



# Central Lutheran Church

*Come Share the Spirit!*

## Central News - October 2016

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## "United as Family"

There is so much in the news today about injustice and the violation of human rights. We need to look at what is happening around and among us with the awareness that justice and the observance of human rights are important parts of God's intention for life. Again and again the scriptures yoke righteousness with peace, peace with justice, and justice with the recognition of the rights, freedoms, and responsibilities of all people.



Racism has historically been one of the most unjust and destructive powers in today's world. All of us carry some form of prejudice for it is inherent in our sinful human nature. So, when we act on a racial bias, we do not honor our diversity in God's creation. We can express such racism in many ways. It may be harsh and blatant, it can be cloaked in euphemisms. It may be so open and exposed that no one can miss it; it may be subtle and covered over that only the victims feel its destructiveness. In thought, word and deed, racism builds on human pride and prejudice; and, abuses power for selfish advantage. Racism rejects the meaning of God's presence in Jesus Christ, because when we reject another person we reject Jesus Christ.

Anytime we allow the pride in the presumed superiority of one group of people over those of another it provides a foundation for racism. That pride can exert control of the institutions, resources, and customs of our communities. Such pride can destroy the dignity, integrity, and positive self-image of others who are created in the image of the living God. Racism spawns fear, guilt, frustration hostility, and violence.

As Christians, we should support the equal rights and equal opportunities of all persons, regardless of racial or ethnic background. In our response to the gospel, the emphasis should be on recognizing and rejoicing in the diversity and variety of experiences among humanity. The integrity and aspirations of members of all ethnic groups as persons are respected. At the same time we can rejoice in the gospel that breaks down all barriers between persons and unites a family of God.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

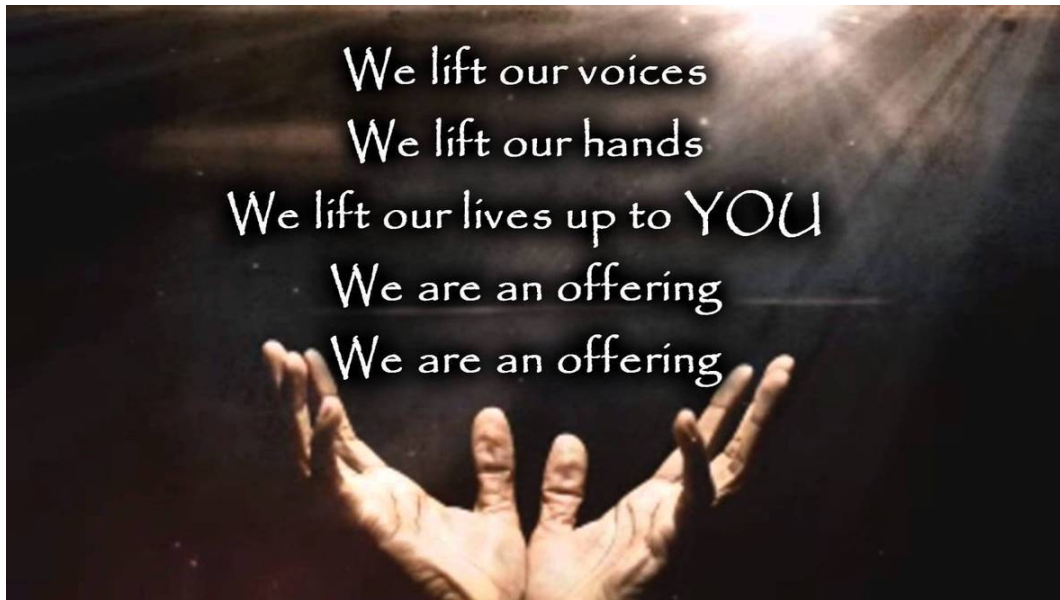
## Our Stewardship

Through the month of September our worship offerings have increased over last year from \$144,783 to \$191,063, this shows a growth of over 20%!

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.



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## Upcoming Events

## Good Grief

Thursday, October 6th and 20th at 2:15 p.m. Arizona City  
Sunday, October 9th and 23rd 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.

## Card Game Night

Friday, October 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Casa Grande

Participate in games you know or can easily learn, with snacks and desserts.

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## 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.

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## 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](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 will be taking a break during the summer months, so look for the continuation of their ministry this Fall.

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.



## City of Joy Rwanda

This winter you can learn more about this inspirational ministry and hear how God's Spirit is leading lives to Christ when Todd returns to visit.

Now you can support the graduates of the sewing program by purchasing a large purse or

apron (\$20).

Todd Ellingson

President and Founder of City of Joy

[todd.d.ellingson@gmail.com](mailto:todd.d.ellingson@gmail.com)

<http://cityofjoyrwanda.org>

## Fall Softball is Underway

The Fall season continues through November 7th with games on Monday nights. Games are played at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on Pinal Ave. in Casa Grande. Pick-up your schedule. 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](http://www.wendylanders.com)

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**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.

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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 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.

### September Finances

Account information:

Offering Income: \$12,172

Balance General Fund: \$10,341

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)

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## 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.

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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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