



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Central News - August 2017

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Being a Student of the Bible

The beginning of a new school year always serves as a reminder of our need to grow in our biblical understanding.

We often have good intentions and may even set out to read through the entire Bible. But the Bible can be incomprehensible, perplexing, and of unequal interest and relevance. We may then become content to rely on a few favorite passages and find comfort that such verses contain the main truths we need. As a result we may be content with only a partial use of the Bible.



A partial use of the Bible can be a dangerous thing. It is better to expand our interest in the Bible and not to confine ourselves to parts of the Psalms, quotes from a few Prophets, or excerpts from the Gospels and Letters. The risk is to miss the full message of our scripture which is found by studying it in a larger context.

For example the Old and New Testaments are both necessary parts of God's covenant story. It's incorrect to view the Old Testament of having secondary importance, or that the Old and New can be viewed separately. Only with an understanding of the Old Testament can we hope to fully grasp the message of the New Testament. Jesus' own use of the scripture of his day formed the foundation of his message.

By being students of the Bible we gain a more complete view of the Bible's contents and the implications for our lives. The Bible is not only our source of understanding and knowledge, but also, our source for hope. The Bible has a message, a unique and personal perspective, for each one of us.



Start of New School Year

Granddaughter Teya has begun first grade at Basha Elementary School in Chandler. The new "Bobcat" will be celebrating her 6th birthday on August 23rd.

Manna Bag Ministry

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.



Upcoming Events

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.

Meet with Pastor Thom on Tuesday, August 8th at 2 p.m. in Arizona City.

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. Study topics include our scriptures, 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.

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

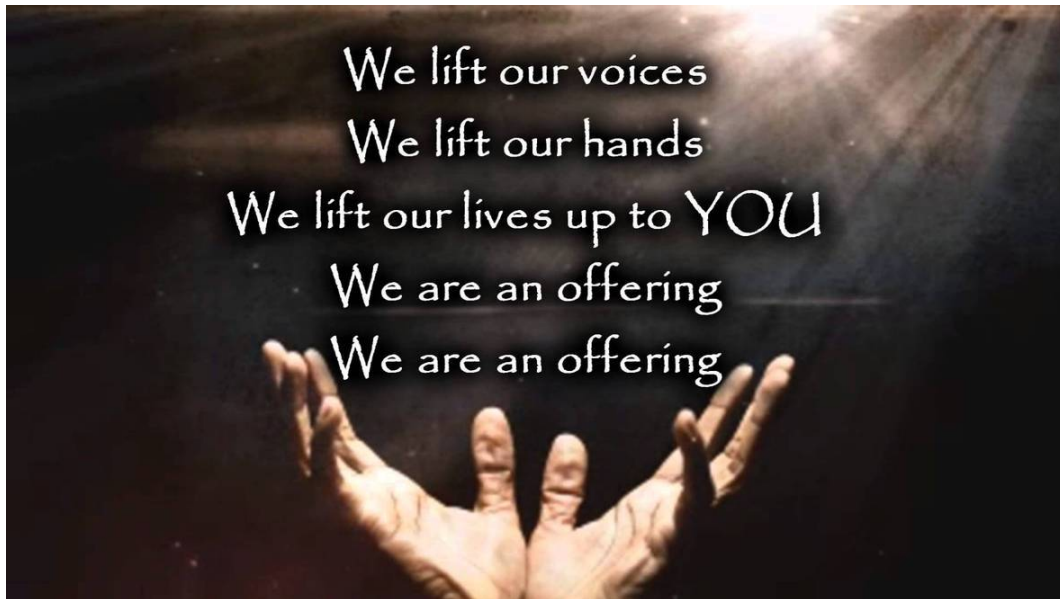
Sign-up now for any of our several proposed ministry opportunities. These include welcoming new residents into our congregation, assisting individuals/families following the death of a loved one, assisting the homeless in our community, providing nursery care during worship, and, local Habitat for Humanity projects. Information forms are available to indicate how you would like to participate.

Summer Softball Season

Your "Saints" have fallen to 3 and 7 during the summer season.

The revised schedule for this month provides for make up games postponed due to bad weather:

August 7th -- 6:15 and 7:15 p.m.
August 14th -- 6:15 and 8:15 p.m.
August 21st -- Tournament
Game action is at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on
Pinal Ave. in Casa Grande.



Our Stewardship

Through July 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?"

Thank you for your contributions to our growing ministry, helping us to meet our annual requirements to our congregation, synod and national church.

Community Ministries

Number of passed GED tests	Previous Progress	Current Progress
Math	4	5
Language Arts	3	3
Science	2	3
Social Studies	2	4
Civics tests	3	5
GEDs earned	1	2

Community Education Ministry

Our adult students continue to succeed in their study programs. As of the end of June, 5 students have passed the math test, 3 in language arts, 3 in science, 4 in social studies, and, 5 in civics. Two

have completed their GED tests.

You can help them develop their English skills, or prepare for the GED math, science, language arts, and social studies exams. Please consider volunteering as a tutor or making a donation -- designate as "adult education."

For information, contact Alyson Stephens: 602-721-1673 or alysonstephens@q.com.

Thank you for the donations received for this ministry!

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.

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 Sandy Christopher (520-483-1442) . 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) .



City of Joy Rwanda

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>

"Just Let Time Pass By"

Wendy Landers is having a book launch party at the Artisan Village in Coolidge (www.artisanvillageofcoolidge.org) on Saturday, September 30th at 7 pm. Her book, "Just Let Time Pass By," is available on Amazon.

John Sutton's band will be providing entertainment. Light refreshments will be served. RSVPs are appreciated, www.wendylanders.com

Artisan Village of Coolidge
351 N. Arizona Blvd.
520.723.3009

Remember in Prayer

Harry Brink, Willie Bergren, Donny Boeding, Harold Bonde, Marlita Buchholz, Trent Blessing, Carla Carroll, Ruby Craun, Rev. Bekah Davis, Anne Decker, Ellva and Gene Erickson, Mark Gerrish, Rachel Grack, Ray Grant, Peggy Hall, Jack and Faye Harrison, Ryan Harrison, Lanny Johnston, Ray Johnston, Jean Kalish, Gertie Kenyon, Will Klukas, Norma Kringen, Dick Laudahl, Gary Linafelter, Bob McGregor, Dick Mueser, Walt Neulieb, Neil Northey, Marcus Ramirez, Jon Schmidt, Denise Shepard, Leona Shilling, CJ Squires, Joshua Ward, Gary Towle, Colleen Wiles, Ski Wrybkowski.

Bereavement -- Del Semlar and family following the death of his wife, Terry.

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.

July Finances

Account information:

Offering Income: \$15,504

Balance General Fund: \$58,308
Average Monthly Expenses: \$17,000
Capital Fund: \$40,954
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

12921 S. Sunland Gin Road PO Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85123
(520) 466-5024

Casa Grande Campus

324 N Sacaton Street Casa Grande, AZ 85122 (520) 316-9659

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