



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Central News: February 2021



On February 7th we held our first indoor worship services. I thought things went very well. We were able to check everyone at the door and safely kept a distance of 6 feet between everyone. I know that there are some people who are not comfortable meeting indoors and there are others who are returning now that we are meeting indoors. If you have any concerns with how we are planning worship please let us know.

In addition we will have worship services for Ash Wednesday, February 17th, 5:30 p.m. at Arizona City and 7:00pm at Casa Grande. I will not be using ashes for the services, but will include the regular Ash Wednesday service without the Imposition of Ashes.

Beginning Wednesday February 24th I will have a Bible Study at Arizona City at 4:30 in the afternoon. We will explore the four Gospels and their relationship to each other. All are invited to attend. We will require face masks and maintain 6 feet distances from one another. Please, if you come, bring your Bible.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob Kleinke

PH: 507-273-2705

[Email](#)



**Message to Central Lutheran Congregation
from Outgoing Council President John Pieschl**

We have a number of people to thank for their efforts during this difficult pandemic year:

- Thank you to the CLC Congregation for their continual support in 2020 with offerings of \$209,765.00
- Thank you to Marilyn Krueger for her \$15,000.00 memorial gift in memory of her husband. The funds were utilized to purchase the sound system for our Casa Grande Church site in the amount of \$7,000.00 and \$8,000.00 was used to fund our GED Program.
- Thank you to Ruth Kramer and the Cooper family for the use of the Casa Grande Church site for the past twelve years rent-free.
- Thank you to Pat Jones for her continued website production (YouTube Channel) of our worship service for those unable to attend the weekly church service.
- Thank you to Gary Linafelter for coordinating/establishing the 97.3 FM radio station for those to listen to the worship service from their cars.
- Thank you to Paul Garrison. He is always there when called upon no matter what is asked of him. His maintenance of the Arizona City Church site is excellent.

Some of the accomplishments during the year were:

- We obtained Interest Only mortgage payment relief for the Arizona City Church Site.
- We conducted a financial review that resulted in the development of several new procedures and safeguards.
- We developed a building use policy to give CLC potential liability protection.
- We streamlined financial services to ensure accurate accounting of dollars received and spent.
- We changed the internet provider in Arizona City at no cost for service to include the main office area and fellowship hall.
- We installed a new security system and remodeled offices after the break-in.
- We started a Call Process for a new Pastor.
- We began outside worship services and are completing preparation for moving inside with appropriate precautions to prevent any transmission of Covid. The new measures will include taking temperatures at the entrances, social distancing, and ushers will seat all the congregation prior to the service.

John Pieschl, Council President

[Church Council Contacts](#)



What is Epiphany?

Worship Schedule: See restrictions for inside worship

Among all the things this year of 2020 has been, it has also been a year of needing to be flexible and adapt to current circumstances.

We resumed worship inside our church buildings Sunday, February 7th.

- We will rope off every other pew in Arizona City.
- Set chairs up far enough apart in Casa Grande to keep people safely 6 feet apart.
- 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.

At this time we are not sure of the ability of the FM broadcast or if it will be available in the future.

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

Inside worship -

8:30am Arizona City

10:00am Casa Grande

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

Financial Report

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Good Day and God's Blessing to all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our entire Congregation for the continual financial support we receive each and every week. At the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021 our yearly budget was approved in the amount of \$244,278.00 for calendar year 2021. This was a decrease of \$57,000.00 from the previous budget a year ago. Our new budget is based on expenses we incurred during calendar year 2020.



The budget is broken down into the following five (5) areas:

- * BENEVELOVENCE
- * MINISTRY
- * PROGRAMS
- * BUSINESS EXPENSES
- * PROERTY MAINTENANCE

With the establishment of the budget, I am more than willing to sit down and meet with any member of the congregation to discuss exactly where the dollars are going within the budget. I feel it is imperative we as Church Council are transparent with the dollars we receive from the congregation for the operation of the church.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

God's Blessing's,

Steve Gal, Council Treasurer



Newly voted members: Lois Irvin, Rick Hagen
Re-elected: Gary Erickson, Steve Gal

Current members: Peg Brady, John Pieschl, Mary Pietrini, Dick Jones, Gary Linafelter, Skip Simes, Bob Kleinke (term is suspended pending installation of new pastor).

Council Meetings: Third Tuesday of each month

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

Watch for exciting new endeavors from this committee.



Quilting

Do you enjoy sewing? Are you a quilter? Quilting is resuming on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 9:00 in our Arizona City location. Come and help make quilts that will bless people in need, far and wide. Masks are required to be worn. Thank you.



We received a wonderful donation of many quilt squares that are ready to be sewn. If you would like to pick some up to sew at home, contact Dell Hoff or Kathy Richards.



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!

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



“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.

Can you supply cookies or dessert to help out?

FREE Hot Lunch Program (for all ages)

You can help support this outreach program in our community! Baked or bought - supply some finger-food dessert goodies!

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 60+ people who need a meal three days a week! We provide 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”. Once we are back at church in Casa Grande or AZ City you can stick your treats with a “hot lunch” tag in the church fridge or freezer (plate, bags or boxed) for the ladies to deliver to the program site (just let them know they are there). Ideally we would like to stock our freezer with treats for the program! You do not deliver directly to lunch - all donations go to Sandy Christopher or Judy Smith. Questions? Contact Sandy Christopher (520-483-1442) . During our suspended service time contact Sandy directly to figure out pickup/delivery options.



Shield A Badge Support Ministry

Central Lutheran Church, along with other churches and organizations in the area are being invited to renew their participation in the “Shield a Badge” support ministry. Volunteers sign up to pray daily for a member of the Casa Grande Police Department praying for their safety and well-being.



The coordinator for Central Lutheran Church is Sandy Carpenter and she can be reached via phone or text at (703) 509-5651 or e-mail: carpesm56@gmail.com. In-the-past, approximately 20 members of CLC have signed up to pray for an officer, but she would like to double that listing. If you would like to volunteer to pray for an officer please contact Sandy and she will assign you an officer’s badge number.

The commitment is to pray daily for the safety and well-being of the officer for one year. Only the officer’s badge number is provided to the volunteer (no names or personal information is provided). Please feel free to contact Sandy with any additional questions you may have about the ministry.

Casa Grande Food Bank

You can help alleviate hunger in our community. You may bring your donations of food directly to the Casa Grande Food Bank at:
235 E 4th St
Casa Grande, AZ, 85122
(Cross Streets: Marshall St & 4th St)



All non-perishable, non-expired, food items are welcome. They are open to receive donations of food from Noon to 4:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. For questions, you may call them at 520-560-0525.

Thank you for helping to feed our neighbors!



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
- 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



Eloy Free Hot Lunch Program



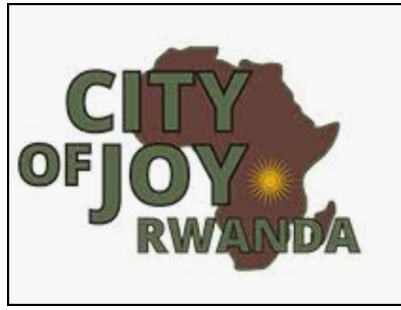
Manna Bags



Travel samples



Good Gifts Ministry



City of Joy



Youth Night



Shield a Badge



Prayer Requests



Volunteer - ESL



GED training/volunteer opportunities



Church Photo Directory

Remember in Prayer

Dick, Sandy, Patricia, Donna, John, Ruth, Roger, Sandy, Ray, Ruth, Bill, Azure, Marjorie, Richie

Military Service:

Send us names for Prayer List and Military Servicemen.





Click for Prayer Request option on website

CONTINUING TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

For the good of our neighbors and ourselves, we continue to practice physical-distancing due to the COVID-19 coronavirus. It is an airborne respiratory illness that can easily spread from person to person. As Christians, it seems strange to show God's love by keeping physical distance from each other, but this is precisely what we are called to do at this time.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God calls us to care for the most vulnerable among us to make God's love for them known through our actions. So we continue to wear cloth face coverings, keep a minimum of 6 feet between us, washing our hands frequently and for a minimum of 20 seconds, covering our mouth and nose with a tissue or our sleeve (not our hands) when coughing or sneezing, etc—all to keep our neighbors safe. Loving our neighbor as Christ has called us to do happens in context, in this age and every age.

Thank you for your faithfulness as we follow this call to love and serve. Thank you for all you have done and are continuing to do. We've been doing this for months now, and we're not out of the woods yet; you may be feeling the fatigue of this constant vigilance. Many of us are. You might be experiencing the feelings of sadness, grief, fear, annoyance, anger, relief, guilt, confusion. God knows what you are feeling—talk with Him about it honestly. God will receive you in love and mercy.

Let us be united and let us not grow weary in this shared commitment to love our neighbors. The Holy Spirit is with us, and it is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we can be inspired for continued commitment.

Let us continue to hold one another in mutual love, caring for the most vulnerable among us.

For more information go to the websites for the Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov/COVID19 and the Arizona Department of Health Services www.azdhs.gov. For information from the Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA visit www.gcsynod.org.

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.

Worship Assistants

You are needed to help as accompanist, greeter, usher, reader, communion server, offering counter, and nursery care. Sign-up to help.

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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