



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Central News – August 2020

Encouraging One Another

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."



Photo by Chris Montgomery on Unsplash

Hebrews 10:24–25

Mary needs to visit with her doctor in a telehealth appointment over her computer, but hasn't worked the program before and is unsure of how to proceed.

Joe's grandchildren sent him a Zoom invitation to meet with them online, but the last time they did that he experienced technical difficulties. He can't figure out what went wrong and he would rather not try again.

Beth has a flip phone and a landline, but no computer or smartphone.

John and Nancy want to take part in their church's online Bible study, but their home internet connection seems too slow.

These made-up examples are common real-life situations that many of us are encountering as we strive to meet together using technology.

Full confession: I am not a "computer person." I much prefer writing with pencil and paper than with keyboard and screen. And I certainly

very much prefer meeting with people in-person than through a computer or smartphone screen.

But in the world we live in right now, gathering in groups in-person is something we still need to refrain from. And this situation will be with us for quite some time yet.

Does that mean we can not meet together at all? No, it doesn't! Internet tools such as Zoom, Skype, and other conferencing programs allow groups of people to meet together and talk and fellowship and pray and support, to have meetings and doctor appointments and other necessary services. (See Eva Torres's article below!)

But sometimes there are hurdles to get over, like the ones above. There are roadblocks and learning curves. Some of them are technical difficulties. Some are more internal.

When this time of physical distancing began back in March, I myself was skeptical that meeting with people over Zoom could be any kind of substitute for "the real thing." Was it the same as meeting in-person? No, it wasn't and it's still not. But I was pleasantly surprised at how, over a short amount of time as I got used to it, meeting with my friends and colleagues over Zoom left me feeling just as connected. I got past my internal resistance to the idea and discovered the blessing that God had placed in front of me. I turned my focus from what used to be to what was.

If you find yourself facing a roadblock or steep learning curve, whether external or internal, that is getting in the way of connecting, I encourage you to reach out to me. Together perhaps we can figure out ways to use whatever tools are available. Then perhaps offering a midweek Bible study on Zoom or a Sunday morning gathering on Zoom are things that will become possible to include more people in more ways, as we discover who has access to what technology. Perhaps becoming a tutor in our Community Education ministry will be open to more people.

Not only can it help us to remain close as a congregation, not only can it help us as a congregation to minister through Community Education, but it may also equip more individuals in our congregation to connect with the people and services they require to remain physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually healthy during this time.

It might make a big difference for the better.

If you or someone you know would like a helping hand getting started with Zoom or Skype or other program, **please email me at pastor@centrallutheranaz.org**. God calls us together as church through the power of the Holy Spirit. Take heart that God will lead us through.

"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful." Hebrews 10:23

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.

Zooming Forward

*This month's **Community Education Ministry** update comes from Eva Torres, the program's Tutoring Coordinator:*

One of my students, Evangelina, is preparing to take the GED math test. You might remember her because Dick Jones, Community Education volunteer and church council member, helped Evangelina prepare to pass the citizenship test last year. Earlier this year, she was working two jobs and still found time for tutoring, driving two times a week from the city of Florence where she lives with her six children: Gabriel, Jackeline, Angel, Jennifer, Emily, and Christopher. Then, in early March, when we had to shelter in



Eva Torres, Tutoring Coordinator

place due to the pandemic, I began teaching Evangelina through video calls. It is a new way of helping others learn and full of unexpected challenges. Consider what happened recently as I tutored Evangelina using Zoom on our computers.

Evangelina's children have already started school, but classes are online. While Evangelina worked with me on math, Jackeline, 13, and her little sister Jenny, 4, were sitting at the table looking at a tablet that was connected to Jenny's online preschool class; Gabriel, 16, was on the couch with his laptop attending his class that was in progress; Angel, 11, was in his room focused on his online class; Emily, 3, sat with a crayon coloring while Christopher, 20 months, "supervised" it all.

I heard Jenny's teacher start the class with some physical exercises. Self-conscious due to the watching camera, Jenny was reluctant to join in. But she finally found the courage and began to do the exercises. Little sister Emily thought it was a game, so she started jumping and laughing next to Jenny. Then, baby Christopher, thinking it must be time to dance or party, joined them too. Eventually, Evangelina had to stop her work with me to take control of the escalating and chaotic situation. She explained to the little ones that her sister was in an online class in front of a camera. Jenny was at school, she reminded, and it was not time to play a game. Evangelina guided Emily back to coloring, Christopher back to doing what toddlers do, and she and I resumed our focus on algebra.

Clearly online education from home is no easy matter for families. With the entire family involved, it can be a real challenge for teachers to get students interested and focused — all through a computer screen. But we are learning to live differently where physical distance is a priority. With it, we enter a new digital age, where we can talk, laugh, learn and teach through our computers.

If you would like to get involved with tutoring English as a Second Language or GED classes, helping to teach Zoom skills, or would like to find out more, contact the church office at 520-466-5024 or churchoffice@centrallutheranaz.org.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE



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

Join Us In Worship!



We are currently worshipping online! New worship videos are posted to [our YouTube channel](#) every Sunday morning. Join in worship from wherever you are!

Under every worship video there's a button to click on that says "**Share**." Who do you know that you could share

worship with? Someone who might not come with you to worship when we meet in person, but who might click on a link in the familiarity of their own home? Maybe a friend, a coworker, a relative. Email or text them the link to Sunday worship! More and more people are attending worship than ever before—from their homes. Now is the time for evangelism!

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.



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

Thank you!

Financial Update

Good day and God's blessings to all. Since April it has been very difficult to communicate with each other due to the Corona virus and the fact we haven't been able to worship together. I wanted to update everybody on the church's financial situation. Since April we have had to transfer \$10,000.00 from our Capital Reserve Account to our Main Account in order to meet our basic expenses. In essence, our expenses are greater than are offerings. Moreover, a review from January of this year shows we have failed to meet our basic monthly expenses five out of seven months. Again, this may be attributed to the Corona virus, winter visitors gone for the summer and the fact we are not worshipping in person together. Hopefully this will change in the upcoming months.

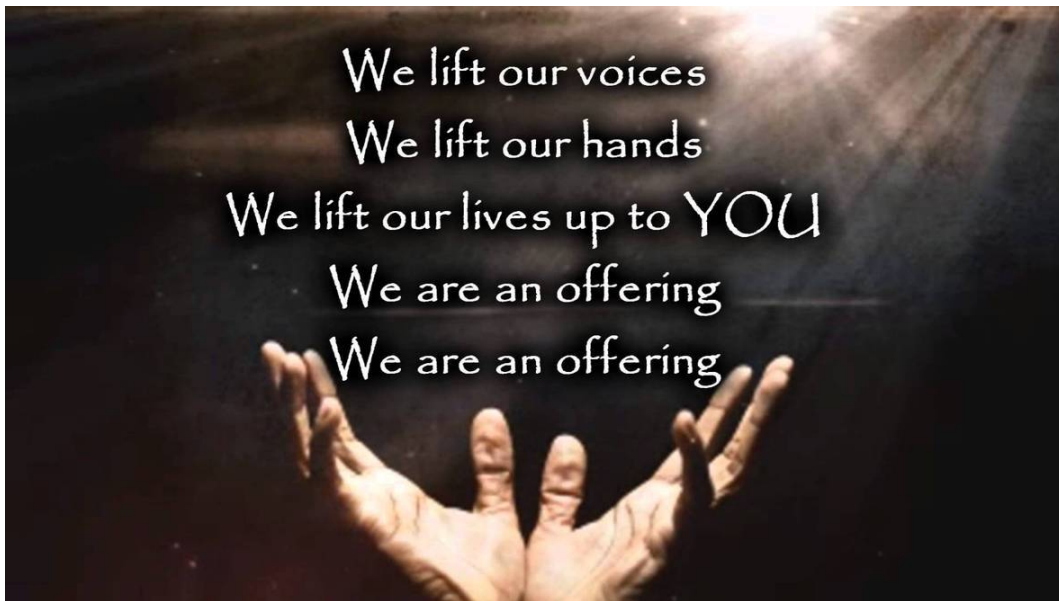
I can ensure you we are taking every step to reduce our expenses in order to meet our obligations. Our average expenses for the past two months have been approximately \$14,500.00. However, our giving was only \$7,060.00 for the month of July (compared to \$11,268 in July of

2019). Needless to say, we can all see how this can have an effect on a church budget.

I ask you for your continued support of the church.

In the event our expenses continue to exceed our offerings over the next couple months, I will be putting forth a couple of recommendations to the Church Council for consideration. We cannot continue to have deficit spending as a congregation.

God's Blessings and stay safe,
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!



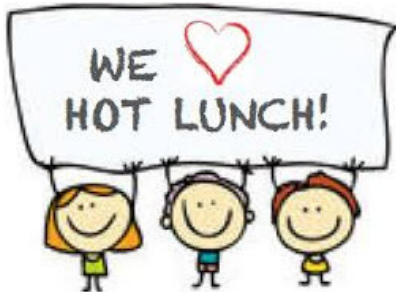
Senior Center



Grief support



Community Food Pantry



Eloy Free Hot Lunch Program



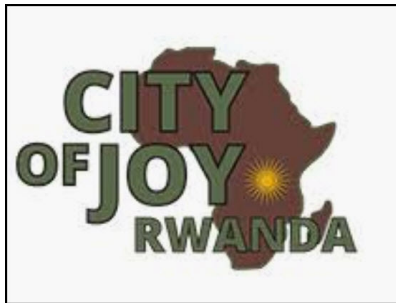
Manna Bags



Travel samples



Good Gifts Ministry



City of Joy



Friendship Center Ministry



Youth Night



Shield of Badge



Prayer Requests



Volunteer - ESL



GED training/volunteer opportunities



Church Photo Directory

LOVING 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, 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.

While we continue to suspend in-person gatherings in our church buildings, we are worshiping online. As the medical and scientific communities learn more 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. We are taking great care in making decisions about when, and in what ways, we will be able to gather in-person. 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.

In the meantime, let us join together in worship every Sunday online singing and praying to God 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.gcsyond.org.

From the Arizona Department of Health Services (updated 8/1/20):

There are effective ways to practice physical distancing and reduce the risk to yourself others: _

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. _
 - *Stay at home when you are sick.*
 - *Avoid close contact (within 6 feet) with others.* _
 - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) and immediately throw the tissue in the trash.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
 - Consider wearing cloth face coverings, if it can be safely managed, in public settings where other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
 - If you are at higher risk for severe illness, you should avoid attending places of worship. People at higher risk for severe illness include adults 65 or older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions._
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Click for Prayer Request option on website

Remember in Prayer

Harry Brink, Willie Bergren, Trent Blessing, Judy Burrue, Butch Burke, Sandy Carpenter, Carole Crain, Anne Decker, Wayne Eliason, Ellva Erickson, TJ Esco, 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, Denise Shepard, Coby Snow, Michele Rios & Marcus de Souza Lima, Julie Sternhagen, Iranice Tavares, Linda Ward, Ski Wrybkowski.



Bereavement:

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.

Worship at Central

When in-person worship resumes, services will be 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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