

Multi-Site Worship and Ministry

Plans continue for Sunday morning worship in Casa Grande this Fall. We are looking into a worship site. We would like to have a location we could use throughout the week, such as in a storefront or office building, for additional programs.

Multi-Site Team Meeting – Tue, August 5th at 6:30 p.m.

We are meeting at the new site in the Arizona Plaza office complex on Florence Blvd. at Sacaton St. in Casa Grande.

Intern Arrives in September: Scott Thalacker, and his wife, Lindsay, will arrive the first week of September. Scott is from Rapid City, SD (where his father has served as a Lutheran pastor for over 20 years), and Lindsay is from Eau Claire, WI.

What is needed: A small home in Casa Grande will be rented for their stay.

We are still in need of a bed, television, and other household items.

Your help with these items would be greatly appreciated!

Our internship program is subsidized by our “mission partner,” Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Chandler.

Continue to prayerfully consider the opportunity for this extended ministry in order to share our welcoming atmosphere and God’s great gospel message.

“Shaping Tomorrow” Capital Funds

All “*Shaping Tomorrow*” funds will be used for improvements on our campus; such as acoustics for the activity building, building a playground and outdoor gathering area. Future funds may also be needed for unknown expenditures, such as replacement of aging air conditioning units. The program is intended to meet our future needs without stressing our overall financial picture.

You are encouraged to participate in the “*Shaping Tomorrow*” program, which will continue through March 2009. You can pick up commitment cards and envelopes in the church entry. Contributions can be made all at once or on a continued schedule.

Child Care and Pre-School News

?? Committee meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Board members: Karen Nelson (Pres), Barbara Doty (Vice Pres), Linda Gal (Sec.), Gary Linafelter, and Margaret Mokarnia-Mander.

Coordinator – Julie Rivas (Office: 466-5174).

Congregational Financial News

Account balances – through June:	General fund	\$17,756	
Special/Memorial fund	\$15,100	Shaping Tomorrow” fund	\$14,644

Central News

August 2008

What Can I Learn Today?

“Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” (Philippians 4:8)

Paul writes of the Christian mindset that can only be experienced with growth and maturity. Which may raise the question, will there ever be a time when you will stop learning and improving yourself?

Certainly not with a high school diploma, for then your education has just begun. Not with a college degree, for the lessons of the real world await. Not even in the “golden years,” when you must learn to live fully with a failing memory, aching joints and muscles, and continuously changing life circumstances.

The need to learn is one that never ends. Therefore, consider yourself an ongoing project. A work in progress. Always improving and never stagnant.

God designed us for ongoing growth: spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially. This needed growth requires constant and disciplined personal development. There are books to be read, people to meet, new skills to try out, and places to discover.

Our personal growth is to be an adventure, not a burden.

This is where God’s love gets involved in the details of life as he works in our lives to help with our growth and discovery. Each day, as we begin the process of personal growth, remember it all starts with an attitude of expectation of the new things to come.

“No, dear friends, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead” (Philippians 3:13)

Thoughts: *Once in a while, set a goal that absolutely terrifies you.*

When you think you’ve learned enough, then you haven’t.

Never mistake activity for achievement. Doing is better than talking.

It’s hard to learn from a mistake you don’t acknowledge making.

Central Lutheran Church

12921 S. Sunland Gin Road **PO Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85223**
(520) 466-5024 **www.centrallutheranaz.org**

Sunday Schedule

9 a.m. Worship

Our worship service includes a blend of hymns and contemporary music. Our focus is on the good news shared by God through Jesus Christ and is celebrated through the sacraments of baptism and communion.

Everyone is invited to participate in Holy Communion, celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

10 a.m. Fellowship

Spend some time getting acquainted or reacquainted following worship.

Fellowship Servers Needed

Sing-up to serve in the entry – cookies and refreshments are provided.

Worship Assistants

If you would like to serve as an assistant and have not been contacted, or need more information contact the church office.

Altar Flowers -- Sign-up in the entry to provide flowers on the altar for a special occasion.

Worship Nursery

Child care is offered for our youngest children during worship.

Contact Barbara Doty (494-1035) to help or for more information.

Name Tags Our hope is to distribute nametags to all our regular worshipers – look for information in the entry.

Women of Central Lutheran

The next Bible Study and Luncheon will be held on September 10th.

Copies of the *Lutheran Women Today* magazine with study guide are available.

Quilting – Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

Quilts are now being made for the children in the protective shelter against abuse located in Casa Grande.

For information on the women's ministry and quilting contact Ramona Milsten (421-0542) or Shar Jung (836-7949).

Lutheran World Relief Coffee

The Equal Exchange project makes it possible for farmers to earn a fair price for their products. The "Small Farmer Fund" pools resources, so they are able to invest in education, health care, and agricultural improvements.

Coffee, tea and hot chocolate are available in the entry.

Offering Counters Needed

With many people traveling help is needed counting offering.

Please talk with Marjorie Carlson or call the church office.

Next Council Meeting –

Tue, August 26th at 6:30 p.m.

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."

Youth Events and Activities

Sunday School

Begins on Sunday, Aug. 17th

Our Sunday School program for pre-school through high school is ready to begin on Aug. 17th following worship.

All students will be dismissed to go directly to their appointed classes. You can help by teaching or assisting one of the classes.

Contact Linda Gal at 316-0059.

Wed. Night Youth Class

Aug. 27th at 6:30 p.m.

The 5-7th grade class will meet regularly on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

VBS -- "Rainforest Adventure"

Our VBS week was a great success. Thanks to Kathy Davis, who served as coordinator, Karen Nelson, Linda Gal, Louise Cannon, the staff from our Child Care and Pre-School, our youth "counselors," and all other helpers

Softball Season News

The *Faithballers* finished the Summer season in 5th place with a record of 6 wins and 6 losses. They were ousted in the first round of the post-season tournament, losing by a score of 15-13. The Fall season is scheduled to begin on September 8th.

Games are played at the Paul Mason Sportsplex, Pinal Ave, in Casa Grande. Watch for more information.

Remember in Prayer

Bob Alexander, Erv Baumgartner, Ada Beise, Maxine and Cliff Cadman, Ron Cubel, Dorothy Everett, Ralph Fischer, Gertie Kenyon, Bob Kerr, Deb Gardner, Pam Gardner, Pat Harrison, Bob and Patricia Hedblum, Rolland Karlin, Terry Kidd and Susan Lambert, DeLayne Loseke, Sean Mallory, Clarence McGirr, Fran McGregor, Jean Muchmore, Neil Northey, Rodney and Cleo Oakland, Carol and Pierce Owens, Judy Pivec, John Sutton, Helen Zaudtke.

Journey to Africa

Alyson Stephens is preparing for a two-month mission trip to the nation of Chad in Africa during September and October.

She will be teaching English and working with a high school friend, who has been serving in Chad for many years with WEC International.

Information is available in the entry to learn more about her upcoming journey and how you can help with this mission opportunity.

Hawaiian Fundraiser

This month a fundraiser is being held in Hawaii for Kupuohi Sean Mallory, Julie and Dave Rivas' grandson. Sean has been hospitalized since his birth, prematurely, one year ago. \$20 donations are being accepted to assist the family.

“Gracious Dining” Fellowship

Dining groups include singles and couples, members and non-members. Each group makes its own schedule to meet once a month in homes for dinner – sharing the dining responsibilities.

New groups are being formed, so sign-up in the entry or contact John and Loretta Sutton (466-6531).

Council News

??
??
??

?? Next “Multi-Site” ministry meeting is Tue, August 5th at 6:30 p.m.

?? Next council meeting is Tuesday, August at 6:30 p.m.

Wellness Ministry

You can help care for members and friends of our congregation through phone calls, visits, and service projects.

Contact Laurie Waluk (413-3238) or Pastor Thom to ask how you can be a part of our “wellness” team.

Express Your Interest

A list of new and ongoing ministry opportunities, projects and activities is available. Prayerfully consider how you can use your time and gifts to assist in joyfully sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in our community.

Once you fill out your form it can be placed in the offering plate or returned to the office.

8 a.m. Worship

Liturgical worship with a blend of hymns and contemporary music.

10:15 a.m. Festival Worship

Uplifting contemporary praise songs.

Bible Study and Salad Luncheon

Wed, March 12th at 12:30 p.m.

“Pure in Heart, Rich in Vision”

Theme verse – Matthew 5:8

The prospect of seeing God often terrifies more than it delights, and the beatitude tells us why. Our hearts are not pure, therefore we cannot stand to gaze at what we most desire.

“Precious Memories”

Legacy Books

Capture your family, vacations, and important events in your own book. An informational meeting will be held Sunday, March 2nd between services. Contact Leigh and Sue Riese at

466-8323 or 705-6698.

9-Hole Golf Scramble Event Saturday, March 8th at 2:30 p.m.

Arizona City Golf Course

Cost per player is \$15 & \$5 donation.

Our **high school** students will be meeting for dinner and discussion. Next gathering is Thursday, May 15th, 6 – 8 p.m.

The **4th – 6th** grade students will be meeting on Wednesday evenings, May 7th and 21st at 6 p.m.

First, we have mortgage payments of over \$50,000 due each year for the sanctuary, activity building and child care. Up to this time, but hopefully not for much longer, we are unable to meet this obligation from regular offerings. Since the construction of our new facility there has been the understanding extra funds would be necessary for several years.

Second, there are improvements that are necessary – completion of the new facility with the addition of acoustic materials – and inevitable – replacement of the parking area due to deterioration over twenty years.

Our goal is to prevent our obligations and improvements from becoming a financial burden, so our ministries can expand. As our community grows we will continue to explore programs to reach out to families and youth, the elderly, and the needy.

Our *Shaping Tomorrow* goals are ambitious, so we’re searching for you to help.

2007 Council Members

Judson Anderson	466-7975
Lou Bartlett (Sec)	466-6617
Dick Christopher	316-9083
Red Doty	494-1035
Nick Erwin	836-2968
Becky Gessner (VP)	466-5638
Francis Harrison	316-0272
Beverly Linafelter	466-6530
Linda Nelson (Pre)	426-9134
Mary Lou Pace (Trea)	723-9828
Jeff Pehlke	423-8144
Everett Tso	483-2555

**“God’s Spirit filled children
making a difference.”**

All of us at Central Lutheran