



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

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April 2022

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Online or in person, COME!

Sign up for electronic giving on our website or through our app. Download app: <https://faithlife.com/clc-az/app> You can text to give at: 520.605.0516 Text dollar amount.



Mission Statement

We are a Spirit-filled community of loving and caring, light-hearted people who joy-fully invite all to share, through the Gospel, the love of Christ.

Our Locations & Phone

12921 Sunland Gin Road
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The deadline for the May Newsletter is April 19.

Worship at Central Lutheran

April 3

Fifth Sunday In Lent

Psalm: 146

Gospel: John 19:1-16a

Liturgical Color: Purple

April 10

Palm/Passion Sunday

Psalm: 24

Gospel: John 12:12-27

Liturgical Color: Scarlet/White

April 14

Maundy Thursday

Psalm: 126:3

Gospel: John 19:23-30

Liturgical Color: Scarlet/White

April 15

Good Friday

Psalm: 31:9-18

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Liturgical Color: N/A

April 17

Resurrection/Easter

Psalm: 118:21-29

Gospel: John 20:18

Liturgical Color: White

April 24

Second Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 145:13-21

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Liturgical Color: White



Church Office

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Recording Secretary

For financial info and council minutes, see them posted at each site or contact a council member or

Mission Endowment Team

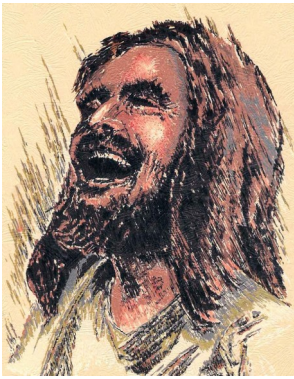
Peg Brady

Pastor John Donovan

Jerry Edwardson

Dell Hoff

Mary Pietrini



God's Love for you in Jesus

Greetings, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I extend this greeting, whole heartedly to each of you here at Central Lutheran and to anyone else that may be reading this.

We are quickly approaching Resurrection Sunday. This is the single most important time in the church year, but it is also the single most important time in human history, at least from a Christian perspective. Yes, Christmas is important, and we cannot have Easter, without Christmas. Resurrection Sunday/Easter is the fullness of God's love for God's people in Jesus.

Now, that being said, the entirety of Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil should be observed as a whole. Lent prepares us and reminds us of our need for Jesus. We start this with Ash Wednesday where we hear the words, "You are dust and to dust you shall return."

Maundy Thursday, Maundy is derived from the Latin word for command. Jesus, on His final Passover meal, delivers His command for us to take and eat His Body and drink His blood. We start the worship on Thursday and continue the service on what is known as Good Friday.

Good Friday continues the worship. What is so Good about the death of Jesus? It is in the death of God, Immanuel, that our sins are forgiven. Our sins, die with Jesus. Jesus descends into hell to bring the good news to all. In his descension to hell, we know that there is NO PLACE, that God is not. That is what is good,

sins forgive, and God is everywhere.

Easter Vigil is a time of waiting for God's re-appearance upon the scene. God will prevail and make things new. We did not do this service this year, but hopefully we will next year. It is a long service of many readings that help us to keep focus that there is something great that has happened and will happen. It is considered the holiest worship time. Would you like to have an Easter Vigil at home? Here is an example of one: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2021/04/an-easter-vigil-at-home/>

Resurrection Sunday reminds us that God is in control and brings about a new creation in God's love for us in Jesus. Life is re-created and we hear the Gospel/Good News, that we too are included in this new creation. Not only later, but today and now.

When we start on Ash Wednesday and hear of our mortality and then jump to Easter, so much is missed. The whole reason and preparation for the season, loses its meaning. So many people do not want to be reminded of their need for God's love in Jesus.

Follow the link here to a Living Lutheran that gives more details about the three-day tradition.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2013/04/three-days-traditions-maundy-thursday-good-friday-vigil-easter/>

Easter is coming but you still can experience Lent at our Healing Service of Prayers around the cross on Wednesday April 6th, 6 pm Arizona City, Maundy Thursday 6 pm in Casa Grande and Good Friday, Arizona City at 6 pm. Then join at Easter 8:30 am in Arizona City and at 10:05 am in Casa Grande.

Peace to you in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Pr. Doug



APRIL 3—WORSHIP @ 8:30 & 10:05

APRIL 14—MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP 6 PM IN CASA GRANDE

APRIL 15—GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP 6 pm IN ARIZONA CITY

APRIL 17—WORSHIP @ 8:30 & 10:05

APRIL 23—GOSPEL CONCERT CASA GRANDE @ 4:00 pm

APRIL 24—WORSHIP @ 8:30 & 10:05

From Your Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Doug and those who participated in the Lenten Services for the moving and spiritual experience, which we all received. It was such a special way to enjoy this time of year.

We celebrate Easter each year and it comes to remind us of the love of a perfect God for mankind. Jesus Christ died on the cross, he was buried and on the third day he rose again to bring hope to the world. As we celebrate this wonderful holiday, remember Christ gave his life for us willingly and unconditionally and so we should extend the same love to each of our families, friends, and others around us.

On behalf of the Church Council, may you remember God's love for all of us, and may that love fill you with hope for the days to come. Happy Easter!

Steve Gal, Council, Vice President

Database Update

Just in case you missed the emails that were sent out, we are updating our databases. Central Lutheran Council secured a new software that will track our finances and our attendance/membership. To have the best results of the software, we are asking that you fill out a Google Docs form, so we can import the data. Please consider doing this ASAP. Here is a link to this form: <https://forms.gle/ksWL7JZxNRZZDn756> Thank you in advance for your diligence in getting this done.



What is a GED test preparation tutor?

The ACE ministry team is comprised of a part-time Tutoring Coordinator and volunteer tutors. One type of tutor helps their assigned participants to pass the GED exam. The exam includes five tests that assess participants' proficiency in state-established high school equivalent standards in math, science, social studies, civics, and language arts. Tutors meet with their participants once or twice a week to support their progress. During those tutoring sessions, volunteers take on varying roles to help their adult learners progress.



Study Partner

Traveling a steep learning curve in a particular subject can be a daunting journey, especially if

adults face the learning path alone. As a study partner, a GED tutor often studies right alongside their assigned participant. While he or she works to learn the material, the tutor finds creative ways to make the learning easier and engaging. As a result, tutors have some very interesting conversations with participants about everything from the political drivers of wars in U.S. history, to the practical application of algebra in everyday life, to the fascinating analysis of scientific data charts.



Cheerleader

Most accomplishments in life present challenges that must be overcome. Earning a GED certificate is no exception. That is why GED tutors take on a cheerleading role, encouraging their participants to persist and overcome the obstacles that slow progress. Adults preparing for exams typically have job and family responsibilities that naturally compete with their time and energy to study for tests. Tutors get to know their participants and help them navigate those competing priorities, not only cheering on participants to stay the course but encouraging them during any frustrating and discouraging times.

The journey to a GED presents new experiences and self-discovery. Beyond honing reading, writing and arithmetic abilities, participants need to develop their abilities to take tests. Test-taking is a unique skill in and of itself, and not everyone is naturally good at doing it. Tutors offer guidance to participants about how to prepare for taking



Advisor

tests, such as how to manage the stress that comes with taking timed tests, what to eat for the best brain power, how to find a testing center, and what to wear to be comfortable in its chilly and sterile setting

The reasons that people did not complete their high school education are varied — a learning disability, the need to contribute to household income, teenage pregnancy, caring for younger



Advocate

siblings or an aging relative while parents worked, frequently relocation with migrant parents, mixing with the wrong peers, and many more situations that aborted the pursuit of an education. Whatever the situation, the common theme is this: Life happened, the opportunity to graduate passed them by, and it set in motion a cycle that now impacts their ability to earn a living wage, pursue a trade or higher education, and ultimately reach their potential. Tutors hear participants' stories and recognize the need for an advocate – someone who believes in their ability to break the cycle, and who will facilitate a different trajectory for their lives.

If you like to help adults succeed toward their personal development goals, complete the volunteer interest form to get involved. Click <https://centrallutheranaz.org/ged-esl-volunteer> or scan the code to access the form online.



To donate to the program, call the Central Lutheran Church office (520-466-5024) or direct donations and special grants to: Central Lutheran Church Adult Community Education Ministry P.O. Box 677 Arizona City AZ

85123 You may also contribute online at: <https://centrallutheranaz.org/give>

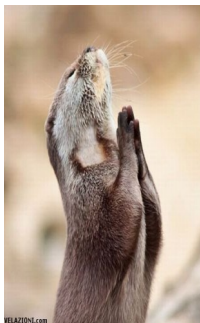
Pet Blessing

On Saturday March 26th, we had a Pet Blessing at the Casa Grande Site. Because of generous donations of time by folks at Central Lutheran and a generous donation of a member through Thrivent Financial, we were able to purchase and sell food at the event.



Numerous Frankfurters, because we do not eat our pets, were sold, along with chips and water. Several were also given away to those that did not have funds to pay for them. Over 30 animals were blessed by Pastor Doug. We were able to welcome people inside the Casa Grande church site and many more were given welcome cards and flyers for the upcoming concert. It was a great day and a huge success.

Our vendors who joined us, handed out animal treats and obtained many names that will benefit them and the guests pets. Work is already being done for next year. It will be even bigger. Here are a few more pictures.



Fathers Day

Lois Irving, our Fellowship Team Chair, is looking at a Father's Day celebration and serving some Hot Dogs, Chips and maybe some Root Beer Floats. Make sure you join us on June 19th for some fellowship, fun and food.

Salad Luncheon

In May, the Fellowship Team will hold a Salad Luncheon. This will be open to the public, so let others know it is coming. For \$5 you can have Sloppy Joes, Salad, Water and Coffee.

Summer Worship

At the March council meeting, a discussion took place about having a single service during the months of May-August. We would alternate worship sites.

This is a proposal at this point and a suggested time was at 9 am. Please see your Council members to give your input.

The Council hopes this will allow both sites to get to know each other better and create a greater unity as a single congregation worshipping in two sites. This will also reduce cost by only having to cool one site each week.

There are two 5th Sundays during those months. Pastor Doug has proposed alternating those Sundays and having Prayers Around the Cross worship on those Sundays. That would make those Sundays a little shorter of a service. If you want to know more about prayers around the cross, come to one of the Lent Wednesday services that features Prayers Around the Cross.

