

Casa Grande Renovations

Great work has been done by the renovation team at the Casa Grande site. Our first worship experience was our Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve! Many thanks to everyone who worked at the site and/or made donations to help fund the project. The renovation team has consisted of Gary and Jayne Schneuer, Dick Nisbet, Larry Schelske, Ron Jung, Harold Hall, and Sue Rhoades. If anyone has an interest to be a part of a new property team – to oversee needs at both sites – contact Pastor Thom.

Child Care and Pre-School Ministry

During the last few years our child care and pre-school ministry has needed ongoing financial support from the general fund of the congregation. Each month approximately \$1,500 - 2,000 has been needed to supplement the program. This shortfall has largely been due to the change in support from the state of Arizona to child care programs. This month the child care board and the council will discuss the future options of our ministry to be presented at the annual meeting.

If you have any input, talk with any board or council member.

Director: Julie Rivas (Office) 466-5174.

Board members: Karen Nelson (Pres), Barbara Doty (Vice Pres),
Linda Gal (Sec.), Steve Gal, Gary Linafelter.

Internship for 2011-12

For the third year the East Valley Thrift Shop has partnered with our internship program. You can also help by making a special contribution, place your donation in the offering designated “internship 2011-12.”

Council News

- Bekah Davis will be organizing an event in January for the ELCA Malaria Fund
- “Church 360,” a new computerized system for recording annual individual contributions, is in place to be used beginning this year.
- Child care/pre-school evaluation will take place in January, which may lead to recommendations to the congregation at the annual meeting
 - Annual meeting is scheduled for January 29th

Meetings: Multi-Site - Tue, January 10th at 5:30 p.m. in Casa Grande

Council – Tue, January 10th at 6:30 p.m. in Casa Grande

Financial News

Account balances – through November: General fund \$5,911
(includes East Valley mission partner funds for internship)

“Framing OUR Mission”: \$25,363 Mission Partners/Internship: \$10,000

Central News

January 2012

“A New Year’s Resolution”

Here’s a New Year’s resolution that is worth your time. At the end of a day, any day, sit down with a blank piece of paper and write down everything you did that day. Every detail. You’re probably going to end up with a long list of items.

Now go back and label your activities as one of the following:

(1)essential (2)important, but not essential (3)helpful, but not necessary (4)trivial.

When you’re done, examine your list. Notice how many details there are in one day. How did you do all that? You may also notice how much time you spent on the trivial things, and how little time you spent on essential activities. You now have a measure of actions, which may not be what you expected.

We don’t necessarily spend a lot of our time on what we judge as essential activities, but it is the trivial things that occupy much of our time. Furthermore, we may not feel that the trivial details of our lives really amount to much when we look at it from God’s perspective.

But, God cares about the small stuff. He cares more than we do. We are asked to put God at the center of all we do. We are to strive to have a “*God consciousness*” in our daily routine; that is to have a “*divine perspective*” in the details of life, no matter how small they may seem. This exercise can help us realize that God is important in the ordinary. Maybe then, our daily life “*grind,*” will have more meaning and purpose.

This new year, live each day with an overwhelming sense that God wants to be present in the details, and God is all around us impacting all things, with all people.

Focus on God in all we do. Include God in the small stuff and we may have a clearer and more effective focus in our lives.

Reflections for our New Year’s resolution:

“You can begin your day without God, but you’ll never really get started.”

“The way you deal with life each day depends on what you bring to life each day.”

“You’ll know something is meaningful when it goes from your head to your heart to your hands.”

Happy New Year!

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.

8 a.m. Traditional Service

Liturgical worship with a blend of music.

10:15 a.m. Festival Worship

Uplifting contemporary praise songs.

Arizona City

Sunday School 9 a.m.

For information on Sunday School contact Kathy Davis (464-8021), Linda Gal (705-1450) or Karen Nelson (518-0048).

Casa Grande

Call Kara Cooper (426-9228 eve) to learn about youth *Sunday School* opportunities.

Fellowship is held at both sites each Sunday.

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

Worship Assistants -- There is a form to indicate your interest to help with worship -- greeter, usher, reader, and communion server -- and nursery care. Sign-up and you will be contacted regarding the date to help.

Name Tags -- We would like to have name tags for all of our worshipers. Sign up for yours.

Women of Central Lutheran

Bible Study and Fellowship

Wed, Jan. 11th at 12:30 p.m.

Arizona City

“Confessing Christ”

Theme verse: Mark 9:24

Mark presents a number of stories that have shaped the Christian community for 20 centuries

Quilting is held on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

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

Help the Less Fortunate

Donate food for the Casa Grande Food Bank, which helps hundreds of people each month in our area.

Place items in the food box at either of our sites. For information call Larry Schelske at 836-0891. Thank you!

Worship Nursery

In Arizona City a child care provider staffs the nursery equipped for all child care needs each Sunday.

You can help by being a volunteer assistant (contact the office).

Make a “Joyful Noise”

Choir rehearsal for Arizona City worship is held each Thursday at 6 p.m.

Youth Night Class

Weekday Bible studies and events for elementary, middle school and high school students are scheduled for **Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.**

at the Casa Grande campus.

“Faithball” Action in 2012

Kathy Davis and Alyson Stephens thank the great fans who supported our softball teams last year. Watch for the upcoming season in February 2012!

Thrivent Choice Program

Central Lutheran has been enrolled as a participating member in “Thrivent Choice.” Thrivent members can direct “Choice” funds to the church by going to the program’s “online catalog.” This year over \$2,000 has been given to our congregation from Thrivent.

For information call 1-800-847-4836 and ask for “Thrivent Choice” or go online to mail@thrivent.com.

Remember in Prayer

Ron Anderson, RJ Baer, Sharon Baer, **Stephanie Brundage**, Maxine Cadman, Dave Forbush, Pam Gardner, Bob and Patricia Hedblum, Ivan Johannsen, Rolland Karlin, Gertie Kenyon, Bill Liebhart, Gene Luft, Sean Mallory, Bonnie Murphy, Neil Northey, Carol and Pierce Owens, Robin and Daryl Tisinger, Helen Zaudtke.

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.”*

New Members

We will welcome new members and associate members in January/February. You are asked to fill out an information form and return it to the office. For more information talk with Pastor Thom.

Internship Program

Our internship team working with Bekah Davis includes Becky Gessner, Ron Jung, Joe DeRoulhac, Denise Shepard, Sue Rhoades, and Marjorie Houle. To learn more talk with any member or call Becky (466-5638).

Offering Envelopes are available for the new year. If you don’t have assigned envelopes sign-up on the “offering envelopes” list.

Upcoming Meetings at the Casa Grande Site

Multi-Site -- Tue, Jan. 10th at 5:30 p.m.

Council – Tue, Jan. 10th at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting – Sun, Jan. 29th at 4 p.m.

Fellowship with favorite desserts will be held following the meeting.

Low Impact Aerobics

Mon & Thu 7:30-8:30 a.m. AZ City

Call Frankie Marquart at 466-7663

Happy New Year!