



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Mailing Address

PO Box 677

Arizona City, AZ 85123-0677

www.CentralLutheranAZ.org

[www.facebook.com/
CentralLutheranAZ](https://www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranAZ)

www.twitter.com/@CLC_AZ

June 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 July Newsletter is June 19th.

Worship at Central Lutheran

June 5

Day of Pentecost

First Lesson: Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: John 14:16-17

June 12

Holy Trinity

First Lesson: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Gospel: Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

June 19

Second Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Malachi 3:10-12

Gospel: Acts 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

June 26

Third Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 18:6-9

Gospel: James 3:13-18; Matthew 20:1-16

July 3

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 66:10-14; 2; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:1-16

Gospel: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20



Food Bank

Last month's noisy offering for the Food Bank was \$119.00. We will continue to take this offering each 4th Sunday of the month. Bring your loose change and even dollar bills.

Church Directory

Church Office

Arizona City 520.466.5024

Casa Grande 520.316.9659

Douglas Dill, Pastor 402/235-6969

pastordoug@CentralLutheranAZ.org

Administrative Assistant, Kelsy Rising

Office@CentralLutheranAZ.org

Church Council (* Executive Council)

*Gary Erickson, President 520.509.7219

gerickson@CentralLutheranAZ.org

*Steve Gal, Vice President 520.709.5414

sgal@CentralLutheranAZ.org

*Rick Hagen, Council—Treasurer

rhagen@CentralLutheranAZ.org

*Karen Debold, Secretary

kdebold@CentralLutheranAZ.org

Doreen Darling (ddarling@CentralLutheranAZ.org)

Richard Jones (rjones@CentralLutheranAZ.org)

Gary Linafelter (glinafelter@CentralLutheranAZ.org)

Skip Simes (ssimes@CentralLutheranAZ.org)

Jessica Aasheim (jaashiem@CentralLutheranAZ.org)

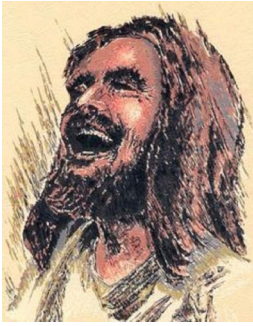
Recording Secretary

Mission Endowment Team

Peg Brady Pastor John Donovan-

Jerry Edwardson Dell Hoff

Mary Pietrini



Music Pastor Doug

What is in the music? Music has words, even when none are written. Music carries deep meaning and connections. Music is important. The music that goes into a worship service helps emphasize the scripture, the time of the church year, the message, and sending into the world.

From a very well know hymn, the first verse may not be all that comfortable. Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound. That saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found. Was blind but now I see. The verse points out, if we are the ones singing it, that we are wretches. It also says that we were once lost and blind.

You might be reading this and wondering how could anyone look at this and see a problem in singing the song. Taken out of context, a word or a phrase, can seem very disturbing. But in context, with the rest of the lyrics, with a basis in scripture, we can see this verse and the following words to call us to a reality, a change and provide comfort.

There is another song that the congregation has heard and sung a couple of times so far. On the surface, out of context and not putting it up against scripture, it may raise hairs on the back of the neck. The ending of this song goes like this: Crazy people (crazy people) I'm one of those, I'm one of those crazy people (oh-oh-oh-oh).

Who wants to be called or identify with being crazy? However, taken in context of the other lyrics and scripture, this song can have a deep spiritual connection for Christians and provide courage to face the world. The song speaks of being a disciple, a follower of Jesus. It moves from the Old Testament, to the New Testament

and into our calling for today as disciples. The lyrics of the entire song are:

Verse 1

Who builds a boat
With no clouds in sight
Who walks up to a giant
And picks the fight
Who turns
A lion's den
Into a petting zoo
Who can have a church
In the fire of furnace
Well I'll tell you

Chorus

Crazy people trust in Jesus
Following Him wherever
He leads us
Kingdom seekers walk
By faith believers
Here's the church here's
the steeple
Here's to all God's crazy people

Verse 2

Who brings a Bible
Into a public school
Who shares a gospel
Even when the world call's
Them a fool
And who's not afraid
To go against the floor
Well cancel me and call me
One of those
'Cause I'm one of those

Refrain

I'm one of
Those crazy people

Bridge

Who sees the world as
A mission field
Crazy
Who talks to Jesus like

He's real
Crazy
Who believes the words
in red
Crazy
Who says He's coming
back again
Crazy

Outro 1

People
His crazy people

Outro 2

I'm one of
Those crazy people

Being Crazy is being a follower of Jesus, a disciple, believing in God, the words of scripture as being true.

Noah built the ark because God told him to, even though there was no clouds to be seen. See Genesis 6 to hear God's call to Noah and Noah's carrying out God's plans for the world.

Daniel was tossed into a prison cell with lions, but he was not eaten, and from there made many others come to faith. Shadrach, Meshach and Abendnego all were taken with Daniel to Babel. King Nebuchadnezzar throws Shadrach, Meshach and Abendnego into a furnace of blazing fire because they would not worship the gods the King did. Upon throwing them into the furnace, the king noticed not three but four in the furnace. The three exited the furnace with no harm upon them. God was present, even in the fire. See the book of Daniel for all the details.

We are called to follow Jesus, be lead by God, trust in the Holy Spirit to reach out to others not to conform to the world but to transform the world. Read the Gospels, paying special attention to the words in red. Jesus speaking to you.

All of these would seem crazy to those who are of the world. Christians call upon the powers in heaven to be transform by following Jesus, doing the impossible for Christ, while in the

world. Folks, that just seems CRAZY! Call me one of those Crazy People, trusting in Jesus, following Him and seeing the entire world as a mission field to be transformed. I proudly say that I am Crazy, how about you?

A Letter to Central Lutheran



Dear Members and Guests,

Our church needed a spiritual leader and what a blessing when Pastor Doug accepted our call. A new spirit has filled our church. This has been brought about by the pastor's energetic and caring spirit.

Inspirational sermons, strong relationships with the community, reaching out to the schools, other pastors, feeding the hungry are just some of the things close to Pastor Doug's heart.

Growth comes with change and we need to as a church family embrace change with a Christian attitude. This will result in a "Living, Growing Church."

If we only look for faults on Sunday morning then we will miss the true meaning of God's word at worship. We pray our church family will come together.

We understand the new styles of music, the contemporary Christian songs are an issue at times, but if we stop and truly listen to the beautiful meaning of the words we will see the love of God speak to us. Not every song will be our favorite but if we never try, how will we know. We can come to a compromise if we lovingly communicate our thoughts and work together. If we have suggestions let's talk with Pastor Doug and Kris and be open to at least try. If you come with a concern, please also come with a possible solution to help solve it.

Please keep Pastor Doug and Kris and our church family in your prayers and remember they are human beings like all of us. They also have feelings.

Remember, WHAT WOULD GOD WANT US TO DO? We love our church family and look forward to its growth.

Donna Erikson and Joyce Clarin

Quilting Wednesdays



Although the quilters are not meeting during the summer, they are still planning for when they meet again in the fall. The quilters do not send their quilts to Lutheran World Relief, but they provide them locally, thus their mission is to reach out with quilts to such places as:

Eloy and Casa Grande Police, Nursing Services, Assisted Living facilities, Oasis rehabilitation, Indian reservations and many other locations,

The quilters are looking to move all of their supplies out of the old kitchen in Arizona City, to the Fellowship Hall. In doing so, there is a significant expense. They need to purchase or construct cabinets to hold their fabric, cuttings tools, yarns, sewing machines, iron, ironing boards and large rolls of batting.

They only have a few hundred dollars in the quilting fund. Please consider helping support this valuable ministry. Please direct your support by putting envelopes with Central Lutheran Quilters written on the envelope, in the offering plate. Send monies to Central Lutheran Church, PO Box 677, Arizona City AZ 85123 or contribute online, by choosing WedQuilters

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 www.leadershiplab.net

The Spiritual Corner—Kris Dill Spiritual Director

Jeremiah 29:11-13 — The Voice

11 For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Eternal, “plans for peace, not evil, to give you a future and hope—never forget that. 12 At that time, you will call out for Me, and I will hear. You will pray, and I will listen. 13 You will look for Me intently, and you will find Me.

Jeremiah 29: 11-13 is my guiding verse.

Do you have a guiding verse?

You may or may not know, when Pastor went to seminary, I wasn't very thrilled with the idea

I didn't really know this verse, until I was on the seminary campus, a friend pointed it out to me. Today, when things are unknown, or worrisome I read it; even when things are going good, I read it again. Just like everyone else, I have gone through many changes in my life, but none as profound as the change that started to take place in 2011 and continues today.

I don't like to change all the time. I like to be comfortable in knowing what I have and how to do things. The unknown is, well, scary! After all I survived all these years doing it the way I've always known. Or did I?

I was never alone in any of the changes taking place in my life. Without change, what are we? Imagine if Karl Benz never invented the first Gas powered engine, we may not have had the transportation we have today. Even the home you live in today, if someone hadn't taken a step into stabilizing structures, who knows what you'd live in now. They point I'm making here, is if these people didn't step out of their own comfort, with no knowledge of the outcome, we'd be in a different place.

Central Lutheran has gone through many changes since we first opened our doors. No one could know what the future would hold, yet here we

stand! Here are two campuses acting as one, serving as many of God's people and those whom yet to meet GOD. This is where we learn that faith is trusting, and believing, that God is on the other side already! God know the outcome, no matter which we path we take. We also need to remember, what God has willed for us, will come to pass, it's up to us how we get there.

Change will continue to come; we cannot stop it. This doesn't mean we always like it. However, without it we will never know God's full potential for us individually, or as a full community/ congregation.

What do you need to let go of and trust GOD with?

Jesus, when you came down in human form, your human side had no idea what was to happen. However, you did know who your Father in heaven was. You doubted as man, but trusted God to complete what was started. I ask for that same strength within me and for the people of CLC. Grant us the courage to step out and trust you are guiding us. Teach us to keep our eyes on you, to be the people we are called to be. AMEN.

Council Treasure Update

Rick Hagen

It's hard to believe that another month has passed and June's newsletter is now due. Thanks Pastor Doug for your helping the preparation of The May's newsletter article. My writing skills do not approach his.

It appears summer is knocking on the door and the warm days are upon us. Unfortunately our financial lives and obligations go on as normal. Our giving is trending slightly down from last year but our expenses are higher with a full time pastor and full commitment to the Synod. This has caused us to dip into our reserves which are not extensive.

Thank you for your continued financial support

and if you find it possible to increase your contributions it will be greatly appreciated.

We have had in excess of \$6300.00 contributed towards the balloon payment due next August and are continuing to whittle down that debt.

Please note that financial statements are posted on the bulletin boards at both sites but if anyone has any questions concerning our finances please let me know.

Your Treasurer,
Rick Hagen

Words from the Council

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

Beginning the first of May and running thru the end of August we started to have a single Sunday service. The start time will continue to be at 9:15am and alternate at each worship site. This has allowed both sites to get to know each other better and create a unity as a single congregation. In addition, it has allowed Pastor Doug to get to know members from both sites in an informal setting during fellowship hour.

There are two 5th Sundays during those months. Pastor Doug has proposed alternating those Sundays and having Prayers Around the Cross worship on those days. That would make those Sundays a little shorter of a service. If you have any questions feel free to ask Pastor Doug or any Council Member.

As a reminder, I am asking those of you who have not updated your Database Information to please do so. 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 the link to this form:

<https://forms.gle/ksWL7JZxNRZZDn756>

I thank you in advance!

As we approach the summer months, many of our members will be returning to their second

homes. We need to keep them in our prayers for safe travels and a quick return to Arizona.

In closing, we should all remember our Mission Statement. Central Lutheran Church, "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."

Steve Gal,
Council Vice President

Prayer Shawl/Patch Ministry

Join Kris Dill at the Casa Grande site for a time of fellowship, prayer, knitting and crocheting. The meetings are the first Saturday of each month at 9am. It will be held June 4th this 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.

Fellowship Team Update

We will be hosting at Arizona City a Itty Bitty Bottle Babies a non profit saving orphan kittens. A mobile veterinarian is scheduled to help low income families spray and neuter these cats to reduce the feral population. If interested please sign up!



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

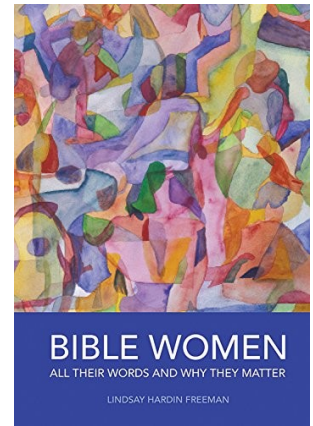
We need help with greeting, ushering, communion, refreshments, counting, and readings. Please think about helping us out as we would so appreciate it!

I must say a big thank you to all whom have served over the last few months! I am really enjoying getting to know more and more parishioners!

Lois Irvin

Bible Women

Did you miss the last two studies? No worries. You can show up anytime. Come and Join Kris Dill, Spiritual Director for Central Lutheran, as she leads the study of the book, Bible Women, By Lindsay Hardin Freeman.



This will last about one hour each Tuesday evening. Contact her via email if you have questions, kdill@centrallutheranaz.org

If you would like your own copy of the book, it can be obtained on Amazon.

If you cannot afford the book, contact pastor Doug, we will get a book for you.

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.

On Fathers Day we will serve hot dogs, chips and root beer floats!

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 is at the other location.

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.

Free Hot Lunch Mission

The Eloy Hot Lunch program is up and running and needs our help.

We need desserts for each Wednesday. Can you bake or buy treats for the hot lunch? Treats do not need to be individually wrapped, but they do need to be “finger food”.

In Casa Grande or AZ City stick your treats with a “hot lunch” tag in the church fridge or freezer (plate, bags or boxed) for the ladies to

deliver to the program site (just let them know they are there). We need enough for 18 each week.

Ideally, we would like to stock our freezer with treats for the program! Questions? See Sandy Christopher or Judy Smith.



Streaming Worship

Changes are coming to our streaming. In July, we will beginning a new format of streaming. What does that mean for you? Hopefully you find a more pleasant experience with multiple camera views and worship screen directly in the stream feed. As we progress, we will then also work with making the audio better as well. WE NEED YOUR HELP. Do you have an old Smart Phone? Contact Pastor Doug. We may be able to use this for our streaming. Are you getting a new Smart Phone, contact Pastor Doug to see if we can use the old one. We also still could use some direct additional giving to upgrade the streaming. We were able to secure a much lower cost system, but it still will cost for tripods, cables, micro-phones and iPads. Donate to the STREAMING FUND. You can do this online, cash, checks or our faithlife app. Help us make this a great experience for you.



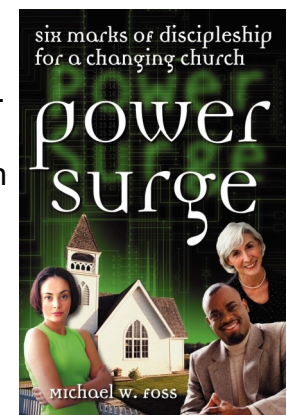
Discipleship Sermon Series

Don't forget to get your copy of Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship. This will be the basis for the sermon series that starts on July 10. Pastor Doug will be covering chapters from the book and will have related scripture for discipleship as referenced in the book. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book (Recommended) you can do so at Amazon. All scripture readings are posted on our calendar on the website.

Kindle version is \$5.99
paperback is \$18.70

Follow this link to purchase a book.

If you cannot afford the book, contact pastor Doug, we will get a book for you.



Central Lutheran Endowment Committee

Dear Central Lutheran Members,

As Lutherans and members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we do God's work in the world — restoring and reconciling communities. We pursue justice and seek peace no matter how long the journey or wide the chasm.

We thank you for your continuing support and effort to collect the balloon payment for our mortgage. So far over \$6,000 has been donated but more is needed. This is important ministry, and we need your effort.

We are also looking to the horizon regarding the rebooting of our endowment fund efforts. We are working with Lisa Higginbotham, Regional Gift Planner, and ELCA Foundation representative to help us explore various ways to improve the effectiveness and accessibility of our endowment to our congregation. We will explore this ministry over the next few months and will have articles and resources available for you. We hope we can offer our congregational members the flexibility to make outright and planned gifts and manage large gifts more effectively — making the most of all the blessings with which God has blessed us.

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of Central Lutheran. If you have any questions about Endowment practice or our activity, please call Lisa Higginbotham at (805) 910-5048, or email Lisa.higginbotham@elca.org.

Faithfully Yours,

Your Central Lutheran Endowment Committee



Synod Assembly

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."



Grand Canyon Synod

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

WANTED: ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to teach adults to speak English or tutor them for GED test preparation? If you enjoy helping others achieve their personal development goals, this is the right opportunity for you. The flexible, one-on-one approach to teaching allows you to really focus on individuals' unique learning needs. A volunteer orientation will provide you with what you need to get started. Just complete and submit the Volunteer Interest Form on the website or write to CommunityEd@centrallutheranaz.org to find out more about how you can get involved.

ThisDay's
Reprise

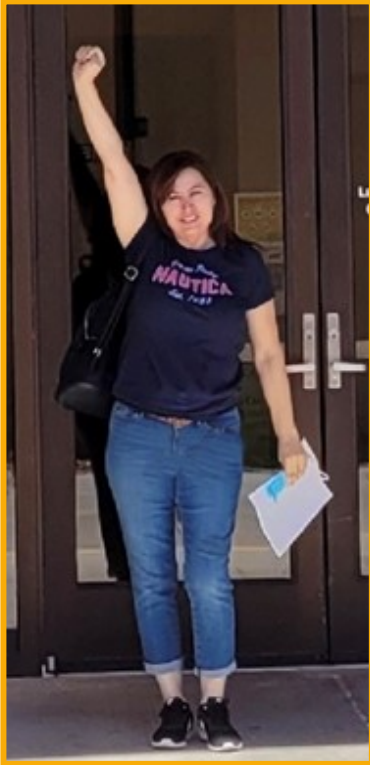
When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles. When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops praying, the devil shouts for joy.

-Corrie Ten Boom

Adult Community Education



Success Promotes Success!

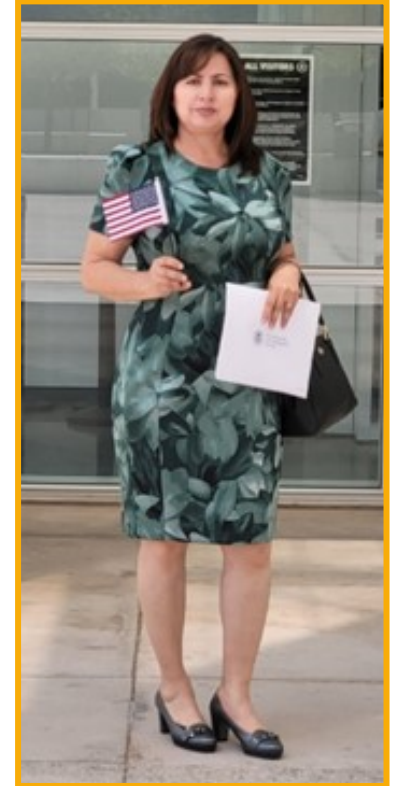


Teresa, a new GED graduate, outside the Testing Center.

One of the blessings of the Adult Community Education (ACE) ministry is the satisfaction of knowing program participants' achievements that tutors facilitate are like gifts that keep on giving. The team often get updates from past participants to let us know how their successes have promoted even more success in their lives. Recently, program alumna, Teresa Ocampo, contacted us with an update.

You may remember it was in July 2021 when the ACE team announced Teresa Ocampo had earned her GED (at left). Since then, in November 2021 she was hired at the Nikola manufacturing facility in Coolidge, a job she would not have qualified for without her high school credentials.

Now, there is more good news – last month, on April 29, Teresa became a U.S. citizen (at right)!



Teresa, an American citizen, outside the courthouse.

Teresa shared with us. "I used the skills and learning to get a new and better job and to reach my dream of becoming an American citizen." Please join the ACE ministry team in congratulating Teresa on her continued success. Teresa has now re-enrolled in the ACE English tutoring program to continue to enhance her English language skills with a focus on workplace interactions.

Welcome back, Teresa!