



# Central Lutheran Church

*Come Share the Spirit!*

## Central News: May 2021

- Scriptures for the month
- Youth Group
- Donate cookies
- Call Process
- Treasurer report
- Community Education
- Bible Study



### **Come Back to Church**

Since March we have been holding indoor services at both churches without any complications. We take everyone's temperature as they enter the church. We continue to wear masks and use the individual communion units. We also keep people six feet apart.

Last week I asked how many people in church had been vaccinated against the Covid virus, and just about everyone raised their hands in both congregations.

So, if you are concerned about the safety of going to church, I am quite sure that our services are very safe. I know we have been broadcasting the service, but there is nothing like being with our fellow Christians in worship.

Pastor Bob Kleinke  
PH: 507-273-2705  
Email

### **Bible Study**

Our weekly Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. at the church in Arizona City. This week we will discuss "The Creeds of the Church", and in future weeks we

will study Revelation. If you are interested, please come and join us.



## **Greetings from your Church Council,**

Last month we introduced the establishment of our "Call Process Expense Fund". A letter (also included below in this newsletter) was mailed to Congregation Members and Friends, and announcements were made at services. Thanks to the generosity of many we are currently about halfway toward meeting our goal of \$20,000. The urgency to continue this fund raising effort is upon us as our Call Committee will soon begin to interview prospective Pastor Candidates, which means we could be selecting a Pastor as soon as this summer. I ask each of you to pray how you might be able to support this fund raising effort. Whatever the amount that you are able to give, will help, and be greatly appreciated.

In January 2020, we opened the "Time Capsule" placed in the cornerstone of our Arizona City Church in 1989 during the dedication of the new Church building. Several founding members were present to witness the opening of the Time Capsule. Due to the pandemic we have been delayed in replacing the Capsule in the cornerstone. A brief service was held on May 2nd to accomplish this. Video taken during the opening of the Capsule in 2020 and on May 2nd, along with other items, were placed in the Capsule.

If you want to contact any council member you can [click on this link](#) which will lead you to our website where contact information is available for every council member.

Blessings and God's peace to each of you,

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

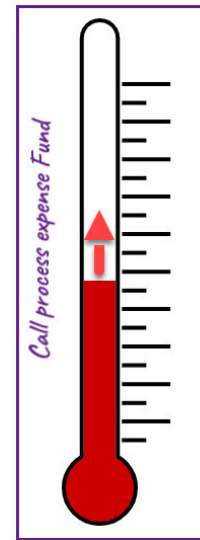
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## **Call Process Fund Going UP**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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

Have you ever been reading a book, or a paper, and some words just seemed to jump off of the page at you? Words that seemed to really strike home? A recent church bulletin's Prayer of the Day had such words. The prayer began, "Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully, and act courageously." Live faithfully, and act courageously! For a year now, all of us have had to live in ways that we have not been accustomed to doing. Because of the Covid virus, schools, churches and many businesses have been closed. These past months have not been good for anyone.



Our Christian faith, however, assures us, that though we may walk through the darkest valley, we need not have fear, for God is walking there with us. As God's chosen people, we do try to lead faithful lives every day, but our human nature often causes us, to fall short on acting courageously during hard times.

Presently, we are in difficult times at Central Lutheran Church, from a financial perspective. For months we were unable to gather for worship, and while indoor worship services recently have been restored, social distancing, and fear of Covid, means attendance is less than in the past. Our Church is also in the Call Process, seeking a new pastor after Pastor Thom's retirement a year ago. Aside from the normal operating expenses of the congregation, the expense of the Call Process is going to be significant. The congregation must assume the cost of moving the pastor here, from wherever he or she is presently living. In addition is the cost of salary and benefits. Beyond that, current offerings are not adequate, to fully pay a pastor's salary and fringe benefits, during the even lower worship attendance in the summer ahead. While it is not possible to know what the costs will be, it could be as much as twenty thousand dollars to relocate the pastor and family, and to get us through the summer months.

Your Church Council is moving ahead, living faithfully, and acting courageously, for all that may lie ahead. With the help of the members and friends of Central Lutheran Church, our Lord God will see us through these times. Please pray about your partnership with Christ and his Church in this place. Is there a way, in which you might help, by being even more faithful and courageous than you already are? Your additional gifts may be made at worship, by mail to the Arizona City Post Office Box 677, or by credit card or PayPal on the Church website. 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  
Tele: 906-287-0675 / Email: msucj59@aol.com

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The committee received three candidates to interview from our synod representative recently. All of their information is confidential so please don't ask us anything about where they are from, if they are male or female or anything that would identify these individuals. Synod is very specific that these ministers remain totally anonymous

until they have been selected for final interviews.

I can tell you we are excited to have three recommended candidates and we are in the process of reviewing rostered leader profiles. Zoom phone interviews will start by early May. All three individuals will be interviewed and then the group will decide if a second Zoom call to gather more information is wanted. Each initial interview will be an hour and should be similar so all have the same opportunity to present answers to our questions. Hopefully, the perfect leader for Central Lutheran Church will be among these candidates. But if they aren't, we will request more candidates to interview. This is a process and we intend to have God lead us to the right minister. We will keep you informed. Some call committee members have left for the summer, but have all committed to participate via Zoom.

In His Service,

Kara K. Cooper  
Call Committee chair

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



Youth studying racism in our Country

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 an hour and a half of discussion, games and snacks. Current discussion is about Martin

Luther King Jr. and racism in our Country. If parents have questions, please call Kara Cooper at 520- 560-4529 or visit with Pastor Bob.

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**Worship Schedule:  
Inside and Live Online  
Worship**



- Social distancing in seating AZ City and Casa Grande.
- Temperatures will be checked of everyone who is attending church. If your temperature is elevated, we will not allow you to enter the service.
- There will be only one entrance where you will be allowed to come in, but you may leave the worship service through any door.
- Masks required.
- Communion will stay the same (individual servings).
- Worship Times 8:30am in Arizona City.
- Worship Times 10am in Casa Grande.
- Worship will still be available online.

**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?**

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 dessert for the Eloy Hot lunch program on Wednesdays.** Can you bake or buy treats for the hot lunch? 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). Ideally

we would like to stock our freezer with treats for the program! Questions? Contact Sandy Christopher.

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## Financial Report

### May 2021

Greetings and blessings to all from your new treasurer. The learning curve has almost flattened and I am getting more comfortable in my role.

First, let me thank you for your continued financial support of Central Lutheran. As you can imagine, due to COVID and a reduction in our attendance, the offerings have been down about 20% this year.

Since our interim pastor, Bob Kleinke, has so graciously accepted a lesser compensation package this shortfall has not been insurmountable. Also paying interest only on our mortgage has helped us to conserve some cash.

We are now headed into the summer months which have always been financially challenging coupled with the fact that full mortgage payments have restarted, we will have challenges ahead.

On a positive note note, we have collected 47% of our goal of \$20,000.00 for the call process or \$9,495.00 as of April 25th. Thanks to all the contributors.

I will continue to report our progress and pray that with the your help and that of the council members and call committee that we can move forward and find our new pastor.

Blessings,  
Rick Hagen, Church Council Treasure



### 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.

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The endowment Committee will be using the summer to study and review timelines, process as well as our endowment statement. We plan to distribute a better explanation of intent and practices for endowments, written by Lisa, our ELCA endowment representative.

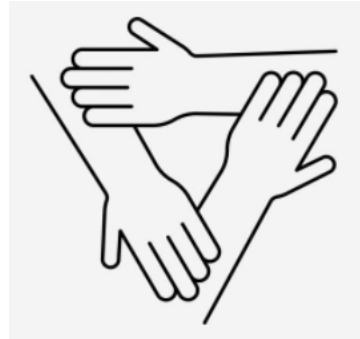


Members: Peg Brady, Jerry Edwardson, John Donovan, Del Hoff, Bea Pressler

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## Community Education: Technology, Volunteers, Donors and Collaborating Partners

A program like Central Lutheran's Community Education ministry hinges on effective one-on-one, face-to-face contact. So, it is no surprise when a pandemic that requires social distancing and limits in-person gatherings to ensure public safety has an impact on enrollment and volunteer availability. Yet during a pandemic, adult education needs persist and even increase. That is why Community Education ministry has pressed forward, using video call technology to keep participants and their volunteers safe during tutoring sessions. Similarly, volunteers have continued to dedicate time and financial supporters have generously donated to enable ongoing tutoring. Throughout the pandemic, the ministry team has maintained working relationships with community partners to sustain this ministry's vital outreach local. Here are a few of the community partners that work with the Community Education team to serve adult education needs and facilitate the efficient use of resources, space, and volunteers in challenging times.



**Hope Coalition** focuses on ending homelessness through education and feeding those in need. In 2019, it began offering GED classes in Eloy. As a sister program, it has shared textbook resources and referred individuals to the CLC's Community Education ministry when its one-on-one format offers a better fit for students' needs. Similarly, CLC's program shares with the Hope Coalition access to an online GED curriculum subscription and administrative support.

**Fishtape Ministries** refers student in construction skills training classes that also require GED tutoring in the Spanish language, a unique service the CLC Community Education team offers.

**Central Arizona College (CAC)** Adult Basic Education staff refers to the CLC ministry students that require more individualized support or tutoring to achieve their GED certificate.

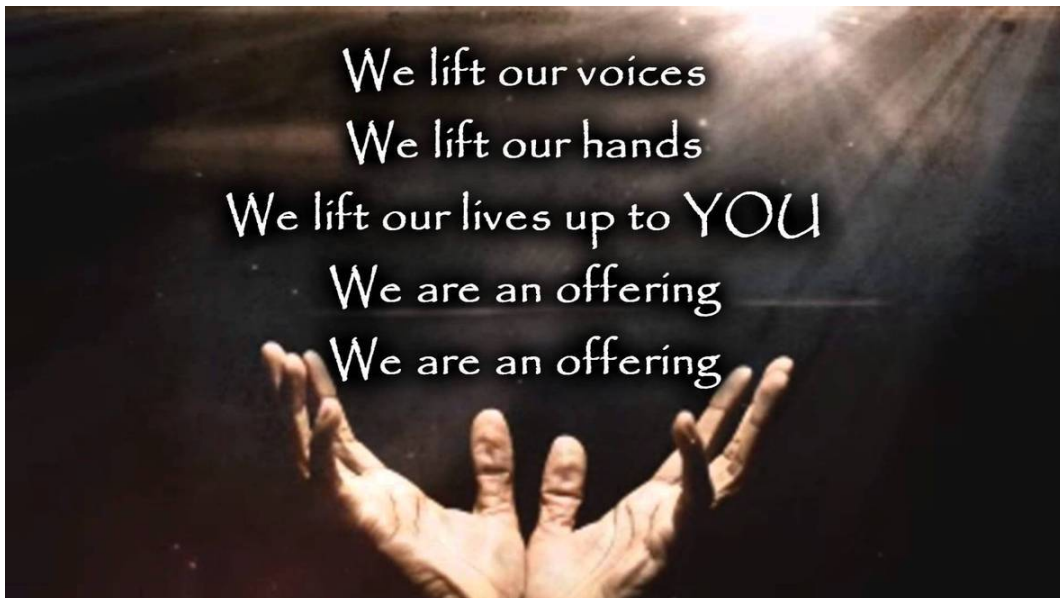
**Seeds of Hope** promotes programs and collaborates with other non-profit organizations to bring about positive changes in the lives of those around us. It provides classroom space for on-site tutoring and refers participants and volunteers to CLC's Community Education ministry.

Local employers refer employees who need improved English language fluency and general education abilities.

**Friendship Center** at Robson Ranch has provided volunteers, financial gifts and upheld the ministry in prayer.

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** provides non-proselytizing missionaries who bring useful bilingual skills to provide tutoring in Spanish.

If you have an interest in becoming part of the Community Education volunteer team, go to the [website](#) or send an 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!**

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**Monthly scriptures:**

**Easter Season through May 26, 2021**

**Sun. May 30 — The Holy Trinity**

**Sun. May 2** — Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings

Acts 8:26-40

Psalms 22:25-31 (27)

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

**Sun. May 9** — Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings

Acts 10:44-48

Psalms 98 (4)

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

**Sun. May 16** — Seventh Sunday of Easter

Readings

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalms 1 (6)

1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19



**Sun. May 23** — Day of Pentecost

Readings

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (30)

Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

**Sun. May 30** — The Holy Trinity

First Sunday after Pentecost

Readings

Isaiah 6:1-8Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

*discipleship  
all of us living  
and sharing  
the love of  
Jesus*

## 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
- Take temperatures
- Musical interlude/singing or instrumental
- Preparing paraments, banners, decorations and flowers for worship
- Video recording and editing (email [webmaster@centrallutheranaz.org](mailto: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, Mike, Faye, Patty Jo, Lisa, Neil, Martha, Hall, Brooke, Becky, Karen, Mike T., Sylvia, Gloria, Erika, Gina, Markie and Bunny.



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.

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## 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

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## Contact Us

Church Office: [churchoffice@centrallutheranaz.org](mailto:churchoffice@centrallutheranaz.org)

Pastor Bob: [pastor@centrallutheranaz.org](mailto:pastor@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 postal service use PO Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85123**

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