



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

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"Thankful in Adversity"

We are thankful for the wide variety of good experiences in life. The pleasure of a warm slice of freshly baked bread. A special relationship with another person. A cry of a baby in the morning. Moving into a new home. Achieving a long desired goal.

Yet are we thankful for not only the "good life," but also the adversity in life? Adversity is that which is contrary, unfortunate, even harmful. Adversity is the time life seems to be against us.

Adversity can be the curse and the blessing of human life. The curse is that our days can be a struggle to live while trying to overcome adversity. The blessing is the ability to overcome adversity because of our relationship with God.

"We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies."

(2 Corinthians 4:7-10)

Through our personal experiences we know adversity is a part of life. We can't stop adversity, but we can overcome it. We gain strength and grow from our pain. We learn to adapt. We do not live a life that is rigid nor inflexible. We discover a path to peace, patience and wisdom.

Because of adversity we learn to let go of the past and accept the future. We realize that growth and increased understanding rarely happen without the pain of leaving something behind.

Importantly, as people of compassion and service, we are much better equipped to help others when we ourselves have experienced suffering. We know what their suffering is like.

As Christians we recognize through the suffering of Jesus, that out of suffering God brings new life.

Our Stewardship

Through the month of October our worship offerings have increased over last year from \$156,253 to \$207,684; this shows a growth of about 25%!

The increase reflects a greater number of worshipers, our 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.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 23rd

6 p.m. in Casa Grande

You, your friends, and neighbors are invited to this service of thanks and celebration. The offering will be given to the ministries of Lutheran World Hunger.

Saturday Worship

Beginning November 26th

5 p.m. in Casa Grande

Upcoming Events

Good Grief

Thursday, November 3rd and 17th at 2:30 p.m. Arizona City

Sunday, November 13th and 27th at 11 a.m. Casa Grande

"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.

50's Music Night with Santa

Friday, November 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Arizona City

Come share a potluck dinner and dance to the music of the 50's.

Santa will make an appearance so you can visit with him and have your picture taken together. In the spirit of giving during the holiday seasons, you are invited to make a donation to the ELCA Good Gifts ministry.



Study and Discussion

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

Come join in the opportunity for discussion and fellowship on Saturday, November 19th, 8 a.m. at our Casa Grande campus.

Community Ministries

Community Education Ministry

Many students are currently participating in our adult study programs. You can help them learn English and develop basic math skills. 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 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

Starting in November the women will be gathering on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. Invite your friends to participate, everyone's help is appreciated. Bring your lunch.

Many thanks for the contribution they make to our community, a message of care and comfort through their 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 learn more about this inspirational ministry and hear how God's Spirit is leading lives to Christ when Todd returns to visit on January 7th and 8th..

Once again you can support the graduates of the sewing program by purchasing a large purse or apron (\$20); or other artistic items.

Todd Ellingson

President and Founder of City of Joy

todd.d.ellingson@gmail.com

<http://cityofjoyrwanda.org>

Fall Softball Season

Your "Saints" take an 8 and 4 record into the final week of the Fall season. Games at 6:15 and 7:15 p.m. on Monday, November 7th, conclude the regular season. A single elimination tournament will be held on November 14th.

Games are played at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on Pinal Ave. in Casa Grande. Thanks to all the fans who have come out to see the action and support our team.

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



Teya in Kindergarten

Granddaughter Teya began kindergarten the beginning of August. She then turned 5 years of age on the 23rd. Being the youngest in her class Teya began the school year with less learning experience than her classmates, but is quickly catching up. Her sparkling personality has set her apart among the kindergarten class. Teya's assignments include sharing stories, which have included her extended family. When I had the chance to pick her up from school for the first time, I introduced myself to her teacher, who then referred to me as "Big T." -- Pastor Thom

Remember in Prayer

Harry Brink, Marlita Buchholz, Trent Burkhardt, Ruby Craun, Rev. Bekah Davis, Grant Davis, Ellva and Gene Erickson, Mark Gerrish, Rachel Grack, Ray Grant, Ryan Harrison, Lanny Johnston, Rolland Karlin, Gertie Kenyon, Norma Kringen, Dick Laudahl, Gary Linafelter, Gene and Paula Luft, Bob McGregor, Dick Mueser, Walt Neulieb, Neil Northey, Marcus Ramirez, Jon Schmidt, CJ Squires, Gary Towle, Ski Wrybkowski

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 internship program continues to be a part of our ongoing stewardship effort. We have received over \$26,000 in contributions. You are encouraged to continue to make your donations to support internship for 2017.

Casa Grande Land Fund

Our property “growth fund” has a balance of \$6,399, for the purchase of a permanent Casa Grande site. Discussion of future possibilities is ongoing.

October Finances

Account information:

Offering Income: \$14,028

Balance General Fund: \$19,039

Average Monthly Expenses: \$17,000

Capital Fund: \$69,621 - includes the Internship Fund: \$26,848

Casa Grande Land Fund: \$6,399

Balance of Mortgage with Thrivent: \$323,908 (12/31/14)

Worship Schedule

Arizona City

Sunday - 8:30 a.m.

For information on Sunday School for children 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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