



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Mailing Address

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www.CentralLutheranAZ.org

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May 2022

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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
Arizona City, AZ 85123
520.466.5024

324 N Sacaton Street
Casa Grande, AZ 85122
520.316.9659

Email at:
office@CentralLutheranAZ.org

The deadline for the May Newsletter is May 19.

Worship at Central Lutheran

May 1

Paul's Conversion

First Lesson: Acts 9:1-19a

Gospel: Matthew 6:24

May 8

Paul and Silas

First Lesson: Acts 16:16-34

Gospel: Luke 6:18-19, 22-23

May 15

Paul's Sermon at Athens

First Lesson: Acts 17:16-31

Gospel: John :16-18

May 22

Partnership in the Gospel

First Lesson: Philippians 1:1-18a

Gospel: Luke 9:46-48

May 29

The Christ Hymn

First Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Luke 6:43-45

June 5

Pentecost; Rejoice in the Lord

First Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Luke 6:43-45



Food Bank

Last month's noisy offering for the Food Bank was \$135.50. We will continue to take this offering each 4th Sunday of the month. Bring your loose change and even dollar bills.

Church Office

Arizona City 520.466.5024

Casa Grande 520.316.9659

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pastordoug@CentralLutheranAZ.org

Church Council (* Executive Council)

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gerickson@CentralLutheranAZ.org

*Steve Gal, Vice President 520.709.5414

sgal@CentralLutheranAZ.org

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rhagen@CentralLutheranAZ.org

*Karen Debold, Secretary

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Jessica Aasheim (jaashiem@CentralLutheranAZ.org)

Recording Secretary

Mission Endowment Team

Peg Brady

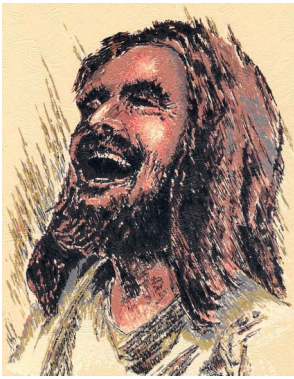
Pastor John Donovan-

Jerry Edwardson

Dell Hoff

Mary Pietrini





Discipleship Pastor Doug

Greetings, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who calls out to us. To be his followers.

Jesus did not call out, come and be a member of my church. Jesus did not say, follow me to my congregation. Jesus did not call out, if you join this congregation, your life will be saved.

Jesus did say, "Come follow me". A follower of Jesus, is being a disciple of Jesus. All throughout the Bible, you see people called disciples and all over He was followed.

Being a disciple, a follower of Jesus, is not easy. Remember Jesus when he said "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Mat 16:24 NIV). How about when He said, "whoever loses their life for my sake will find it." (Mat 10:39b NIV).

I hope you are still reading. We are called to discipleship. Starting on July 10, I will be doing a 6 part sermon series on Discipleship. It will be based upon the book "Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church" The book is written by a Lutheran Pastor, who sets a framework to change a congregation from membership model, to a discipleship model.

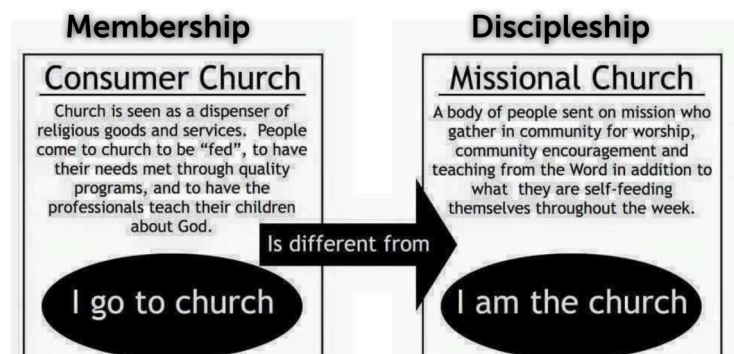
The way of being church, doing church, has changed and it changed a long time ago. Pastor Foss saw this and wrote his book in 2000. Unfortunately, so many congregations still work off a model of membership. That worked in the 50-70's but not anymore. People do not go to

church and become members. People are looking for a meaningful way to connect with God and others in mission and this can be achieved through discipleship.

This is May, why am I telling you about a sermon series in July? I am hopeful that each of you will take the time to read this book and be ready to engage with each other. I will cover the book in sermons, but sermon time is short, yes, even with me. Reading the book before the sermons will help. Some people hear better when reading, some when others speak but either way, reinforcement comes by threes. Read, listen and then go do! Become a disciple and not only will other's lives change, yours will too.

Amazon has the book in paper back and kindle format, Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship, by Michael W. Foss.

Lastly, I encourage ALL who attend Central Lutheran, full-time or otherwise, get this book and participate. We will be walking together in discipleship.



**MAY 4—GOSPELS BIBLE STUDY 6 PM
ARIZONA CITY**

**MAY 7—PRAYER SHAWL 9 AM
CASA GRANDE**

**MAY 10—BIBLE WOMEN STUDY 6 PM
CASA GRANDE**

**MAY 11—GOSPELS BIBLE STUDY 6 PM
ARIZONA CITY**

**MAY 17—BIBLE WOMEN STUDY 6 PM
CASA GRANDE**

**MAY 18—GOSPELS BIBLE STUDY 6 PM
ARIZONA CITY**

**MAY 18—COUNCIL MEETING 6 PM
CASA GRANDE**

**MAY 21—THRIVENT PRESENTATION
10:30 AM ARIZONA CITY**

**MAY 18—GOSPELS BIBLE STUDY 6 PM
ARIZONA CITY**

**MAY 25—GOSPELS BIBLE STUDY 6 PM
ARIZONA CITY**

**MAY 31—GOSPELS BIBLE STUDY 6 PM
ARIZONA CITY**



**The Spiritual Corner—Kris Dill
Spiritual Director**

Romans 12:2
The Voice

² Do not allow this world to mold you in its own image. Instead, be transformed *from the inside out* by renewing your mind. As a result, you will be able to discern what God wills and whatever

God finds good, pleasing, and complete

I started a new book called “Contemplative Knitting” by Julie Cicora. I’m more of an intermittent knitter to say the least. I make simple lap blan-

kets, hats, shawls, scarfs and a prayer patch or two. I’ve never attempted to do much beyond that.

I was introduced to knitting when Pastor attended seminary. A woman I worked with at the time, would bring in a “loom” to work on during breaks/ lunch or in-between calls. The loom was basically like the old potholder weaver, except hers came in many shapes; round, square, straight, oblong, large and small. So, I went to Michaels and purchased my first loom, fast forward, I must admit I own many different ones now.

Eventually I turned to needle knitting, since looms can be very cumbersome to travel with. I began watching a lot of YouTube video’s, to figure it out. I’ve been knitting for about 10 years on and off. In the last 4 years, I’ve learned what a great prayer practice it could be for me. Which is why this book was the perfect birthday gift for me.

The passage used in the book today was from Romans 12:2. Go back up and read it, I’ll wait.

We all have been through so much change, over the past couple of years. Sometimes too much can seem scary, and daunting. This is when we need to reach out to GOD the most! GOD will bring us through every situation we are in, but to see that, we must look inside ourselves. We must re-evaluate, who we are and where we want to be. Without change, we become stagnate. When I knit, I make mistakes, which is okay. If I can fix them I will, or I start over. I want that knitted object to show the love and care I put into it, not a hurried mess, that might appear like I don’t care.

So today I ask you to think about something. Should I wait while you read that passage again?

What do you need to let go of from the inside? Are you showing the love of GOD and it sharing it with others? What does that love look like?

Lord, help me to remember I must look inside myself to be reminded of what you want for me. Help me to see what I need to change, so that I may become the best version of myself that you created. Show me how I can show others your light.

AMEN



Council Treasure Update

Rick Hagen

Financial responsibility falls directly under stewardship. We have all heard that word, “stewardship”. It is more than giving money, that is only a fraction of what stewardship is, but as it relates to my position on the council as your treasurer, it is what I work with.

I want to thank all of you for picking up your giving towards the missions of Central Lutheran. Our giving is up over last year, and this is helpful considering the additional costs in doing mission in 2022. We each made a commitment in January when we passed the budget, or better yet, our mission support plan. The approval of the budget is an approval of faithful giving to the budget. Unfortunately, we are behind at this time. I encourage you to reach out to a council member for the financials or see them posted with the council meeting minutes at each site.

When the budget/mission support plan was put together, it was put together in the way God asks us to operate, the same way that God does. The church needs to operate out of the abundance that God provided and will provide. Therefore, the budget was put together out of abundance not scarcity. God abundantly provides, so we can abundantly provide through mission and ministry.

As you may or may not know at this point, we have a balloon payment that will be due in August of 2023. The balloon payment came about because of circumstances arising during the pandemic. A decrease in giving meant we had to get creative and that was to work with Thrivent, who holds the loan for our fellowship hall. See the thermometer at each site that shows our progress in paying that down. As we receive money, it is sent directly to Thrivent to help keep the total interest down. Thank you for all your committed giving and the giving that will be done in the future.

We have changed our online giving. We no longer accept PayPal and were able to retrieve the monies that were in PayPal. We now use Faithlife giving. There are multiple ways of giving now. You can give by texting. Simply text the word Give with the amount (e.g. Give 100) to (520) 605 0516. The gift will be applied to the

first fund listed in the Funds section, which is the general fund. To give to a different fund, include the fund name after the amount (e.g. Give 100 To balloon payment).

You can install the Faithlife app and give in the app or give on our website. What is most helpful is automated giving. This way there is giving, even if you happen to forget one week. Also, it would help to save on the cost of envelopes. Giving that happens even when you are away on vacation.

We can meet our mission commitments together. It is together, with God, all things are possible in God’s abundance. Peace and blessing in our continued efforts together.

Your Treasure

Rick Hagen

ThisDays
Thought
.org

The holiest moment of the church service is the moment when God’s people—strengthened by preaching and sacrament—go out of the church door into the world to be the Church. We don’t go to church; we are the Church.

Ernest Southcott

Words from the Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Starting May 1 we will be moving to a 9:15 summer worship schedule each Sunday morning. The services will alternate between our two sites with worship in Casa Grande on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and worship in Arizona City on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Fellowship will be after each service.

We are looking for at least 4 members (there is no maximum) to serve on a CLC Stewardship Team. There is urgency for this request as the “Stewardship For All Seasons” educational pro-

gram organized by the ELCA begins May 21 and we need at least 4 members to be eligible to attend. The program consists of 7 sessions which are held approximately 6 weeks apart. Each session will be on Saturday morning and last 1-1/2 to 2 hours. The meetings will be by Zoom. Additional information about the SAS program is available on this link: [Stewardship For All Seasons : Strengthening charitable causes to change the world through generosity.](#) Please contact Pastor Doug, Steve Gal or Gary Erickson if you are interested in serving on this very important Team.

Were you able to attend the “Prayers around the Cross” Wednesday Lent Services? These services were very moving and the Council thanks Pastor Doug for bringing this new experience to Central Lutheran. We had 22 worship opportunities during the Lent Season, something we have not experienced for several years. Thanks be to God for these worship opportunities.

Many of our Winter Visitors have or soon will depart for their summer homes & “Summer Church”. We pray for your safe travels home and look forward to you returning to your “Winter Church” in the fall. Please keep CLC’s Leadership and the congregation in your prayers and we ask for your continued financial support while you are gone. Our Mission Support does not stop during the summer.

Blessings and God’s peace to each of you,

Gary Erickson, Council President

Summer Worship & Fellowship

Summer worship together will give us great opportunities to grow as a congregation. After each worship, both sites will have the opportunity to fellowship together. A mix and mingle time to meet new people, to reengage with some you have not seen each week, and a time for pastor Doug and Kris to meet so many more people.

Our fellowship team is working to make this a special time for us all. They will be doing the refreshments after the service. Hopefully people will sign up to bring bars or cookies for this.

Mother's Day we will have muffins for everyone and a special treat for all women. On Fathers Day we will serve hot dogs, chips and root beer floats ! It's been suggested that we bring salads to share the fifth Sunday of the month ! The church will provide rolls and butter and water. The 5th Sundays will also be a prayers around the cross worship.

Lois Irving, our Fellowship Team Lead says; The idea to share food and drinks with each other is so we can grow to feel like one congregation with two sites. So we can feel at home in each site. I look forward to getting to know everyone this summer! So please sign up to help and also sign up if you need a ride to church on the Sundays it at the other location.

Bible Women

Join Kris Dill at the Casa Grande site, beginning Tuesday May 10th at 6 pm. She will be leading a biblical based book study about the women in the Bible. You will be able to jump in at anytime to join the study. You need not be there for each session.

The book that will be used is Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter, by Lindsay Hardin Freeman. Reach Kris at kdill@centrallutheranaz.org or at 715-680-9062

Prayer Shawl/Patch Ministry

Join Kris Dill at the Casa Grande site for a time of fellowship, prayer, knitting and crocheting. The first meeting is May 7th at 9 am. The meetings will be the first Saturday of the month. You can download patterns on our website under ministries/Prayer Shawl. If you are away for the winter, feel free to download the patterns and bring

some shawls and patches back in the winter. Reach Kris at kdill@centrallutheranaz.org or at 715-680-9062.

Quilting Wednesdays

The Arizona City quilting group will be on hold during the summer. They will meet again in Arizona City on Wednesday November 2.

Gospel Concert

The concert by Homeward Bound in the Casa Grande site, was a great success. We had 48 people who came to hear the gospel in a fine musical tradition. Look for more opportunities like this to come.



Ministry Partnering with Thrivent

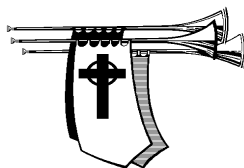
Last year, just in the last two months of the year, we were able to use \$1,500 in monies from the Thrivent Action teams, to do ministry.

So far this year, we also have been able to obtain \$1,500 in Thrivent Action Team cards. Mission was done by obtaining the Lent bracelets, Easter bracelets, Pet Blessing and now we just obtained two cards to help fund taking youth to Leadership Lab. Two more cards will be applied for to offset costs to provide still and video advertising for both sites that will be tied to Google Maps.

Do you have Thrivent funds? Let Pastor Doug know, so you too can participate in ministry at Central Lutheran. You can also contribute your



Choice Dollars towards our missions.



Leadership Lab

We have two high school youth that recently started to attend worship and pastor Doug will be working with them to startup a youth group. As part of the youth group, pastor Doug will be taking these youth to Christian Leadership Lab from June 19-26.



There are tri-fold brochures at each site. You can also find information at <https://www.leadershiplab.net>

Synod Assembly



Grand Canyon Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

On June 10-11, Pastor Doug, Jessica Aasheima and Jarrod Iversen will be attending the Grand Canyon Synod Assembly in Mesa AZ. There will be a variety of topics discussed and voted upon. For more information see the synod website at <https://www.gcsynod.org/2022/assembly>

We ask that every member and guest of Central Lutheran, keep each of them in prayers as they represent Central Lutheran in God's plan for God's people, in the ELCA, Grand Canyon Synod and Central Lutheran. The theme is "Stirred Up by the Spirit."

Thrivent is Coming

A Thrivent representative is coming to Arizona City on May 21st at 10:30 am. Please signup if you intend to show up in person. You can also email Pastor Doug at: Pastor-doug@CentralLutheranAZ.org This will be helpful for planning.

Here is a quick look of who is coming and what will be discussed.

Anthony A Bianchi Sr CLTC, FIC, has 20 years' experience with Thrivent, as a Financial Consultant. He is the lead partner of Lake – Cook group Thrivent. The following subjects will be covered.

- Thrivent a history of who we are
- Short market up date
- Trusts with guest speaker Sr Trust Manager Jean S Bianchi
- Med I Care
- How Thrivent partner's with your Church
- Our teams Mission trips and what you can partner with Thrivent to do Mission trips
- Action Teams
- Choice Dollars

Hope to see many there. Pr. Doug

Streaming Worship

Streaming worship has become a very necessary part of ministry. Some congregations were forced into this when the pandemic hit a couple of years ago. However, others have been streaming worship for years.

A successful streaming worship requires extensive planning, good direction and ultimately good equipment. Just like watching other events on your computer or television, the higher the quality, the more the angles that can be seen and good audio are all very important to getting and retaining people being part of worship. It is only with this, will most people give financially to sup-

port the ministry. Currently Central cannot offer seeing our screens online, therefore people participating will miss the prayers, confessions and music. They also miss the on screen illustrations done by the pastor. There is only one angle to the streaming and the audio is only okay.

Pastor Doug spent considerable time in writing up a quote that was as inexpensive as possible, with him doing much of the setup. The quote allows screens that can be seen by the online community, high quality, with room for growth, and without it being a rip and replace solution.

The quote comes out to around \$18,600 to properly equip both sites with a similar online worship experience that his previous congregation used, to take their online presence from 500 a month, to 15,000 per month.

Central does have some monies designated towards technology. This comes as part of the synod grant and the remaining monies from the call process. However, this only covers 1/2 of the expenses and could only equip one site to stream. We want to make sure that those away from their preferred site, can still tune in to that site's stream. We also want to provide ample opportunity for choice of time for the online community.

The council is asking that if anyone would like to help further the online presence, please give to our streaming fund. We want to be able to provide not only for our members, but for others that may be looking for a new congregation, for those that cannot come in person and those who prefer an online congregation.

Please indicate on the envelopes Streaming Fund. Write on your checks, Streaming Fund or choose online giving and choose the Streaming Fund. Please help Central Lutheran reach as many people as possible.

Online giving at: <https://centrallutheranaz.org/give>