



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Mailing Address

PO Box 677

Arizona City, AZ 85123-0677

www.clcaz.net

Facebook @ [fb.clcaz.net](https://www.facebook.com/fb.clcaz.net)

www.twitter.com/@CLC_AZ

April 2023



Sign up for electronic giving on our website or through our app.

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<https://clcaz.net/app>

You can text to give at:
520.636.0505

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Our Location & Worship Times

12921 Sunland Gin Road
Arizona City, AZ 85123
520.466.5024
520.316.9659

8:30 am In Person
10:00 am In Person
Online at both services

Email at: office@CentralLutheranAZ.org

Mission Statement

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.

The deadline for the May Newsletter is April 20th.

Church Directory

Church Office

Arizona City 520-466-5024

Arizona City 520-316-9659

Douglas Dill 402-235-6969
Pastor pastordoug@CentralLutheranAZ.org

Samantha Yarberough Treasurer@Centrallutheranaz.org

Office Office@CentralLutheranAZ.org

Church Council (* Executive Council)

*Janice Dearth, (719) 510-4301
President jdearth@CentralLutheranAZ.org

*Mary La Paglia, (520) 313-7652
Vice President mlapaglia@centralLutheranAZ.org

*Leda Townsend, (520) 788-0019
Treasurer ltownsend@CentralLutheranAZ.org

*Karen Debold, (520) 560-1332
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Leigh Riese 520-705 6698
lriese@CentralLutheranAZ.org

Vacant

Vacant

Mission Endowment Team

Dell Hoff

Mary Pietrini

APRIL BIBLE READINGS:

April 2 - Palm Sunday

Passion Sunday

Matthew 21:1-7

Psalms 118:25-29

April 6 - Holy Week

Maundy Thursday

Matthew 26:17-30

Psalms 116:12-15

April 7 - Holy Week

Good Friday

Matthew 27:27-61

Psalms 22:1-2, 14-18

April 9 - Easter Sunday

Resurrection of Our Lord

Matthew 28:1-10

Psalms 118:19-24

April 16 - The Great Commission

Second Sunday of Easter

Matthew 26:17-30

Psalms 116:12-15

April 23 - Words of Institution

Third Sunday of Easter

Matthew 9:36-37

Acts 10:1-17, 34-48

April 30 - The Gospel Proclaimed

Third Sunday of Easter

Matthew 10:40-42

Acts 13:1-3, 14:8-18

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS:

For a full & most up-to-date calendar
visit: <https://clcaz.net/calendar/>

Sundays:

Worship: 8:30 am & 10:00 am in AZ City,

Mondays:

AA Meeting in AZ City 5:30 pm

Tuesdays:

Bible Women 6 pm, in AZ City

Wednesdays:

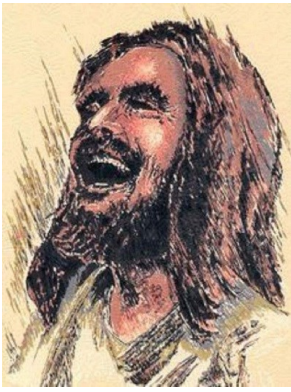
Pastor Doug's Office hours in Arizona City 9a-2pm

Thursdays:

Quilting Group in AZ City 9a-2p

Food Bank Distribution in AZ City 9a-11a every other Thursday

Praise Band Practice in Arizona City 6:00p-7:30p



Resurrection

By Pastor Doug Dill

Resurrection can actually take so many forms. As Christians, we often associate resurrection to Jesus. The empty tomb, Jesus got up and walked away from the place that bound him after he died.

God made sure that the tomb did not hold Jesus back. Jesus got up, folded his burial cloths and exited. It was a new day and new life for Jesus, but in His case a new life for all of us. Luke 24

For all sorts of seed bearing plants, the seeds must fall to the ground, and get covered, die to its old self, to sprout into a resurrected new self.

The caterpillar must be covered and appear to be near death to be changed into new life. That whole time of transformation, perils can abound until the process is complete.

Think about times in your life when it all seemed to have ended. Everything you had worked so hard for may have even seemed to be aban-

doned, doomed to never be seen again in the light of day.

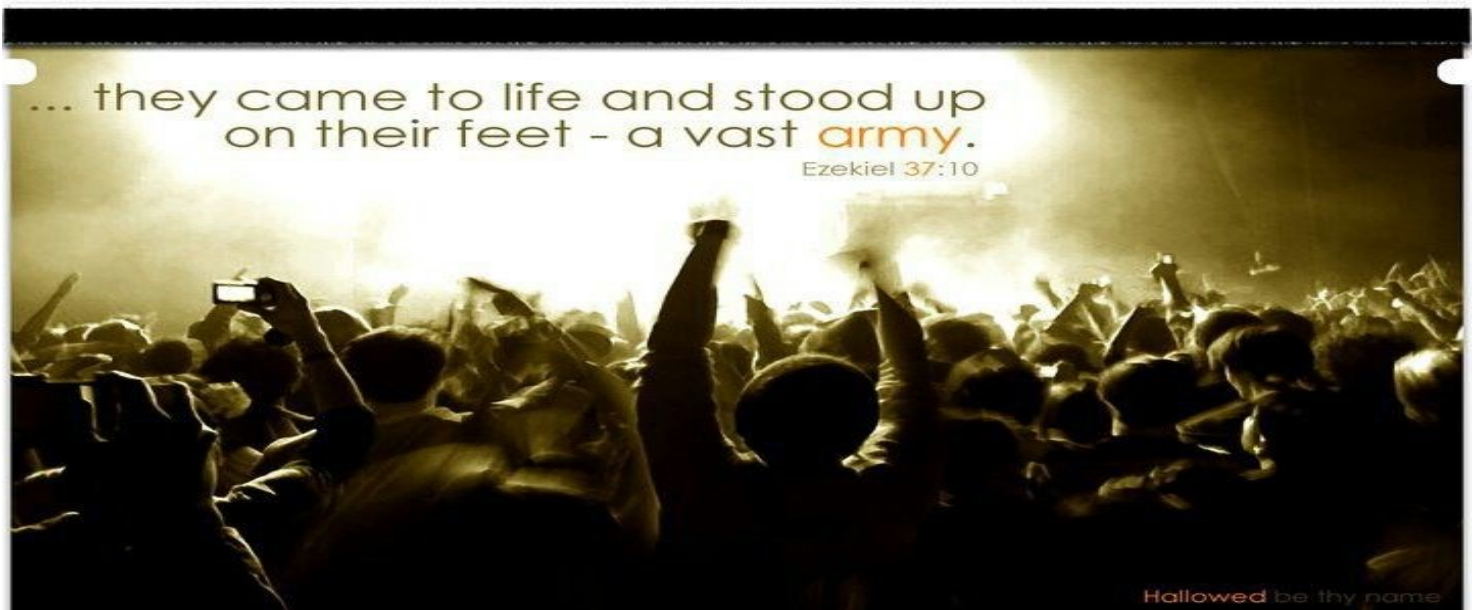
God has amazing ways of working in death. I am reminded of God and the prophet Ezekiel. You may recall the story how Ezekiel was brought by the spirit of the Lord, into the middle of a valley, where it was full of dry bones. Ezekiel 37

Ezekiel listened.....and did what the Lord commanded. Each of the steps were followed and once the breath entered the bones and they were covered with skin, and they now lived.

Then the Lord said to Ezekiel, "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.'

The Lord opened the graves, gave new life, a resurrection to the people, in the promise to take them back to the land of Israel.

Fifteen years ago, Central Lutheran ventured out of Arizona City and started another preaching site in Casa Grande. Why all this happened, is because of God. Why others wanted to be part of this, well that can be up for debate. It matters not at this point, why, but it ... **CONTINUED ON PG 5**



Food Bank Update

March noisy offering collected \$133.24

We take this offering on the 4th Sunday of every month. Bring your loose change & even dollar bills.



The Spiritual Corner

Kris Dill, Spiritual Director

Jeremiah 29:11-12

The Voice

¹¹ “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Eternal, “plans for peace, not evil, to give you a future and hope—*never forget that*. ¹² At that time, you will call out for Me, *and I will hear*. You will pray, and I will listen.”

These are my personal guiding verses. It’s my go to reminder when I’m feeling lost, abandoned, left behind, and scared. I wanted to take this moment to share these verses with you.

We closed our doors at the Casa Grande location recently, and I’m sure this has left many of you with a lot of mixed feelings and emotions.

In speaking with others, I’ve learned why this loss might be so hard for so many. Many of you donated time, labor, and money to make the Casa Grande site a wonderful worship site. Not to discount, it might be “closer” to your home. My understanding was the site was not even ready to be a sanctuary, until the people of CLC created it.

What a true labor of love.

As sad as this is, it really might have been the right thing to do, at this time.

Maybe, it can be related to raising our children.

We give them life, help them to grow and they move on. So now what do we do?

Wait. Before you get upset with me, think of this as a new beginning. CLC can rise out of the ashes like a Phoenix, and once again be in Casa Grande. God doesn’t want any church to close,

but I do believe God wants us to take inventory, and shutting one site down, is one way to do that! Taking inventory just means, looking inside and redefining who we want CLC to be. How do we want to be seen by the community, and what might it take to get there?

You have an opportunity to be a part of God’s bigger plan! God didn’t want us worshipping a “religion”. If I’m not mistaken, Martin Luther wasn’t wanting that either! God does want us to reach others, and to teach others how to know the feeling of God’s love.

Church should never be about the “building”, but we as CLC are building something! Are you ready to take on the challenge of showing God’s love to everyone?

Thank you, God, for reminding us that you are near. That serving others is how we serve you, beyond just church services and butts in the pew. Give us the strength and the courage, to follow your lead, and those of the people you send to walk with us on this journey.

AMEN



A Resurrection

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

did happen. Little by little it grew and expanded to another location in Casa Grande. No matter the reasons God's people did this. It was God in charge and God is still in charge.

I can hear our Lord speaking to us today.

The Lord hears, "these bones are the people of Central Lutheran, who worshiped in Casa Grande for fifteen years. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.'"

The Lord says, My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to Casa Grande and beyond.

God is not done in Casa Grande, neither is God done with Central Lutheran, in Casa Grande. Like Paul walking down the desert roads, blind and leaning upon his friends to find his way, God will reveal to us God's plans.

Then too, just like Paul, the scales will fall from our eyes. New paths will be revealed. We will go forth, resurrected to carry out God's will beyond the four walls of our Arizona City site, into where Holy Spirit will lead us.

Jesus was resurrected into new life and we are and will be again too. God is good all of the time and all of the time God is good!



I'm excited to share the news with you that we have a new home base for the Central Lutheran ACE ESL and GED tutoring program. It is the **Seeds of Hope Mondo Anaya Community Center**, seedsofhopeaz.com. We started our tutoring activities there on March 27th.

Seeds of Hope focuses on promoting opportunities to improve lives through education, relationships, and community development. If you browse the above link, you'll see that the Seeds

of Hope, hosts many programs, including an after school program, hot lunch program, a community garden, senior center, and a monthly free wellness clinic. The interim director, Mark, and the new director, Joe Rivas, director@seedsofhopeaz.com are excited to add ACE ESL and GED tutoring services to the Community Center's programming. Eva and I found this site to have these advantages:

- It has classroom space with tables, chairs, and whiteboards to support tutoring activity – at least one classroom will be dedicated to ACE, and there are three other rooms that are usually available, along with the office and storage room that can host a table and four chairs.
- It has a secure space for ACE laptops and equipment.
- The site is central and visible to the Latina community with active programming that will naturally promote ACE program awareness.
- The center is staffed daily, so someone will often be available to field inquiries about the ACE program and promote the tutoring services.
- This can be a productive collaboration with a non-profit community partner who already has a strong network of partnerships with city and faith-based organizations.
- Seeds of Hope and ACE share a common mission: improving lives through education, so the collective enthusiasm for the work we'll do should help us to overcome any unforeseen site transition challenges ahead and inspire program growth.
- The space is available at no cost.
- Seeds of Hope is affiliated with the Presbyterian USA and therefore we will be able to keep the grants that have already been made available through the Grand Canyon Synod and the ELCA.

I'm excited and I hope you are too!

Alyson Stephens

astephens@centrallutheranaz.org

leading to a stronger faith-filled community
eager to do God's work.

Think with our hearts, instead of our heads.

Leda Townsend

Church Council Treasurer

What has changed?

Recently I reread two books that I had read some fifteen years ago. The first is "The Shack" by Wm Paul Young. The second is "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Philip Yancey. As I was reading these books, it occurred to me that my experience in reading them was very different this time. What had changed? I had changed.

The first time, I read them with my head. I was full of doubts about my faith and these books only unsettled me. This time, I read them with my heart, allowing the Holy Spirit to move within me. As I matured, so had my outlook.

We are now moving into the Easter Season, a time of hope and renewal. This Easter Season will look very different from what we have experienced in the last few years. Our church community has changed (and I hope matured). We could dwell on the past and examine all our past actions (thinking with our heads).

OR

We can think with our hearts. We can move forward and allow the Holy Spirit to move within us. Your Church Council has chosen the latter path. We cannot do this alone. We need every single member to move forward with us. How can we do this?

Allow the Holy Spirit to continue to transform our community.

Be open to new ideas of how we "do" church.

Use our Spiritual Gifts to forge a new path

Maunday Thursday

The liturgical color is either scarlet or white.

What does the name mean?

The term "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum;" it is from a verb that means "to give" or "to order" — command. After Jesus and the disciples finished the Last Supper and walked toward Gethsemane, Jesus taught them a new commandment — "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34).

The Last Supper

On the first Maundy Thursday, after they had eaten, Jesus gave the disciples his body and blood together with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of their sins. Called Holy Communion or the Eucharist, Lutherans believe this to be one of two sacraments — gifts from God. Most worship services focus on the meal and communion as a way to commemorate this day.

Foot washing

The story of the Last Supper in John's Gospel records a remarkable event that is not mentioned in the other Gospels — to illustrate humility, Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another. Some Lutheran congregations incorporate this act of humility into their Maundy Thursday services.

Stripping of the altar

After the Eucharist is celebrated it is customary to "strip the altar," which symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. It represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebra-

tion of new life. In many congregations Psalm 22 is read or sung while the paraments are being removed.

Good Friday

No vestments or paraments are used on this day.

The stations of the cross

The stations of the cross is a devotional practice that consists of 14 stations, each one standing for an event that occurred in the passion of Jesus. Art, combined with literature, movement, prayer and reflection assist people as they work their way through this devotion.

The seven last words of Jesus

These are the phrases spoken by Christ during the time of his crucifixion. Recorded in the Gospels, they reveal the divinity of Jesus as well as his humanity.

'Tre Ore'

Italian for "three hours," "tre ore" refers to the time that Christ was on the cross — from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. While no definite ritual is prescribed, this service centers on a series of homilies on the seven last words of Christ, along with appropriate hymns, periods for silent meditation, and the stations of the cross.

Tenebrae (Latin for "shadows" or "darkness")

Tenebrae is usually held the evening of Good Friday and includes the gradual dimming of the lights and extinguishing of candles. The Christ candle is removed from the sanctuary and a concluding "Strepitus" or loud noise (slamming shut the Bible) symbolizes the earthquake and agony of creation at the death of Christ.

The above for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are taken from the Living Lutheran magazine.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2013/04/three-days-traditions-maundy-thursday-good-friday-vigil-easter/>

April 5, 2013

Shield A Badge Needs you!

Contact: Kris Dill

We are still in need of people to pray for the Shield A Badge program.

We still have 109 officers who could use your prayers. This prayer is said during your prayer time, nothing special is needed.

Please reach out to me if you would like to receive a badge number. You can let me know at church, send me a text, sign up on line or send me an email.

I look forward to hearing from you.

kdill@centrallutheranaz.org

Text: 715-680-9062

Online: <https://clcaz.net/shield-a-badge/>

Knitter/Crocheter's

We need you

First Saturday of the month

9:00-11:00 am

The knitter/crocheter's team would love for you to join us. We are now meeting at the coffee shop; Tumblebeans in AZ City.

We are making shawls for the Casa Grande, Police Department, as well as our church. We really need your help to meet the needs of the community.

We would love to be able to help support the police department and hopefully Pinal County in handing out comfort to those in need. We have secured so much yarn, you don't have to buy anything!

There is no pattern you must follow, so you can create your own.

Along with providing comfort, we can fellowship as we create these much needed, beautiful shawls.

Casa Grande Police Chaplin

Pastor Doug has officially started as a volunteer Chaplain for the Casa Grande Police. He will be utilized along with other staff chaplains to assist the police, fire and community.

You may see him from time to time on police and fire calls, even doing ride-alongs with officers, having lunch or dinner out and about in the community.

The chaplains are on call for an entire week, then another Chaplain will take the next week and so on. Chaplains can be utilized for death notification, serious motor vehicle accidents and officer-involved shootings and even during domestic

arguments.

Depending upon the seriousness of the event, Pastor Doug may need to leave at a moments notice, on a Sunday, even during worship. Pastor Doug has full confidence in Jarrod to be able to continue with the worship should that happen, along with others in the congregation.

This is a good opportunity for Central Lutheran to stay connected with the Casa Grande community. Additionally, other police departments may utilize the Chaplains as well. Eloy does not have their own Chaplains and from time to time Pinal County may need additional Chaplain assistance.

Laundry Love

"If I had clean clothes people would treat me like a human being."

T-Bone (Eric), Laundry Love Co-Fonder

Connie Cameron is looking for someone to assist or take over the Laundry Love and work with the coordinator of the program in Casa Grande.

Please see her if you would be willing to help.

It is more important than ever, without having a physical presence for worship in Casa Grande, that we still stay active in ministry in the City. April 12th is our next Laundry Love servant opportunity. This runs from 3-7 pm. We need assistance in two hour shifts. Reach out to Connie Cameron at (812) 890-8210 to see how you can respond to God. The event is held at: Quick Clean Laundromat, 950 E Florence Blvd, Casa Grande. Financial assistance is response as well. Please consider giving financially to Laundry Love. It costs about \$600 per event. However, our last event was almost double that cost. Give on Sunday in the plate or online at: <https://give.clcaz.net>

Find out more about Laundry Love on their website, <https://www.laundrylove.org>

Easter, Egg Bake

I hope that you have heard by now that we will have a time of food and fellowship between Easter Worship Services. The featured dish will be an Egg Bake. Would you like to help with this event? Please see Lois Irvin.



You may have noticed by now, that there are no more name tags with the lanyards. They were all removed from the mail boxes.

There are now sticky name tags available at the entrance. We would ask that each of you consider writing at least your first name on one and wearing them.

This will allow for all the Casa Grande folks to fit in as well as any guests that may come. We can all look the same and be able to greet each other