

Welcome to Our New Intern

This month we welcome Chase Foreman, who will be serving as an intern for the next twelve months in our multi-site ministry. Chase is a student at Luther Seminary and is from St. Paul, MN. He has many interests, including music and art. Make him feel welcomed as he begins the year with us.

Intern “Pound Party” Reception -- Sun, Sept. 6th in AZ City at 10 a.m.

“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)

The “Framing OUR Mission” capital fund program emphasizes the funding of our expanded mission into Casa Grande (\$2,082 a month), as well as, needed projects in Arizona City.

In Casa Grande we are adding a classroom, while still inquiring about a “permanent” location. A future site may be any existing building we can adapt for worship, education, and fellowship.

Thanks for your response. We have received 81 pledges which total \$135,000 for the next three years.

18 pledges of \$1-500	31 pledges of \$501-1,000
21 pledges of \$1,001-2,500	9 pledges of \$2,501-5,000
2 pledges of over \$5,000	

Your contribution to “Framing OUR Mission” 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!

Child Care and Pre-School

- 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 July:	General fund	\$4,984	
Special Gift/Memorial fund	\$9,055	“Framing OUR Mission” fund	\$29,798
Money Market fund	\$1,103 (from building fund)		

Central News

September 2009

To Be Moved with Compassion

In the New Testament, to be “moved with compassion” was a revolution in the realm of human thought. This *compassion* was said to come from the inner parts of a person, which are the seat of our deepest emotions. It described no ordinary pity, but an emotion which moved a person to the very depths of one’s being. It was the strongest possible understanding of feeling toward others.

In scripture, such “*compassion*” was used only to describe Jesus’ response to the people, and by Jesus to describe the remarkable responses of characters in his parables. Jesus was moved by the spiritual lostness of the crowd, as sheep without a shepherd (Mark 6, Matthew 9). Being “*moved with compassion*” Jesus was touched to the depths of his being by the human situation.

In Jesus’ parables, being “*moved with compassion*” describes the master who had *compassion* on his servant who was unable to pay his debt (Matthew 18), the father who had *compassion* for his prodigal son (Luke 15), and, the Samaritan who had *compassion* to help the wounded traveler (Luke 10).

At a time when the Pharisees believed “*the one who does not know the law is accursed,*” and “*there is joy in heaven over one sinner who is destroyed,*” Jesus felt only *compassion* for the one who was lost, even when one’s own fault. He saw no one as a criminal to be condemned, but as a lost wanderer to be found and brought home. Furthermore, pagan religious thought of that day believed in a God who was incapable of feeling *compassion*. The idea of a God who could be *moved with compassionate* love, came to the world as a new revelation.

We think it commonplace that God is love, and that the Christian life is love. However, we often do not recognize the depth of that love and *compassion*, and its impact on our lives. We are to remember the revolution brought by Jesus, of whom it is so often and so amazingly said was, *moved with compassion*.

Central Lutheran Church
12921 S. Sunland Gin Road PO Box 677 Arizona City, AZ 85123
(520) 466-5024
408 N Sacaton Street, Suite I, Casa Grande, AZ 85122
(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 Holy Communion.

Holy Communion will be celebrated each Sunday of the month at both worship sites.

Arizona City 9 a.m. Worship

Worship with a blend of hymns and contemporary music.

Fellowship at 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 worship.

Contact the office or Barbara Doty (494-1035).

Casa Grande 10 a.m. Worship

Worship with a blend of hymns and contemporary music.

Fellowship at 11 a.m.

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

Altar Flowers -- Sign-up at either worship site to provide flowers on the altar for a special remembrance or event.

Women of Central Lutheran

Quilting is scheduled for Wednesday afternoons at 12:30 p.m. in AZ City. For information on the women's ministry and quilting contact Ramona Milsten (421-0542) or Shar Jung (836-7949).

Bible Study and Salad Luncheon Wed, Sept. 9th at 12:30 p.m. in AZ City Romans – “To God’s Beloved”

Session 1 – “Be Mutually Encouraged”
Examine the way letters were written in Paul’s day to better appreciate the content and tone of the writings. Invite you friends and bring a dish to share.

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 for purchase – select your item(s) and deposit payment.

“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. Contact John and Loretta Sutton (466-6531).

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 classes will begin on Sunday, September 13th.

Casa Grande at 8:45 a.m.

Arizona City at 10 a.m.

For information on Arizona City contact Linda Gal (705-1450) or Karen Nelson (518-0048), for Casa Grande call Kara Cooper (426-9228 evenings).

Youth Night Class

Weekday Bible studies and events for elementary, middle school and high school students are scheduled for

Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.

Location alternates between Arizona City and Casa Grande.

Youth Activities

Arizona Diamondbacks and “MERCYME” Concert– Sept. 18th

A limited number of tickets are available for our students.

Reserve your place with Pastor Thom.

“Knowledge Quest”

Leigh and Sue Riese have started an outreach foundation offering enrichment programs for children and adults.

Coming up this month:

Women’s Self-Defense

Tue, Sept. 22nd at 7 p.m.

Free class at our Casa Grande site.

Exploratory Science – Buoyancy Sat, Sept. 26th at 10:30 a.m.

For students in grades 3-6 (\$15 class fee) to be held in Arizona City. Contact Leigh Riese at 705-6698

“Songs for Tots”

Tuesdays at 11 a.m. – Noon Activity Building in Arizona City

Songs and games are played to increase social and developmental skills in children ages 3-5.

Cost is \$20 per child, which will benefit the “Framing OUR Mission” program.

Contact Kathy Davis at 464-8021.

Class limited to 10 participants.

Softball Team Fall Season

The *Faithballers* begin the upcoming season on Monday, Sept. 14th.

Games are played at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on Pinal Ave. in Casa Grande. The team thanks you for your support each week.

Remember in Prayer

Maxine Cadman, Chuck Erickson, Leila Erickson, Dorothy Everett, Ralph Fischer, Dave Forbush, Gertie Kenyon, Pam Gardner, Bob and Patricia Hedblum, Shar Jung, Rolland Karlin, Wayne Lange, Bill Liebhart, Gene Luft, Sean Mallory, Jean Muchmore, Neil Northey, Cleo Oakland, Carol and Pierce Owens, Jim Smith, Leo Stephens, Joyce Wibergh, Helen Zaudtke.

Council News

- Next **Council Meeting** is Tue, Sept. 22nd at 6:30 p.m.