

### **“Framing OUR Mission”**

*“And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some teachers, to equip the saints for the work of mission, for building up the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)*

At the end of March we began the “Framing OUR Mission” capital fund program. Our new program emphasizes the funding of our expanded mission into Casa Grande, as well as, needed projects in Arizona City.

In Casa Grande we have enlarged our present worship site and continue to look ahead to a “permanent” location for our congregation. Our future site may be any existing building we can adapt for worship, education, and fellowship.

Thanks for the great initial response. We have received 78 pledges which total over 130,000 for the next three years. From the table below you can see how our members and winter residents are participating:

18 pledges of \$1-500	29 pledges of \$501-1,000
20 pledges of \$1,001-2,500	9 pledges of \$2,501-5,000
2 pledges of over \$5,000	

In April, the first month of the program, \$6,557 has been contributed. By your participation in the “Framing OUR Mission” capital fund program you will set in place our mission to “build” for future generations. Your contribution makes it possible to grow in the ways we can touch lives in the Arizona City/Casa Grande area.

Fill out a commitment form after your prayerful consideration. With great anticipation we look ahead filled with praise and thanks to God!

### **Multi-Site Worship and Ministry**

**“Worship in Historic Downtown” – Sundays at 10 a.m.**

**Multi-Site Meeting – Tue, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**

### **Child Care and Pre-School News**

- Committee meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
- Board members: Karen Nelson (Pres), Barbara Doty (Vice Pres), Linda Gal (Sec.), Gary Linafelter.  
Coordinator – Julie Rivas (Office: 466-5174).

### **Congregational Financial News**

Account balances – through March:	General fund	\$23,433	
Special Gift/Memorial fund	\$9,055	“Framing OUR Mission” fund	\$7,070
Money Market fund	\$1,103 (from building fund)		

# Central News

May 2009

## **“Mom’s Purse”**

*“Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”*  
(Matthew 11:28)

One never ceases to be amazed at what a mom can find in her purse. There’s the typical stuff, like a tissue for a runny nose, a quarter for the candy machine, a library card to check out a book. But then there’s the incredible stuff, like a blowup beachball, a map of the United States, a collection of medicine that could cure any illness!

Moms learn early that they have to be prepared. It starts with that diaper bag that has pockets and compartments begging to be filled so no mother need be caught unprepared. From then on, moms seem to know how to pack backpacks for school, gym bags for games, footlockers for camp with anything and everything that might be needed.

Haven’t we all been known to pack our bags with too much stuff? Unnecessary items? Odds are, we did so this morning. Somewhere between the first step on the floor and the last step out the door, we stuffed our bag full. It wasn’t a bag made of leather, but the one in the mind. We didn’t fill it with books or band-aids or breath mints, we filled it with burdens. There is the suitcase of guilt. The sack of discontent. The duffel bag of weariness on one shoulder and a hanging bag of worry on the other. No wonder we can be so weary at the end of the day.

God is continually saying to us, “Set that stuff down! You’re carrying burdens you don’t need to bear!” Why don’t we try traveling light? God wants to use us, but how can he when we are exhausted?

God has a great journey for us to travel. Under his care we can serve in ways we’ve never dreamed. But we have to drop some stuff. How can we share grace when we are full of guilt? How can we comfort when we are disheartened? How can we lift someone else’s load when our arms are full with our own?

There are certain weights in life we simply cannot carry. God is asking us to set them down and trust him. *“Unload all your worries on to him, since his is looking after you.”*  
(1 Peter 5:7) Why don’t we take God up on his offer?

**Central Lutheran Church**

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

**408 N Sacaton Street, Suite I, Casa Grande, AZ 85222  
(520) 316-9659**

**www.centrallutheranaz.org**

### **Sunday Worship**

Our focus is on the good news shared by God through Jesus Christ and is celebrated through the sacraments of baptism and communion.

#### **Arizona City**

##### **9 a.m. Worship**

Worship with a blend of hymns and contemporary music.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month.

##### **Fellowship and Sunday School 10:15 a.m.**

##### **Worship Assistants**

If you would like to serve as an assistant or need more information contact Bev Linafelter (466-6530).

##### **Worship Nursery**

Child care is offered for our youngest children during 10:15 a.m. worship. Contact Barbara Doty (494-1035).

#### **Casa Grande**

##### **10 a.m. Worship**

Worship with a blend of hymns and contemporary music.

##### **Sunday School at 11 a.m.**

Holy Communion celebrated weekly.

##### **Fellowship Every Sunday**

**Sign-up** to assist with worship – usher, reader, communion server.

##### **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.”*

### **Women of Central Lutheran Luncheon and Bible Study**

**Wed, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.**

*“Esther: Reversal of Fortune”*

In the conclusion of the book, Esther’s “hesed” (loving loyalty) with the Jews in Persia saves them from their enemies.

All women are invited and encouraged to bring a friend. Copies of *Lutheran Women Today* are available.

##### **Quilting – Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.**

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 allows farmers to earn a fair price for their products. The “Small Farmer Fund” pools resources to invest in education, health care, and agricultural programs. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate are available in the entry.

##### **Wellness Ministry**

You can help care for members 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.

##### **Softball Season News**

Thanks to Alyson Stephens and Scott Thalacker for heading up our *Faithballer* teams this past season.

The summer season will start June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Many thanks to the loyal fans who attended the games.

### **Youth Events and Activities Sunday School**

Our Sunday School program for pre-school through high school students offers classes each week.

For information contact Linda Gal at 705-1450.

##### **Youth Night Class**

Weekday Bible studies and events for the middle school and high school classes are scheduled for

##### **Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.**

Location alternates between Arizona City and Casa Grande.

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class**

Instruction will soon be offered in Casa Grande for all elementary students, first grade and older.

Please talk to Pastor Thom about the interest and availability of your child.

##### **Summer Camp in Prescott Meeting Wed, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. in Casa Grande**

All interested families are encouraged to attend to learn about camp at Camp Aloma in Prescott.

*“Camperships”* – Everyone can help by making a donation to help our students attend camp.

Talk with Scott for more information.

##### **Remember in Prayer**

Maxine Cadman, Chuck Erickson, Leila Erickson, Dorothy Everett, Deb Gardner, Pam Gardner, Rolland Karlin, Wayne Lange, Bill Liebhart, Sean Mallory, Jean Muchmore, Neil Northey, Cleo Oakland, Carol and Pierce Owens, Jim Smith, Joyce Wibergh, Helen Zaudtke.

### **Our Newest Members**

Joel and Laurie Altamirano,  
Aidan and Raquelle 343-4175  
2477 E Dulcinea Trail  
Casa Grande, AZ 85294

George and Mary Ann Dippold  
920-917-9863  
7136 S Sunland Gin Rd  
Eloy, AZ 85231

Rick Fuglie and Ardelle Mickelson  
612-309-7210  
1703 N Thornton #67  
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

Lynne Holloway 424-5661  
506 N Avenue “A”  
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

Red and Peg Keenan 876-6438  
1110 N Henness Rd #438  
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

Eugene and Paula Luft 466-6536  
9507 W Coronado Dr, PO Box 2444  
Arizona City, AZ 85223

Don and Jeanne Maki 876-2082  
1703 N Thornton, #82  
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

John and Jean Mount-Campbell  
876-6439  
1110 N Henness Rd #439  
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

Cherie West and Sara 421-9345  
10116 N Penworth Dr  
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

Dan and Anne-Marie York 421-9007  
Danielle, Jacob and Trinity  
340 W Keywest Dr  
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

Next **Council Meeting** is Tue, May 12<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:30 p.m.