



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Central News - October 2017

- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Study and Discussion](#)
- [Community Ministries](#)
- [Remember in Prayer](#)
- [Financial News](#)
- [Worship Schedule](#)
- [Our Mission](#)
- [Church Family Photo Directory](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Celebrating Rebirth

This is the time of year our family celebrates birthdays. Over an eight week period I join in recognizing the births of one granddaughter,

oldest daughter, youngest daughter, son, mother, and wife. Everyone in our immediate family, along with nieces, cousins, and others I'm sure I don't remember.



Celebrating the birth of those closest to us once a year serves as a reminder of celebrating our rebirth in baptism.

In baptism we emphasize how we are reborn, born anew, given new life. The water of baptism is the symbol of the washing away our sinful human nature, making it possible to be cleansed anew. The covenant promise of baptism is renewed each and every day.

In the Small Catechism, Luther answers the question, "What does baptism mean for daily life?" by stating, "It means that our sinful self, with all its sinful deeds and desires, should be drowned daily through repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever."

Baptism is the beginning of our faith journey. It is the opening chapter of our story. Baptism is the firm foundation to which we can always return. For God's promise of an everlasting relationship is always present and alive.

We draw our very life from the good news shared in baptism. The eternal word of grace is spoken by God. Through word and sacrament we encounter a gracious God and are blessed with a new relationship with God each and every day.

We are to celebrate our being welcomed into the family of God, being forgiven, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and being a part of our community of faith.



Reformation Sunday

October 29th

This month marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's publication of the "Ninety-Five Theses" in Wittenberg, Germany. The purpose of the theses was to list questions and propositions for academic discussion and debate.

As a result of his actions, Luther started the Reformation by criticizing many practices of the Roman Catholic Church. His questioning of church practices included the corrupt sale of indulgences to absolve sin, the authority of the pope, and the doctrine of the merits

of the saints, which had no Biblical foundation.

Luther introduced doctrinal changes such as complete reliance on scripture as the source of religious authority and the belief that faith in Jesus, not good works, defines our relationship with God.

Luther is one of the most influential figures in Western history. His central teachings shaped the core of Protestantism. Furthermore, his insistence that the Bible be translated into the language of the people and be made available to everyone was truly revolutionary.

Upcoming Events

Halloween Bingo Night

Saturday, October 28th at 6 p.m.

Come join in friendly games of Bingo and make new friends during the evening at Arizona City. Many prizes will be awarded, with "treats," snacks and refreshments being served.

Study and Discussion

Good Grief

*"Grief never ends, but it changes.
It's a passage, not a place to stay.
Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith.
It is the price of love."
(Author Unknown)*

Because of all the people and things in life we love, life is full of sorrow, sadness, distress, pain, suffering, and, adversity. Life is full of loss in many different forms. Unique in many ways. Common in many ways.

You are invited to these upcoming opportunities to share grief. To be comforted, to comfort. To be helped, to help. To be supported, to support others.

The next gatherings will be held on Tue, October 10th and 24th at 2 p.m. at our Arizona City site.

Youth Night Class

Our weeknight Bible study, discussion and activities offered to our elementary, middle school and high school students are held on Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at our Casa Grande campus. Current study topics include our review of Jesus in the gospel accounts, the Small Catechism, present day social issues, and what it means to be a Christian.

Classes for the different age groups are led by Kara Cooper and Pastor Thom.

Please note: There will not be a youth gathering on Oct. 18th.

Men's Saturday Fellowship

Saturday dates will be scheduled

Watch for the opportunity to join in fellowship, Bible study, and discussion of current topics.

Shaping Our Ministry

Our ministry teams are beginning to form as many of you have shared your interests.

Welcoming New Residents

Phone call: Sandy Carpenter, Sandy Christopher, Pat and Francis Harrison, Paul and Susan Garrison, Jan Menefee, Bonnie Murphy, Keith and Arlyss Radabah, Connie Schelske, Carolyn Torr.

Visit: Paul and Susan Garrison, Dick and Pat Jones, Connie Schelske, Carolyn Torr.

Providing Transportation: Sandy, Christopher, Kathy Davis, Al and Becky Gessner, Pat and Francis Harrison, Dick and Pat Jones, Marjorie Lamkin, Carolyn Torr.

Home Assistance

Repairs: Paul Garrison, John Pieschl, Roger Smith.

Computers: Karen Debold, Francis Harrison.

Bereavement Support

Visit: Sandy Carpenter, Kara Cooper, Carolyn Torr.

Fellowship Following Service: Sandy Christopher, Karen Debold, Pat Jones, Mary LaPaglia, Bonnie Murphy, Judy Smith, Carolyn Torr.

Feeding the Homeless: Arlo Cairo, Sandy Carpenter, Karen Debold, Al and Becky Gessnes, Lisa Hunt, Dan Kirk, Gary Linafelter, Sue Rhoades.

Worship Nursery Care: Louise Cannon, Karen Debold, Lisa Hunt

Sign-up now for any of our several proposed ministry opportunities. Forms are available to indicate how you would like to participate.

Fall Softball Season

Your "Saints" have completed the first three weeks of the season with 5 wins and 1 loss.

The upcoming schedule is:

Oct. 9th at 7:15 and 8:15 p.m.

Oct. 16th at 6:15 and 7:15 p.m.

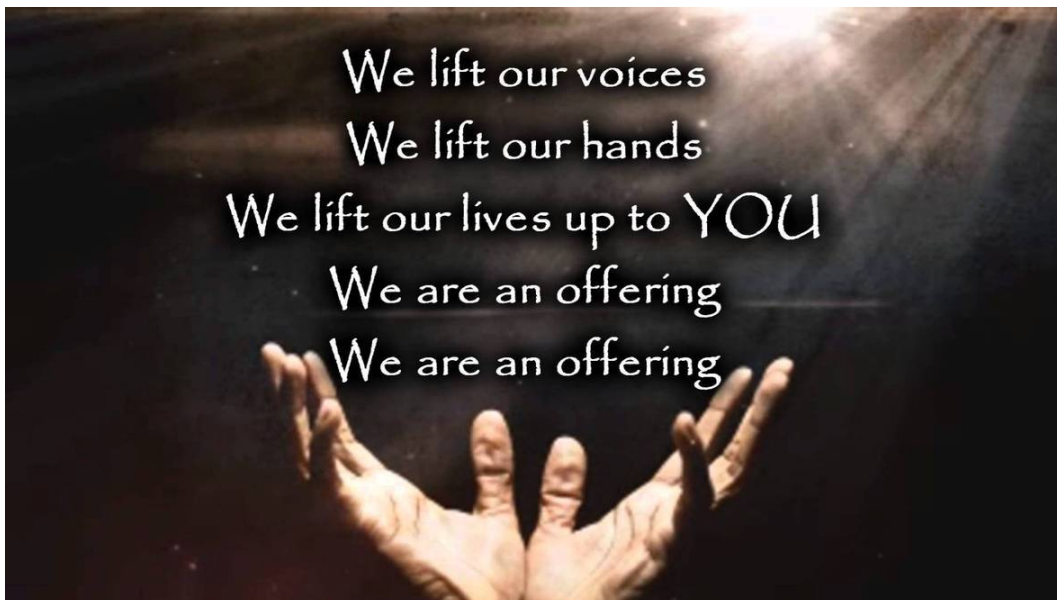
Oct. 23rd at 6:15 and 8:15 p.m.

Oct. 30th at 6:15 and 7:15 p.m.

The season ending tournament will be played on Nov. 6th.

Game are played at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on Pinal Ave. in Casa Grande. Thanks to the many fans who have come out to support our team.





Our Stewardship

Entering the Fall of 2017, we celebrate a 10% increase above offerings from last year, which had grown from the previous year.

Our continued growth reflects a greater number of worshipers, worshipers who have met their monthly offering goal (even when missing a worship service), and, those who have doubled their offering on the second Sunday of each month.

We have held the belief that many of us have had the ability to grow in our giving. Continuing to ask ourselves, "how come I don't give more?"

Your contributions have made it possible for us to extend our benevolence to many areas of need. The council has designated \$1,000 contributions to:

Habitat for Humanity -- this fall/winter is to be the first of several planned home constructions in Arizona City, watch for how you can make a donation and participate;

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

Sonlight Camp -- since 1979 students from the southwest and across the nation have participated in this Christian camp experience outside Pagosa Springs, CO;

Lutheran Disaster Relief -- with the destruction of the recent hurricanes the ELCA provides extensive support to the relief and recovery efforts of the impacted regions;

Refugee Program -- Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest continues to support the resettlement of families from around the world in Arizona.

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.

Community Ministries

Manna Bags

You can take part in our program by donating the following items:
16.9 oz water bottles, packaged tuna, sausage, and crackers (plain, with cheese or peanut butter), energy bars, PayDay candy bars, fruit cups, hand wipes, plastic forks and knives, gallon plastic bags. Bring items to either worship site.

Once the bags are compiled everyone can help by carrying one in your car to be shared with someone in need that you may meet in the course of your day.



| Number of passed GED tests | Previous Progress | Current Progress |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Math | 5 | 5 |
| Language Arts | 3 | 3 |
| Science | 3 | 3 |
| Social Studies | 4 | 4 |
| Civics tests | 5 | 7 |
| GEDs earned | 2 | 2 |

Community Education Ministry

Our adult students are continuing to succeed in their ongoing study programs. We have had 5 students pass the math test, 3 language arts, 3 the science, 4 social studies, and, 7 civics. Two have

completed their GED tests.

We have recently added a Spanish speaking part time tutor, who has proven to be a great asset to our ministry.

You can help by volunteering as a GED or English tutor or making a donation -- designate as "adult education." Thank you for the donations received for this ministry!

New Education Opportunity: Learn Spanish

Central Lutheran is now offering Spanish Language Workshops. Taught by Ricardo Romano, one of the dedicated volunteer tutors who serves with our ongoing Community Education Ministry, sessions are free for everyone and will focus on learning beginning/ intermediate conversational skills. Dates and times are to be determined based on participants.

Donation of Home Furnishings

Sometimes the families of our participants are in need of furniture, and small and large appliances. You can help them by donating these items. Contact Alyson to help.

For information of all our programs contact Alyson Stephens: 602-721-1673 or alysonstephens@q.com.

Community Food Pantry

Our congregation has donated thousands of food items to the Casa Grande Food Bank. The second Sunday of each month has been designated as a day to support those in need. You are encouraged to make it a practice to bring food items each month for the food bank. Food bins are located at both of our sites.

Hot Lunch Program

You can help the Eloy lunch program on Wednesdays by providing 25-50 homemade or purchased “treats.”

For information call Judy Smith (520-466-6227) . You can bring your “treats” to worship on Sunday and they will be delivered to the program site.

Request to Travelers

Contribute shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, toothpaste and coffee packets to Helping Hands, which assists families through mentoring, healthcare, nutrition, and emergency programs. A container is located in the entry at both sites.

Ladies Quilting Ministry

The women will resume their quilting ministry later this year.

Many thanks to all the women who contributed to this effort and helped with this contribution to our community. This is a message of care and comfort through the gift of quilts.

The donation of materials and blankets are greatly appreciated.

Serving Meals

You can help serving meals at "Seeds of Hope" in Casa Grande on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. For more information contact Jayne Schneuer (520-840-4038) .



You can support this inspirational ministry by sponsoring a student, \$40 covers one-half of the monthly expenses.

Once again you can support the graduates of the sewing program by purchasing a purse or an apron.

Todd Ellingson, President and Founder of City of Joy

todd.d.ellingson@gmail.com

<http://cityofjoyrwanda.org>

<https://youtu.be/oDUbpBEfokk>

Remember in Prayer

Harry Brink, Willie Bergren, Harold Bonde, Marlita Buchholz, Mickey Buchholz, Trent Blessingl, Ruby Craun, Anne Decker, Ellva and Gene Erickson, Mark Gerrish, Rachel Grack, Peggy Hall, Lanny Johnston, Jean Kalish, Gertie Kenyon, Will Klukas, Ruth Kramer, Norma Kringen, Dick Laudahl, Gary Linafelter, Dick Mueser, Walt Neulieb, Marcus Ramirez, Jon Schmidt, Denise Shepard, Leona Shilling, Joshua Ward, Gary Towle, Colleen Wiles, Ski Wrybkowski.

Bereavement -- the family of Neil Northey following his recent death.

Military Service -- Grant Davis, Ryan Harrison, CJ Squires.

Financial News

“What You Have First Given Us”

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, 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.

Internship Fund

The \$28,000 of contributions received for the internship program have been invested in an ELCA Mission Investment Fund account. The council will continue to evaluate the possibility of participating in the internship program in the future.

Casa Grande Land Fund

Our property “growth fund” has a balance of \$10,691 for the purchase of a permanent Casa Grande site. Discussion of future possibilities is ongoing.

October Finances

Account information:

Offering Income: \$13,113

Balance General Fund: \$39,498

Average Monthly Expenses: \$17,000

Capital Fund: \$39,782

Internship Fund: \$26,848

Balance of Mortgage with Thrivent: \$257,144 (12/31/16)

Worship Schedule

Arizona City

Sunday - 8:30 a.m.

For information on Sunday children activities contact Linda Gal (705-1450).

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.

Name Tags

We would like to have name tags for all of our worshipers. Sign up for yours.

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
-

Church Family Photo Directory

Click here to go to the church [photo directory](#)

Contact Us

Church Office: churchoffice@centrallutheranaz.org

Pastor Thom Stephens: pastor@centrallutheranaz.org

www.centrallutheranaz.org

Arizona City Campus

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Casa Grande Campus

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