

Worship Schedule

Arizona City

Sunday -- 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School

For information on Sunday School for children contact Linda Gal (705-1450).

Casa Grande

Saturday Evening Lent -- 5 p.m.

(through March 21st)

Sunday -- 10 a.m.

Youth Night in Casa Grande

Call Kara Cooper (426-9228 eve) to learn about youth weeknight program.

Fellowship is held at both sites each Sunday.

Our Worship

Our focus is on the good news shared by God through Jesus Christ, and is celebrated through the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion. Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at all services.

Worship Assistants

You are needed to help as greeter, usher, reader, communion server, offering counter, and nursery care. Sign-up and you will be contacted regarding the date to help.

Altar Flowers -- Sign-up to provide flowers on the altar for a special remembrance or event.

Name Tags -- We would like to have name tags for all of our worshipers. Sign up for yours.

Youth Night Classes

Weekday Bible studies and events for elementary, middle school and high school students are held on

Wednesdays 6-7:30 p.m. at the Casa Grande campus.

Classes for the different age groups are led by Kara Cooper, Anne-Marie York, and Pastor Thom.

Ladies Quilting Ministry

All women of the congregation are invited to join in quilting fellowship on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Arizona City. Bring your lunch. Quilts are shared each year with the women and children at the Against Abuse Shelter in Casa Grande.

Community Food Pantry

Our congregation has donated thousands of food items to the Casa Grande Food Bank. The second **Sunday of each month** has been designated as a day to support those in need. You are encouraged to make it a practice to bring food items each month for the food bank. Food bins are located at both of our sites.

Hot Lunch Program

You can help the Eloy lunch program on Wednesdays by providing 25-50 homemade or purchased "treats." For information call Judy Smith (466-6227). You can bring your "treats" to worship on Sunday and they will be delivered to the program site.

Men's Saturday Coffee

Saturday, March 7th

8 a.m. Casa Grande campus

Come join in the opportunity for fellowship and discussion of *Lutheranism 101*.

Bingo Night

Friday, March 20th

7 p.m. in Casa Grande

You and your friends are invited for an evening of fellowship and fun. Snacks and refreshments will be served. Game proceeds will be given to the *ELCA Malaria Campaign*.

9-Hole Golf Scramble

Sunday, March 15th at 2 p.m.

Arizona City Golf Club

Golfers of all abilities are invited to play, sign-up at either campus. Fellowship is held after play.

Spring Softball Season

Your Central Lutheran "*Saints*" begin the regular season on March 9th. Schedules are available.

All games are played at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on Pinal Ave. in Casa Grande. You are invited to come out and support your team.

Request to Travelers

Contribute shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, toothpaste and coffee packets to *Helping Hands*, which assists families through mentoring, healthcare, nutrition, and emergency programs. A container is located in the entry at both sites.

Community Education Ministry

Thank you for the \$3,800 in donations received for this ministry!

You can help adults learn English and develop basic education skills.

--Volunteer as a basic ed tutor;

--Sign up for upcoming English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher training.

-- Make a donation by placing it in the offering (designate for "adult education")

For more information, contact Alyson Stephens: 602-721-1673 or alysonstephens@q.com.

"Christ in Our Home"

Devotional booklets for April through June are available to be picked up.

Remember in Prayer

Ada Biese, Harry Brink, Maxine Cadman, Marv and Ruby Craun, Bryon Foss, Pam Gardner, Mark Gerrish, Brandon Harless, Bob and Patricia Hedblum, Bev Hoffman, Ken and Betty Hunter, Rolland Karlin, Elaine Keane, Gertie Kenyon, Gene Kruger, Bill Liebhart, Gene and Paula Luft, Don and Bonnie Murphy, Walt Neulieb, Neil Northey, Jon Schmidt, Sharon Syvertson, Gary Towle, Larry West, Elaine Woodall, Ski Wrybkowski, Helen Zaudtke.

Our Mission: "*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.*"

“What You Have First Given Us”

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Lutheran Book of Worship Offering Prayer)

Grow in giving for our growing ministry by joining the “One Hundred \$100’s” program. Presently for 2015, we have 86 commitments of an additional \$100 to the offering. Meeting our goal of 100 commitments will increase our funds by \$10,000!

Internship Fund

The internship program continues to be a part of our ongoing stewardship effort. We have received 39 pledges, for a total of nearly \$25,000, and have received nearly \$25,000 in contributions.

You are encouraged to continue to make your donations to support a future internship. Watch for more news on how you can help with this program.

Casa Grande Land Fund

Our property “growth fund” has a balance of \$5,652, for the purchase of a permanent Casa Grande site. Discussion of future possibilities is ongoing.

“Get Linked”

Remember to check the Central Lutheran Church website, www.centrallutheranaz.org for the schedule of events and news. For the monthly **newsletter** and **sermons** go to the “Get Linked” page.

Our **Photo Album** has been updated and is available online.

From an e-mailed newsletter click on this link:

<http://www.centrallutheranaz.org/images/CLC%20Photo%20Album.pdf>.

Once the photo album is displayed in the browser, you can save it to your computer and then view it in Adobe Acrobat.

Note: to download Adobe Acrobat for free click here: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

You can contact Pastor Thom through the website or at pastor@centrallutheranaz.org

Upcoming Council Meeting: Tue, March 24th at 6:30 p.m. in Casa Grande – submit all agenda items to Sandy Christopher.

Financial News

Account balances through February: Offering Income: \$25,594
Balance General Fund: \$13,793 Average Monthly Expenses: \$17,000
Capital Fund: \$76,167 – includes the Internship Fund: \$24,908
Casa Grande Land Fund: \$5,652
Balance of Mortgage with Thrivent: \$323,908 (12/31/14)

Central News

March 2015

Being the Church

Over the years, we seem to have altered the meaning of the word *church*. In our common usage, sometimes it means a *place* that we go to. Other times, it refers to an activity, such as, when does *church* start? Often the word is used to describe an *institution* – the Evangelical Lutheran *Church* in America. Such definitions are appropriate, but they miss the original meaning and purpose of *church*.

The essence of *church* is family – people around the world who follow Christ, living lives of compassion, grace, and love. When the Apostle Paul wrote about the *church*, he wasn’t writing about a building, an activity, or an institution.

For Paul, the expression *church* meant a personal relationship with one another.

He most often compared the *church* to the human body.

In the body, all parts are important and must function in harmony. If one part of the body is injured or sick, then the entire body suffers. All parts of the body must operate in unison to function. Some parts are more visible, while others play a vital role within. There are no small parts in the body of Christ.

So, don’t think of *going to church*, which focuses on buildings and events. Instead, think of the people who are the *church*. Appreciate them for who they are, what they need, and what they contribute to the body. Think about yourself.

What is your role? How do you contribute to the overall health and fitness of the body?

Being the church involves an interactive relationship between people, with Christ as the common bond. With such an understanding, we don’t ever leave *church*, but are the *church* each and every day.

“Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, but encouraging one another.”

-- Hebrews 10:24-25

Central Lutheran Church **Thom Stephens, Pastor**
12921 S. Sunland Gin Road **PO Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85123**
(520) 466-5024
324 N Sacaton Street Casa Grande, AZ 85122 (520) 316-9659
www.centrallutheranaz.org