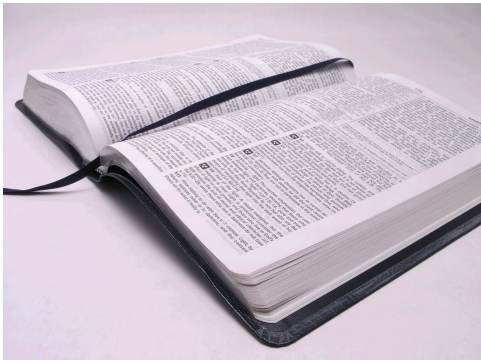




Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Central News - May 2020



FAITH IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

We all are feeling the effects of the pandemic of the Corona virus. Orders to stay home and be safe have affected us all. We don't know the future; how long this will last and how we will recover as a state and as a country, but we all hope and pray that we can someday be back to normal.

We have missed going to church for a number of weeks now and we aren't sure when we can get back to worshipping together. But there are many ways that we can adjust. Reading from the Bible or a devotional book have helped many to focus their faith on the challenges we face. After all, going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

I have often suggested that going to worship on Sunday morning is like filling up your car when you are almost out of gas. Most of us need the songs and the message from the pastor to fill our faith for the challenges of the new week ahead. But when we cannot do that, we have to find our own path to refueling our faith. Reading the Bible, prayer, reading devotionals, conversations with family and friends over the phone, all can be of help at supporting our faith in these uncertain times.

So if you haven't found ways to strengthen your faith and trust in God to get you through the weeks ahead, it may be time to start a routine to help.

Remember that Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in

my name, there I am in the midst of them.” We need community and especially each other for our growth and wellbeing. Most of us have adjusted pretty well to the call to be at least 6 feet distant from one another. We have found ways to continue our lives through these troubled times. But always remember that, even when we are alone, we are not alone. God is with us. And God can help us deal with the uncertainties ahead, because the one certainty in our lives is that God is with us.

So, I hope that you are finding ways to help you realize that God is walking with you through the challenges you face. Because for all of us, God is walking with us each day that we face the challenges before us. Keep the faith and sooner or later we will see you in church again.

Pastor Bob Kleinke

WELCOME PASTOR ANNEMARIE

Pastor Annemarie Burke begins 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 Note from the Council President

Central Lutheran Church has experienced a lot of change in the past few months and the activities behind the scenes have been incredibly encouraging. While most of you have been confined to your homes, the council has been active reshaping how we meet, communicate & do our duty as elected members of your congregation. We are becoming more familiar with the use of computers and the fantastic mode of video conferencing. We met and interviewed our new interim Pastor Annemarie, with the support of the Grand Canyon Synod’s Bishop, using this new mode of video conferencing. This was new to most of the council members and has become a normal way of meeting on a regular basis. God has

Church
Council

opened the doors to us for a new way to participate in worship services. We may experience this as Pastor Annemarie implemented this type of service at her previous congregation.

During these very difficult times, your leadership is working closely with the Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA to determine when we can begin again to open up our worship centers. In my last video conference with the bishop and other council presidents, we were told of the Grand Canyon Synods recommendation for return of church services. A copy of the letter from the Grand Canyon Synod is attached for your review.

As with many churches throughout our community, we have experienced a drastic reduction in our offerings. See our council treasurer's report in the Financial Section of the newsletter for additional details. Needless to say, we are asking you to be as generous as you can be in these tough times to help your church get through these times of income shortfalls.

God bless you and your families,

John Pieschl
Central Lutheran Church
Council President
520-589-6110

2020 Council Members::

Peg Brady (Sec), Gary Erickson (Vice Pres), Steve Gal (Treas), Ina Johnson, Dick Jones, Bob Kleinke, Gary Linafelter, Leticia Luse, John Pieschl (Pres), Mary Pietrini, Skip Simes

Need your help during Time of Transition

Pastor Bob Kleinke will serve as a supply pastor during the first part of May. He will provide a sermon each week that will be posted on our website. It is unlikely worship services will resume until a Sunday in June. Contact a Council Member if you can help in any of these areas.

During this period your help may be needed:

- Preparing paraments, banners, decorations and flowers for worship
- Providing office assistance in creating and printing bulletins, taking phone calls and messages (a couple hours a week)
- Placing orders and keeping up with supplies
- Do you know WordPress? Can you help update information on the website? (email webmaster)

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

News

As we prepare for Pastor Burke's arrival on May 18th we are faced with numerous challenges within our congregation. As we head into the summer months we must always be concerned about our financial stability. I am happy to announce we have enlisted the assistance of Samantha Yarberough who will be our Church Treasurer. Samantha brings a wealth of experience to serve Central Lutheran Church. She is the Office Manager at A.C. Sanitation in Arizona City and has been there since 2006. She will be earning her Associates of Applied Science in Business from Central Arizona College next month.

Financial Update

In review of our April expenses to dollars received from the envelopes and loose offerings we were a little over \$10,000.00 short of meeting our expenses for the month. As we head into the summer months, I would ask all of us to review our giving to the Church. Needless to say, our expenses are not going to go down. I do realize a lot of this has to do with not having our regular church services and being able to be together on Sunday. Hopefully we will be able to worship again very soon!

God Bless and be safe,
Steve Gal, Church Council, Treasurer



Click for Prayer Request option on website

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



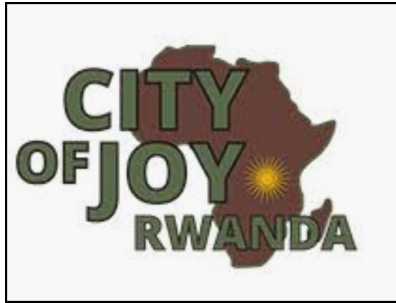
Manna Bags



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

“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.*

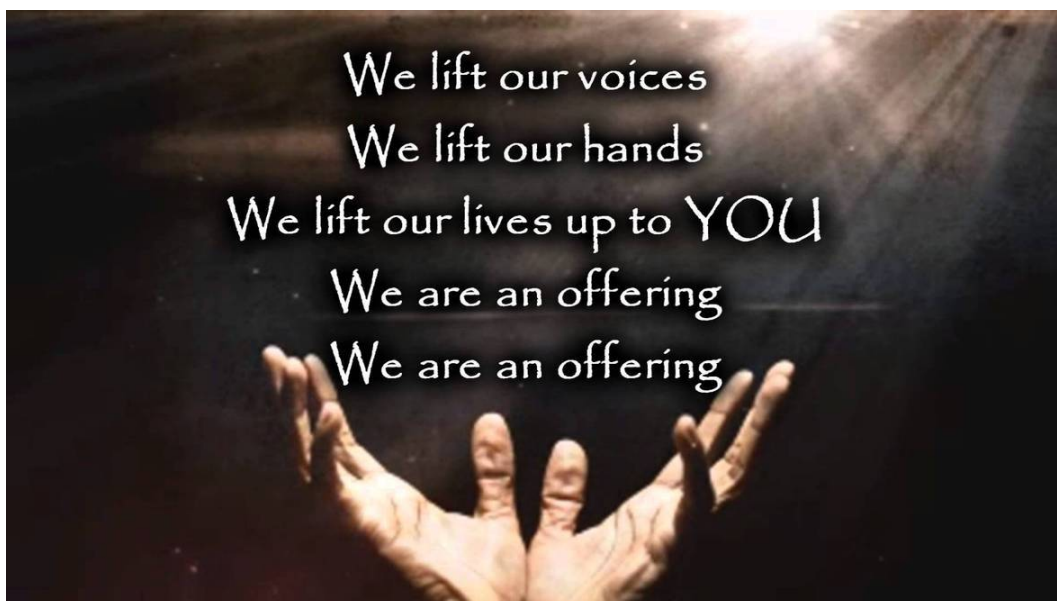
*Receive them for the sake of him who offered
himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



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



Our Stewardship

Your contributions have made it possible for us to extend our benevolence to many areas of need. This year the council will designate contributions to:

City of Joy Rwanda -- sponsoring a student in Rwanda for an entire school year;

Refugee Program -- Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest supports the resettlement of families from around the world in Arizona;

Florence Immigration and Refugee Rights Project -- providing educational materials, sports equipment, school supplies, pregnancy and new parent support;

Maricopa Lutheran Church -- assisting the congregation's efforts to establish a permanent location in their community;

Friendship Center -- sponsoring the start-up ministry for the Robson Ranch community.

Thank you for your contributions to our growing ministry, helping us to grow our ministry within our congregation, to the Grand Canyon synod and the national church, and to those in need around the world.



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

A Fragrance-Free Environment

We are now encouraging that everyone please avoid wearing scented products, such as perfumes, colognes and aftershaves, during worship and other congregational events held at our two sites.

Many people have sensitivities and respiratory difficulties that are triggered when exposed to personal fragrances.



Thank you for your cooperation.

Loving Our Neighbor

During this unique time, it is ironic that we must unite in a shared commitment to separation. It seems strange to focus on our individual distancing to support the health of our community.



With the ongoing uncertainty regarding the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) we have suspended all worship services and congregational gatherings. With our neighbors we are taking these practical measures to protect the most vulnerable among our community.

Coronavirus is a respiratory illness that can easily spread from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between individuals who are in close contact with one another (within 6-10 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when the infected person speaks, coughs or sneezes.

It is also possible to get the coronavirus by touching another person or surface that has the virus on it and then touching one's mouth, nose or eyes.

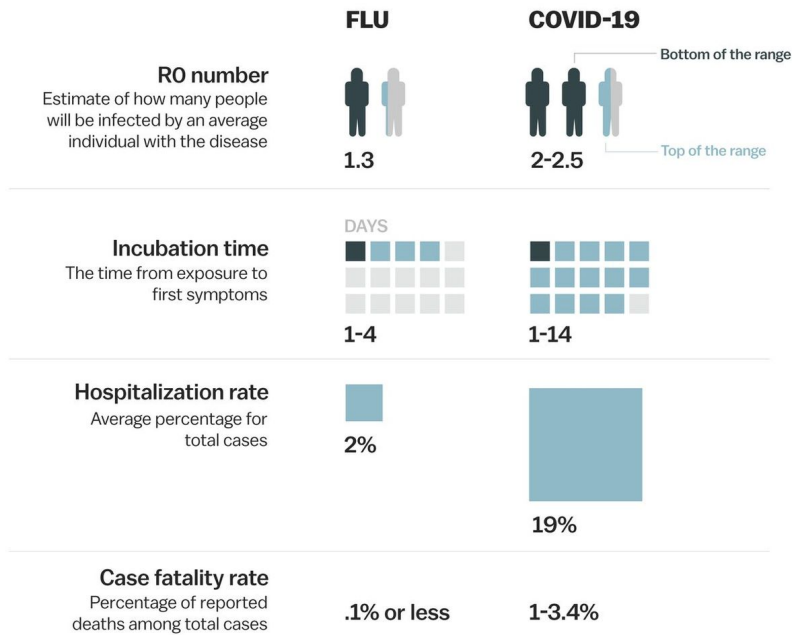
Those infected have suffered from mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms including fever, dry cough, and shortness of breath.

Everyone should take preventative actions. Maintain social distancing, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, and wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is effective as well).

We will continue to monitor the scientific news to address the issue. For more information go to the website for the Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov/COVID19.

For church wide information from the Grand Canyon Synod visit www.gcsyond.org.

How seasonal flu and Covid-19 compare



Sources: CDC, WHO, NCBI

Vox

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, Harold and Peggy Hall, Darcy Hunter, Penny Jacobson, Dwight Jorgensen, Ron Jung, Tammy Kempke, Ruth Kramer, Gary and Bev Linafelter, Ken and Lois Morgan, Dick Mueser, Walt Neulieb, Red and Dede Parrish, Ruthann Raitter, Marcus Ramirez, Denise Shepard, Coby Snow, Julie Sternhagen, Linda Ward, Ski Wrybkowski. Marty Jones, Naomi and David Grobe.



Bereavement -- the family and friends of Gertie Kenyon; and, the family and friends of Sue Rhoades.

Military Service -- Caleb Ball, Grant Davis, Ryan Harrison, Sean Harrison, CJ Squires.

Worship Schedule

When worship resumes, services will be held:

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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