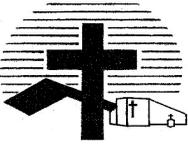


Santa Cruz Lutheran Church
6809 South Cardinal Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85746

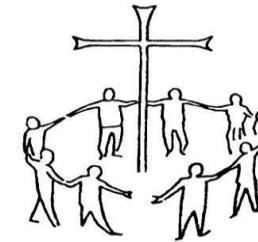


Santa Cruz News

(520) 883-2937
www.santacruzlutheran.org

AUGUST 2017

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



OPPORTUNITIES
TO HELP OTHERS...

GREEN CHILI CHEESE PUFFS

(Dana Scholer prepared these little goodies for one of our coffee hosting times and got rave reviews. Dana has asked that we print her recipe for others to try...)

½ cup soft butter	½ tsp Worcestershire sauce
2 cups grated cheddar cheese	10-12 green olives with pimentos, chopped
½ tsp dry mustard	¼ tsp cayenne pepper
½ tsp salt	1-1/4 cup flour
1 can chopped green chilies, drained; or roast your own chilies and chop them up	

Directions: Beat all ingredients, except flour, until well blended. Add flour and mix into stiff dough. Make small balls (1 tsp) and place on an ungreased baking sheet. Press down with tines of a fork. Bake at 350° until lightly browned – approximately 15 minutes. Serve warm or cold. (Add more cayenne pepper if you like more of a bite!)



OCTOBER 7 – mark your calendar to give us a hand as we volunteer (probably 8:00-Noon?) with Habitat for Humanity. We'll let you know more as we get the information, but would love to have 7 or 8 of us volunteering! In the past, we have cleaned up yards, completed some outside painting, helped with building a Habitat Home, etc. It's a wonderful, fulfilling experience meeting other volunteers, and knowing you're helping someone in need.

...POZ CAFÉ – on Thursday, August 17th, 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM SCLC volunteers (6 are needed) will join two other churches to offer our help at this special lunch prepared and served to folks in Tucson living with HIV/AIDS. Continuing until August 13th we invite you to donate toilet paper, paper towels, dish detergent, and shampoo. These items will be combined with other donations to make up a bag of much-needed goodies for the CarePartners. Your donations may be placed in the bin on the east wall.

Please let Diane know if you'd like to be one of our volunteers. The lunch, raffle, bingo games, and festivities take place at St. Francis in the Foothills (Swan & Sunrise). We can car pool from church at 8:00 AM and arrive back around 2:30 PM.

...SEPTEMBER 10TH - "GOD'S WORK...OUR HANDS" SUNDAY... and KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF! Adults and kids of all ages are invited to join together in assembling "Hope Bags" for folks living on the streets in our community. **Throughout the month of August**, we'll need your help in collecting the following items to be placed in the gallon-sized Ziploc "Hope Bags" on Sunday, September 10th: granola bars, hand sanitizer, hard candy, toothpaste, small Kleenex packages, comb, socks, bottled water, deodorant, soap, small lotion, and one-gallon sized Ziploc bags.

Be sure to bring your friends!

Pastor's Page

Dear Friends,

Allow me to ask your prayers for the following...

Early in August, I will be attending the "Rostered Ministers Gathering" in Atlanta, Georgia with one thousand other ELCA pastors and deacons. This will be a tremendous week filled with worship, bible study, workshops, field trips, and service outings. I was fortunate to receive a small scholarship from our own Grand Canyon Synod to help offset some of the expense. This is the very first time that such a large gathering has been offered specifically for the rostered leaders of our denomination, and I ask for your prayers, not only for its success, but that all who partake in this event be blessed beyond expectation, and that same blessing be extended back into our own particular places of ministry. (My participation in this gathering, by the way, also fulfills my annual continuing education requirement mandated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.)

I also ask the power of your prayers for my brother-in-law, Paco Garcia, and for all the family, as well. Paco has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer. You may recall that one of Maria's other brothers, Jaime, died from prostate cancer just under three years ago (as did her father, Juan, the very day in early August 2004 that all our belongings were loaded into a moving van to bring us here to Tucson). Needless to say, we are all a bit fearful. Many of you know the depth of that same anxiety from your own personal or family experience. Please pray for the remission and healing of Paco's cancer, as well as for strength and peace for everyone connected to him.

(Right now, our plans include Maria heading over to Texas to spend time with her family in September, as Old Tucson, her place of employment, will shut down for most of the month. God willing, I am hoping to also be able to make a very quick trip over there to see Paco and the rest of the family the final few days of September.)

Let me finally ask, as well, for your commitment to daily prayer leading up to the weekend that Pastor Miguel Gomez-Acosta will be among us here at Santa Cruz on September 23-24. Pastor Miguel is our synod's Director for Evangelical Mission. In addition to congregational start-ups, his expertise and passion also include assisting congregations seeking renewal and (when need be) re-development. He will lead us in an onsite "retreat" that Saturday and offer the sermon on Sunday. Please hold this event, along with the full and energetic participation of everyone here at Santa Cruz, in your prayers throughout these next couple months.

May God fill us fully as we come before him daily in our praying.

Pastor Jim

SERVING OUR LORD DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST 9:15 WORSHIP TIME ONLY

ACOLYTES

6	Joshua Lippert	20	Yaniva Murietta
13	Ella Daniels	27	Mariah Ballentine

ASSISTING MINISTER

6 & 13	Louise Conrad	20 & 27	Sandy Skinner
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COFFEE HOSTS

6 & 13	Gene & Rose copper	20 & 27	Bob & Vicky Hohmann
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LECTORS

6	June Keiflin	20	Gay Kline
13	Dick Meyer	27	Cheryl Bahrychuk

USHERS

6 & 13	Allan & Brenda Depew, LeAnne Mitts, Lynn Davis
20 & 27	Sheila and Dylan Ceceña, Francis & Margaret Schofield

REFRESHMENTS

6 & 13	Gene & Rose Copper	20 & 27	Bob & Vicky Hohmann
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KUDOS TO...

...our young adults, Emma and Kasey Hunt, for their dedication to serve as acolytes
...to those who honor their assignments as Assisting Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, and Coffee Hosts
...to those who step in when needed to acolyte, usher, or help with communion
...to those who juggle their assignments – and find their own replacement – when needed

Thanks be to God for the opportunity to serve the Lord with gladness!



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT... what it would be like if all the volunteers in our church went on strike or quit? Picture a typical Sunday morning – there are no Altar Guild members to prepare and clean the altar; there are no ushers to greet and direct the people, hand out bulletins, or take up the offering; there are no counters to count that offering; no coffee hosts to prepare coffee and refreshments; thus no excuse to settle in the fellowship hall to visit; the children arrive for Sunday School, but there is no teacher.

There would be no Church Council to guide our congregation, no committees to plan events, no Youth leaders to plan activities and community service projects, no one to help with our much-needed food ministry, no crafters to raise funds for community outreach, and the list goes on.

Who are these volunteers – the people without whom we could not function? They are you and me... God's people responding with a strong commitment to live out our faith in this world.

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

Chad Grant	Paul Bean	Karrie Frenz	Laura St. Aubin
Samuel Clemmons	Cathy Waters	Ralph & Patty Zdeb	Jerry & Kathy Senzig
Mark Herr	Myrna Wunder	Sherry Daniels	Audrey Skinner
Ben Wigchers	Larry Havenga	Austin Hill	Florence Billingsley
Andy Nichols	Gladyce Johnson	Gene Copper	Maxine Schaller
Betty Layton	Fred Young	Lois Bradshaw	Esther Wood
Karen Meyer	Linda Robinson	Paco Garcia	Arlie Boatwright
Ellen Swancutt	Valerie Bridges	Pat Millyard	Don Hunt
Susie Hager	Avery Johnson	Mark Kern	Sam & Carolyn Dodson

† † †

THANKS...

...to **Joanie Contreras and Melody Hensley** for presenting the children's message this summer.
...to **Kenny Morgan and friend, Dave**, for getting our A/C in the fellowship hall up and running.
...to **Kenny Morgan** for cleaning the gutters and around the westside A/C unit.
...to **Marcello Matus** for repositioning the altar banner hangers for easier access.

***THANK YOU** to the Angel who picked up my broken bag of aluminum cans on Sunday, July 9. The bag broke just as I was getting it out of the car, and I didn't have another one handy at the time. When I finally returned to my parking spot, the cans were already picked up. Bless You! - Carol Radler*

***WHAT A GREAT DAY!** Thank you to all who helped with or brought food items for Vacation Bible Saturday. We had a great time learning how Jesus fed His lambs, the Israelites, and the 5,000 gathered to hear His Word. Lunch and snacks were delicious, games were active and fun, craft projects were completed, and our Mission Project was kicked off. Clear until Labor Day weekend, your loose change may be placed in containers on the worship book cabinets. Those funds will be sent through the ELCA Good Gifts program to purchase chickens and/or roosters for needy families overseas.*

VBS Volunteers – Dianna Chavez, Joanie Contreras, Gene & Rose Copper, Lynn Davis, Pastor Jim, Martha, Philip, Sasha Gil, Melody Hensley, June Keiflin, Pam Kern, Jeri Lind, Ken Morgan, Renee Riegert, Ruth Senkbeil, Marian Tokar, Esther Wood, and Lisa Wood-Hromidko.

***THANK YOU** for all the prayers, cards, calls, and visits while I was in the hospital and rehabbing at La Canada Care Center. Your thoughtfulness helped to make this ordeal bearable. I'm grateful to the Lord for the many wonderful people He has put in my life. - Lois Bradshaw*

PARISH LIFE MEETING – on Sunday, August 20th, immediately following our 9:15 worship, members of our Parish Life Team will gather in the church office (for our semi-annual meeting) to discuss activities for the remainder of the year. If you like serving others and have a creative idea or two, please be sure to join us. All are welcomed!

YOUTH NEWS...

1ST BIBLE CLASS – any youth going into the 2nd grade this fall, or who have not already received a Bible, are eligible to receive their First Bible from Santa Cruz Lutheran. Carol Radler will hold a class on Sunday, August 20th, 10:15-11:00 AM in the Youth Room behind the organ. Parents/Grandparents/Guardians/Sponsors are encouraged to pick up a Bible before that date and add congratulatory remarks, or leave scriptural messages on the empty pages. Please see Carol to register for the class.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Calling all Youth – Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 10th, so be sure to give your parents and grandparents a heads up! Students will meet Ms. Renee at 9:15 AM in the Sunday School room located behind the organ. All are welcomed, so feel free to bring your siblings and friends. Adults, please be sure to let Renee know when you'd like to lead a class – your talents are welcomed anytime between September and May!

THE COUNTDOWN IS HERE! Only one more year until we leave for Houston, TX for the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering. We'll have an organizational meeting in September, so start getting your ideas for fund raising ready, as registration begins November 1st!

Dear friends in Christ,

At the end of last year, I was attending my congregation's council meeting at which the proposed 2017 budget was presented for the first time. As we were going through the various line items, first on the income side and then later expenses, we came to the line for Mission Support. "This is the 10 percent that goes to the ELCA." It was an easy entry to cover because for years my congregation has given 10 percent of our regular member giving to Mission Support.

As we moved on to other items in the budget, I wondered how many council members sitting around the table understood what that meant. Was that 10% a tax we had to pay for being Lutherans? Maybe it was something like a franchise fee for being able to participate in the ELCA? When the narrative isn't obvious, our minds kick into gear and create an explanation of our own, correct or not.

I decided at the end of the presentation to speak up. I said that while we are going through this I would like to go back to the line about Mission Support and talk about that a bit more. I stated there is a whole ecology of Lutheran ministry and mission that our congregation participates in beyond what we do directly. After mentioning a few things like world hunger, missionaries, campus ministry, Lutheran colleges and universities and seminaries, I concluded by saying that most likely the Lutheran church is the most important organization that we belong to for changing the world as Jesus would have us do and this is how we make that possible. As leaders in stewardship, we need to always be connecting the flow of funds to the mission and impact those dollars make possible.

Hopefully this helps you to inspire others and advocate for the ministry we do together as made possible by Mission Support. We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life. Thank you for doing God's work with a faithful, generous heart!

Faithfully,

Steve Oelschlager, Stewardship Program Coordinator, ELCA