



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

July 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.

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

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.

The deadline for the August Newsletter is July 21st.

Worship at Central Lutheran

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

July 10

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Series Power Surge: 6 Marks of Discipleship
Week 1 of 6

Psalm 63:1-7, Acts 8:14-15, Luke 11:1-4

July 17

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Series Power Surge: 6 Marks of Discipleship
Week 2 of 6

Exodus 3:11-15, Revelation 4:9-11, John 4:13-26

July 24

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Series Power Surge: 6 Marks of Discipleship
Week 3 of 6

Acts 8:32-35, Romans 15: 1-4, Luke 4:16-22a

July 31

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Series Power Surge: 6 Marks of Discipleship
Week 4 of 6

James 1:22-27, 2 Corinthians 9:6-9, John 12:33-34
Matthew 20:24



Food Bank

June's noisy offering for the Food Bank was \$64.04. We take this offering on the 4th Sunday of every 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

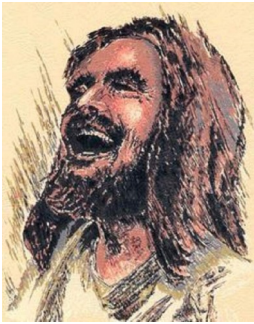
Peg Brady

Pastor John Donovan-

Jerry Edwardson

Dell Hoff

Mary Pietrini

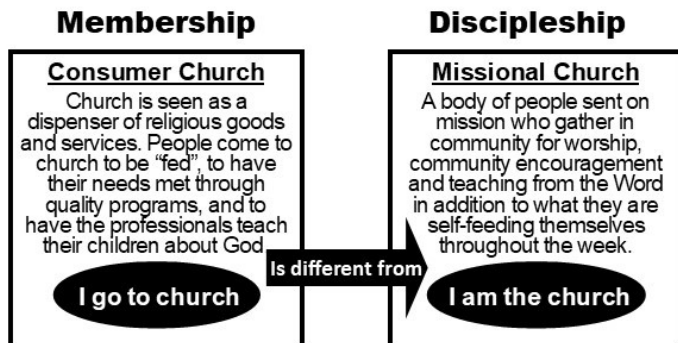


Membership Vs. Discipleship

So often congregations get fixated upon keeping up or growing membership. Membership does not equate to donations, which if we face it, is why congregations look towards membership. Donations should pay for the expenses of doing ministry, aka mission.

Sometimes expenses pay for others to do, what volunteers will not do. I have a friend of mine who has a congregation who worships over 300 each weekend. Other than the band, the paid staff is a part-time secretary and a part-time custodian. The rest are disciples doing the missions of the congregation, so others can do mission and outreach.

Maybe, actually, hopefully, this graphic looks very familiar. It have put it in multiple locations. Yes, subliminal messaging. Kind of like how the Holy Spirit provokes. Maybe that is who is actually sending the message?



"A church that continually reminds its disciples that service begins at home and in the workplace, as we strive to build healthy relationships, seek reconciliation, resolve conflicts, and simply care for the people closet to us is also more likely to attract more people into structured programs of service." (Power Surge, Michael W. Foss)

Starting July 10th, I will be starting a sermon se-

ries on discipleship which will be six weeks long. Discipleship churches grow because those disciples are committed to responding to God and will come and do. Some of you may have already stopped reading, but to those who have continued, let me give you a preview of the sermon series. By the way, some may stop when you hear what the marks (identifiers) are, of those that are committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

The sermon series is based upon a book written by ELCA pastor Michael W. Foss, Power Surge: six marks of discipleship for a changing church. This is the same book that the church council has been reading and will be discussing as central to the council retreat in September. As I mentioned, marks or identifiers for the person seeking discipleship, that they are headed in the right direction, committed to following Jesus Christ. Here are the six marks.

- Bible Study
- Prayer
- Worship
- Christian Service
- Giving to support mission
- Living in Grace

Each of these are not as you can or as you desire, nor can you simply say, "It's not my thing". They are done regularly, consistently, and not out obligation but out of response to God. "It is the long experience of the Christian church that walking humbly with God-which practicing the marks of discipleship assists-is the surest way of justice and kindness." (Power Surge, Michael W. Foss)

You can obtain your copy of the book at Amazon. If you would like a book, but are not able to afford one, see pastor Doug and he will get you a copy. This book is available in print and Kindle.

- Peace
- A disciple of Christ, in progress.
- Pastor Doug

New Adventures

In the middle of June, several leaders in the congregation, embarked on what promises to be the beginning of an evolution for Central Lutheran and the community we serve. As you have been hearing, change is and will continue to happen. It has been a little over 6 months since Pastor Doug was called to the congregation. It has been during this time with the leadership, that many things were discovered.

As you have heard, our records have not been kept up to date and financial records are limited. We are on an old constitution from when the ELCA was formed and there are no by-laws. We have started the process of updating records, proposing changes to the constitution, and working on by-laws.

In June, a Stewardship Team was formed. The first training was done, and a new member of the stewardship team was added. Your Stewardship Team consists of Janice Dearth (Team Lead), Lois Irvin, Scott Aasheim and Pastor Doug. After the first meeting, the council joined in for an hour-long introduction. If you would like to be part of this team, please let Janice or Pastor Doug know. This promises to be nothing like Stewardship that was done in the past. As we understand, there has been little emphasis on Stewardship and no previous Team. Look for more to come. Our synod supplemented most of the costs around the year long process. Stewardship in the faithful response of all that God gives.

The following week, the council, Jarrod Iversen and Kris Dill, had a meeting with a visioning consultant. Holy Trinity in Chandler has gifted us \$1,000 to be used towards the consulting fees. Vision in a congregation and even in a business, is necessary for the congregation to flourish. We have a mission statement, but mission drives towards a vision, which unfortunately, we do not have.

We spent nearly two hours discussing the process, the possibilities and getting homework for our next session. We are very excited about

finding the vision that God has for Central Lutheran. This will be a process of evolution, as our consultant said. This is not a revolution, but a methodical process of change over time. Change proposals, implantation, evaluation, and changes again. This also means some things we have “always” done, may no longer happen. It means new things will happen. It is a very fluid evaluation process to move Central Lutheran in the direction that God is calling. Would you like to be part of the process? Please see pastor Doug to get connected.

The adventures that await, are full of anticipation, suggested changes, implementation, evaluation, and more of the same. We want people in the community to know who Central Lutheran is. When you say you are part of Central Lutheran, we want the response from others to be, I heard about, I have been part of, they do a lot for the community. God has something in mind, now to find out what it is, walk in faith, with God leading us all the way, while we do the work. That means, we need your help too.

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

Council Treasure Update -- Rick Hagen

Hello fellow Central Lutheran's. We are now in the midst of summer and the slow giving time for the church. We have had to dip into our capital reserve fund but continue to pay our bills on time. We have recovered most of the money lost in the night drop theft from May 15. Our bank has generously donated \$3000 to our congregation. I will continue to post an abbreviated financial statement at both sites but if anyone ever has a question concerning the churches finances please do not hesitate to ask me.

New Ministry Coming!

I am excited to announce that we will be starting a new ministry at the Arizona City site in July. We will be partnering with the Santa Cruz Valley Food Bank to offer Food Bank distribution at our Arizona city site. We will be distributing food baskets once a week on Thursday with the bulk of the food coming from the Santa Cruz Valley food bank. We will supplement this food with food that is donated by our congregation. I will be looking for volunteers to help me with this ministry. The food will be brought over from Eloy on Wednesday afternoon and prepared for distribution on Thursday morning from 9 to 11. I have been working with the Eloy food distribution for the past couple weeks and it appears that we will need 3 to 5 people to make this a successful endeavor. If you are willing to volunteer on a regular basis or even once in a while please let me know so that we can get a task force set up.

I hope everyone has a blessed and pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you all at worship on Sundays.

Thank you

Your Treasurer - Rick Hagen



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

Brief Report on Grand Canyon Synod Assembly By Jarrod Iversen

The Grand Canyon Synod Assembly was held June 10th and 11th at Love of Christ Lutheran Church in Mesa. I attended along with Pastor Douglas Dill and Jessica Aasheim from our parish, along with over 200 other members from the ELCA Grand Canyon Synod. The synod has member congregations from Arizona, Nevada and Utah.

What an amazing experience. The theme this year was "Stirred Up in the Spirit" and indeed we were. Church business was kept brief and well organized to move through it quickly, (praise be to God). Members to the Synod council were elected and members confirmed to attend the synod council assembly were ratified. The assembly also passed a resolution "A Call to Honor Diversity in Every Congregation" it can be read here: <https://www.gcsynod.org/s/2022-assembly-reference-counsel-report.pdf>

We were treated to a few different speakers. Two highlights for me were the Bible Study on Friday of Hebrews 10:24 – 25, "Provoking to Love and Grow" lead by Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta and Rev. Peter Perry and Saturday's "How to have a spiritual conversation without being a jerk," with Rev. Carol Breimeier. Reverend Carol mentioned during her lecture that she is willing to come to congregations and give this lecture. I hope this is something that we can do at Central Lutheran.

Overall, I hope I get asked to go back next year and the year after that and so on and so on.

"he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renew in the Holy Spirit," -Titus 3:5

This Day's
Verse

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 July 2nd this month and August 6th next 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

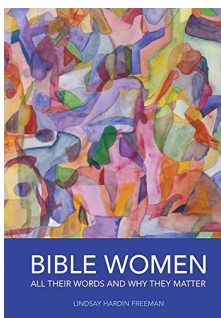
On May 29 we had a salad luncheon after the prayers around the cross service. Then on June 9th in Arizona City we hosted the Itty Bitty Adopt a Kitty spade and neuter clinic. People were asked to cage feral kittens and bring in to try keep the population in check, many household kitten were brought in also. I believe the count was 72. We will be hosting again July 28th.

Sunday June 19 (Father's Day) we will served hot dogs, a selection of chips and root beer floats! I am so pleased with all the help at these events. I think this summer has been so fun meeting new people going back and forth between our two locations!

Our family is leaving the end of June for 3 months. We will be back Oct 1st! Please sign-up to bring and serve refreshments at each site. There will be another salad luncheon July 31st (5th Sunday)! Please help make it successful.

Lois Irvin

Bible Women



Did you miss a study or two? 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 even-

ing. 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.

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.



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.

Streaming Worship

Changes are coming to our streaming. This month, we will begin 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 Cell Phones Needed!

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 tripods, cables, microphones and iPads will still cost extra. 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.

These phones will work on our new streaming system coming in July.

APPLE

iPhone XR
iPhone Xs
iPhone Xs Max
iPhone X
iPhone 8
iPhone 8 Plus
iPhone 7
iPhone 7 Plus
iPhone 6S
iPhone 6S Plus
iPhone 6
iPhone 6 Plus
iPhone SE
iPod touch 6

SAMSUNG

Samsung Galaxy S8/S8+
Samsung Galaxy S9/S9+
Samsung Galaxy S6 edge
Samsung Galaxy S6

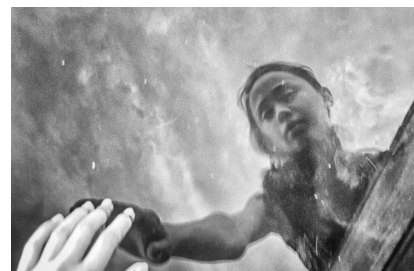
GOOGLE

Google Pixel 2
Google Pixel XL

OTHER

LG V20
Motorola Moto Z Play

The Spiritual Corner



-Kris Dill Spiritual Director

Proverbs 27:19

Just as water reflects a person's true face, so the human heart reflects a person's true character.

Have you checked your heart lately? I don't mean going to your cardiologist or your primary care doctor, although that is important too!

Sometimes we get so caught up in the day to day living we forget to check ourselves. When you are in a situation and it's not going your way, how do you normally react? If I'm being honest, my reaction is not always the best one. I have to remember it's not all about me.

As the verse tells us, reflections tell the truth, and cannot be hidden. God sees everything including what's in our hearts. What do you think people see in your heart?

Look in the mirror, I mean really look. Are you reflecting the person with a healthy heart? Are you showing love for every person, regardless of what they believe? Are you loving the "unlovable"?

We are all human and flawed. It is hard to love those we disagree with or who have hurt us. However, God's greatest commandment is to "I love one another, as I first loved you!" Maybe it's time to perform open heart surgery on our self's and mend it. God will help us, after all he's the best cardiologist around. Even better yet, he's free.

Gracious Lord, help us to remember that none of us can hide from you. Help us to show a healthy heart to all we meet in person and in private. Guide us in the best way to reflect your love and help us to love with our whole heart. Thank you, for giving us a chance to reset and do this moment by moment.

Amen.

Discipleship Sermon Series Is Starting!

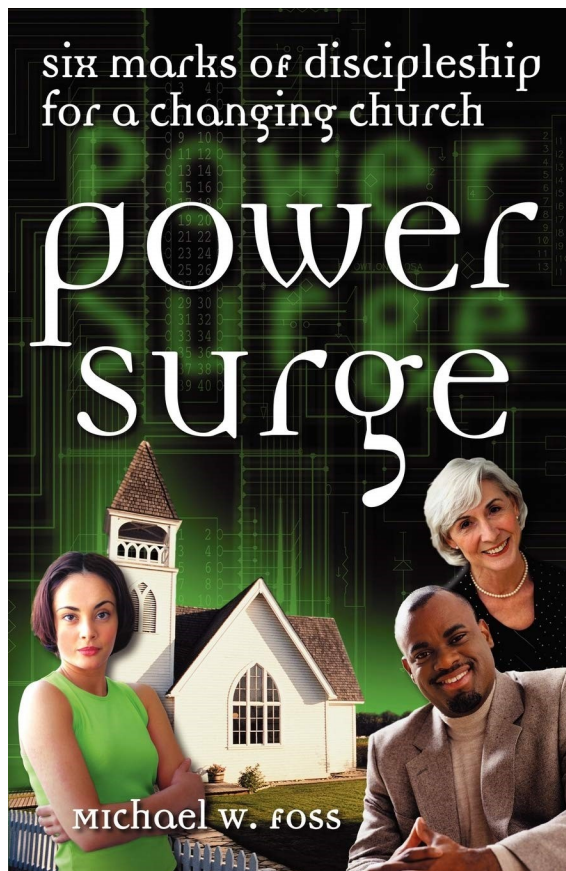


Starting July 10th Pastor Doug will be starting a 6 part sermon series that will be covering chapters from the book *Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship* and related scripture for discipleships as referenced in the book.

To get the most out of this series it is important that you are reading along. You will get far more from reading the book and listening to the sermons, than either one alone.

If you choose to purchase a copy of the book (highly recommended) you can do so on Amazon. Kindle version is \$5.99 paperback is \$18.70. If you cannot afford the book, contact pastor Doug, we will get a book for you.

All scripture readings are posted on our calendar on the website.



July

at a glance:



- 7/2 Prayer Shawl/Patch Ministry in Casa Grande at 9 am
- 7/3 Sunday Worship in Casa Grande at 9:15 am
- 7/4 Happy 4th of July!
AA Meeting in Arizona City at 5:30 pm
- 7/5 Bible Women In Casa Grande at 6pm
- 7/6 Pastor Doug's Casa Grande Office hours: 9 am-2 pm
- 7/10 Sunday Worship in Arizona City at 9:15 am
Power Surge Sermon Series Begins!
- 7/11 AA Meeting in Arizona City at 5:30 pm
- 7/12 Bible Women In Casa Grande at 6pm
- 7/13 Pastor Doug's Casa Grande Office hours 9 am-2 pm
- 7/17 Sunday Worship in Casa Grande at 9:15 am
- 7/18 AA Meeting in Arizona City at 5:30 pm
- 7/19 Bible Women In Casa Grande at 6pm
- 7/20 Pastor Doug's Casa Grande Office hours 9 am-2 pm
- 7/21 August's Newsletter Articles due.
- 7/24 Sunday Worship in Arizona City at 9:15 am
- 7/25 AA Meeting in Arizona City at 5:30 pm
- 7/26 Bible Women In Casa Grande at 6pm
- 7/27 Pastor Doug's Casa Grande Office hours 9 am-2 pm
- 7/31 Sunday Worship in Arizona City at 9:15 am

The full & most up-to-date calendar can be found at:

<https://centrallutheranaz.org/events-calendar>