



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Central News - November 2020

“Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.”

Psalm 78:1-4



Photo by Yannick Pulver on Unsplash

I believe that God can bring blessing out of even the most tragic circumstance. We ourselves might not see those blessings, they might come for someone other than ourselves. But I do believe that God is the God who brings new life out of death. I believe that in Christ there is resurrection.

This year of 2020 has been immensely difficult, immensely challenging, and continues to be. Each of us has been, and continues to be, faced with realities we never dreamed of, with losses great and small.

At the same time, and even due to the unique situations of this year, I also see glimmers of blessings.

I see church congregations in our synod reinventing how they worship, moving online and engaging people who would never have walked into their doors before. I see our Community Education ministry tutors and students connecting in new ways, willing to navigate some challenges in order to get there. I see you bearing the Holy Spirit fruits of patience and generosity as we figure out new ways to worship together. I see people serving and caring for those who suffer, and struggle, and grieve. I see generosity of support and self and heart. I see people in our country with vastly different points of view listening to each other with patience and a mutual desire to understand. I see long-established unjust systems being exposed to the

light and honest and respectful conversations happening about them. I see the Holy Spirit of God moving among us, birthing a resurrection life among us. Birth is painful; birth is arduous. But it brings forth new life.

And so I give thanks for how God has been present with us in the past: bringing the Israelites out of slavery, speaking through the prophets to awaken justice for the lost and the least, walking with us, teaching us of God's reign, dying for us, raising us with Christ. And I give thanks for how God is present with us today: freeing, awakening, accompanying, leading, teaching, raising.

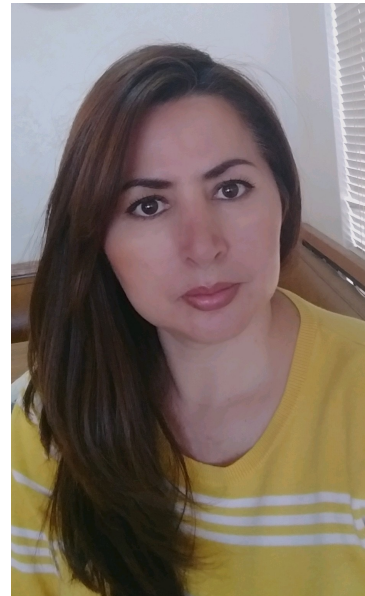
In and amidst the pains and losses that you have or are experiencing this year, or in those that people you love have or are experiencing this year, I wonder if there are blessings emerging. I wonder if there are signs of God's resurrection life beginning to reveal themselves to your eyes.

While we cry out with the psalmist, "How long, O Lord?" let us also recount with the psalmist the deeds of our mighty and faithful God who never leaves us or forsakes us. Let us call those deeds to mind and recite them morning and night to remember the steadfast love of God and to trust the God who always and ever leads us to new life.

God's peace and grace to you.
Pastor Annemarie

CONGRATULATIONS, TERESA OCAMPO!

Please join the Community Education team's celebration of another program participant who has passed one of the GED exams. Teresa Ocampo passed the social studies exam on October 5th. While working at her full time job over the past two years, Teresa has been making steady progress toward earning her GED certificate. Volunteers Leticia Luse supported Teresa's science test preparation and Alyson Stephens guided her prep for the civics and social studies exams. Eva Torres, Central Lutheran's Community Education Tutoring Coordinator, remembers tutoring Teresa during her weekly study sessions for her first exam in mathematics. Eva recalled, "Tere was a student who was always very diligent in her studies. She seemed hungry to learn, which is motivating for any tutor. That same drive and desire to learn are what has led Tere to succeed in every test. As she gets closer to getting her GED certificate, her nerves



Teresa Ocampo

and fear of the tests have gone away. Now, she is a stronger person and independent -- just like a butterfly coming out of its cocoon.”

Teresa was born in Tequila in the state of Jalisco, Mexico. She enjoys going shopping, watching TV shows, walking in parks and hiking in the mountains. Teresa began her pursuit of the GED with the goal of finding better employment. She knew that education would broaden her job opportunities. Teresa shared, “Passing each test has given me confidence that I am able to learn new things,” Now, with her impressive milestones of exam achievement to build on, she believes she will be able to get even better jobs and her personal goals continue to expand. “Once I graduate, I want to prepare to become a U.S. citizen.”

Looking ahead and with math, science, civics and social studies exams behind her, Teresa is turning her attention to the last exam, language arts. This last exam is often considered the most challenging as it focuses on reading comprehension, literary fiction and non-fiction analysis, and persuasive writing skills. However, Teresa has proven her ability to succeed, so don't be surprised when her earned GED certificate announcement comes soon.

Teresa wrote, “I thank the congregation for the support it gives the GED students so that we can achieve our goals.”


To send Teresa your congratulations or any encouraging thoughts for her final exam, write to CommunityEd@centrallutheranaz.org.

Number of passed GED tests	Previous Progress	Current Progress
Math	13	13
Language Arts	12	12
Science	13	13
Social Studies	12	13
Civics tests	15	15
GEDs earned	12	12



Volunteer for Angel Tree®.

**Central Lutheran Church
is going to help the kids!!**



ANGEL TREE
A Program of Prison Fellowship

At Christmas we connect with the ones we love. But what if you are a child with a parent in prison—feeling lonely, abandoned, and hurt? Through Angel Tree, you can

connect a child with their incarcerated parent and offer joy and hope to a prisoner's family. It's simple.

Central Lutheran Church receives names/ages/gift ideas—along with a message of love and the Good News about Jesus—in the name of incarcerated parents. We will buy and wrap Christmas gifts OR mail gifts OR send thru Amazon. We will deliver to front porches or do a drive-thru pickup. Maybe even an online option. All the details will get ironed out!

A partial note from the folks at Angel Tree/Prison Fellowship:

For most, the signs of autumn conjure thoughts of sweaters and changing leaves. For those at Prison Fellowship, autumn means it's Angel Tree season!

This year, includes new preparations to ensure every child gets served, regardless of any COVID-19-related restrictions at Christmastime.

*It appears we are on track to have **215,000 children** to serve this year—praise Jesus! We know gifts shared through Angel Tree lead to improved relationships between incarcerated parents and their children. And the joy that results when children wake up on Christmas to see that their mom or dad in prison has not forgotten them is simply priceless. That's why we dedicate ourselves each year to ensuring that every Angel Tree child gets served. And since prison visits have been prohibited for more than six months, this Christmas it's more important than ever to keep families connected through Angel Tree this Christmas.*

Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, the number of churches and groups signing up to serve Angel Tree children with a gift and the Gospel on behalf of their incarcerated parent is behind schedule.

Central Lutheran Church will help with the 2020 Angel Tree program! We will figure out a way to help these children. Stay tuned for more information over the next 4 weeks, and keep an eye on our website where we will have the most up-to-date information: www.centrallutheranaz.org/church/angel-tree-ministry

You are welcome to contact me, if you are able to help donate or would like more information: **Email Pat.**

CLC Angel Tree Team

Pat Jones

BJ/Jerry Edwardson

Barb/Ron Morger

Linda Gal

Karen/Larry Nelson

Life Line Screening Here This Month

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Central Lutheran Church **Casa Grande location** on **November 30**. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call toll-free 1-888-653-6441 or visit <http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle> or text the word circle to 797979**

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.

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.

Financial Report

Good day and God's blessing to you all. I would like to give you a financial update on the church's status at this time. As most of you know this has been a tough time for the congregation. Out of the first ten (10) months of the year we have failed to meet our financial obligations eight out of the ten months. In essence, our expenses have exceeded our offerings. In comparing the offerings from this year to last year we have had a considerable short fall. I firmly believe this is attributed to the Covid Virus and the fact we have not been able to worship together as a congregation until just recently at the outdoor services. Moreover, our expenses have exceeded our offerings by \$31,149.00 through the end of October. On several occasions it was necessary to transfer money from our Capital Reserve Account to cover our basic expenses.

In an attempt to curb our expenses, the following actions were recommended to the Church Council and approved over the past six (6) months.

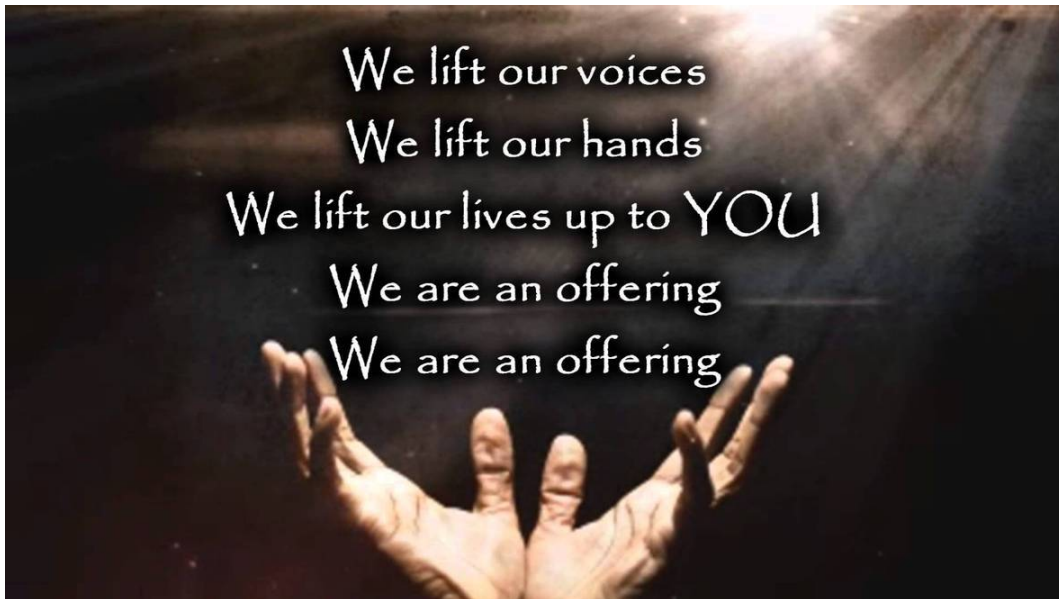
- Since June we have only been paying the interest on the church mortgage. The interest on the mortgage is \$511.63 per month and the normal mortgage payment is \$3767.00. We are presently scheduled to resume making the full mortgage payment starting in December of this year.
- In October, we reduced our offering to the Synod from \$1667.67 to \$666.67.
- In June we were to start paying rent in the amount of \$1000.00 per month for our Casa Grande Church site. Based on the generosity of Ruth Kramer and the Cooper Family this has not been initiated as of yet.
- In July we changed Internet Service providers in Arizona City to Mitriinks. They do not charge churches for Internet service. By making the change we save \$100.00 per month.

As I stated above, it has been a rough year meeting our obligations. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your contributions and prayers. With our winter visitors returning, hopefully our financially situation will start to improve.

May God bless you and keep you safe and well!

Sincerely,

Steve Gal, Church Council Treasurer



“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 time of worshiping online, 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.



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!

Share your gifts

During this time of worshipping from home, your participation is needed! Contact Pastor Annemarie or a Council Member if you can help in any of these areas:

- Video recording and editing
- Read the lesson from home
- Musical interlude/singing or instrumental from home or at church



- 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!



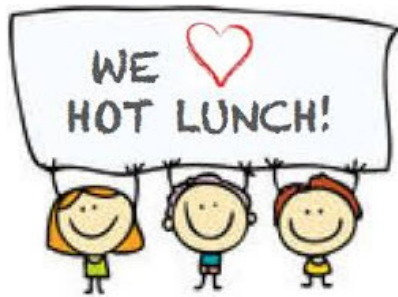
Senior Center



Grief support



Community Food Pantry



Eloy Free Hot Lunch Program



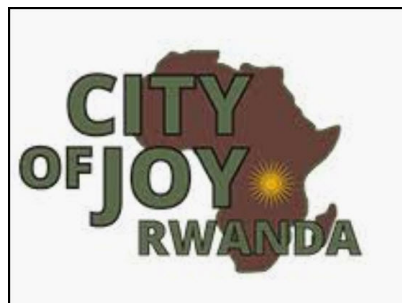
Manna Bags



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

Harry Brink, Willie Bergren, Trent Blessing, Butch Burke, Sandy Carpenter, Carole Crain, Anne Decker, Wayne Eliason, Ellva Erickson, TJ Esco, Azure Sullivan Gal, Pam Gardner, Tom Gearhart, Ken Going, Rachel Grack, Gerre Graves, Naomi and David Grobe, Harold Hall, Darcy Hunter, Penny Jacobson, Marty Jones, Dwight Jorgensen, Ron Jung, Tammy Kempke, Ruth Kramer, Gary and Bev Linafelter, Ric Moser, Dick Mueser, Maria de Nazare, Walt Neulieb, Red and Dede Parrish, Ruthann Raitter, Marcus Ramirez, Jacquelynn Decker Regan, Sue Resch, Ragen Shein, Denise Shepard, Coby Snow, Michele Rios & Marcus de Souza Lima, Julie Sternhagen, Iranice Tavares, Linda Ward, Ski Wrybkowski.



Bereavement:

The Family and Friends of Sandy Burkhart
 The Family and Friends of Peggy Hall
 The Family and Friends of Gertie Kenyon
 The Family and Friends of Janet Leary
 The Family and Friends of Sue Rhoades

Military Service:

Caleb Ball, Grant Davis, Ryan Harrison, Sean Harrison, CJ Squires.



[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.

We continue to suspend indoor gatherings in our church buildings. We are now offering in-person worship services outdoors, and those worship services will be recorded for those whose health prevents them from gathering in-person with others. As the medical and scientific communities continue to learn about COVID-19, it has been found that this airborne virus spreads most effectively where people gather in enclosed spaces for extended amounts of time. This calls us to be particularly vigilant about gathering in-person for worship or other events. Our decisions will be based on scientific and medical information, and in conversation with the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at the churchwide and local levels.

Let us continue to hold one another in mutual love, caring for the most vulnerable among us. Let us join together in worship, whether in-person outdoors or from our homes; continue sending in our offerings by mail, PayPal, or through our financial institutions; continue reaching out to one another through phone calls, emails, a caring note in the mail; continue showing our compassion and understanding to all.

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

Under normal circumstances, Worship Services are held at:

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

Casa Grande ----- Sunday -- 10 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 Annemarie Burke: pastor@centrallutheranaz.org

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.



©2022 Central Lutheran Church | P.O. Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85123

[Web Version](#) [Preferences](#) [Forward](#) [Unsubscribe](#)

