

“Step Out with Jesus”

On the first Sunday of our stewardship program we received 103 pledges from our members and non-members/winter residents. Most of the cards showed a total weekly commitment for the next year. These totaled nearly \$100,000. Of these cards 37 indicated a growth in giving for a total of approximately \$11,500.

Please fill out your pledge card and place it in the offering during the coming weeks to be a part of our mission to *“step out with Jesus.”*

“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)

With great anticipation we look ahead, filled with praise and thanks to God!

Framing OUR Mission: Pledges of more than \$135,000 through March 2012.

April 2009 – January 2010 -- donations have totaled over \$44,000.

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 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).

Upcoming Meetings

Multi-Site -- Tue, March 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Council -- Tue, March 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Congregational Financial News

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|---|--------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Account balances – through <u>January</u> : | General fund | \$9,020 | |
| Special Gift/Memorial fund | \$9,043 | “Framing OUR Mission” fund | \$33,460 |
| Money Market fund | \$1,103 | (from building fund) | |

Central News

March 2010

“Step Out with Jesus”

And Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water.’

Jesus said, ‘Come.’

So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

(Matthew 14:28-29)

When we read this text as a focus of our ***“Step Out with Jesus”*** stewardship program we note how Peter acknowledged the power of Jesus. He says to Jesus, “bid me to come.” On the water! For the moment he was able to abandon the human way of looking at the situation, that this is an impossible task!

However, Peter’s faith is short lived. As the wind blows around him once again worldly forces fill him with doubt. He begins to sink into the water.

In the midst of his failure of faith, dropping below the surface of the water, Peter once again relies on Jesus’ authority and cries for help. And Jesus is there to reach out and grab him by the arm to pull him to safety.

We read how Peter’s relationship with Jesus was life changing. As a fisherman he would never have felt compelled to leave the safety of the boat and attempt to walk on the water. But with Jesus he is assured, however briefly, all things are possible. As a disciple of Jesus, this former fisherman invests his entire life in Jesus. During his life’s journey he will devote himself to the ministry of Jesus. Giving his talents, his abilities, his gifts, his life to Jesus.

In our own lives we are called to “come” by Jesus. At different times, in our own ways, we experience the power of God. As we recognize his power we are called to give of ourselves and our gifts to the ministry of his kingdom. This may require us to give up the feeling of safety within our own personal “boat.” To do what would be impossible to consider on our own. We can, and we do, because we are changing from the ways of our world to the ways of his kingdom.

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 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, March 10 at 12:30 p.m.
“The Renewing of Our Minds”

Text – Romans 12:1-21, 13:1-14
Paul writes to help believers in Rome understand and experience new life in Christ’s body.

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.”

Lenten Season Worship

Wednesdays in Casa Grande
11:30 a.m. -- Worship
Noon -- Luncheon

Why do we so often address sin in destructive ways toward ourselves and others? Though our sinfulness leads to pain and turmoil we can be constructive through our reflection and repentance to experience personal and community growth.

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.

CPR/AED Training Scheduled

The Arizona City Fire District will be providing the church with an automatic external defibrillator. The AED and CPR training is scheduled for **Tue, March 9th from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. in AZ City**. Cost for the training is a reduced rate of \$25.

9-Hole Golf Scramble Event

Arizona City Golf Course
Sat, March 13th at 3 p.m.
Players of all abilities are invited to our next golf event. Sign-up up to play (\$15 + tax).

Softball Team Winter Season

Due to rainy weather the *Faithball* team begins play on Monday, March 1st with games at 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. March 8th, 15th 22nd – 8:30 & 9:30 p.m. March 29th – 6:30 & 7:30 p.m. Season schedules are 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

Remember in Prayer

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, Joyce Wibergh, Helen Zaudtke.

Bereavement – Cleone Armstrong and family following the death of Thurman.