



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

- Bible Study
- Inside Worship Services
- Online Live 10am Worship
- Easter
- Scriptures for the month
- Tutoring Coordinator
- Finances
- Call Committee
- Endowment Committee

What's inside?

Central News: March 2021



Pastor's Message:

Now that we are in the season of Lent there are several things we all need know. First of all, Lent is a good time to go back to reading the Bible. It is also a time to give up something as a sign of sacrifice. You may want to give up candy; or going out to eat; or give up soda. The point is that you give up

something that you miss so that you understand the cost God gave for our salvation.

In my ministry before I retired, I used to bury the "Alleluias" for Lent. We would make a point of collecting several "Alleluias" from the youth and then would find a place in the church to stash them away until Easter. Then, when Easter came, we would make a point of resurrecting the "Alleluias" from the place where they were put and we would celebrate Easter with the words, "Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia!"

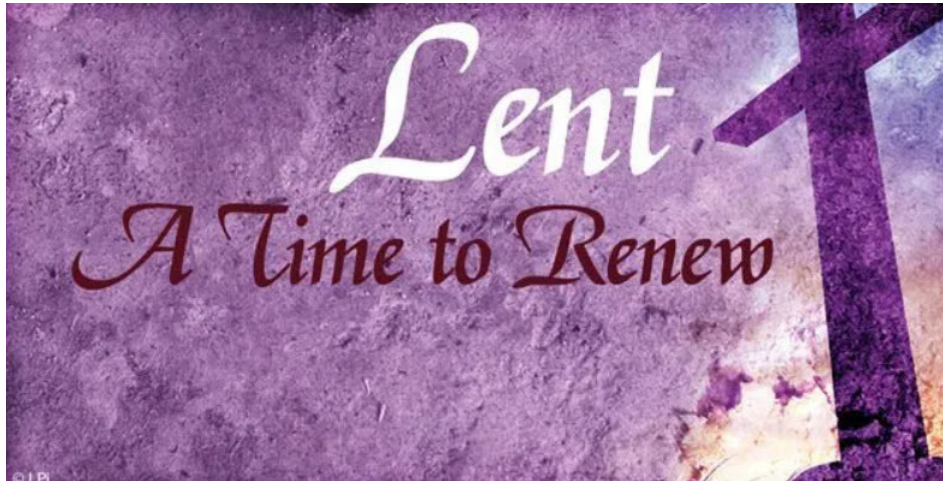
Several comments about the hymns for Lent have been made. I am trying to find hymns that the congregation is familiar with, but many of the Lenten hymns are not so familiar. They are often somber and written in a minor key. Needless to say, the hymns we sing in Lent will not contain any "Alleluias."

On another subject, I am offering a Bible Study on the four Gospels during Lent. We meet at Central Lutheran in Arizona City at 4:30 on Wednesday afternoons. If you are free at that time and would like to know more about our four Gospels, please come and join us.

Pastor Bob Kleinke

PH: 507-273-2705

[Email](#)



Letter to Congregation from Council President

Thank God 2020 is behind us. Pastor Thom retired about the time COVID-19 hit us. The Synod assigned us Interim Pastor Annemarie in May and she served us until the end of the year when she accepted a call to church in the Phoenix Metro area. We are thankful for Pastor Bob Kleinke coming out of retirement to become our Interim pastor until we call a permanent pastor.

With the leadership of Pastor Bob and your church council, we resumed indoor worship at both locations in February practicing appropriate safety measures and social distancing. We are recording the 10:00am service which is available for viewing on the CLC YouTube channel beginning Sunday afternoon. We are currently experimenting with Live streaming the 10:00am service and hope to have it available for viewing in the not too distant future. Watch for the announcement on the CLC website and/or by email.

Last year we began posting a Photo Directory of your Council on the CLC website and on bulletin boards at each location. We did this to make it easier for you to contact any council member if the need arose. We also are posting the most recent council minutes on the bulletin boards and the website. We are continuing this again this year and are adding a Photo Directory for the Endowment Committee and Call Committee.

CLC is facing challenging and exciting times in 2021. It appears we are getting to the downside of this terrible pandemic as more of us receive vaccinations. The Call Committee is working hard in the process of obtaining our new pastor (see Call Committee report in this newsletter). We have some financial struggles facing us this year but with God's help we will come through this a stronger church body. We ask you to keep the CLC's Leadership and our congregation in your prayers.

In closing please contact any council member or committee chair if you have any questions or suggestions about church activities. We are here to serve you, the CLC Congregation.

Blessings and God's peace to each of you,

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

Worship Schedule: Inside and Live Online Worship

- Pews roped off in AZ City and Chairs spaced apart in 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

Live Worship Service ONLINE in Casa Grande thru YouTube Live at 10am on the [Central Lutheran Church YouTube Channel](#).

[Print the Sunday Bulletin](#) ahead of time and enjoy "live" worship each Sunday at 10am.

Let us know your thoughts as we try a new transition.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we continue seeking the best way forward.

Easter Week Services

April 1st - Maundy Thursday - 7pm - Arizona City

April 2nd - Good Friday - 7pm - Casa Grande

April 4th - Easter Sunday

Sunrise/6:30am - Arizona City

8:30am - Arizona City

10:00am - Casa Grande

Financial Report

MARCH 2021

As the new Council was formed this past month I would like to take a minute and congratulate our two newest members, Lois Irvin and Rick Hagen. Lois will assume the responsibilities of Council Secretary and Rick will take over as the Treasurer. I look forward to working with both of these individuals. In addition, I like to thank Pastor John Donovan for bringing his experience and leadership to the Mission Endowment Committee and Kara Cooper who is spearheading our Call Committee.

Moreover, I like to thank Pastor Kleinke for leading our congregation as our Interim Pastor. We have already seen the positive affect he has had on our congregation.

In reviewing the offerings from the current year to 2020, it shows we are running a deficit of approximately \$20,000.00. It is our hope by opening up our worship services for in door worship our attendance will increase, which ultimately will improve our financial situation.

On a positive note, we will be receiving a PPP CARES GRANT from the City of Casa Grande in the Amount of \$2,318.87 within the next week. These funds will be placed in our main account to assist in paying our monthly bills. This is the second CARES GRANT CLC has received from the City of Casa Grande in the last year.

\$4000.00 was moved from the Capital Reserve account to the GED account as outlined in the 2021 budget. It is important to note that the GED program will need to go out and find funding for the program. The church is in no position to continue to fund the program anymore.



However, any donations, which are received/designated for the GED program, will be utilized for the program.

At our Executive Council Meeting in March we will be discussing the possibility of doing a re-finance on our existing mortgage of the church. We will keep you all advised.

Blessings to you all,

Steve Gal, Council Vice President



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

The Endowment Committee met for the first time on February 24. We are in the beginning process of reviewing our bylaws and determining how best to utilize the funds we have available. We will also be communicating ways in which the congregation can consider donating to the church through the Endowment Committee.



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



This is the first of many updates you will receive from the Call Committee. We are meeting on a weekly basis and have studied the church profile that was prepared that details the type of leadership

qualities we want as a congregation in Central Lutheran Church's next minister.

We are glad to have Pastor Bob Kleinke leading the church's ministry now as we go through this process that will take many months to complete. Pastor Pat Reed is our contact from synod and she is available to help us through this process.

Questions to ask the candidates (that we receive from the Bishop) are being prepared. We will get 3-4 candidates the Synod thinks best meets our wish list in a new minister. It may take a month to six weeks to get the names. These candidates will be interviewed. Ones we want to talk further to will be identified. Or we will be given another group of names to interview if none meet our qualifications.

If you have any pastors you would like the church to reach out to, to see if there is interest in becoming our minister, please call me at 520-560-4529 or email me at kcooper@pinalcentral.com if you don't see me in person. Please have these names to me by March 14.

Our goal is to keep you updated regularly at church AND each month in this CLC newsletter.

We are enthused at the possibilities for our church. The Call Committee is blessed to be serving the congregation in this role that plays such an important part in all our faith lives now and in the years to come.

Kara K. Cooper, chair
Arlan Bergquist
Jim Freng
Tim Irvin
Gary Isaacson
Ron Jung
Jill Lui

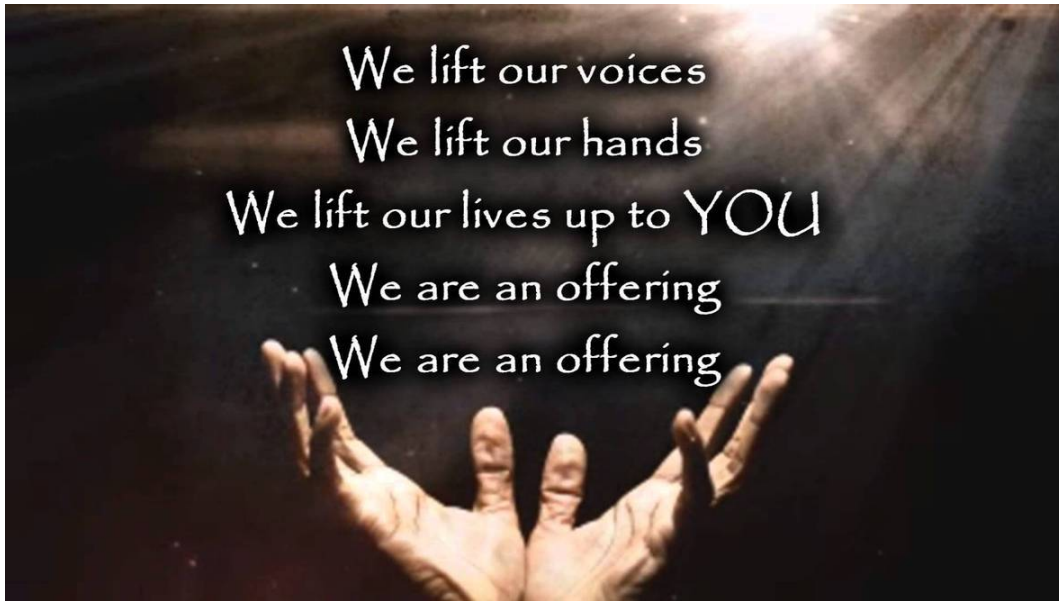


Click image to update. Even if no changes, please complete.

Help Us Connect!

Click this image to update your contact information. Even if you've had no recent changes, you can fill out the form with all your current information to make sure what we have is complete and correct.

Thank you!



“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.

During this pandemic, please continue to support CLC.

**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.**



**Meet the Community Education
Tutoring Coordinator**

And God has appointed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. (I Cor 12:28, NRSV)

Just like the Corinthian church, the Community Education ministry is blessed with a team of volunteers who share their appointed gifts. Eva Torres, who leads the team, is no exception as she brings her unique gifts to this ministry.

Eva's involvement with the Community Education program started as a student, studying for the GED exams and learning English. Tutors who worked with Eva immediately recognized her ability to learn quickly. Eva passed the math exam easily and her friendly and fun ways of interacting other students as they prepared for their exams really helped them progress as well. Students were grateful for her patience and they thrived from her creative approach. All of this confirmed what team leaders suspected. God had provided the Community Education ministry someone with the gifts of teaching, assistance, leadership and bilingual abilities. In late 2018, Eva was appointed as the program's Tutoring Coordinator.

So, who is Eva?

Eva was born in Toluca, Mexico. Raised by her grandparents, she enjoyed learning to bake homemade pastries with her grandmother and to listen to her grandfather and his civil engineering friends talk about math. She remembers that she wasn't a very good student in school, however her favorite subjects in school were math, chemistry, physics and biology. "That was where the excitement was," Eva explained. "Through those classes, I began to better understand what I was learning from my grandfather."

With a mother who struggled with alcoholism, Eva grew up fast during her young days in Toluca. At the age of 11, she started her first job as a street vendor, selling chili peppers and fruit to help with household and school expenses. In high school, she worked at a variety of jobs, including a demonstrator at Sam's Club, a vendor selling tortas (sandwiches) during sporting events in the football stadium, stocker and cashier at a grocery store, as well as a data entry clerk at a pharmacy. "My favorite job was an income auditor at a department store because, although it was a very detail-oriented job with much responsibility. That is what made it



interesting.” While Eva worked hard to help her family make ends meet, those responsibilities made it difficult to complete her school and career studies.

Eva met her husband, Victor, in Aguascalientes, Mexico. His faith in God inspired her own curiosity and desire to get closer to God. After a long-distance courtship with Victor, she moved to the U.S. to be closer to him. They married almost 11 years ago and she was baptized in the Salt River. “Victor has always been by my side, supporting me in my dreams, encouraging me to study and to take on challenges that make me grow.” Victor and Eva almost always have a project or two that they are working on together, whether it involves auto repair, a craft activity, or a handy invention for around the house. As animal lovers, their little family includes two dogs, bossy Lola and gluttonous Frijol, and three cats, sweet Figo, rebellious TinTan and shy Whisper, all which have been adopted into their loving care.

Currently, Eva tutors adult students about 15 to 20 hours per week. When asked what she enjoys most about her role, Eva says “I enjoy knowing that I can help change a person’s life for the better. I see that what students learn helps them in their daily life. For example, one student works in a factory where they make air conditioning grills. Her job requires that she take and convert measurements. By using her GED learning, she has become a leader among her peers. She also has more confidence to speak up with ideas and suggestion on how to approach their work.” That said, the tutoring role has challenges too. Eva explains that “Adult students sometimes have a fear of mathematics, have difficulty concentrating, or are going through family problems that affect how they learn,” She adds, “In those moments, they just need someone to listen to them.”

Eva remembers when she earned her GED in 2018. “I felt so happy and was grateful to God for putting me in this place and giving me the blessing of receiving the education that the church generously provided me. These things are very rare in Mexico.” Now, going on her fourth year as the Tutoring Coordinator, Eva has high hopes for the program’s future. “I believe that the most important thing is to let God guide the work and help us to bear fruit. We can continue helping people to get a GED, train them for the citizenship test and provide English classes for everyday life. Also, the dear volunteer team does great things when they help students fill out job applications, prepare for job interviews, and complete medical or immigration paperwork. There are few places prepared to help people with these tasks. Central Lutheran’s Adult Community Education program can be an oasis in the desert for the needs of our community.”

If you would like to talk to Eva about the Community Education program, contact her at CommunityEd@CentralLutheranAZ.org.

Monthly scriptures

Sunday, March 7 — Third Sunday in Lent

Readings:

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19 (8)

I Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Sunday, March 14 — Fourth Sunday in Lent

Readings:

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22 (19)

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 21 — Fifth Sunday in Lent

Readings:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12 (10) or Psalm 119:9-16 (11)

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Sunday, March 28 — Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Readings:

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16 (5)

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1 — 15:47 or Mark 15:1-39[40-47]



Discipleship

Your worship participation is needed! Contact Pastor Bob or a Council Member if you can help in any of these areas:

- Video recording and editing
- Read the scriptures
- Be an usher
- Take temperatures
- Musical interlude/singing or instrumental



- Preparing paraments, banners, decorations and flowers for worship
- Providing office assistance in creating newsletter, taking phone calls and messages (a couple hours a week)
- Do you know WordPress? Can you help update information on the website? (email webmaster@centrallutheranaz.org)

Keep your eyes, ears and hearts open to how you can help with this transition. Prayerfully remember everyone in our congregation during this time of change.

Send your newsletter or website information to webmaster@centrallutheranaz.org

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



Senior Center



Grief support



Community Food Pantry



Travel Samples



Eloy Free Hot Lunch Program



Manna Bags



Travel samples



Shield a Badge



Volunteer - ESL



GED training/volunteer opportunities



Church Photo Directory



Prayer requests

Remember in Prayer

Sandy, Glenda, Anna, Pat and Bud, Susan and Bill, Josh, Paula, Patty Jo, Mary Kay, Ray,ASURE, Donna, Norbie, Richie, Marjorie, Larry, Henry and Sandy.

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.

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

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

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.

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

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#)®