



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Central News – July 2020

Each One, Call One

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.” Matthew 10:29–31

When I was a child in church in Tucson, the congregation would have have "Each One, Bring One Sunday" where every person in the congregation--whether member, winter resident, first-time visitor, occasional attender--was encouraged to "bring one" on that particular Sunday: Bring a friend, a family member, a coworker, a neighbor, with you to worship. I remember looking forward to that day with great excitement because I invited my friend at elementary school, Kristy, to come with me to church--and she said yes! I was so happy to bring her to worship and show her what I enjoyed so much every Sunday--the worship space and the music (and the after-worship doughnuts!), yes, but so much more than that, the people: My grandma and Aunt Kate, my Sunday School teacher, the pastors, the usher who always smiled at me when he handed me a bulletin, my Sunday School friends. When I "brought one" to church, I brought her to *the people*.

Being church for us today necessarily means being spread out for a time, taking part in the life of the church from our individual homes. This is getting to be a long haul, I know, and many of us are feeling frustrated and want this to be over with. Me, just as much as anyone. But we're not there yet and we need to persevere.

But being church doesn't mean gathering in a building. As Pastor Bob quoted early this summer, "Being in a church building doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car." So what does make us Christian?

The saving grace of God in Christ Jesus.

And that exists in us and among us no matter where we are, no matter how near or far we are spread. In fact, when God in Christ calls followers of Jesus together in worship, God always sends us back out again to be in the world, so that God can love and bless the world through our hands and feet, our voices, our hearts.

To be the church, especially now in these days, is not about our buildings but about the people. And the fact that we're not in the same room with the people we care about can't stop the Holy Spirit from joining us together in other ways.

So what if we have an "Each One, Call One Summer"? A topic that came up more than once during my early morning get-togethers with many of you these last few weeks, was the desire to have an up-to-date member directory so that people could call each other and check-in, check-up, and just simply connect with each other. And that is precisely what we are doing!

We want to make sure we know where you are and how to reach you. We want to make it possible for us as church to reach out and connect with one another. We want to make sure everyone is receiving our communications. So Gary Linafelter is heading up a small group who will be reaching out to all our members, winter residents, and friends of CLC that we have contact information for, to verify your contact information. We will then create a new directory for distribution.

You can get a jump start on that process by updating your contact information via our website by clicking [right here](#) or on the image just below. There are spaces to enter your name, email, home address, home phone number, cell numbers. Whether you've had recent updates or not, if you fill out the brief form you can make sure that we are all able to reach out to each other. Again, you can get to that webpage by clicking [right here](#) or on the image just below.

Let us be one body in Christ, encouraging one another, caring for one another. You can "call one" or call several, or call many, or send a brief note in the mail. And if picking up the phone or sending a note isn't so much in your comfort zone, you can pray through the directory, praying for two or three or four households each morning or night in your daily prayers. And strengthened, encouraged, and inspired by the Holy Spirit among us, we can even more ably reach out in care for others outside our congregation, spreading the love of Christ in the world.

God's peace and grace to you.
Pastor Annemarie

*"Children of the heavenly Father, safely in his bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven, such a refuge e'er was given."
Carolina Sandell-Berg, trans. Ernst W. Olson*

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.

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.



**Community Education
Ministry Responds to
Today's Needs**



The first week of July, Danielle called to inquire about the Community Education GED tutoring program. Her coworker, who is already working with a Community Education tutor to prepare for her GED tests, recommended the program to her. Like many other callers who

have inquired recently, Danielle learned that the in-person tutoring is currently suspended, but video call-based tutoring is available. Danielle immediately liked the idea. She is a young wife and mother with three kids. If she doesn't have to arrange for transportation and could leave her kids in her husband's care for a couple of hours during the week, she was sure it could work for her. "I just have to get my GED and get my life going in the right direction," Danielle said with determination in her voice.

Another call came from Carmen, who is anxious to resume her GED studies. She had enrolled in the program two years ago, but personal circumstances caused her to quit. Now she is ready to restart and wants to know if a Community Education tutor can help her succeed this time.

Jessica contacted us to help her improve her English. Having joined her U.S. based family only a year ago, she finds herself in a household where everyone speaks fluent English...except her. Happy to be reunited with her family, she longs to enjoy full conversations by understanding and communicating better in English and she needs a Community Education language coach's help.

These are just a few of the requests that have been received lately. Pandemic or not, these learning needs within the local community persist. As a result, **the Community Education team of volunteers is reinventing itself and its services.**

The church council has encouraged **two new methods** to reach the community through Community Education ministry: video call-based tutoring and laptop lending.

With video call-based tutoring, it doesn't matter where the tutor or learner live, a face-to-face learning opportunity is just a couple of mouse-clicks away with the use of the church's new video conferencing Zoom account. For those participants whose progress toward their GED has been delayed because they no longer have access to the Community

Education computer lab, laptop lending will help them resume the use of the program's online curriculum and a video call with a tutor.

We're very excited about these new developments! If you would like to get involved, or would like to find out more, contact the church office at 520-466-5024 or churchoffice@centrallutheranaz.org.



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!

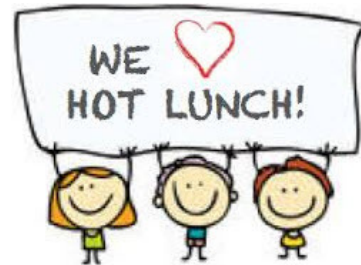
Under every worship video there's a button to click on that says "Share." Who do you know that you could share worship with? Someone who might not come with you to worship when

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!

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.

Share your gifts

At this time we do not know when services on-site will re-open. Contact Pastor or a Council Member if you can help in any of these areas.

During this period your help may be needed:



- 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

“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 suspended worship service, please continue to support CLC.

All offerings (Casa Grande or AZ City) should be mailed to: Central Lutheran Church, PO Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85123

Good Stewards

As we head into the summer months, we as a congregation must be cognizant of not only our financial obligations but also our spiritual obligations. As a congregation in transition we must strive to meet them equally. I for one have often failed. I have often looked to others to fulfill the role I should be fulfilling myself. I would ask each and every member of our congregation to do the same. Ask yourself, am I expecting another member to fulfill a role I should be doing myself? If the answer is yes, step forward and fulfill a role that will benefit the church.

For the month of May, our expenses exceeded our gifts by approximately \$4000,00. The summer months are always a difficult time for our church for giving. I challenge each and every member of our congregation to look in the mirror and see if we individually are meeting the "CHALLENGE"

God Bless,
Steve Gal, Council, Treasurer



Click on images below to find out more about the program! You can help in so many areas of CLC outreach!



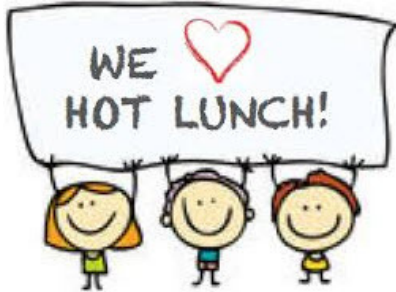
Senior Center



Grief support



Community Food Pantry



Eloy Free Hot Lunch Program



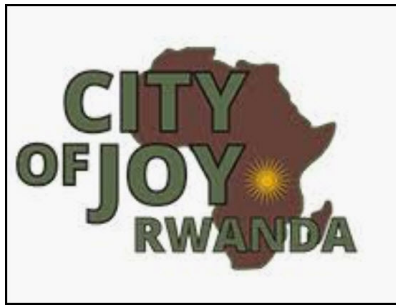
Manna Bags



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 many weeks 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 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 7/1/20):

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._
-



Click for Prayer Request option on website

Remember in Prayer

Harry Brink, Willie Bergren, Trent Blessing, Judy Burruel, Harold Bonde, 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, Jacquelynn Decker Regan, 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.

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at all services.

Fellowship is held at both sites each Sunday.

Worship Assistants

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

Altar Flowers

Sign-up to provide flowers on the altar for a special remembrance or event.

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

Note: for postal service use PO Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85123

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