

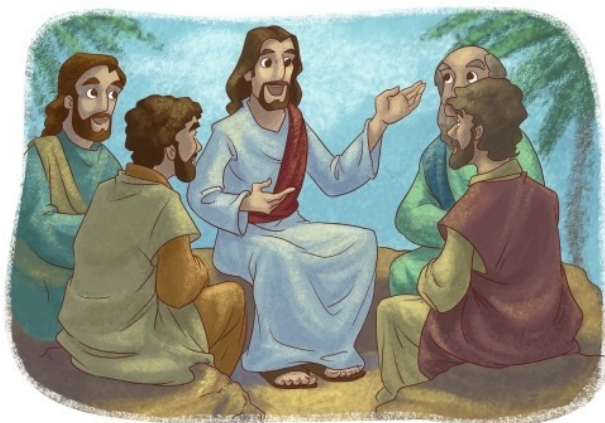


# Central Lutheran Church

*Come Share the Spirit!*

## Central News - June 2017

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### "Spiritual Father"

God calls men to become spiritual fathers. The examples of Jesus and the apostle Paul are clear that spiritual fathering is the way to bring other men to maturity in Christ.

Churches tend to focus on teaching men, but not raising them to spiritual maturity. Paul

wrote, "For though you might have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. Indeed, in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. I appeal to you, then, be imitators of me." (1 Cor. 4:15-16)

The founders of our faith, by word and by example, made it clear that men are to serve as spiritual fathers. Jesus was certainly a spiritual father to the twelve. Paul called both Timothy and Titus his sons. The apostles established spiritual maturity as the goal for Christian men.

A spiritually mature father is a living example. Paul emphasizes setting himself up as an example to believers, "be imitators of me." Jesus imitated his Father as well. Jesus said, "The Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise." (John 5:19)

Not only does every man need to have a spiritual father, but he needs to become a spiritual father. Jesus' last command in the gospels is to "make disciples," produce spiritual sons.

Spiritual fathers are men who are walking with God and leading men by example to maturity in Christ. They have ongoing relationships sticking by their children and

loving them the rest of their lives. They teach by example while walking together through life. They discipline their children because there are behaviors that are not to be tolerated. They push others beyond self-absorption and neediness, challenging them to serve others more than trying to fill their empty holes. They help find a role in life and in God's kingdom.

Moving in step with the Spirit spiritual fathers are mentoring, loving, and guiding their brothers.



## Kindergarten Commencement

Granddaughter Teya completed kindergarten on May 24th and is ready for 1st grade.

She is on track to graduate from high school as a member of the Class of 2029!



## Upcoming Events

### "MY COMMUNITY"

July 17 - 21

Arizona City

Central Lutheran  
Church joyfully invites  
children of Casa  
Grande, Arizona City,  
and the surrounding

area to a week of Vacation Bible School this summer. Our study theme -- "MY COMMUNITY" -- will focus on members of our community and how we serve one another.



We will study God's word and learn from how Jesus served his community. Our focus will be on how Jesus was a living example of how we are to live our lives.

Join us for games, study time, crafts, songs and special guests.

The program is geared for children ages 4-10, but all ages are welcome.

- 4 and under students must be accompanied by an adult.

## Shaping Our Ministry

In the coming weeks discussion will focus on 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.

More information will be shared soon about how you can participate.

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## 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.

Talk with Pastor Thom or Judy Smith (520-840-4038) for more information about meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 2 p.m. at the Smith home.

## **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

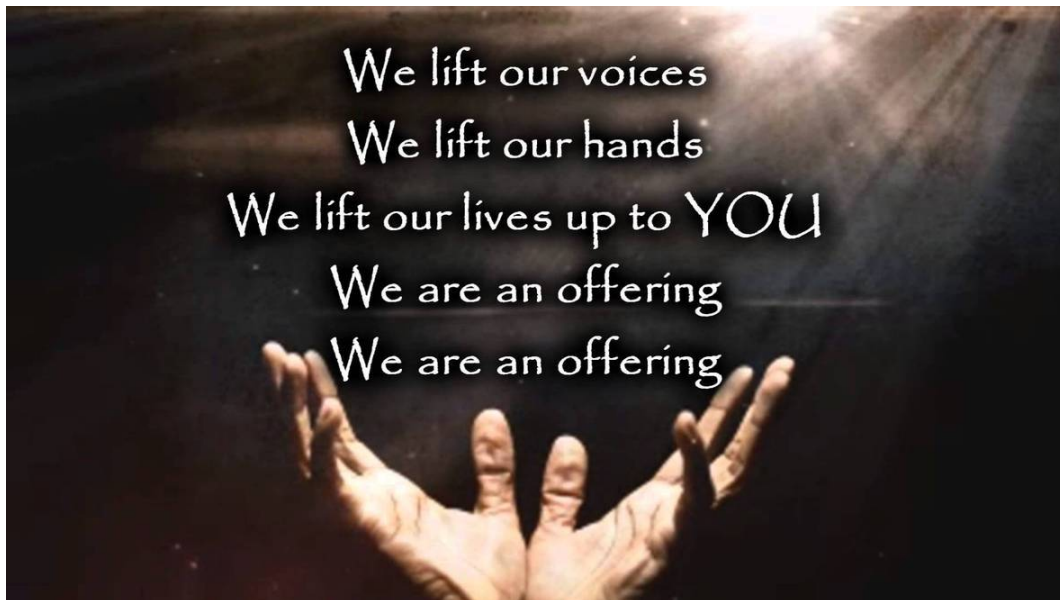
## **Men's Saturday Fellowship**

**Saturday dates will be scheduled**

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

## **Summer Softball Season**

Your "Saints" begin the summer season of co-ed softball on Monday, June 12th with games at 6:15 and 7:15 p.m. A schedule for the full season is now available. You will find game action at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on Pinal Ave. in Casa Grande.



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## **Our Stewardship**

Through May 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	4
Language Arts	1	3
Science	2	2
Social Studies	0	2
Civics tests	0	3

### Community Education Ministry

Our adult students continue to succeed in their study programs. As of one month ago, 4 students have passed the math test, with several others continuing to

prepare. Three have passed language arts, 2 in science, 2 in social studies, and, 3 in civics.

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](mailto: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 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 have completed their work for the spring and will resume 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](mailto:todd.d.ellingson@gmail.com)

<http://cityofjoyrwanda.org>

<https://youtu.be/oDUbpBEfokk>

**Love & all its glory IS**

Wendy Landers has completed the second installment of her series "Dieting After She Died."

After setting up her recording studio, Manon started writing rock songs again. Traveling to a recording seminar, she met a film producer, Jacob. Yet the plague that harassed her continued. Can her original rock band, A Slip of the Cue, help her make it end?

Her blog is [www.wendylanders.com](http://www.wendylanders.com)

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## Remember in Prayer

Harry Brink, Willie Bergren, Donny Boeding, Harold Bonde, Marlita Buchholz, Trent Blessing, 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 Wrybowski.

Bereavement -- Twiggy Pritchard following the death of her husband, Art.

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

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## 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 \$10,011 for the purchase of a permanent Casa Grande site. Discussion of future possibilities is ongoing.

### May Finances

Account information:

Offering Income: \$15,643

Balance General Fund: \$69,209

Average Monthly Expenses: \$17,000

Capital Fund: \$40,261

Internship Fund: \$26,848

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

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## 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.



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## 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

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## Church Family Photo Directory

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

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## Contact Us

**Church Office:** [churchoffice@centrallutheranaz.org](mailto:churchoffice@centrallutheranaz.org)

**Pastor Thom Stephens:** [pastor@centrallutheranaz.org](mailto:pastor@centrallutheranaz.org)

[www.centrallutheranaz.org](http://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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