

“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.

We now have 100 commitments of an additional \$100 to the offering!

These 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 exceeded the 39 pledges, for a total of \$23,400, 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, April 28th at 6:30 p.m. in Arizona City – submit all agenda items to Sandy Christopher.

Financial News

Account balances through March: Offering Income: \$29,310

Balance General Fund: \$25,139 Average Monthly Expenses: \$17,000

Capital Fund: \$77,398 – includes the Internship Fund: \$24,908

Casa Grande Land Fund: \$5,652

Balance of Mortgage with Thrivent: \$323,908 (12/31/14)

Central News

April 2015

A Witness to the Good News

Jesus is God’s Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn’t want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind like His Father and He told His Father that they didn’t know what they were doing and to forgive them, and God said OK.

His Father (God) appreciated everything He had done and all His hard work on earth, so He told Him He didn’t have to go out on the road anymore.

He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now He helps His Father out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important, of course. You can pray any time you want and they are sure to hear you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there’s anybody you want to make happy it’s God. Don’t skip church to do something you think will be more fun, like going to the beach. This is wrong.

And, besides, the sun doesn’t come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don’t believe in God you will be very lonely because your parents can’t go everywhere with you, like camp, but God can! It’s good to know He’s around you when you’re scared in the dark or when you can’t swim very good and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But you shouldn’t just always think of what God can do for you.

I figure God put me here and he can take me back any time He pleases.

(Exert from a 3rd grader’s assignment “Explain God”)

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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

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.

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

6 p.m. Arizona City

Good Friday, April 3rd

6 p.m. Casa Grande

Easter Sunday

April 5th

6 a.m. Sunrise -- Casa Grande

8:30 a.m. -- Arizona City

10 a.m. -- Casa Grande

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

Thank you to all the ladies who have helped with the quilting ministry. The program will continue in the Fall, yet materials can be donated throughout the year.

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.

Men's Saturday Coffee

Saturday, April 4th

8 a.m. Casa Grande campus

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

Spring Softball Season

Your Central Lutheran "*Saints*" are halfway through the Spring season, with a record of 5 and 3. Schedules are available. All games are played at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on Pinal Ave. in Casa Grande. Thanks to those who come out and support our team.

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.

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.

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."

Community Education Ministry

Thank you for the \$5,600 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.

Malaria Campaign

Thank you for the contributions to this ELCA ministry, over \$900 was received last month.

"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, Ruby Craun, Bryon Foss, Pam Gardner, Mark Gerrish, Ray Grant, 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.

Bereavement -- Ruby Craun and family following the death of Marv.