



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Central News: April 2021

- Holy Week Schedule
- Scriptures for the month
- Youth Group starts April 8
- Donate to the Manna Bags
- ESL on Zoom
- Call Process
- Treasurer report
- Donate to Food bank



Note times for services:

April 1st - Maundy
Thursday - AZ City - 6pm

April 2nd - Good Friday -
Casa Grande - 6pm



April 4th - Easter Sunday

6:30am Sunrise* - AZ City

8:30am Service - AZ City

10:00am Service- Casa Grande

*[YouTube Live link](#)- we will film live at the 6:30am Sunrise Service in Arizona City



Pastor's Message:

Next Sunday (as I write this) is Easter Sunday; the day we celebrate the



resurrection of Jesus our Lord. I thought I would share a few things about Easter with you. First the season of Easter lasts for fifty days. It doesn't end until we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus.

Secondly, we wouldn't have Christmas if it hadn't been for the resurrection. We would have never heard of Jesus or his birth and the Gospels would never have been written if Jesus had not been raised from the dead. There would be no New Testament, no writings of Paul that would be remembered and read, no book of Revelation or Acts of the Apostles'. We would have only the Jewish Scriptures (Old Testament).

In fact, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15, "I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter), then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time." (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

So as we celebrate Easter, let us remember that this is the most important season of the Church Year; for without Easter we would never have heard of Jesus, or Paul, or the authors or the Gospels, or any other acquaintances we have amongst our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Bob Kleinke
PH: 507-273-2705
[Email](#)

New Bible Study

"How The New Testament Came About" - Come join Pastor Bob weekly. Starts April 14th at 6pm in Arizona City



Letter to Congregation from Council President

We resumed indoor worship at both Church sites 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 Sunday afternoon. We are also now Live streaming the 10:00am service on our YouTube channel if you would like to participate in our Sunday service in that manner.

I made an announcement in our church services in March about the need to fund our Call Process. Your Church Council was exploring the possibility of using the existing Intern Fund for this purpose. However, some legitimate objections surfaced concerning the use of this Fund. Your Church Council has therefore decided to establish a new fund (Call Process Expense Fund) to support this very important process of calling our new pastor. Retired Pastor and CLC Member John Donovan has stepped forward to lead this effort. He addressed the congregation at our church services on March 28 and you will find his letter to CLC Members and Friends in this newsletter, on our website and by mail for those of you for which we have addresses. I am delighted to report we have already received some very generous donations to this new Fund. Donna and I have decided to tithe from our recently received government stimulus checks to support the Call Process Expense Fund. I ask each of you to pray how you might be able to support our effort of calling our new pastor.

Many of our Winter Visitors have or soon will depart for their summer homes. We pray for your safe travels home and look forward to you returning this fall. We ask you to keep CLC's Leadership and our congregation in your prayers.

Blessings and God's peace to each of you,

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

Call Process Fund

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



Pastor Pat Reed, our Call Committee synod contact, is hoping to have three candidates for us to interview sometime in April. The synod mobility team has one candidate. They want to send three names. Two others they reached out to that they believe meet our church's profile will let

them know after Easter if they want to be interviewed.

The Call Committee has met weekly; the most recent ones via Zoom. Since all the hour-long interviews will be done by Zoom, we want to make sure we are ready. We have questions that we believe will help identify a minister that will be best for our congregation. The committee will meet via Zoom right after each interview to discuss our individual impressions.

The two prior interns we had some requests to see if they had an interest in being interviewed declined. There was also another name submitted by a member of the congregation, but she just received a call so is not available. Please let me know if you have any questions as we continue this process in finding our next minister.

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

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



Youth group kicks off Thursday, April 8 with a pizza party at 6:30 p.m. at the Casa Grande site. Let us know if we can count on you. Bringing any friends, cousins, siblings, parents? Just let us know. Call, text, email: 520-560-4529; kcooper@pinalcentral.com.

Pastor Bob wants to pick up where Pastor Thom left off. We're planning to have youth weekly at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in Casa Grande after the April 8 kickoff. Hope to see you all soon.

Have a blessed week as we celebrate our risen Savior.

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** (except Easter we will be "live" at 6:30am in AZ City)

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.

PLEASE BRING TO CHURCH THESE TWO ITEMS



**POP-TOP
MEAT**



**PACKAGED
FRUIT CUPS**

Note other items also needed!

Thanks for Helping with Manna Bags!

Department to give out Manna bags to distribute in our community. We are on track to give out over 500 bags in 2021!!

You can help by donating any of the following items: 16.9 oz water bottles, pop-top meat, crackers (plain, with cheese or peanut butter), energy bars,

PayDay candy bars, fruit cups, handi-wipes, plastic forks and spoons, gallon plastic bags.

Financial Report

April 2021

Hello to all Central Lutherans. This is my first report to you as treasurer. I want to express my gratitude to Steve Gal as he has helped me transition into my role as your treasurer. I would have been lost without his guidance during this time.

Our offerings thru March 21st totaled \$56,625.00 and the church council wishes to thank you all for your contributions. This puts us about \$14,000.00 behind the same point in 2020. We are coming up on the summer season where our offerings have always dropped off. We are also in the middle of a campaign to raise enough money to Call a new pastor. You can follow our progress at both churches on the graphs located at each church.

We were able to pay interest only for the last several months on our mortgage, but regular payments resumed this month. We are faced with a balloon payment of \$ 37,000.00 in August of 2023 and are looking at the possibility of refinancing this obligation and taking advantage of lower interest rates.

We have our challenges but with the help of all we will overcome our financial issues.



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 on the church website under [Leadership](#).

We are currently reviewing the way the Endowment Fund has operated in the past. We are consulting with Lisa Higginbotham, the ELCA's deployed staff person for our Grand Canyon Synod to further educate ourselves on how endowment funds are structured and operate. Zoom meetings with our committee and Lisa have been planned in the near future.



The purpose of having an endowment fund, is to be able to receive monetary gifts, bequests from wills and estates, stocks, and bonds etc. and then to use those proceeds, and the interest therefrom, in support of our Christian obligation to "...go therefore and make disciples..." Stay tuned, more information will be coming in the months ahead.

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

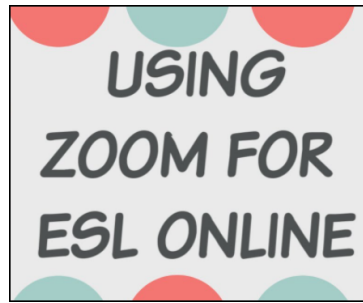
Community Education Program

Many people have tried to learn a second language. Some have studied a language in high school or college. Others have gone to

continuing education classes. And for those who preferred self-study options, the many digital resources like Rosetta Stone, Babble and Duo Lingo have helped them along.

Pat Jones, a volunteer on the Community Education team, knows the importance of finding methods that work. "My student, Jazmin, is super self-motivated," Pat explains.

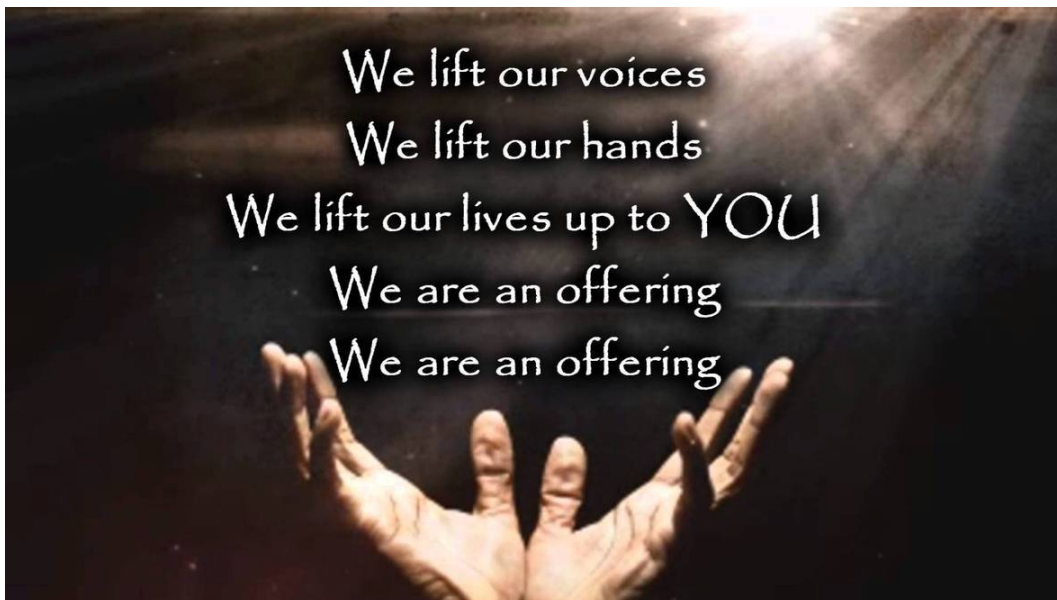
She has been working with Jazmin through Zoom video calls for about five months, meeting regularly once a week. "When we first started, Jazmin shared what was driving her desire to learn. She told me that she was very frustrated that she was unable to help her son with his schoolwork and to help him understand the teacher's expectations."



Pat recalls that when they first started meeting together, Jazmin was reluctant to try talking, probably afraid she would make embarrassing mistakes. "The sound that the two letters t and h make when they are said together (as in the) is not a sound in Jazmin's first language of Spanish. Jazmin hesitated every time a 'th-word' came up like 'two-thirty,' 'those' or 'think.' So, we practiced words that have that sound a lot. I cheered and applauded wildly when she got it right to make her relax and laugh." With Pat's fun and crazy ways, they quickly built an easy rapport and increased Jazmin's comfort with practicing conversation.

After the few months of working together, Pat sees Jazmin making good progress toward her goals. "Jazmin is no longer hesitant to use her new language skills. She experiments more. For example, instead of saying 'It's 1:15' she might say 'It's a quarter after one.'" These little things tell me she is becoming more courageous and confident." No doubt, courage and confidence will be important whenever Jazmin talks with her son's teachers and tries to contribute helpful ideas to the conversation.

Pat has several tricks up her sleeves to help Jazmin keep moving along. "When we get stuck and just don't understand each other, we use a translator (phone or computer)." Pat uses the computer translator and Jazmin uses her phone to speak Spanish and it translates to English. Like Pat, other volunteers working with ESL students look for creative ways to teach and communicate. The resources through the CLC Community Ed program are abundant, Pat reaches out when she needs help. No one solution works for all and any idea is worth a try. **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!

Monthly scriptures:

**Easter - Apr. 4, 2021 through May
26, 2021**



Sun. Apr. 4 — Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Day

Readings:

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 (24)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43

Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

Sun. Apr. 11 — Second Sunday of Easter

Readings:

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133 (1)

1 John 1:1—2:2

John 20:19-31

Sun. Apr. 18 — Third Sunday of Easter

Readings:

Acts 3:12-19

Psalms 4 (3)

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

Sun. Apr. 25 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

Readings:

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23 (1)

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

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

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

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, Glenda, Anna, Susan and Bill, Josh, Pat and Bud, Martha, Mary Kay, Faye, Mike, Lisa, Patty Jo, Neil, Becky and Mike T.

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

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