



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Mailing Address

PO Box 677

Arizona City, AZ 85123-0677

www.CentralLutheranAZ.org

[www.facebook.com/
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September 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 October's Newsletter is September 15TH.

Worship at Central Lutheran

September 4

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:15–20, Psalm 1,
Philemon 1–21, Luke 14:25–33

September 11 - Flood and Promise

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17
Matt 8:24-27, Jesus calms the storm

September 18 - Call of Abraham

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9
Matt 28:19-20

September 25 - Joseph in Prison

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 39:1-23
Matt 5:11-12

October 2 - Rescue at the Sea

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29
Matt 2:13-15



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 360-320-7425

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)

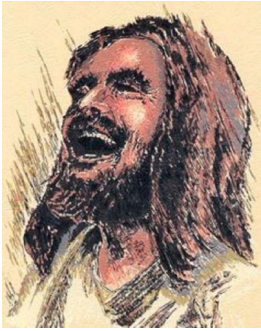
Recording Secretary

Mission Endowment Team

Peg Brady Dell Hoff

Pastor John Donovan Mary Pietrini

Jerry Edwardson



Spirituality and Stewardship

By Pastor Doug Dill

It may seem counter intuitive that Stewardship could be a Spiritual practice. Before we go there, it is important to understand the biblical practice of Stewardship. Even before that, we need to examine Stewardship and Tithing, which go hand in hand.

Merriam-Webster defines stewardship as:

- 1: the office, duties, and obligations of a steward
- 2: the conducting, supervising, or managing of something *especially* : the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

What is a steward? Again from Merriam-Webster:

- 1: one employed in a large household or estate to manage domestic concerns

God appoints us as stewards of all God has created. From Gen 1:28 (The Voice) ²⁸Then God blessed them and gave them *this directive*: “Be fruitful and multiply. Populate the earth. *I make you trustees of My estate*, so care for My creation and rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that roams across the earth.”

A Trustee is a person that entrusted to property to administer it for the benefit of another. You can interchange trustee and steward and therefore, we are trustees/stewards of the house God created, all of the world and all that is in it. Taking that deeper, that means all we have is not ours, but God’s, given on loan. We have been given a charge, a calling to manage what God has given, if that is not Spiritual enough, God gives directions all through the Bible, on what that looks like.

Stewardship does involve physical property, that which God gave us. But it also involves things such as sharing the Word of God with others. Think of the Great commission, Matthew 28:19-20.

A Tithe is a tenth of something, but more specifically it refers giving back to God a tenth of what God has given us, everything. Can you see the Spirituality? Maybe you don’t like to be asked for or ask of others, on behalf of God?

Stewardship is referenced in: 1 Chronicles, Psalms, Luke, 1 Peter, Ephesians, Colossians, and Matthew.

Tithing is referenced in: Genesis, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, 2 Chronicles, Nehemiah, Amos, Malachi, Tobit, Judith, Sirach, 1 Maccabees, Matthew, Luke, and Hebrews.

If that is you or you want to learn more, there is a great study coming up. It is being led by Pastor Doug and Pastor Miguel from the Grand Canyon Synod.

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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 September 3rd this month and October 1st 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.

We hurt people by being too busy.
 Too busy to notice their needs.
 Too busy to drop that note of comfort or encouragement or assurance of love.
 Too busy to listen when someone needs to talk.
 Too busy to care .

-James Dobson

ThisDay's Reprise



question hurts!

Attending church and being in the company of other believers, helps us confirm that we are children of God. Yet as you know we are called to do so much more!

Donations keep the lights on, and AC going. Let's not forgot, also supports the leader, who helps tend to your spiritual side and makes you reach outside your comfort zone.

Showing up at events, provides a time of fellowship with like minded people and belief in your congregation. Thereby creating a safe space and thriving community in support of each other.

Serving as a greeter, usher, reader, counter, or singer, show's involvement in more than just sitting in a pew. It show's your engaged in the worship and community of God.

I hear it all the time, that you're tired you need a break, or let the younger folks do it, I did my time. I ask you what younger folks? Where are they?

I'm sure Jesus's human side felt the same way... let someone else do it, I'm tired I don't want to die! Jesus would go away to get reenergized through prayer. Yet He never stopped working along and with the people, even as he hung on the cross, for all of us, asking God to forgive those who were crucifying him.

What can you do today, to help further God's mission for CLC? How can you help CLC soar high above, enjoying all that God has given us?

Father God, forgive us. We are tired, and don't have the strength to go on and keep fighting. Continue to guide us, help us to listen and provide us the strength it takes to serve you. To follow Jesus and become disciples, spreading the news of the one true God. Helps us remember, once our wings are clipped, that we have flown enough, we. still need others to pick up where we left off. **Amen.**

The Spiritual Corner

—Kris Dill Spiritual Director

Mark 10:45

"He came to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many people"

When you go to a restaurant or entertainment venue, you liked to be served. I mean who doesn't like it when people bring you whatever, you need; or assist with the everyday mundane chores?

I have a tough question for you. Who and how do you serve?

At the conclusion of the sermon series The Six Marks of Discipleship, what role (s) have you taken up?

If you don't want a bird to fly you clip it's wings. If them becomes dependent on you to care for them, providing food, shelter and keeping them safe.

If you want the bird to fly free, their wings are not clipped, so they continue to fly high. This now allows them to explore, learn, grow, and keep themselves fed and happy.

I'm going to ask another tough question; Could you be clipping the wings of CLC? I know that



Treasurer Update

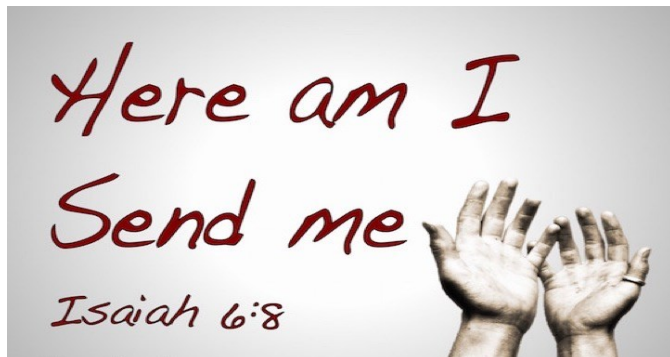
Hello fellow Central Lutheran's. We are almost through our endless summer here in Arizona and are all looking forward to the cooler fall temperatures. From a financial standpoint it has been a challenge to keep our finances afloat, but with some short-term borrowing from our restricted funds we have been able to pay all of our bills on time.

Our giving relative to the budget approved by the congregation in January is down about 20%. Our expenses are pretty well in line with what was budgeted. We have raised in excess of \$6000 towards the retirement of the mortgage on the fellowship hall in Arizona city. We still need about \$30,000 more.

We opened the Food Bank with our first distribution on August 18. To say we had a large crowd would be very much an exaggeration. We will be doing better promotion of the distribution in the future and hope that this ministry is a great success going forward. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the first distribution and I look forward to your continued help in the future.

I hope to see you all at worship services on Sundays and have a blessed month and rest of the summer.

-Your treasurer Rick Hagen



Disciple Teams

As we continue to transition from a membership model into a discipleship model, and your council continues its visioning process with a vision consultant, something has become abundantly clear. We need to form teams of disciples. The teams become the core of the disciples being the church.

When I took the call as your pastor at Central Lutheran, I quickly learned that the basics of being church, to be disciples and serving the people of God, were missing. The discipleship sermon series and the book, laid out the basics of being a disciple. When it comes to teams, which are needed to have a fully functional congregation for mission, it requires more than a single pastor running what should be done and not done.



Being part of a team involves multiple marks of discipleship. Serving, giving, and spiritual friendship all play a part in teams. Lois Irvin is the current team lead of the Fellowship Team and she is in need of additional team members. Fellowship was the first team that I asked to be formed. It is important we take the time to fellowship with each other, learn to be church together, as one congregation.

It is now time to start putting other teams together. We have started to form the Stewardship team. We need more committed disciples to make this work. We are a couple of months into a program called, Stewardship for All Seasons. The upcoming study that starts on September 12, is a great way to learn about Stewardship but also to learn about this valuable team to engage with.

A funeral team is needed as well. This congregation is an aging congregation, as such, we have recently had several deaths and more will come. One of the best things we can do for

members, their families and others who mourn, is helping for a smoothly organized funeral. When we host funerals or memorials, several things must happen. So far, I have had to reach out to multiple people and ensure other aspects get done. This can be very distracting from the role I take on as pastor and taking care of the family. We need a core set of people and a team lead. This way there is a single point of contact and the other aspects get taken care of, as I take care of the meetings with family, planning the service, leading and preaching.

We need to form a social ministry team, the core of which is to provide needed social services. We do some of these ad-hoc, but to have a team oversee and a team lead to provide direction, can enhance our offerings to serve God's people and reach for more to serve. The ministries we have that can fit under this are: Manna Bags, Quilting given to those in need, Food Bank, Toiletries Collection, Prayer Shawl/Patch, Good Gifts, and Angel Tree.

There are many more teams that are important to form. Without the teams and the leaders, we are not walking as ministers and disciples in ministry. The body of Christ is missing the necessary limbs for us to carry out ministry in the world. As a congregation, we need to come together and serve, not ourselves but all of God's people.

Each team should have not only full-time residents of the area, but also include the gifted disciples who are our winter guests. The Team Lead should be a full-time resident. This will help provide consistently, no matter what time of the year it is. Please consider being part of the new ministry teams that are forming. Look for others to be formed as well, such as Evangelism, Ushers, Readers, Streaming, Assisting Lay Ministry and more.

Learn who God is calling to you be, becoming engaged in studies. We have upcoming; Spirituality of Stewardship, Walk on Water and Spiritual Gifts. There will be others coming as well. Be engaged, be a serving disciple and reaching out to all for the Kingdom of God.

-Pastor Doug



Community

We have a great opportunity in this community as an ELCA congregation. The ELCA stands for equality for all. This means that your gender, race, previous religious affiliations, baptized as an infant or adult, does not matter. We welcome all and we truly mean all. Not all that are like us or conform. We are open to conversation, reconciliation and do not judge. That is who we strive to be. Not always do we do well, but we strive to be caring about all and loving all.

In our community, we are different than most of the congregations, especially when it comes to other Lutheran denominations. There are a few non-Lutheran's similar to us and in fact we are in full communion with them, meaning we can share the sacraments and even pastors. We are poised to be able to offer something that many other congregations cannot.

We can accept all without judgement. No matter what their worship preferences are, how the dress, whom they marry, the color of their skin, etc., etc. When we do events, such as the concerts, there was no cost and not restrictions. When we have our craft fair, there are no restrictions on who can participate and who can come and shop. These events are community based. We are called to serve all. These events are not for us but for the community. The more we can do in and for the community, the more we can be as God called us, as we try to live out the expressions called by or denomination.

Denomination is not the end all. God is the end all. How we live and express that, is very different than so many other congregations. Many

people have been hurt by congregations and denominations that they do not want to step foot in the doors of another. If we can continue to be open and welcoming, which also means welcoming by having community events, and opening the doors for community events, people will see who we are. This is why we now have a food distribution, why the Itty Bitty Bottle Babies are hosted in Arizona City. As I write this, we opened the doors in Casa Grande for an overdose awareness event.

We always want as many people to participate in what is being done in/at Central Lutheran. Sometimes the participations is showing up and other times it is setting up. Financial support for events either through donations of goods, time or monies is important too. Ultimately, support for God's people outside of the four walls is the ultimate goal. Giving people an opportunity to experience the love of God for them, in Christ Jesus. We do, because of who God made us.



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.

Spirituality and Stewardship

CONTINUED FROM PG 3

A four-week Study, Mondays at 6:15 pm, Starting September 12, 2022 in Arizona City and online via Microsoft Teams. You can download the Teams software by searching online for the Microsoft Teams software.

Due to a scheduling conflict, there will be no class on October 3. We will finish up on October 10, 2022

To register for the class, head to:

<https://centrallutheranaz.org/bible-book-studies>

Alternatively, there are signup sheets at each worship site. Suggested book to be pre-read before each session. After registration, a link to attend remotely, will be sent to you, if you register online. Otherwise one will be provided later when registering with the paper forms.

The books cost \$27.25. There are 11 copies at the time of this article. Links to get more are part of the online registration. If you cannot afford a book, that is okay. It is a suggested donation. Not a requirement. You need only ask for the books.

Perhaps the thought of asking people for money intimidates you. It's time to change the way you think about fundraising.

"Fundraising is, first and foremost, a ministry," best-selling author and renowned spiritual teacher Henri Nouwen writes. "It's a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission."

Nouwen encourages us to see fundraising as spiritual work and approach it confidently. "Fundraising is precisely the opposite of begging," he points out. Unlike most business/ leadership books, A Spirituality of Fundraising is brief and can easily be read in one sitting.



Bible Women

Join Kris Dill, Spiritual Director for Central Lutheran, as she leads the study of the book, Bible Women, By Lindsay Hardin Freeman. Each study will last about one hour every Tuesday evening in Casa Grande at 6 pm. Email Kris if you have questions, kdill@centrallutheranaz.org

Can you Hear me?



As some of you are aware, there is hearing assistance available in Arizona City. We have devices that you wear over your ears. These devices receive a FM transmission of the worship service to help you hear. There are multiple devices available. But.....

We found that we have a similar setup in Casa Grande. If you would like, we have multiple devices there also. Pastor Doug found this device and spent a couple of hours testing and setting up the equipment. It has been reported that it was a good first run few weeks ago. If you need the equipment, see one of the ushers or pastor Doug.

Volunteers Needed

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.



COME JOIN US!

- WHO:** CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
- WHAT:** CRAFT FAIR
- WHEN:** 9:00 am- 3:00 pm both dates:
OCTOBER 15, 2022 in Arizona City
And
OCTOBER 22, 2022 in Casa Grande
- WHERE:** 10/15/2022 – 12921 Sunland Gin Road
Arizona City, AZ 85123
10/22/2022- 324 North Sacaton
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

No Entrance Fee for shoppers

Food sales and bake sale onsite

To register for a Crafter/Vendor spot please visit:

www.CentralLutheranAZ.org/craft-fair

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 donate them locally, to such places as Eloy and Casa Grande Police, Nursing Services, Assisted Living facilities, Oasis rehabilitation, Indian reservations and many other locations.

The quilters need to purchase or construct cabinets to hold their tools and supplies. However, 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



TRUNK OR TREAT

When: Saturday October 29th, 2022

From: 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

What: Bring your car to the Casa Grande Worship site full of candy.

Seems rather spooky to speak so early of Halloween, but we want you all to know up front so we can have a really eerily large gathering for Trunk or Treat. What are you talking about, I am sure you are asking. We have a great opportunity to participate in the Historic Downtown Halloween Stroll.

Okay, a little more detail if you will. We have been asked to park as close to Florence as we can. Come dressed up. Dress up your car. Make this a big event. We will be participating with businesses in downtown. Last year there was 800-1000 participants in the event.

Come ready to hand out sweets, tricks and have lots of fun. Bring chairs to sit on, and maybe a cooler of drinks for yourself. We will have handouts about the congregation to be given with candy. Additionally, if someone would like to contribute, we can get can Koozies to be handed out as well. It would have our logo, web address and the two cities we serve. We are looking to raise \$800 to purchase 1,000 of these. You can drop a check in the offering plate to Trunk or Treat or donate online at <https://www.centrallutheranaz.org/give>

The direct link to the fund for this is: <https://faithlife.com/clc-az/give?funds=51026>

We need to purchase these Koozies by **October 1st**. Please consider helping out.



Online Automated Giving helps CLC Support Mission

You can give via the app, through text, check in person or mail. You can also setup automated or one time giving in the app or online. Consider setting up a reoccurring gift via electronic giving. Also please consider covering the processing fees, it is an option via the electronic giving.

Don't forget, while you are away, mission still continues.

Also, don't forget that we as a congregation have committed to a significant increase in expenses. We all need to step up in whatever way we can, so we do not need to draw down on our savings.

You can give online at <https://www.centrallutheranaz.org/give> or via the faithlife app.



September at a glance:

Date	Time	Event	Location
9/1	9:00 AM	Food Bank Distribution	Arizona City
9/3	9:00 AM	Prayer Shawl/Patch Minisrty	Casa Grande
9/4	9:15 AM	Sunday Worship	Casa Grande
9/5	5:30 PM	AA Meeting	Arizona City
9/6	6:00 PM	Bible Women	Casa Grande
9/7	9 a-2 p	Pastor Doug's Office Hours	Casa Grande
9/7	6:30 PM	Praise Band Practice	Casa Grande
9/10	7:00 AM	Day of Service	CG Mtn
9/11	9:15 AM	Sunday Worship	Arizona City
9/12	5:30 PM	AA Meeting	Arizona City
9/12	6:15 PM	Spirituality of Stewardship	AZC & Online
9/13	6:00 PM	Bible Women	Casa Grande
9/14	9 a-2 p	Pastor Doug's Office Hours	Casa Grande
9/14	6:30 PM	Praise Band Practice	Casa Grande
9/15	9:00 AM	Food Bank Distribution	Arizona City
9/15	4:00 PM	Newsletter Articles Due	Online
9/18	9:15 AM	Sunday Worship	Arizona City
9/19	8:30 AM	Men's Group	Casa Grande
9/19	5:30 PM	AA Meeting	Arizona City
9/19	6:15 PM	Spirituality of Stewardship	AZC & Online
9/20	6:00 PM	Bible Women	Casa Grande
9/20	6:00 PM	Council Meeting	Casa Grande
9/21	9 a-2 p	Pastor Doug's Office Hours	Casa Grande
9/21	6:30 PM	Praise Band Practice	Casa Grande
9/22	8:00 AM	Itty Bitty Bottle Babies	Arizona City
9/25	9:15 AM	Sunday Worship	Arizona City
9/26	5:30 PM	AA Meeting	Arizona City
9/26	6:15 PM	Spirituality of Stewardship	AZC & Online
9/27	6:00 PM	Bible Women	Casa Grande
9/28	9 a-2 p	Pastor Doug's Office Hours	Casa Grande
9/28	6:30 PM	Praise Band Practice	Casa Grande
9/29	9:00 AM	Food Bank Distribution	Arizona City
10/1	9:00 AM	Prayer Shawl/Patch Minisrty	Casa Grande

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

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