

Multi-Site Worship and Ministry

“New Worship in Historic Downtown”

Sunday worship is scheduled to held October 19th 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 communion each week.

We are planning a congregational barbecue and “practice” worship at the site on **Saturday, Oct. 11th at 4 p.m.**

This is your invitation to come and see what is taking place, and invite your friends.

Our second worship site is located in the *Arizona Plaza* office complex at 408 N Sacaton Rd, Suite I (Florence Blvd. at Sacaton St).

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

Multi-Site Team Meeting – Tue, October 7th at 6:30 p.m.

“Shaping Tomorrow” Program

“Shaping Tomorrow” funds are used for improvements on our campus.

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.

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, Oct. 5th

The meeting will address the council’s proposal for acoustic work in the activity building using “Shaping Tomorrow” funds -- the cost of the project is \$6,872.

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

Congregational Financial News

Account balances – through August:	General fund	\$4,685	
Special/Memorial fund	\$2,664	Shaping Tomorrow” fund	\$4,426
Money Market Funds	\$15,000 (from general fund)		
	\$5,000 (from “Shaping Tomorrow” fund)		

Central News

October 2008

God’s Spirit Among Us

“The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”
(Jesus to the pharisee, Nicodemus, in John 3:8)

The Greek word “pneuma” means both wind and spirit. Jesus is saying to Nicodemus that you can hear and see and feel the wind, though you may not understand how and why the wind blows. Yet you can see what it does. The Spirit is exactly the same. You may not know how the Spirit works, but you can see the effect in human lives for all to see.

Jesus explains, as the kingdom of God is thrown open to all people, the Spirit is on the move, like a fresh spring wind. As the wind blows it can be inconvenient, it can mess up all that is organized and tidy, it can make you uncomfortable, it can change things!

It has been over a year since our congregation was approached by the mission development office of the Grand Canyon Synod to consider expanding our ministry into Casa Grande. It was believed the best course of action, given the momentum of our ministry and the strength of our congregation, was to follow a multi-site model for outreach in our area.

Now as we enter the Fall of 2008, the Spirit has moved us from what was familiar and what was comfortable, to try something new and unknown, to make us see differently. Our partnership with Holy Trinity Lutheran church makes it possible to bring in the talents of Scott Thalacker – who certainly had no idea he would be here a year ago! – to make the idea of a multi-site ministry into a reality.

We utilize the multi-site model to establish two “campuses” – there is no “main campus.”

We have an Arizona City site and a Casa Grande site. We draw upon our resources – people, finances, Spiritual power – to contribute to the needs of both sites. We expand our worship to touch the lives of our present membership, while opening God’s kingdom to an entirely new audience. We have leadership to oversee, govern, and envision the ministry of our congregation.

Here we are, for now! It will be fascinating to see where the Spirit blows us and where we will be in the days, weeks, months, years to come.

Central Lutheran Church

12921 S. Sunland Gin Road PO Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85223
(520) 466-5024 (Arizona City) (520) 316-9659 (Casa Grande)

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 or need more information contact Bev Linafelter (466-6530).

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

Worship Nursery

Child care is offered for our youngest children during worship.

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

Oct. 5th Karen Nelson and Dean
Oct. 12th Kathy Davis & Louise Cannon
Oct. 19th Linda Gal & Julie Rivas
Oct. 26th Bert Arnett & Zona Groe

Name Tags Our hope is to distribute nametags to all our regular worshippers – sign-up in the entry.

Women of Central Lutheran Salad Luncheon & Bible Study

Wed, October 8th at 12:30 p.m.
“The Hidden Hand of God”

The study of the book of Ruth continues with Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, destitute and seemingly hopeless. Copies of the *Lutheran Women Today* magazine with study guide are available on the table in the entry.

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.

Offering Counters Needed

With many people traveling help is needed counting offering. Please talk with Marjorie Carlson or call the church office.

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, Oct. 8th and 22nd at 7 p.m.**

Fall Softball Season News

The *Faithballers* have 2 wins and 1 loss entering the last week of September.

Their schedule for October is:

6th @ 7:30 13th @ 7:30
20th @ 6:30 27th @ 6:30

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).

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.

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, Bill and Ruth Liebhart, Paul Lineau, DeLayne Loseke, Sean Mallory, Jean Muchmore, Linda Nelson, Neil Northey, Cleo Oakland, Carol and Pierce Owens, Judy Pivec, John Sutton, Helen Zaudtke.

Council News

- Welcome to Scott Thalacker, intern. Becky Gessner heads the internship team.
- *Lutheran Social Services* is resuming plans for adult day care program.
- Congregational meeting was scheduled for Oct. 5th to address proposal for acoustic project.
- Multi-site worship to begin Oct. 19th, with special event Oct. 11th.
- Next “Multi-Site” ministry meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 7th at 6:30 p.m.
- Next council meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 21st at 6:30 p.m.

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***