

“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 received 39 pledges, for a total of nearly \$25,000, and have received over \$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 \$6,676, 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, May 19th at 6:30 p.m. in Casa Grande – submit all agenda items to Sandy Christopher.

Financial News

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

Balance General Fund: \$22,432 Average Monthly Expenses: \$17,000

Capital Fund: \$77,398 – includes the Internship Fund: \$26,098

Casa Grande Land Fund: \$6,676

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

Central News

May 2015

“The Way I Would Want My Mother Treated”

I arrived at the address where someone had requested a taxi. I honked but no one came out. I honked again, nothing. So I walked to the door and knocked. “Just a minute,” answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged to the door.

After a long pause the door opened. A small woman in her 90’s stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like someone in a 1940’s movie. By her side was a nylon suitcase.

The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered in sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters.

In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

“Would you carry my bag out to the car?” she asked. I took the suitcase to the cab and returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowing toward the curb.

She kept thanking me for my kindness. “It’s nothing,” I told her. “I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated.” “You’re a good son,” she said.

She gave me an address and asked, “Could you drive through downtown?” “It’s not the shortest way,” I answered quickly. “Oh, I don’t mind,” she said. “I’m on my way to hospice.

I don’t have any family left. The doctor says I don’t have very long.”

I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. “What route would you like take,” I asked.

For the next two hours we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as a elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl.

Sometimes she’d ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring. She suddenly said, “I’m tired. Let’s go now.”

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move.

They must have been expecting her.

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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.

Thailand Trek

Vacation Bible School

July 6-9th 5:30 -7:30 p.m.

Casa Grande

A cross cultural adventure for our young children. You can help by being a leader or helper, or making a donation. Volunteer information and sign-up forms are available.

To learn more talk with Ruthann Raitter (421-2586).

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.

Note: There will not be a weekly gathering on May 20th and 27th.

Men's Saturday Coffee

Saturday, May 2nd

8 a.m. Casa Grande campus

Come join in the opportunity for fellowship and discussion.

"Christ in Our Home"

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

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 math skills. Volunteer as a tutor or make a donation (designate as "adult education") For information, contact Alyson Stephens: 602-721-1673 or alysonstephens@q.com.

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.

Spring Softball Ends

Your Central Lutheran "*Saints*" ended the season with a first round tournament loss. Thanks to all the fans who came out to support our team. The summer season will begin in June.

(story continued) "How much do I owe you," she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," I said. "You have to make a living," she answered. "There are other passengers," I responded.

Almost without thinking, I gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. I squeezed her hand and walked away. Behind me a door shut, it was the sound of the closing of life.

I drove aimlessly for the rest of the day, lost in thought. What is she had gotten an angry driver or who was impatient? What if I had refused to take the run or honked once and driven away?

I don't think I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments, but great moments often catch us unaware, beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one. People may not remember exactly what you did or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel.

Remember in Prayer

Ada Biese, Harry Brink, Maxine Cadman, Ruby Craun, Bryon Foss, Pam Gardner, Mark Gerrish, Ray Grant, Bob and Patricia Hedblum, Ken and Betty Hunter, Rolland Karlin, Elaine Keane, Gertie Kenyon, 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 -- Marilyn Kruger and family following the death of Gene.