

“Framing OUR Mission” – What’s Next?

“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)

During the last few months our “Framing OUR Mission” capital fund program has been used to fund our Casa Grande site (\$2,082 a month) and resurface the parking area in Arizona City.

An upcoming challenge is our continuing participation in the internship program. For 2008-09 our mission partner church in Chandler covered expenses. Currently during 2009-10 the East Valley Thrift Store is paying for about 67% of living costs and home rental (\$1,250 per month). Discussion has begun regarding what can be done beginning in the Fall of 2010. Can the internship program be continued without partnership? Or is partnership needed? Are there other ministry models we can implement for leading our multi-site setting?

These are challenging questions which continue to open great opportunity for us. With great anticipation we look ahead, filled with praise and thanks to God!

Framing OUR Mission: Pledges of more than \$135,000 the next three years. From April - November donations have totaled over \$31,000.

Child Care and Pre-School – Be a Partner

Our child care/pre-school is experiencing a decrease in enrollment because of financial cuts from the state for families with need of child care. A report will be given to the congregation and a special offering will be held the 3rd Sunday of the month. Last month over \$1,500 was contributed to our child care/pre-school ministry.

Thanks to everyone!

You can also help by donating snacks and supplies. The snack list includes: cereal, canned fruit, trail mix, crackers, waffles, English muffins, pretzels, bread, cheese, fresh fruit and vegetables, and apple juice.

- Committee meeting is the 2nd Thursday 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 <u>November</u> :	General fund	\$7,559	
Special Gift/Memorial fund	\$4,055	“Framing OUR Mission” fund	\$26,669
Money Market fund	\$1,103	(from building fund)	

Central News

December 2009

“We are a Sign of the Time”

As the days lead to the celebration of Christmas we journey through the season of Advent. The word “advent” originated from Latin meaning “to come toward.” The Advent season is one filled with the joyful anticipation of Christ coming to our world.

During the season we are surrounded by signs that Christmas is approaching. There is music everywhere commemorating snow, sleighs, gifts, and many other symbols of Christmas. The first music of Christmas was sung by the angels telling of the birth of Jesus, “Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace, good will among people.” (Luke 2:14)
The music and songs around us point to the arrival of Jesus.

Another sign is the ringing of bells. There are many different bells each telling us something is happening when they ring. The bells of Christmas announce the birth of Jesus. Such bells make us think of good cheer and joy associated with Jesus’ birth.

A third sign is the evergreen tree. Green has long been associated with life, fruitfulness, and abundance. The evergreen tree represents the faithfulness of God’s favor, grace, and love. The trees are decorated to display even more beauty and splendor of the season.

Finally, we look around and see the presence of lights. Lights that light up the darkness. Light is good, just as God said. (Genesis 1:3) During his ministry Jesus proclaimed, “I am the light of the world.” (John 8:12). We are given the gift of light for new life and the ability to see what could not be seen before.

Yet the greatest sign that Christmas is approaching is us. Jesus said, “You are the light of the world; let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14, 16) We are lights as Jesus shares his light with us and gives us light for every day of the year. On Christmas Eve we celebrate the role of being a light by passing the light of candles to one another.

Look around this season. Look at the signs of Christmas. The people of Christmas are the ones of song, good cheer and joy, ever beautiful, and a light before others. Ones celebrating the gifts of Christmas each and every day.

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 is celebrated every Sunday at both worship sites.

Arizona City

9 a.m. Worship

Worship with a blend of hymns and contemporary music.
Followed by fellowship.

Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

For information on contact Linda Gal (705-1450) or Karen Nelson (518-0048).

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 Suzanne Walker (466-5790).

Casa Grande

8 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

Call Kara Cooper (426-9228 evenings).

10:15 a.m. Festival Service

Fellowship is held between services.

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

Women of Central Lutheran Bible Study and Salad Luncheon

Bible Study and Luncheon
Wed, Dec. 9th at 12:30 p.m.
“Moved to a New Address”

Romans 6:1- 7:25

Paul wants his hearers to know that the realm of sin is no longer the realm in which Christians live. They have moved into another realm.

Invite you friends and bring a dish to share.

Christmas Quilt Raffle

Tickets are available at both worship sites.

Quilting is scheduled for Wednesday afternoons at 12:30 p.m. in AZ City.

For information on the women’s ministry and quilting contact Elaine Zechmann (466-5960) 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 for purchase – select your item(s) and deposit payment.

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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

with Holy Communion

5 and 7 p.m. Arizona City
5 and 7 p.m. Casa Grande

Christmas Program

“Operation Baby King”

Sunday, December 20th

9 a.m. Arizona City

10:15 a.m. Casa Grande

The time that has been foretold has arrived, some shepherds and assorted animals are about to witness the birth of the Son of God.

Angel Double O-Heaven is to witness the birth, monitor visitors, and ensure no single nation or group of people claim that the child is theirs alone.

Make a “Joyful Noise”

Choir rehearsal for Arizona City worship is held on Thursdays at 6 p.m.

Note: Watch for a start-up for choir in Casa Grande.

New Members

We will be welcoming new members on Dec. 6th in Casa Grande and Dec. 13th in Arizona City.

Please fill out an information sheet and talk with Pastor Thom.

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.”

Remember in Prayer

Maxine Cadman, Jean Erickson, Dorothy Everett, Dave Forbush, Pam Gardner, Bob and Patricia Hedblum, Art Hilburn, Rolland Karlin, Gertie Kenyon, Bill Liebhart, Gene Luft, Sean Mallory, Jean Muchmore, Neil Northey, Cleo Oakland, Carol and Pierce Owens, Jim Smith, Joyce Wibergh, Helen Zaudtke.

Council News

- Members will attend the synod Missional Church Conference on Jan. 9th in Carefree.
- Julie Rivas gave an update on the child care/pre-school, regular reports will be given to the congregation each month with an invitation to give special donations.
- Discussion began on the future staffing and operation of our multi-site ministry.
- Budget and annual meeting date will be set at Dec. meeting.
- **Intern Committee Meeting** is Monday, Dec. 14th in Casa Grande.
- Next **Council Meeting** is Mon, Dec. 7th at 6:30 p.m.

9-Hole Golf Scramble Event

Arizona City Golf Course

Sat, Dec. 19th at 2:30 p.m.

Players of all abilities are invited to our next golf event. Sign-up up today to play (\$15 + tax). Ken and Lois Morgan will host fellowship following play.