

## **“Framing OUR Mission” – January**

*“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)*

A decision in January will be made on our ongoing participation in the internship program for our multi-site ministry. For 2009-10 the East Valley Lutheran Thrift Shop has contributed \$15,000 toward the approximately \$24,000 of annual costs for an internship. Chase Foreman will share his experiences with us and how our congregation offers a unique and valuable internship opportunity. He will speak between services on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> in AZ City, and Jan, 17<sup>th</sup> in Casa Grande.

Discussion will focus on what can be done beginning in the Fall of 2010. Can the internship program be continued without partnership? 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.  
April – December -- donations have totaled over \$36,000.

## **Child Care and Pre-School – Be a Partner**

Our child care/pre-school continues to struggle because of the economic hardships and financial cuts from the state for families with a need for child care.

The child care committee and the council will continue to study the difficulties at meetings this month.

Many thanks for your donations, for over \$2,300 was contributed, to the child care ministry the past two months.

You can continue to 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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>December</u> :	General fund	\$540	
Special Gift/Memorial fund	\$9,043	“Framing OUR Mission” fund	\$36,733
Money Market fund	\$1,103	(from building fund)	

# Central News

January 2010

## **“Epiphany”**

*Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my son, the beloved, with you I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:21-22)*

In the church calendar the season of *Epiphany* begins in January with the new calendar year. *Epiphany* is a Greek word meaning “manifestation” -- a disclosure, a revelation, an insight. For Christians God provides new insight to the world through Jesus. During *Epiphany* we celebrate the manifestation of God in Jesus and the new revelations he discloses. We look back at the Christmas story and ahead to all that is to come in the building of God's kingdom.

So *Epiphany* suggests a journey, the setting of a new course, a spiritual odyssey. There is movement from ignorance to understanding, from darkness to light illuminating life, from the unknown to the revelation of insight.

As we prepare for our *Epiphany* journey we open our hearts and our minds to the guidance of the Spirit. It is a time to formulate, to examine and execute our ministry plan. Green, the color of the season, represents fertility and the resulting growth that is to take place as we take our journey.

As we begin this new year we join together in preparing for our ministry not only for this year, but for the years ahead. We will spend time evaluating our partnership with the seminaries in the internship program and how it may continue to be utilized in our multi-site ministry. We will discuss our multi-site model in our effort to reach out to the greater Casa Grande community. We will focus on our child care/pre-school ministry and explore our next steps for the future.

During these hard times we will pray for insight and guidance to be enlightened and bring enlightenment to the community around us.

**Central Lutheran Church**

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### **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 all services.

### **Arizona City**

**8 a.m. Traditional Worship**

**9:15 a.m. Sunday School**

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

**10:15 a.m. Festival Service**

**Fellowship** is held between services.

### **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 at both our sites to assist with worship – usher, reader, communion server.

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

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

***“Nothing Can Separate Us”***

Romans 8:1-39

Study Paul’s conviction that God refuses to allow us to be trapped in the realm of sin and death, but calls and empowers us to live, through Jesus, in God’s new creation.

Invite you friends and bring a dish to share.

### **Soup and Pie Supper**

**Sat, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 5-7 p.m.**

Your contributions help the ministries the women support. Donate a favorite pie for others to enjoy!

**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.

### **Make a “Joyful Noise”**

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

*Note:* Watch for the start of chime choir rehearsals in Arizona City this month – directed by Jean Erickson.

### **The Alpha Course**

**Begins Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>**

*The Alpha Course* is centered on study, care for one another, and prayer.

Discussion focuses on common questions about Jesus, God, the church, and our role in God’s kingdom.

Pastor Thom will hold introductory gatherings on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> in Casa Grande and Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> in AZ City. Come and see how you can be part of the discussion and begin an *Alpha* group of your own.

### **Rally in the Valley XV**

**Lutheran Seniors Assembly**

**Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>**

**La Casa de Cristo in Scottsdale**

Numerous presentations, interest sessions and a new way for Bible study are part of this year’s event.

Information and registration forms are available.

### **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.

### **9-Hole Golf Scramble Event**

**Arizona City Golf Course**

**Sat, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.**

Players of all abilities are invited to our next golf event. Sign-up up today to play (\$15 + tax).

Pat and Bill Wilson will host fellowship following play.

### **Remember in Prayer**

Thurman Armstrong, Peter Ask, 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.

### **2010 Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> at 3 p.m. in AZ City**

The meeting will be held in the afternoon so members from both sites can participate. A pot luck dinner will be at 3 p.m. with the annual meeting beginning at 3:30 p.m. Come and celebrate all that has taken place and as we look ahead to the new year.

### **Council News**

- Council positions to be filled include: four terms for three years, one term for two years, and, one term for one year.
- In January an appeal will be made to the congregation on the future of the internship program for our multi-site ministry.
- Audit meeting for 2009 is Sat, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.
- Next **Multi-Site meeting** is Tue, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- Next **Council Meeting** is Mon, Jan 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.