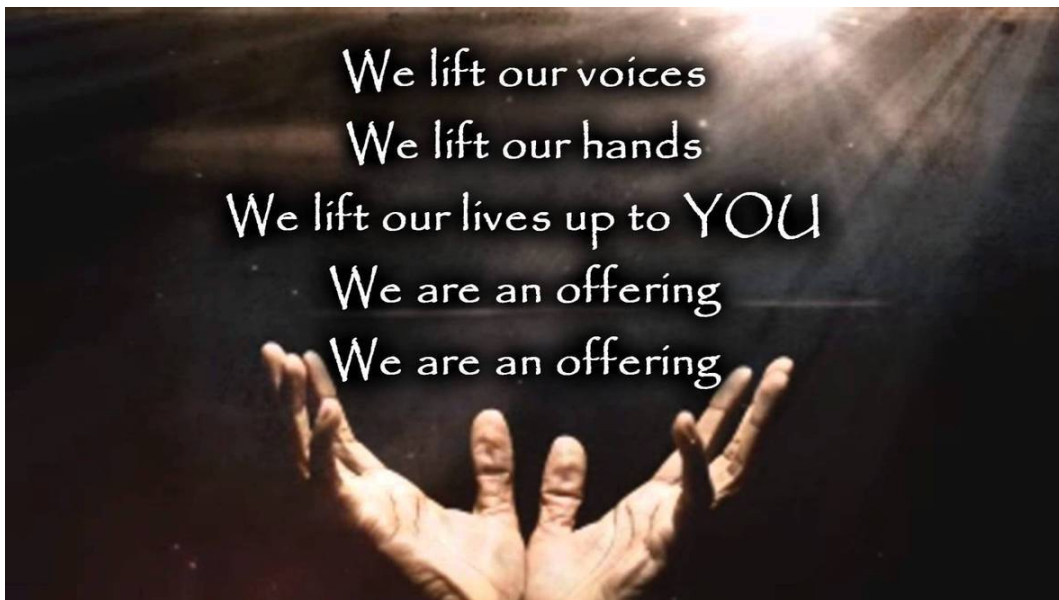
- It has defined opportunities for volunteer service. At the core of the program is the goal to match participant need to volunteer ability and willingness to serve. For the year-round resident, it provides an outlet for channeling a desire to serve. For the winter resident, it offers an easy and engaging way to make a difference while residing in their winter community.
- It channels important outreach and service to the surrounding community. The offerings through the Community education program are extremely relevant for the socio-economic trends that impact the lives of its residents.
- It creates focus for financial giving. Awareness of this vibrant ministry presents an option for inspired financial giving.
- It promotes productive use of the second campus in downtown Casa Grande. Centrally located, the campus is strategic in terms of accessibility and outreach to an underserved segment of adults that can benefit from the program's individualized approach to learning and development.

The Community Education ministry team serves adults in the Casa Grande, Eloy and Arizona City area by offering free general education tutoring and English as a second language (ESL) classes. The volunteer team led by Tutoring Coordinator, Eva Torres, helps to improve participant knowledge and skills in math, reading, writing, science and social studies, the subjects of high school equivalency tests that must be passed to

obtain a GED certificate. Language coaching develops conversation skills for speaking and understanding English in daily living. Tutors work one-on-one with participants to support their personal development goals.

If you would like to volunteer as a GED tutor or an English language coach, [click here](#) or visit the [GED/ESL link](#) on the Community Ministries web page on the church website for more information. Donations to fund necessary curriculum resources and learning lab equipment are needed. To make a donation to the program, call the Central Lutheran Church office (520-466-5024) or direct donations (by mail or offering plate) to: Central Lutheran Church Community Education Ministry
P.O. Box 677
Arizona City AZ 85123

Questions? [Email:](#)



“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.

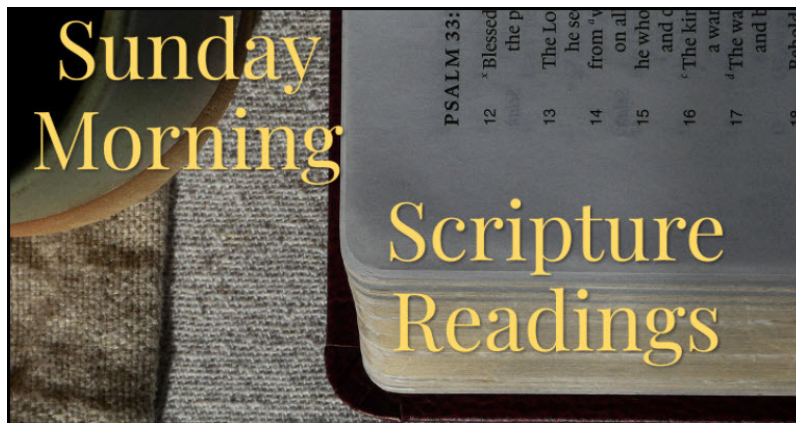
On the **second weekend of each month** we continue to prayerfully consider the challenge to double our offering. The reason for this proposal is the need to increase offerings and the belief many people have the ability to fulfill such a request. As we consider this challenge, we can ask ourselves,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



Monthly scriptures:

Time After Pentecost

Sun. June 6 — Second Sunday after Pentecost

Readings

Genesis 3:8-15

Psalms 130

2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

Mark 3:20-35

Sun. June 13 — Third Sunday after Pentecost

Readings

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15 (12) 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

Sun. June 20 — Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings



Job 38:1-11
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 (29)
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

Sun. June 27 — Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

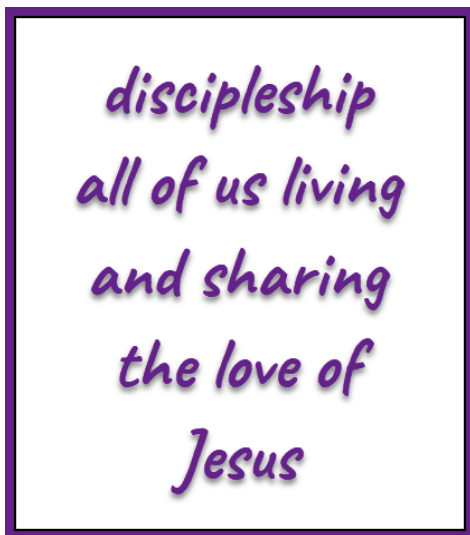
Readings

Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalm 30 (1)

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43



Discipleship

How can you help? Sign-up at church or contact Pastor Bob (or a Council Member) if you can help in any of these areas:

- Read the scriptures
- Be an usher
- Musical interlude/singing or instrumental
- Preparing paraments, banners, decorations and flowers for worship
- Video recording and editing (email webmaster@centrallutheranaz.org)

Keep your eyes, ears and hearts open to how you can help during this transition.

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: Sandy, Anna, Susan & Bill, Glenda, Richie, Mary Kay, Josh, Mike, Faye, Patty Jo, Lisa, Neil, Martha, Hal, Brooke, Becky, Karen, Mike T., Denny, Sylvia, Gloria, Samuel, Erika, Gina, Markie, Bunny., Patricia, Darcy



Military Service:

Send us names for Prayer List and Military Servicemen.



Click for Prayer Request option on website

Worship at Central

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

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

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

Contact Us

Church Office: churchoffice@centrallutheranaz.org

Pastor Bob: pastor@centrallutheranaz.org

Website: www.centrallutheranaz.org

Pastor Bob is in the office - stop on by!

Tuesdays - AZ City

Thursdays - Casa Grande

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 postal service use PO Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85123

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