



Central Lutheran Church

Come Share the Spirit!

Mailing Address

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Arizona City, AZ 85123-0677

www.clcaz.net

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May 2023

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- Church Directory
- May/June Bible Readings
- Weekly Happenings
- Words from the Pastor
- Food Bank Update
- The Spiritual Corner
- Arts-n-Meals
- Step by Step
- Laundry Love Update
- A Parable
- Audrey's Hugs
- Laundry Love
- Seminary
- Electronic Giving
- May Calendar



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

Download app:

<https://clcaz.net/app>

You can text to give at:
520.636.0505

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
Starting 6/4 9:15 only

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 June Newsletter is May 18TH.

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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Scott Aasheim (612) 272-1490
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Leigh Riese 520-705 6698
lriese@CentralLutheranAZ.org

Vacant

Vacant

Mission Endowment Team

Dell Hoff

Mary Pietrini

MAY/JUNE SCRIPTURE:

May 7

Romans 1:1-17

Matthew 9:10-13

May 14

Romans 3:28-30, 5:1-11

Matthew 11:28-30

May 21

Romans 6:1-14

Matthew 6:24

May 28 Pentecost

Acts 2:1-4 Romans 8:14-39

Matthew 28:16-20

Jun 4 The Commandments

No other gods

Exodus 20:1-3 Psalm 14:1-2

Mark 12:28-30

June 11

Make no idols

Genesis 1:26-27 John 1:1-14

Exodus 10:1-2, 4-6

June 18

Don't take the Lord's name in vain

Psalm 39:30-31 Romans 2:21-24

Exodus 20:1-2, 7

June 25

Remember the Sabbath, keep holy

Genesis 1:31 Mark 2:23-28, 3:1-7

Exodus 20:1-2, 8-11

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,
Starting June 4th at 9:15 am only

Mondays:

AA Meeting in AZ City 5:30 pm

Wednesdays:

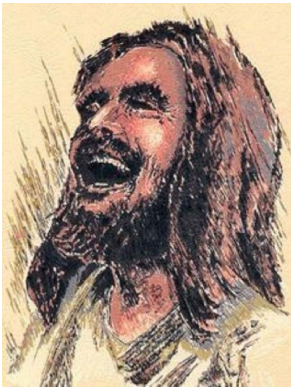
Food Bank Distribution in AZ City 8a-10a every other Wednesday

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

Thursdays:

Bible Women 6:00p-7:00p

Praise Band Practice in Arizona City 7:00p-8:00p



Commandments

By Pastor Doug Dill

Over the summer, our Narrative Lectionary, takes a break from prescribed readings until mid August. During that time, is an opportunity for pastors and congregations to be engaged in a sermon series.

I have been contemplating what sermon series could/should be done. The commandments kept showing up around me. Finally I made the decision, or more appropriately it was God that made the decision for me.

I am always struck how perfect God is. I

know it in my heart but my head too often gets in the way of allowing the heart to lead.

Hopefully you all know the commandments. If not, it is not too late to seek out the law of God in Exodus, Deuteronomy and Leviticus. You can find all the commandments listed, except for one.

As I was planning out each Sunday with the readings, what really struck me was that God had already planned out the perfection God wanted.

When I filled out each week with the main reading and the accompanying readings for each Sunday, it struck me.

Each week was filled perfect. We were not short and we did not have too many. God was perfect again, as God has been and will continue to be. Thanks be to God!



Food Bank Update

April noisy offering collected \$208.50

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

Every Cent Counts!



The Spiritual Corner

Kris Dill, Spiritual Director

NIV

Matthew 28:20b

²⁰ and surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

What a powerful statement! Sometimes we get so busy with our daily living, we forget about God. Well, at least until Sunday when we attend our church service.

When you are having the best day of your life, do you talk to God? When your angry or scared, do you talk to God?

If we are honest with ourselves, most people don't give God, the daily thought that is so deserving. Oh sure, when we don't see things working out the way they should, we are quick to ask God “Why not me?” or “Why can't I catch a break?” Or even, “Everyone else around has the perfect life. Why don't I God?”

Maybe someone has been ill, or died; “Why them God?”

Sometimes, in those weak moments that we all have, instead of asking “Why?”, or even “Where are you?”, maybe, we should just say thank you God.

I know that sounds odd, to say “Thank you”, in times of loss, hardships, fears and celebrations. However, thanking God, reminds us HE is ever present. The dead are not dead, the material losses are just losses, but what a blessing to have had them. What a blessing to have lived an earthly life, with the ultimate spiritual life waiting for us.

This month, when you wake up in the morning, how about just saying “Thank you God for the day ahead of me!”

Thank you, God, for always being there for me.
Thank you, God, for holding me when I'm waking,

carrying me when I'm feeble; being the light on the dark road, and also in celebrating my joy's.

Amen

Arts-n-Meals

From June through September on the first and third Thursdays from 10:15 am—1 pm, we will be the host site for the Arts-n-Meals: Nourishing Essential Creative Connection program. This program is sponsored by Pinal Gila Council for Senior Citizens www.pgcs.org.

This program's purpose is to reduce social isolation among older adults living in their homes in rural communities that have no senior centers, therefore no opportunities for creative and social engagements. The program pairs a creative engagement (art project) with a social engagement (catered lunch to increase socialization and friendships).

Pinal Gila Council for Senior Citizens is the host who partners with ArtMobile-AZ Lisa Swanson, who facilitates the event and Central Arizona Meals on Wheels who provides 5 frozen meals to be given to each participant.

Step by Step

Thank God for the Romans!

Rev. Seminarian Jarrod Iversen

Salutations CLC people! Pastor Doug asked me to write articles for our newsletter regarding what I am learning in Seminary. With that, I present to you my little corner of the newsletter: “Step by Step”. I'm going to start with the history of the

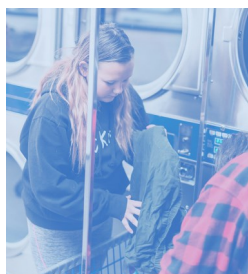
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Laundry Love Update

April noisy offering collected \$352.99

We take this offering on the 2nd Sunday of every month.
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church and turning points of early Christianity. The subjects being talked about here are much more than these articles can convey. I am going to try to boil it down to a base idea. Walk with me, won't you?

Thank God for the Roman Empire! This may seem like an odd thing to say since we recently celebrated Easter and the crucifixion of Christ at the hands of the Romans was a key part of that. And too, we have always heard about how oppressive and cruel the Roman occupation was to those they conquered.

So why thank God for them? Could there be a silver lining? Is it possible that without them the Christian church might have never have grown to what it is today. I'm not even referring to Constantine's conversion to Christianity in 312 CE. No, I'm talking about much, much earlier.

The Jews had lived under Roman occupation and oppression since 63 BCE. Life under the Romans was very hard for them. While Rome was somewhat tolerant of other religions, they wanted the people they conquered to sacrifice to their gods and even to the emperor while being free to worship their own. But the Jews refused. Jerusalem refused. Exodus 20:3 reads, "You shall have no other gods before me". So how could they ever sacrifice to Roman gods?

The Jews, hoped and prayed for a messiah to come and deliver them. God answered their prayers but not as they expected, - rather, by sending a different kind of salvation through Jesus Christ. And thus the very first Christians were created. Christianity was seen by the Romans as an offshoot of Judaism. Which makes sense right? After all, Jerusalem was the where the Jewish Temple was, and Christ, his disciples, and followers. The first Christians were Jews first. Jerusalem functioned like a home base for the early Christians. It was a large, fortified city and they could claim some anonymity within the large crowds. Early Christians would go out from there to share the Gospel, the Good News of Christ, and return afterwards.

Some Jews and early Christians were rebels and fought against the Roman occupation. Things got bad, for Rome, with The Great Jewish Revolt in 66 CE. Emperor Nero sent his legions under General Vespasian to deal with the rebels and with that, the siege of Jerusalem began.

In 69 CE Nero died and Vespasian was summoned to Rome, where he was crowned emperor, leaving his son Titus behind to continue the siege. In 70 CE Titus conquered Jerusalem and the Temple fell. Those who survived were flung far and wide because of the devastation. The Christians that survived, took the Gospel and Christ's salvation through the crucifixion and resurrection along with them out into the world.

Without the fall of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 CE and the dispersal of the early Christians, I wonder: How long might it have taken for the Good News to spread beyond the ancient Mediterranean?

A Parable (with apologies to Jesus)

By Leda Townsend
Council Treasurer

The Central Lutheran Church community is like a woman who is planning supper. Should she prepare the same old meal? After all, it's easy and comfortable and provides basic nourishment. Or should she make something special?

She opens the cabinet and takes an inventory. She sees a big bowl waiting to be filled with something exciting. She has all the ingredients: flour, water, yeast. She has aromatic spices in her pantry. She opens her fridge to discover all kinds of vegetables. She puts it all together. And voila! Pretty soon she has a beautiful homemade pizza.

As a community, we have all the ingredients to make Central Lutheran a special place.

We have the basic ingredients of faith, knowing that God has a plan for us (flour). We have hope that the Spirit will guide us in making good decisions to further God's plan (yeast). And we have love for one another that binds us together in this process (water).

We have people with wonderful gifts to make our congregation truly unique (the spices). We have individuals with a willingness to commit to helping others and generosity of time, talent and treasure (the vegetables).

Now we need to put it all together. Please consider using your gifts to make this a vibrant community. We encourage you to commit your time to make our worship services a welcoming and spirit-filled experience as an usher, greeter, lector or song leader. We also desperately need someone to step up to help council members count the collection each week.

There are signups sheets in the narthex. We look forward to seeing what our pizza tastes like.

Audrey's Hugs Prayer Patch/Shawl

TumbleBeans, AZ City

First Saturday of the month

9:00-11:00 am

Our Prayer Patch/Shawl ministries needs your help. If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, then this group is for you! There is a new name, to the group, now called **Audrey's Hugs**.

Why the name change? To honor a young lady, who the world was not ready for. She was born in 1996 and passed away quietly in her home in 2020.

Audrey loved to help people. Anyone she met, she showed kindness and love in her mannerisms and her words. Creating these patches and shawls, to be freely given, was something she would truly appreciate.

We are running very low on Prayer Patches and could use your help. The knitter/crocheter's team would love for you to join us.

Help us to grow this ministry. Patches are prayed over, and can be given to anyway, anytime, or anyplace. The shawls are prayed over too, and bring healing comfort to anyone who maybe sick, injured, or in need of peace, or just a HUG.

If you need a shawl, or would like to hand one out, please see Kris Dill.

We are hoping to grow the ministry, so that along with the Manna bags the CG Police Department hands out, they could have shawls too. We also want to be able to allow Pinal County officer's to

be able to provide the shawls as well.

Shawls given by the police department can be handed out to victims of violent crime, auto accidents, and to children too. These shawls are a way to wrap someone in God's love and comforting embrace.

See you on the First Saturday of the month from 9:00 -11:00 at TumbleBeans, on Sunland Gin Road, in Arizona City.

Laundry Love

Our next event is in July. We need water, Gatorade, and Propel to help keep everyone hydrated. The Laundromat can get very hot, especially in July. Please consider giving financially to Laundry Love. It costs about \$600 per event. However, our last event was over \$1,100.00.

Give on Sunday in the plate or online at: <https://give.clcaz.net> See Connie Cameron for more information about our needs.

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

Seminary

Attending seminary may not seem like a big deal for some. Many people do not realize just how intense this can be. Not only on the seminarian, but their family. Once entranced into seminary, everything changes.

The spouse sees way less of the seminarian, there is a significant financial cost to going, and sometimes it may even feel like the spouse gets left behind. The student is now engaged with the congregation, doing studies, leading worship, funerals, visitations and so much more.

When I went to seminary, it was very difficult on our family financially and the aforementioned other aspects. We will be paying off our student loans for many years still to come. I do not regret going to seminary. It is what God called me to and was preparing me for, even when I did not realize it. Some students come straight from undergrad and still have all that student debt.

There is a program that Jarrod is involved with, called TEEM. Short for Theological Education for Emerging Ministries. It is not a degree program but it is still very intense and in its own ways, has more difficulties in balancing one's life around seminary, work, serving and home.

Fortunately, the TEEM program covers all tuition, and even the degree program does this, these days. But....It does not cover transportation to the intensive classes, which run three times a year. In the case of Jarrod, he has to be in Berkeley California sometimes and other times, in St. Paul Minnesota.

Also not covered is housing, food and books. All of those come out-of-pocket. Have you seen the airfares lately? The ELCA decided to not fund most of the cost of seminarians, as it had been done in the past. There was an expectation that the home congregations, as part of their commitment to the Great Commission, would commit to helping local members go to seminary.

Since I attended seminary, there has been a slight change in that tuition is covered, but all the rest is the responsibility of the student, with an expectation that the home congregation would help out as much as it can.

In that light, Central Lutheran created a Seminary Support fund for any full-time member, who is accepted into seminary. This is not a fund for a single member, but any member who receives the call to become a rostered minister or deacon.

As you may or may not be aware, there is an overwhelming shortage of pastors and deacons in the ELCA. As more retire and the seminaries put out less rostered ministers, it is becoming a serious shortage problem. The biggest obstacle to going to seminary, is funding.

If you would like to help fund someone to go to seminary, you can do so by indicating seminary support on your check. You can also give electronically and select the seminary support fund. <https://give.clcaz.net> You can even text your giving at 520-636-0505 or use our app, which can

be installed at <https://clcaz.net/app/>.

Electronic Giving

Giving electronically, really helps Central Lutheran to meet all of its financial obligations to continue ministry. As we approach summer, it becomes so important that our cash flow continues.

We have increased costs because of our heat. Some of our regular members and winter residents, take off to the cool up north. However, ministry must still continue. We do not get the option to shutdown for the summer, people are still in need of the Food Bank, Manna Bags, Laundry Love, and now our newest addition to our ministry partners, Arts-n-Meals.

When you give electronically, you can setup re-occurring so that even when you are only able to participate online, you are still supporting ministry. When you use electronic giving, you can use ACH, Automated Clearing House. In other words, it is taken directly from your checking.

Do you get points for using your debit or credit cards? You can use those also. We accept Visa, Master Card, Discover, American Express and now Google Pay.

Please consider setting up a reoccurring donation to Central Lutheran, so we can keep doing ministry. Giving is one of the Six Marks of Discipleship.

We have multiple people now on electronic giving, but we really could use more to assist in a better financial planning.

Do you need help? Ask a council member, or ask Pastor Doug. We will be happy to help you get setup!



May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Sunday Readings 8:30am Worship Arizona City 9:15am Fellowship Between Services 10:00am Worship Arizona City 11:00am Asamblea Apostólica De La Fe	1 1:30pm On Hold until Further Notice Tai Chi (Arizona City) 5:30pm AA Meeting (Arizona City)	2	3 9:00am Pastor Doug Office Hours (Arizona City) 9:30am Quilting Wednesday (Arizona City) 1:30pm On Hold until Further Notice Tai Chi (Arizona City) 6:00pm Asamblea Apostólica De La Fe En Cristo Jesús (Arizona City)	4 National Day of Prayer 12:00pm Dominoes (Arizona City) 6:00pm Bible Women, Biblical based book study Arizona City 7:00pm Music Leaders Practice	5	6
7 Sunday Readings 8:30am Worship Arizona City 9:15am Fellowship Between Services 10:00am Worship Arizona City 11:00am Asamblea Apostólica De La Fe	8 1:30pm On Hold until Further Notice Tai Chi (Arizona City) 5:30pm AA Meeting (Arizona City)	9	10 8:00am Food Bank Distribution (Arizona City) 9:00am Pastor Doug Office Hours (Arizona City) 1:30pm On Hold until Further Notice Tai Chi (Arizona City) 6:00pm Asamblea Apostólica De La Fe En Cristo Jesús (Arizona City)	11 12:00pm Dominoes (Arizona City) 6:00pm Bible Women, Biblical based book study Arizona City 7:00pm Music Leaders Practice	12	13
14 Sunday Readings 8:30am Worship Arizona City 9:15am Fellowship Between Services 10:00am Worship Arizona City 11:00am Asamblea Apostólica De La Fe	15 1:30pm On Hold until Further Notice Tai Chi (Arizona City) 5:30pm AA Meeting (Arizona City) 6:30pm Council Meeting Casa Grande	16	17 9:00am Pastor Doug Office Hours (Arizona City) 9:30am Quilting Wednesday (Arizona City) 1:30pm On Hold until Further Notice Tai Chi (Arizona City) 6:00pm Asamblea Apostólica De La Fe En Cristo Jesús (Arizona City)	18 Newsletter Articles Due 12:00pm Dominoes (Arizona City) 6:00pm Bible Women, Biblical based book study Arizona City 7:00pm Music Leaders Practice	19	20
21 Sunday Readings 8:30am Worship Arizona City 9:15am Fellowship Between Services 10:00am Worship Arizona City 11:00am Asamblea Apostólica De La Fe	22 1:30pm On Hold until Further Notice Tai Chi (Arizona City) 5:30pm AA Meeting (Arizona City)	23	24 8:00am Food Bank Distribution (Arizona City) 9:00am Pastor Doug Office Hours (Arizona City) 1:30pm On Hold until Further Notice Tai Chi (Arizona City) 6:00pm Asamblea Apostólica De La Fe En Cristo Jesús (Arizona City)	25 12:00pm Dominoes (Arizona City) 6:00pm Bible Women, Biblical based book study Arizona City 7:00pm Music Leaders Practice	26	27
28 Sunday Readings 8:30am Worship Arizona City 9:15am Fellowship Between Services 10:00am Worship Arizona City 11:00am Asamblea Apostólica De La Fe	29 1:30pm On Hold until Further Notice Tai Chi (Arizona City) 5:30pm AA Meeting (Arizona City)	30	31 9:00am Pastor Doug Office Hours (Arizona City) 1:30pm On Hold until Further Notice Tai Chi (Arizona City) 6:00pm Asamblea Apostólica De La Fe En Cristo Jesús (Arizona City)	1 12:00pm Dominoes (Arizona City) 6:00pm Bible Women, Biblical based book study Arizona City 7:00pm Music Leaders Practice	2	3