

## Financial Year in Review and a Look Ahead

This year our accumulated offerings and contributions of the past years have made it possible to meet every recent financial need of our congregation and ministry! We were able to fund an emergency (air conditioning unit), a construction project (acoustics in activity building), a stewardship plan (additional mortgage payment), and the start of an outreach ministry (second worship site in Casa Grande). Only by your financial commitment to our congregation's ministry and the growth of God's kingdom has this been possible.

Now that these resources have been used our ongoing ministries and new needs that arise will need your support.

The leadership of Central Lutheran thanks you and encourages everyone to prayerfully consider your regular commitment and renewal of your gifts for challenges and needs of the future.

### Multi-Site Worship and Ministry

#### "Worship in Historic Downtown" – Sundays at 10 a.m.

As we begin our outreach, worship for Arizona City and Casa Grande will share identical worship formats, with the Casa Grande site celebrating holy communion each week.

Continue to prayerfully remember our extended ministry in order to share a welcoming atmosphere and God's great gospel message.

#### Multi-Site Team Meeting – Tue, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

#### "Shaping Tomorrow" Program

"Shaping Tomorrow" funds are used for improvements on our campus, meeting the needs of 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.

### 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 September:	General fund	\$1,392	
Special/Memorial fund	\$3,859	Shaping Tomorrow" fund	\$7,522
Money Market Funds	\$5,000 (from general fund)		
	\$1,000 (from "Shaping Tomorrow" fund)		

# Central News

November 2008

## Dreamers of the Day

*All men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night, in the dusty recesses of their minds, awake in the day to find that all was vanity. But the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dreams with open eyes to make it reality.*

- T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia)

There are only two kinds of ministry – for me or for my neighbor.

**Ministry for me** has a consumerist attitude: church is a place where I go to get goods and services that I need, just like a store; I can learn things there that will make me a happier person and enjoy a worship that only serves as entertainment.

**Ministry for my neighbor** has a Spirit-filled attitude: church is the people of God, gathering together to bring the kingdom of heaven ever more among us; the Holy Spirit inspires us to bring the gifts of God to the world through word and sacrament; our worship is not confined to Sunday mornings but lived out in all we do.

**We are called to a ministry for our neighbor.** It is a dangerous ministry – where we act our dreams out, setting the Holy Spirit loose in our lives. Our calling as Christians, to love God and neighbor, is a dangerous enterprise for us because it forces us to take real risks. We take the risks of wasted time, energy, and money; we take the risks of disappointed hope, faith, and love. But it is not only dangerous for us; ministry is also a dangerous enterprise for the world around us because we create relationships that come with their attendant risks of brokenness and pain. All these dangers are the reason that we so often seek to avoid forming relationships with others. But the control and safety that we seek in avoidance is misleading. When we avoid the risks of ministry for our neighbor, we do not *gain* control of our lives, but instead *give up* control to the pain of sin. We then let our past disappointments control our hope for the future. It is in this way that we relegate our calling to "the dusty recesses" of our minds.

If we undertake 'ministry for me' and dream only in "the dusty recesses", then we are guaranteed to lose out on what we and the world need most – the Good News of Jesus Christ's love for the world. *"How are they to hear if they have no preacher?"* (Romans 10:14) **God has given you the promise that you will always dwell in God's love; so act out your calling of love for neighbor freely, with open eyes to make it a reality.**

Central Lutheran Church

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### **Sunday Worship**

Our worship services include a blend of music. 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.**

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

### **Fellowship Follows Worship**

In the entry sign-up to serve – cookies and refreshments are provided.

### **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 worship.

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

### **Casa Grande – 10 a.m.**

Holy Communion is celebrated each week.

### **Fellowship Every Sunday**

**Worship Assistance and Fellowship Service** is provided by the multi-site team.

**Altar Flowers** -- Sign-up to provide flowers on the altar for a special event.

### ***“Thanksgiving Eve” Worship***

***Wed, Nov 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.  
Arizona City***

### **Women of Central Lutheran Salad Luncheon & Bible Study Wed, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. The Book of “Ruth”**

All women of the congregation and their friends are invited!

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

Quilts are being made for Lutheran World Relief and for the women and children in the “Against Abuse” shelter 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.

### **Wellness Ministry**

**Sunday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m.**

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.

### **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**

Our Sunday School program for pre-school through high school students follows worship each week.

Students will be dismissed from worship to go directly to their appointed classes.

For information contact Linda Gal at 316-0059.

### **Youth Night Class**

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

**Wed, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m.  
in AZ City.**

### **Fall Softball Season News**

The *Faithballers* completed the regular season on a 4 game winning streak, finishing with a record of 6 and 2.

The post-season tournament begins Monday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> – times to be announced. Games are played at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on Pinal Ave in Casa Grande.

Many thanks to all the fans who come out to support the team.

### **“Gracious Dining”**

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).

### **Remember in Prayer**

Bob Alexander, Erv Baumgartner, Ada Beise, Maxine and Cliff Cadman, Dorothy Everett, Ralph Fischer, Gertie Kenyon, Bob Kerr, Deb Gardner, Pam Gardner, Bob and Patricia Hedblum, Rolland Karlin, Linda Leary, Bill Liebhart, Sean Mallory, Jean Muchmore, Linda Nelson, Neil Northey, Cleo Oakland, Carol and Pierce Owens, Joyce Wibergh, Helen Zaudtke.

### **Council News**

- “Food for the Poor” representative – Rev. Terry Kinney -- will speak during worship on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Scott Thalacker will speak at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Chandler) – our internship partner – on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Young adults activities are being planned to form men’s, women’s and couple’s ministries.
- Child Care/Pre-School planning a “Yard Sale” the first weekend in December.
- First two worship services were held in Casa Grande, averaging about fifty worshippers.
- Invitation for participants in our “Wellness Ministry” will be made in November.
- Next “Multi-Site” ministry meeting is Tue, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- Next council meeting is Tue, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.