

### **“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)*

Discussion continues on what can be done beginning in the Fall of 2010. We received over 70 responses to our internship/multi-site ministry survey. Of the respondents 95% were supportive of the internship program; and 10%, though supportive of internship, encouraged other options be explored as well.

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.

### **“Stepping Out with Jesus”**

During the month of February our stewardship emphasis will focus on answering the call of Jesus to *“follow me.”* In the gospel accounts Jesus invites a chosen few to take a great *“step”* of faith and become his disciples. Pastor Tom Barbaret will be our guest on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> speaking on what it means to *“step out”* with Jesus in faith and encouraging us to reflect on how our giving is a part of our *“walk”* with him.

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

The child care committee and the council are continuing to study the financial difficulties at their meetings this month. They will continue to keep the congregation apprised of the ministries ongoing needs.

Many thanks for your donations, over \$3,000 has been contributed, to the child care ministry the past few months.

You can continue to help by donating snacks and school supplies.  
Contact Julie Rivas for the latest update.

- 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

February 2010

### **“The Greatness of Love”**

*“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”*  
(1 Corinthians 13:13)

With the celebration of Valentine’s Day we hear a great deal about the expression of love. We talk of a love that focuses on an emotional affection, a cherishing of a loved one. It is a love that recognizes a beautiful relationship with one who is near and dear. A love that evokes emotion, comes to us unsought by falling in love. Christian love is different. It is a love not only extended to our nearest and dearest, family and friends, and those who love us. Christian love extends to the Christian fellowship, to the neighbor, to the enemy, to the world.

Christian love is not an emotion which rises unbidden in our hearts. Rather, it is a principle by which we deliberately live. It has supremely to do with the will. It is a conquest, a victory, an achievement. We do not naturally love our enemies. To love our enemies is a conquest of all our natural inclinations and emotions.

Christian love is a power to love the unlovable, to love people whom we do not like. Christianity does not ask us to love our enemies the same way we love those who are closest to us, but it does ask that we should have at all times a certain attitude of the mind towards all people, no matter who they are.

Christian love seeks nothing but the highest good for all people. Such love is a product of God’s Spirit. It is a benevolence exercised when one is cleansed from human bitterness and the natural reaction to injure and dislike.

When the Spirit takes possession of us the love of God comes from the heart. It does not mean letting a person simply have his or her way. We may well have to resist, even punish for the highest good. It takes God’s Spirit and everything within us to achieve Christian love, not only the heart, but the mind and will as well.

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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, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.**

***“Does God Keep Promises?”***

Text – Romans 9, 10 and 11

Paul acknowledges the limit of human understanding, yet maintains his trust in God’s promises and faithfulness to his beloved people.

Invite your friends.

Bring a dish to share.

**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.

### **Chime Choir**

Rehearsals are held in Arizona City on Tuesdays at 5 p.m.

Contact Jean Erickson at 876-5118.

### ***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.”*

### **The Alpha Course**

**Sundays at 9:15 a.m.**

*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 and Chase will lead the study each week at both sites.

### **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.

### **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.

### **9-Hole Golf Scramble Event Arizona City Golf Course Sat, Feb. 20<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). Ellva and Gene Erickson and Pat and John Shears will host fellowship following play.

### ***Ash Wednesday***

**February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

**Arizona City and Casa Grande**

Worship will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Weekday Lenten services will be held throughout the season.

### **Remember in Prayer**

Thurman Armstrong, Peter Ask, Maxine Cadman, Dorothy Everett, Dave Forbush, Pam Gardner, Earl and JoAnne Granger, 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.

### **Softball Team Winter Season**

The *Faithball* team will begin play on Monday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Schedules will soon be available. Games are at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on Pinal Ave. in Casa Grande.

Thanks for your support each week.

### **Haiti Aid through ELCA**

Find out more about the Lutheran World Relief’s effort at [www.elca.org/haitiearthquake](http://www.elca.org/haitiearthquake)

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

**Multi-Site** -- Tue, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
**Council** -- Tue, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.