



Central Lutheran Church

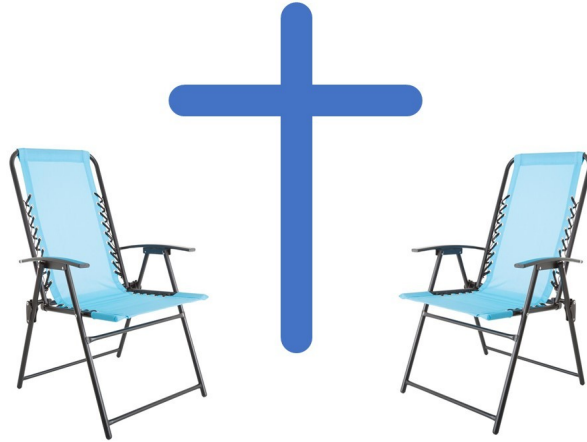
Come Share the Spirit!

Central News - October 2020

Bring a Chair and Come to Worship!

*"Truly I tell you, just as you did
it to one of the least of these
my brethren, you did it to me."
Matthew 25:40*

Now that the morning
temperatures have started to
decrease, we will begin
worshiping in-person
OUTDOORS at alternating locations.



We will have one Service of Holy Communion per Sunday, at 9:00 a.m.
October 11 at Casa Grande
October 18 at Arizona City
October 25 at Casa Grande
November 1 at Arizona City
* etc.

WHAT TO BRING:

1. Masks are required.

Disposable masks will be available for those who arrive without one.

2. Bring your own lawn chair.

If you need help getting it out of your car or setting it up, let us know. If you do not have one, someone will be standing by to bring out a chair for you.

3. Optional: An umbrella for shade.

When you arrive, **please place your chair a minimum of six feet from those of another household.**

If your health requires the caution of further physical distancing, you may place your chairs in the back, or to the side at a greater distance. It also may be possible that

you could remain in your car with the windows down and be able to hear and participate--we can experiment with that and see how it goes!

The service will be recorded on a weekly basis for those unable to attend in-person. (Only the worship leaders will be in the video, the congregation will not be seen.)

Offering and attendance cards will be received via a box at the entryway as you arrive or depart.

There are those, within our congregation and in the wider community, whose own personal health situation does not allow them to meet indoors with a group of people at this time. Worshiping outdoors offers our congregation and the wider community another option: Meet together physically for worship, without the increased risk of gathering indoors.

Whether you attend in-person or worship through the recorded service at home, let us all join together through the Holy Spirit who makes us one. Let us pray for one another, support one another, encourage one another, respect one another, love one another, in the name of Jesus. See you in worship!

God's peace and grace to you.
Pastor Annemarie



Pastor Annemarie Burke began serving as Interim Pastor of Central Lutheran on May 18, 2020. Originally from Tucson, Pastor Annemarie is a graduate of the University of Arizona and Luther Seminary and has served congregations in Utah, Colorado, California, and now Arizona. She loves music in most any form, prefers spending her time outside rather than inside, is a dog-person but owns a cat, and can wax poetic about Star Trek. Pastor Annemarie lives in Chandler and enjoys the desert drive between there and Casa Grande and Arizona City.

A Learning Legacy

This month, the Community Education volunteer team received sad news. Former volunteer ESL tutor, Ricardo Romano, passed away on September 20. At almost 90 years of age, Ricardo was one of the first to join the volunteer team, responding to a newspaper ad that called for volunteers when the program began in early 2015. Ricardo tutored for almost three years,



teaching two afternoons a week with creativity and passion. He often lamented that he couldn't do more, but he had a busy weekly schedule that included delivering meals to seniors on the other weekdays. When thanked for his time, he always replied, "Oh! It was my pleasure."

Ricardo's students enjoyed him and his diverse and adventurous stories. Born in Italy, he shared how he left his home at the young age of 15 to join the crew of a shipping company and travel the world. After years of travel, he studied engineering and eventually taught at the college level. He loved literature and challenged his more advanced participants to read and discuss classic American literature. Self-conscious of his booming, resonant voice, he insisted on teaching in the only classroom at the Casa Grande church site with a closing door. "I know I'm loud," he would apologize humbly. During his sessions and even with the door shut, others in the building could hear his enthusiastic encouragement seasoned with his Italian accent and gusto. "That's right!" "Good job!" "Excellent!" To this day, it's common to hear a tutor direct students to that room when a quieter space is needed for their studies. "Why don't you take your test in Ricardo's room so you can close the door and have some quiet," or "Let's meet in Ricardo's room today so the video we'll watch won't disturb others."

When Ricardo's health prompted his retirement from the tutoring team, he generously shared boxes of teaching resources and wished the Community Education program much success. But that was not the last his students saw of him. Some students stayed in touch with "Don Ricardo" and his wife, Dorsey. Students helped Ricardo with yard work and home repairs. He helped them with things they needed too. Two of his students, a husband and wife named Everardo and Marisela, reflected on Ricardo's impact in their lives (in their practiced English...) "We are sad because he helped us a lot and was a very good friend."

Ricardo's life and dedicated service was an inspiration to all who knew him and a reminder of how God can work through us, make use of our unique experience and achieve a lasting legacy in the lives of others. Ricardo pressed on through many difficult days when physical challenges would understandably discourage most to cancel their sessions. At the end of an afternoon of tutoring, he would unfold his tall, 6-foot wiry frame from his chair, slowly and stiffly emerge from his classroom, bid farewell, and leave behind his signature advice: "Don't get old!"

Vaya con Dios (Go with God), Don Ricardo! May he live on forever in the presence of our Lord.



Number of passed GED tests	Previous Progress	Current Progress
Math	13	13
Language Arts	10	12
Science	11	13
Social Studies	11	12
Civics tests	13	15
GEDs earned	11	12

Do you sew?

Are you a quilter?
 Know your way
 around a sewing
 machine? Know
 someone who does?
 Then this is for you!

Join the community-wide effort to produce 600,000 facial coverings for medical personnel! *Arizona Masks for Medical Workers* is a

community-based volunteer project to create **medical-grade** masks for hospitals throughout the state, including here in Casa Grande. Health care workers need clinical masks to keep safe from COVID-19 but many hospitals are struggling to get these masks and other personal protective equipment for their workers.

Arizona Masks for Medical Workers will provide all of the materials and instructions. Volunteers will receive a kit that contains pre-cut fabric and elastic to make 100 masks.

One volunteer working alone can complete all the sewing for 100 masks in about 10 hours. But you don't have to do it by yourself--how about organizing a group of your sewing friends?



The deadline to turn in the completed masks is October 24.

Go to www.azmasksformedicalworkers.org to sign up or to find more information. There you will also find an instructional video showing how to sew the clinical face masks.

Questions? Call Julie Crockett at 520-560-9016.

Life Line Screening Here on November 30

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at **Central Lutheran Church's Casa Grande location** on 11/30/2020. 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. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.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.

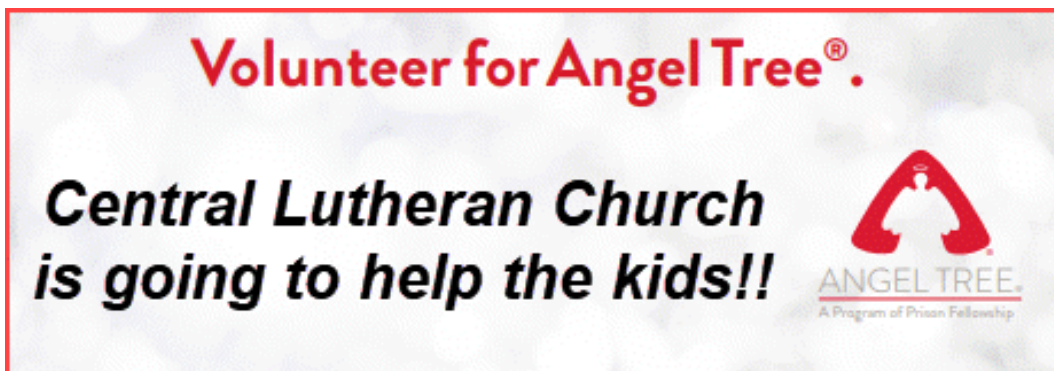
The commitment is to pray daily for the safety and well-being of the officer for one year. Only the officer's badge number is provided to the volunteer (no names or personal information is provided). Please feel free to contact Sandy with any additional questions you may have about the ministry.



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.



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 8 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

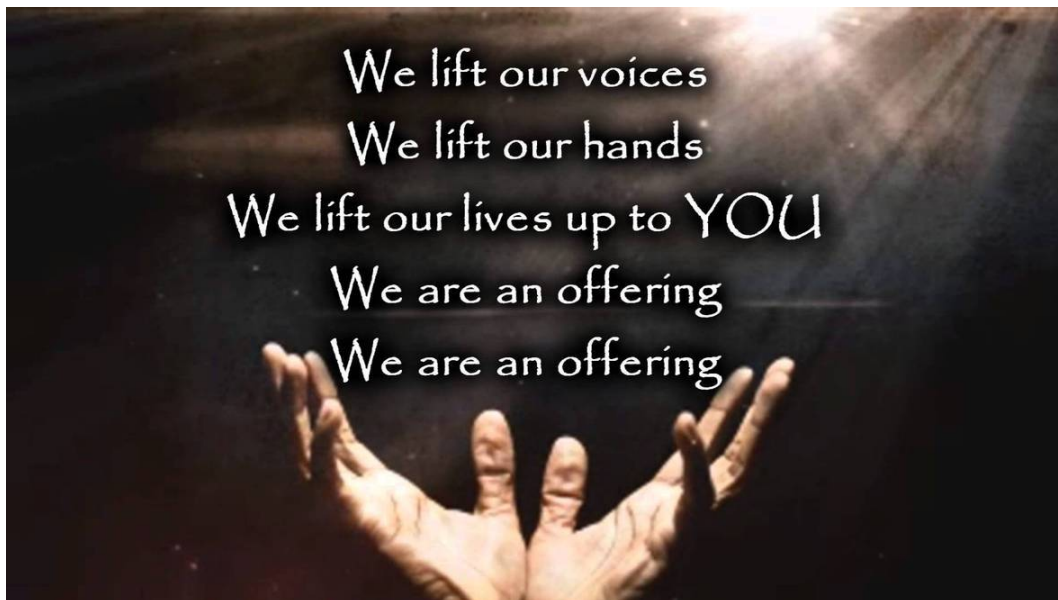
Pat Jones

BJ/Jerry Edwardson

Barb/Ron Morger

Linda Gal

Karen/Larry Nelson



“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 worshipping 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 worshiping 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



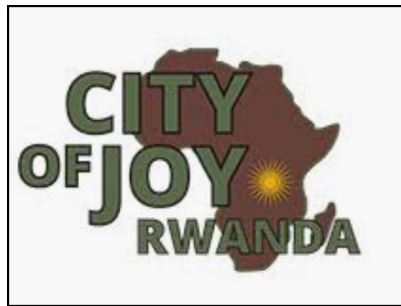
Manna Bags



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, Judy Burruel, 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, Ken and Lois Morgan, 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

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