

“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.

We had 100 commitments in our “One Hundred \$100’s” program. These 100 commitments would increase our funds by \$10,000! We are currently about \$5,000 ahead of last year’s offerings. However, following the summer months we are \$5,000 behind on paying our expenses. Please review your offerings for the year to see if you have missed any contributions. Thank you.

Internship Fund

The internship program continues to be a part of our ongoing stewardship effort. We have received over \$26,000 in contributions. You are encouraged to continue to make your donations to support internship for 2016-17.

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_compressed.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, November 10th at 6:30 p.m. in Casa Grande – submit all agenda items to Sandy Christopher.

Financial News

Account balances through September: Offering Income in October: \$11,470
(Income was supplemented with \$10,000 from our capital fund)

Balance General Fund: \$1,939 Average Monthly Expenses: \$17,000

Capital Fund: \$64,158 – includes the Internship Fund: \$26,098

Casa Grande Land Fund: \$6,676

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

Central News

November 2015

Season of Advent

With Advent the new church year begins. The first Sunday of Advent -- this year is November 29th -- is the Sunday closest to St. Andrew’s Day (Nov 30th). The season of Advent varies in length from 22 to 28 days, ending Christmas Eve. The season is looked upon as a time of personal reflection and introspection, preparation through penitence, prayer and patience.

The word *advent* originated from the two Latin words: *ad* (to or toward) and *venire* (to come), thus “to come toward.” The word emphasizes the joyful anticipation of Christ coming to our world. We celebrate three aspects of the “coming” of Jesus:

1. the coming of Jesus in human form
2. the coming of Jesus in Word and Spirit
3. the second coming of Jesus in glory.

Advent directs the church to examine the events surrounding Jesus’ birth, to reflect on the revelation of Christ in scripture, and to look ahead to Christ’s final return.

We prepare and hope for the entrance of Christ into this world and the next.

The color for Advent is purple, which symbolizes dignity and royalty, but also the sorrow and penitence of Christ. The color blue, symbolizing hope, may also be used during Advent.

The Advent wreath symbolizes watchfulness and anticipation as the Lord’s nativity approaches. The wreath has four outer candles. The *Prophecy* candle announces the period of waiting; the *Bethlehem* candle symbolizes the preparations being made to receive the Christ child; the *Shepherds’* candle typifies the act of sharing Christ; the *Angels’* candle symbolizes love and Christ’s final coming. A fifth candle, the *Christ* candle, sits in the center of the wreath to remind us that Christ is the light of the world. Lighting an additional candle each week during Advent symbolizes the increasing amount of light spread to the world as Jesus’ coming approaches. The circular evergreen wreath represents eternal life through Christ, God’s gift to us.

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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 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.

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."

Thanksgiving Eve

Wed, November 25th at 6 p.m.

Arizona City

Offering will be shared with Lutheran hunger ministries.

Men's Saturday Coffee

Saturday, November 21st

8 a.m. Arizona city 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

Many students are currently participating in 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 nearly \$6,000 in donations received for this ministry!

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.

"Christ in Our Home"

Devotional booklets for October through December are available.

Fall Softball Season

Pick up a game schedule for the Fall season and plan to see the action. Games are played on Monday nights at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on Pinal Ave. in Casa Grande.

Remember in Prayer

Ada Biese, Harry Brink, Mareta Buchholz, Maxine Cadman, Ruby Craun, Rev. Bekah Davis, Ellva and Gene Erickson, 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, Judy Smith, C.J. Squires, Sharon Syvertson, Gary Towle, Larry West, Elaine Woodall, Ski Wrybkowski.

Bereavement: Sandra Reyes, following the death of her mother.

Looking Ahead

9-Hole Golf Scramble

Sat, Dec 12th at 1 p.m.

Arizona City Golf Course

Fellowship for the "golfers" in the congregation and invited friends.

Sunday Leadership

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

Saturday Evening Worship

Upcoming services will begin at our Casa Grande site during the season of Advent.

Ladies Quilting Ministry

Weekly gathering at AZ City site. You can help this ministry by the donation of materials.