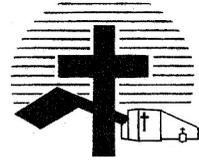


Santa Cruz Lutheran Church
6809 South Cardinal Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85746



Santa Cruz News
(520) 883-2937
www.santacruzlutheran.org

*Building enduring relationships
in Jesus' Name:
- With God
- With each other
- And with our community*

July 2017

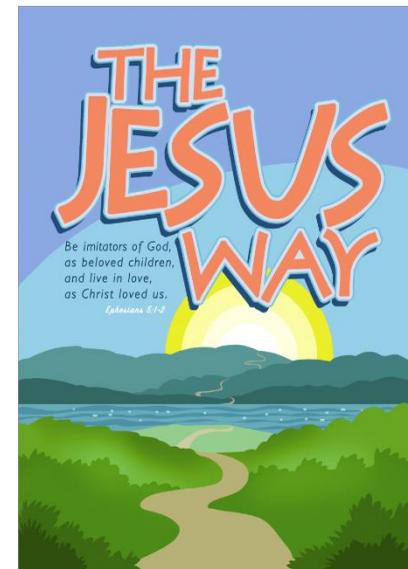
F Y I...

...*Christ in Our Home* daily devotional booklets (in large and regular print) are available on the worship book cabinet for you to pick up quarterly. Large print copies of our weekly bulletins are also available on that same cabinet. Your Santa Cruz Newsletter may be picked up on the cabinet on the last Sunday of each month (there are a few extras for folks who have provided an email option).

...Once again folks from Santa Cruz will join volunteers from two other churches to help at the **Poz Café** on Thursday, August 17th. Throughout the month of July we invite you to donate **small packs of toilet paper, individually wrapped paper towels, bottles of dish detergent, and bottles of shampoo**. There will be boxes on the east wall for your donations.

...We thank each and every one of you who continue, week after week, to bring in canned and packaged items for our **food ministry**. During the summer months, we invite folks to bring in **school items** as well. We like to collect paper, pencils, pens, glue, notebooks, binders, crayons, and other school items to provide for the children of our food ministry clients.

...The **Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona** is hosting a **workshop for Teen Leaders Against Hunger** on Saturday, July 22, 9AM - 1:30PM. This workshop can include valuable volunteer experience that could be used in college as well as in day-to-day life, and is open to all high school students. The workshop will include: volunteer experience, Myths and Realities of Poverty workshop; Budgeting 101; Tour of the Community Food Bank; lunch; certificate of completion.



VACATION BIBLE SATURDAY IS HAPPENING HERE

JULY 22 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
(lunch will be served)

The Jesus Way is our VBS theme this summer. Come, learn how Jesus feeds His lambs, the Israelites, and the 5,000 gathered to hear His word. Learn about the Santa Cruz Food Bank Distribution, and begin our project of raising money to buy chickens and a rooster for a needy family overseas. Games, music, and snacks will round out your morning, and send you on *The Jesus Way*.

VBS is inter-generational for anyone over 3 years old, and is offered at no cost. A volunteer sign-up sheet is posted on the Kiosk, or let Carol Radler know you are interested in helping, and in what area your interests lie.

Soon we'll provide a list of items needed to prepare our snacks and lunch. We invite you to take a look at the items and take a "tab" or two home with you and return the items on the date requested.

Pastor's Page

Dear Friends,

In his book *"The Purpose-Driven Church"* (a terrific companion book, by the way, to his best-selling *"The Purpose-Driven Life"*), Pastor Rick Warren writes that every church is driven by something...

A lot of churches are driven by tradition. Others will be driven by personalities and politics. Still other churches are driven by debt, by the shape of their buildings, or by other dynamics so inflexible that fresh growth is often difficult.

Healthy churches, however, are driven by God's purposes. These churches focus on the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, and they understand that God wants his Church to fulfill five key purposes:



Worship – Healthy churches will magnify the name of Jesus in all that they do every time they gather around Word and Sacrament.

Evangelism – Healthy churches will focus on the mission of reaching out, inviting, and introducing unchurched people to Jesus.

Fellowship – Healthy churches will provide faith-shaping opportunities for people to connect with one another as the body of Christ.

Discipleship – Healthy churches will lead people in engaging one another in the study of the Word, will teach them the time-tested spiritual disciplines that bring forth a deeper, more matured experience of faith, and will expect them to hold one another accountable in becoming more like Christ.

Ministry – Healthy churches will help people discover their "SHAPE" (Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences) for serving others.

These are the basic, biblical concepts behind what it means to be a "Purpose-Driven Church". These are the building blocks for true growth... for true growth includes far more than just numbers... we are also intended by God to grow deeper, broader, wiser, and stronger.

I invite you to look around... at our congregation, at our neighborhood, and at one another... and ask yourself the question... "What is driving us here at Santa Cruz?" And I welcome your participation in the very things we are seeking to do to refocus and align our church's ministry with the heart and the purposes of God.

Pastor Jim

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS 9:15 WORSHIP TIME ONLY - JULY

ACOLYTES

2 Kasey Hunt
9 Joshua Lippert
16 Ella Daniels
23 Brandon Lopez
30 Yaniva Murrieta

LECTORS

2 June Keiflin
9 Ray Rakow
16 Ruth Senkbeil
23 Valerie Cook
30 Sheila Cecena

ASSISTING MINISTERS

2 & 9 Carol Radler
16, 23, 30 Stu Weidenschilling

COFFEE HOSTS

2 & 9 Dick & Jean Meyer
16 & 23 Kenny & Diane White
30 Ches Gandy

USHERS

2 & 9 Mark & Pam Kern, Lisa Wood-Hromidko; Renee Riegert
16, 23, 30 Bob & Vicky Hohmann, Fred Nichols, Joanie Contreras

REFRESHMENTS

2 & 9
30 Ches Gandy

16 & 23 Kenny & Diane White



JULY 9TH

Got a question for you – What follows this: "You were sixteen, my village queen?" You probably know the answer, but you'd be surprised how many people today do not! And that's because barbershop songs (and singing "close" harmonies) have become so little known anymore. WE'RE GONNA CHANGE THAT!

On Sunday, July 9th (mark your calendars!), the Tucson Barbershoppers will be paying a return visit to Santa Cruz Lutheran Church at our regularly scheduled summertime worship hour (9:15). You won't want to miss them!

Sometimes you'll hear people say that barbershop or other forms of popular music isn't "proper" in church. We disagree wholeheartedly. The Great Reformer, Martin Luther, once asked: "Why should the Devil have all the good tunes?" (By the way, at this year's 500th Anniversary of the Reformation we will hear a couple of Luther's own melodies – but more about that in future Newsletters.)

So, don't miss the opportunity for Santa Cruz to welcome back this group of singers on Sunday, July 9th. By the way, the answer to the opening question is – "Down by the old mill stream."
--- Mark



YOUTH – Sr. High School SALCA Camp – grades 9th–12th, runs July 28-30 at the Triangle Y Ranch in Oracle, AZ. Registration forms can be found on mysalca.com or contact Carol Radler at 294-8721 for assistance. God's Gang funds will pay for your registration fees, but we need to know who is going. Please let Carol know as soon as possible and we'll assist with the forms and getting the monies to the right folks.

When we pray for one another it makes a difference. Include in God's care:

Valerie Bridges	Avery Johnson	Lois Bradshaw	Myrna Wunder
Tom Oliver	Gladyce Johnson	Chuck Conrad	Samuel Clemmons
Lincoln Corral	Don & Esther Wood	Shawna Murphy	Fred Young
Lillian Kusy	Gene Copper	Florence Billingsley	Patty Zdeb
Pat Millyard	Susie Hager	Maxine Schaller	Mark Kern
Betty Layton	Ellen Swancutt	Don Hunt	Andy Nichols
Arlie Boatwright	Linda Robinson	Betty Hossler	Alyssa Ott
Sam & Carolyn Dodson	Robert Bossardet	Karen Meyers	Sandy Skinner
Larry & Nancy Broadhead			

We rejoice with...

Richard & Nora Corral at the birth of their son, Lincoln Aron Corral, on May 5
Leanne Childs as she celebrates the birth of her nephew, Ethan, on June 1

† † †

THANKS...

...to **Maria Dew, Melody Hensley, and Jeri Lind** who attended the Synod Assembly along with **Pastor Jim**.

...to **All** who continue to donate canned and packaged goods, cake mixes, birthday candles, books, and games to supplement our food box distribution.

...to the folks at **Literacy Connects** for continuing to provide books to have available for our food ministry clients and their children.

...to **Kenny Morgan and his friend** for offering to pick up and set up a new commercial refrigerator placed in our food ministry area. This refrigerator was funded by money raised during last year's yard sale, along with donations for Vicki Lawless. The refrigerator will allow us to distribute dairy products, salads, veggie platters, and other healthy items to our food ministry clients.



CELEBRATION OF OUR SENIORS

(members 80 years and older this year)

Following our 9:15 worship on Sunday, July 2nd we will celebrate our seniors with a cake in their honor. Santa Cruz is blessed with the following senior members: Shirley Biamonte, Lois Bradshaw, Ron & Ginny Buch, Chuck Conrad, Betty Durham, Dorothy Frenz, Ches Gandy, Don Genung, Dimas & Diane Gonzalez,

MaryLee Haag, Arlen Holmes, Betty Hossler, Winnie Keesler, June Keiflin, Betty Layton, Bruce Marks, Johnny & Beverly Palermo, Ray Rakow, Ruth Rice, Larry Ruder, Maxine Schaller, Dorothy Taylor, Don & Esther Wood and Fred Young. We are blessed with your presence – near and far!

HOW IS OUR GIVING?

Our Giving (thru May)	\$ 72,372	(~\$20,000 less than year-to-date 2016)
Our Expenses (thru May)	<u>- 73,910</u>	(~\$4,000 less than year-to-date 2016)
Difference	\$- 1,538	(amount our expenses exceed our giving)
Cash on Hand	\$ 5,626	(available cash as of May 31, 2017)

The hymns we sang on June 18th sure hit home for me. I ask that you again take a look at the words to #712 – “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service;” and #546 – “To Be Your Presence.” I’ve included them as an insert. We are called to serve the Lord, to show compassion, to feed the poor, to shelter the homeless, to speak for the oppressed. We ask the Lord to grant us vision to make known the needs and burdens of those around us, and to help us to act on those needs.

But how can we do any of these things if we close the doors of Santa Cruz Lutheran Church? We’ve been asked to “borrow” from our Designated Funds and Sprint Funds; however, with only \$5,626 in our checking, how CAN we borrow? As it is, 85% of our Sprint Funds are now designated to benefit SCLC.

We’ve been asked to lessen our tithe to the Synod, yet we ask our members to tithe to Santa Cruz. We’ve been asked to stick closely to our budget expenditures, yet, I’m proud to say, we’ve been under budget every year for the past 15 years (I didn’t research further back than that)!

I wish I were given a dollar each time someone came into our office and said, “It’s hot in here!” (we keep the thermostat at 80°); or each time Pastor Jim and I have discovered that folks have left the premises and forgotten to turn out the lights or left the fans or A/C or heater running. I’d gladly put that money in the offering plate!

All we’re asking is that if you’re behind on your weekly offering, please catch up, and if you haven’t yet reached a tithe, that you strive to do so. - Diane

DO YOU LIKE PUZZLES?

Check out the sign-up sheets for Sunday Worship opportunities!
(Acolyte; Assisting Minister; Coffee Host; Lector; Refreshments; Usher)

June had 40 Worship opportunities in which to serve; 50 in July; 40 in August...

However, the number of willing servants is only 59

September through May, the **needs double** with two Sunday Worship times (8 & 10:30)

We need more pieces to complete the puzzle – that mean more volunteers!

Please sign up on the Kiosk, or call Ginny Buch at 908-9245, or the church office at 883-2937 to let us know how you’d like to help.

If you have questions regarding the opportunities to serve, we have the answers.

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!