

“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, September 15th at 6:30 p.m. in Casa Grande – this month submit all agenda items to Loretta Sutton.

Financial News

Account balances through August: Offering Income in August: \$10,663

Balance General Fund: \$11,824 Average Monthly Expenses: \$17,000

Capital Fund: \$74,317 – includes the Internship Fund: \$26,098

Casa Grande Land Fund: \$6,676

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

Central News

September 2015

Personal Growth

Is there ever a time we stop learning? Improving ourselves? Could the end of personal growth happen with a graduation and a diploma? Perhaps in our *golden years*? Not likely, because the education process is ongoing and real life lessons continue.

The beginning of the school year is a time to reflect on education, growth and improvement. The opportunity to improve ourselves does not end. We should consider ourselves ongoing projects. We are works in progress.

Always improving and never stagnant. In this era of technology, we have been taught we are much like computers, only as good as we are programmed.

God did not design us to be stagnant in any respect: spiritually, physically, mentally, or socially. Yet, growth does not happen automatically. Growth requires constant, systematic, and disciplined personal development. There are books to read, people to meet, and new places to discover. Our growth should be exciting and stimulating.

In the season of Pentecost we emphasize the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit and how God is involved in the details of our lives. The Spirit is a part of our lives to help us grow and improve. With that assurance, we shouldn't be afraid to try something we don't think we can do, and maybe enjoy it. We may learn to thrive on challenge and, even, set a goal that absolutely terrifies us. We are to consider how we can make a bigger impact with our time and talents.

Begin each day remembering that learning begins with attitude. We are to prepare our hearts and program our minds for growth.

“Beloved, whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, if there is any excellence and anything worthy of praise, think about these things; keep on doing the things you have learned and received and heard in me.”

-- Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:8-9

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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.

***“Come Share
the Spirit!”***

Men’s Saturday Coffee

Saturday, September 26th

8 a.m. Casa Grande campus

Come join in the opportunity for study, discussion and fellowship.

Youth Night Classes

Each week Bible study, discussion and activities are offered for our elementary, middle school and high school students.

The gatherings are held on **Wednesdays** from

6-7:30 p.m. at our Casa Grande campus. Study topics include our

scriptures, the Small Catechism, present day social issues, and what it means to be a Christian.

Classes for the different age groups are led by Kara Cooper and Pastor Thom.

Community Education Ministry

New students are currently starting our adult study programs. You can help them learn English and develop basic math skills. Please consider volunteering as a tutor or making a donation -- designate as “adult education.”

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

Thank you for the \$5,600 in donations received for this ministry!

“Christ in Our Home”

Devotional booklets for October through December are available.

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.

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.

Fall Softball Season

Your Central Lutheran “*Saints*” are preparing for the upcoming season that begins on September 14th. Games are played on Monday nights at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on Pinal Ave. in Casa Grande.

Weekly Meetings at Our Sites

AA -- Monday at 5:30 p.m. in AZ City
AI-Anon -- Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in Casa Grande

Remember in Prayer

Ada Biese, Harry Brink, Maxine Cadman, Ruby Craun, Rev. Bekah Davis, Pam Gardner, Mark Gerrish, Ray Grant, Bob and Patricia Hedblum, Ken and Betty Hunter, Rolland Karlin, Elaine Keane, Gertie Kenyon, Bill Liebhart, Gary Linafelter, Gene and Paula Luft, Walt Neulieb, Neil Northey, Jon Schmidt, C.J. Squires, Sharon Syvertson, Gary Towle, Larry West, Elaine Woodall, Ski Wrybkowski.

Bereavement -- Pat Hedblum and family following the death of her mother, Helen Zaudtke.

Looking Ahead

9-Hole Golf Scramble

Fellowship for the golfers in the congregation.

Sunday Leadership

Participate as a worship or song leader; or a member of a special music group.

Fellowship Events

Join with members from both of our sites for special activities.

Ladies Quilting Ministry

Weekly gathering at AZ City site.

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.”