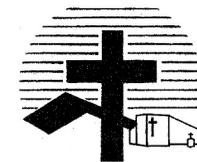


Santa Cruz Lutheran Church
6809 South Cardinal Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85746



Santa Cruz News

(520) 883-2937

www.santacruzlutheran.org

FEBRUARY 2018

Building enduring relationships

in Jesus' Name:

- With God

- With each other

- And with our community

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP - FEBRUARY 14 -

Noon and 7:00 PM with

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

"Lord, for Thy tender mercies' sake"

Special Music at our 7PM worship

Lenten worship 7:00 PM (supper at 6:00 PM):



February 21

February 28

March 7

March 14

March 21

**(if you would like to help with preparing one of the soup suppers,
please sign up on the Kiosk on the day that works best for you)**

Palm Sunday worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM - March 25

Maundy Thursday worship 7:00 PM - March 29

Good Friday worship 7:00 PM - March 30

Easter worship 7:00 & 10:30 AM - April 1



ON A PERSONAL NOTE...(from Diane)...

A couple of weeks ago, I approached Pastor Jim with my resignation. It simply has become quite difficult to juggle caring for my Mom, be in the office (as an Office Manager should be), feel like I'm giving Santa Cruz Lutheran Church my usual 100+%, and have time for family and friends.

Pastor Jim was gracious enough to say that he "could not and would not" accept my resignation. He and I discussed the possibility of my working more as a Volunteer Coordinator - at least for the time being - with having some of my work taken on by volunteers, thus allowing more time for me to work remotely from Mom's house (where I am again living).

We discussed this at our Council meeting this past week, and our Council was in agreement. Therefore, I am asking for help from our congregation to take care of such things as assembling the weekly bulletins and making enlarged copies for Sunday morning (I may have a volunteer already!), changing the Marquee, faxing weekly paperwork to the Food Bank, etc. Soon, I will take the time to figure out just what kind of help is needed and will post it in the bulletin.

In the meantime, I ask for your prayers for Mom, Pastor Jim (who has been extremely supportive) AND our congregation as we work through this transitional time. You can now (hopefully) expect me to be in the office on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, 1:00 - 4:00.

Pastor's Report -- 2018

Congregations that are vibrant and growing and have a real impact are almost always clear about two things:

First, they are clear about their purpose or their vision for ministry. They have an understanding of what God is doing and how they can be a part of it. It is known and shared by the membership. It is as important to many in the pews as it is to the pastors in the pulpit.

Second, these vibrant congregations show an openness to change in order to be faithful. "We've never done it that way before" is replaced with "What do we need to do to be effective for God?"

From "Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation" by Dave Daubert © Augsburg Fortress 2007

Dear People of God at Santa Cruz,

I introduced my report to the congregation last year with those very words printed above and I do so again this year... as this continues to be our much-needed work and focus for yet another year. In order for us to counter the downward trend that affects more than 90% of mainline congregations all across our country, including Santa Cruz, we must continue to ask, wrestle with, and "live into" our answers to the questions:

"What do we discern God is doing, or seeking to do ... in our congregation, in our neighborhood, and even beyond?"

"And what can we do... as individuals, as households, and as a community of faith... to actively participate in the work that God is doing?"

One proven approach toward the accomplishment of this great task is for us to intentionally:

1. *Open and discover the Scriptures with one another;*
2. *Spend structured time together in prayer talking to and listening to God;*
3. *Engage one another in dialog about what God is calling our congregation to be;*
4. *Articulate, from the "ground up", what we together sense that call of God for us is;*
5. *And finally... plan, fund, implement, and purposely "live into" this new sense of vision and mission.*

Our Church Council has already been engaged in conversations along these lines throughout the past year, and with their leadership, along with the assistance of our Parish Life Team, I am suggesting that we, as the people of God here at Santa Cruz, commit ourselves to participating in a small series of three to four once-a-month "Vision and Mission Meals"... spanning just a couple hours each time, with lunch, preferably on Sunday afternoons following 10:30 worship... in order to journey through the very steps specified above.

(continued on next page)

Meanwhile, I ask of each of you:

For your continued prayers for our congregation, for the cultivation of a positive and forward-moving spirit among us, for a shared commitment to becoming a more vibrant and outward-looking community of faith, for the renewal of your own sense of being a disciple and follower of Jesus, and... for the real and positive difference we can make for one another and our surrounding community, as we seek to more fully and faithfully engage in the good work which God places into our hands.

Pastor Jim Dew

SERVING OUR LORD DURING WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

ACOLYTES

<u>FEB.</u>	8:00 AM		10:30 AM
4	Yaniva Murrieta	4	Ella Daniels
11		11	Lita Lopez
14	Ash Wednesday – 7:00 PM – Jasmine	Gracia	
18	Yasmine Murrieta	18	Che Lopez
25		25	Leo Gracia

ASSISTING MINISTER

<u>FEB.</u>	8:00 AM		10:30 AM
4 & 11	Kenny White	4 & 11	Gay Kline
14	Ash Wed Noon – Dick Meyer	14	7:00 PM Kenny White
18 & 25	Alice Davis	18 & 25	Sandy Skinner

COFFEE HOSTS

<u>FEB.</u>	8:00 AM		10:30 AM
4 & 11	Gene & Rose Copper	4 & 18	Jim & Kathy Blake
18 & 25	Ron & Ginny Buch	11 & 25	Ches Gandy

LECTORS

<u>FEB.</u>	8:00 AM		10:30 AM
4	Louise Conrad	4	Ray Rakow
11	Pastor Paul Dumke	11	Marilyn McGarry
14	Ash Wed Noon – Alice Davis	14	7:00 PM – Brenda Depew
18	Robert Encinas	18	Ruth Senkbeil
25	Marilyn Dumke	25	Fred Young

USHERS

<u>FEB.</u>	8:00 AM		10:30 AM
4 & 11	Gene & Rose, Fred Nichols	4 & 11	Sheila, Dylan, LeAnne
14	Ash Wed Noon – Norm Davis, Don Genung		
18 & 25	Francis & Margaret, Norm	18 & 25	Arlen, Allen & Brenda

(Confirmation students are asked to arrive 20 minutes early each Wednesday evening to serve as ushers during Lent, beginning with our 7 PM Ash Wed worship, Feb. 14th)

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

Lynn Alms	Leah	Shannon & Carrie	Ralph Zdeb	Mark Kern, Jr.
Dana Chapman	Tom Oliver	Charlotte	Lester Stehr	
Suzy Weidenschilling	Patty Colmbs	Steven Pike, Jr.	Family of Norma Rhoades	
Lois Bradshaw	Ann Guerrini	Dennis Roney	Glenna Knepper	
Lillian Kusy	James Havenga	Bill Hohmann	Ron Buch	
Melody Hensley	Kenny White	Ruth Senkbeil	Kim Agamaite	
Carol Radler	Austin Hill	Paul Bean	Jo Conover	
Maxine Schaller	Mark Kern	Holly Peterson	Sam & Carolyn Dodson	
Samuel Clemmons	Linda Robinson	Noel Palmer	Shawna Murphy	
Karen Meyer	Larry Havenga	Betty Layton	Arlie Boatwright	
Esther Wood	Andy Nichols	Pat Millyard	Don Hunt	
Dorothy Kern	Gene Copper	Ray Necochea	Avery Johnson	

We grieve with

Ellen Swancutt and family at the passing of her brother, Warren Krueger, on January 23rd

† † †

THANKS...

...to **Miguel Dominguez, Lester & Freida Stehr**, for "un-decorating" our Christmas trees and once again storing our Advent star.

... to **Miguel and Kenny Morgan** for changing out our A/C/Heater filters.

...to **Gay** for typing up the yearly giving statement.

...to **Ray Rakow** for building a shelf in the sacristy at the request of our Altar Guild.

...to **ALL** who helped with serving and cleaning up at the Annual Meeting luncheon.

...to **Norm Davis, Miguel, and Kenny Morgan** for removing the Advent Star.

...to **Our Youth** (Ella Daniels, Martin DeLuna, Adan Hidalgo, Brandon and Xander Lopez) **and Adults** (Dianna Chavez, Sherry Daniels, Pat Fisher, Lynnette Gutierrez, Gloria Martinez, Carol Radler and Lisa Wood-Hromidko) who helped make our Hot Chocolate & Cookie fund raiser a whopping success. A total of \$212 was collected toward the ELCA National Youth Gathering. We also sold another \$60 in Car Wash Tickets!

...to **YOU** for bringing in your crushed **aluminum cans!** In 2017 \$10 was placed in our Outreach Program account through our recycling efforts. We thank **Don Genung** who is diligent in keeping up with the cans and bringing them to the recycling center to collect the funds. Crushed cans are appreciated since we get a bit more money for those. You can place your bags of cans just north of the fellowship hall in the open area between the two sheds.

...we also appreciate receiving your **used printer ink cartridges**. Diane brings them to OfficeDepot to get \$2 per cartridge added to our account to purchase office supplies. Every little bit helps!

YOUTH NEWS!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 – God's Gang will meet from 1:00 – 4:00 PM for a short team-building session, and then to make floral creations to be sold on Sunday.

CONFIRMANDS – Please remember you are asked to usher at the 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday worship on February 14th as well as each Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 PM. Be sure to arrive 20 minutes prior to worship time.

VALENTINE'S DAY FLOWERS – God's Gang Youth will be offering floral arrangements for Valentine's Day to be sold on Sunday, February 11th. Again this year the prices will be \$5/\$10/ \$15 for the various sizes and number of flowers in each vase. Last year Kenny Morgan was so kind as to help furnish some of the Gladioli from his garden, certainly adding a beautiful touch to the Youth's arrangements.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...on Saturday, March 10th...
"JUNK IN THE TRUNK - SANTA CRUZ STYLE..."

Kristin Smith has offered to work with our Youth in putting together another congregational yard sale with funds going toward expense for our Youth to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering...

So, what can you do?

1) As long as space is available, you may bring your items to church anytime between now and March 4th. Kristin and our Youth will take care of pricing the items. However, please bring only items you would be willing to purchase at someone else's sale; new or gently used.

2) We may be offering coffee and baked items because they always seem to be quite popular. So, please let Carol know if you'd like to provide any baked goods.

3) How about being a helper? Help will be needed prior to the sale to pick up some of the larger items... AND the day of the sale... we'll need cashiers, an overseer of the baked goods (if we have them), folks to provide security, folks to tidy up the items throughout the morning, etc.

Please let Kristin Smith (861-8868) or Carol Radler (294-8721) know as soon as possible if you are planning to donate items for the sale, provide baked goods, or would like to help prior to or the day of the sale. Thanks!



Sunday, February 4th is Super Bowl Sunday. However, we'd like to participate in the "*Souper Bowl of Caring*" by inviting you to give a donation toward the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. A soup pot will be placed at the entrance of the church, and folks are asked to drop a donation into the pot as a gift toward the World Hunger appeal.

LENT AND EVEN SONGS **a message from our Music Minister, Mark Herr**

True, the days lengthen in Lent with daylight hours increasing until we reach the Summer Solstice. This year June 21st will mark the first day of summer, and that will be the day with the longest daylight hours of the year. (As I write this, it's exactly six months from now.)

In the meantime, Winter (Arizona Style) starts us off on a new year, 2018. I've been thinking about the appropriateness of stressing nightfall in our Lenten Services this year. It would be an unusual emphasis for the church since there are many more hymns and spiritual songs about LIGHT. On the other hand, as a musician, I know of any number of beautiful tunes about the close of day. And they're sufficiently wonderful to deserve – it you'll forgive me saying so – their day in the sun.

So, I'm selecting SEVEN EVEN SONGS during Lent, going from Ash Wednesday until our last mid-week gathering for evening prayer; that's of course, the week before Holy Week. These selections will range from recent to ancient, from Europe to America, including Native American as well, and will conclude with a special rendition of congregational singing (alternated with solo singing) of all five stanzas of ABIDE WITH ME.

Please do join us for these inspiring opportunities and, along with your fellow members, raise your voice in song – EVEN SONG.



THIS YEAR – SO FAR (also from Mark)

It is certainly a good thing to give thanks for our volunteer voices that have brightened all four corners of our sanctuary so far this year; that is, since September's start-up.

We've heard from our Cantors every Sunday. Thanks to Renee Riegert (also for the lovely flute additions to our congregational singing) and Alice Davis on the first Sunday of every month, Chuck Glen the second Sunday, Carol Radler the third, and Gay Kline the fourth. Our cantors lead us in the singing of the Liturgy and Hymns as well as their selected music.

We also have heard from the volunteers who sang the Offertory Hymn "All Praise To God Who Reigns Above" this past Thanksgiving Eve; we were invited to 'Rejoice in the Lord' on the Gaudete Sunday (December 17th) with the Voices of Advent who sang "Therese's Canticle of Love." On Christmas Eve our Carolers group began the candlelight service with "Come With Rejoicing." Our thanks to the following who made this possible: Alice Davis, Dave Fisher, Chuck Glen, Melody Hensley, Gay Kline (rehearsal assistant), Carol Radler (soloist), Ray Rakow, Sandy Skinner, Ellen Swancutt, and Diane White. Renee Riegert played flute and our guest, Jose Luis Puerta, played guitar.

A special nod to Gay Kline for all her help and encouraging spirit. She rehearses the Treble Voices on Tuesdays at 2:15 PM and is doing a great job for us!

As always, we invite you to join us if you'd like. Our next opportunities are Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

PARISH LIFE MEETING – we'll be gathering for about an hour on Sunday, February 11th following our 10:30 AM worship. Please join us as we discuss and make plans for upcoming events such as our Lenten Suppers (there's a sign-up on the Kiosk for helpers), Winter Guest Pot Luck, Ladies Tea, etc. We'd appreciate your input!

A LOOK AHEAD AT MARCH...

...Sunday, March 4th – our Winter Guest Pot Luck. This has always been a well-attended event as we honor our Winter Guests who worship with us. Participants enjoy a theme-based delicious pot luck and some type of entertainment. We'll be discussing this at our Parish Life meeting on February 11th, if you'd like to offer some ideas!

...Saturday, March 17th – we're planning a Ladies Tea, complete with a light meal and entertainment! We'll have a hostess for each of 6-10 tables, set for six or seven women (including the hostess). The hostess will set their table with their own luncheon settings, along with a tea pot or two. Again, we welcome your input at our Parish Life meeting on February 11th!



POZ CAFE – On the third Thursday of each month, volunteers from local congregations provide a delicious and nutritious lunch for people living with HIV. This is followed by time to "hang out," chat, participate in a few games of bingo, enjoy a raffle of fun and useful gifts, and receive a Care Package bag filled with toiletries and other necessities.

Since volunteers are a bit sparse for the Poz Café in the summertime, we choose to offer our volunteer services at this event in August. However, I'd like to ask that we begin collecting items needed for the Care Packages. Care Packages provide basic items to the clients served by TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) – most of whom are on limited incomes – that cannot be purchased using food stamps.

Let's begin now, and continue through July by bringing in donations of toilet paper, paper towels, dish detergent, and small bottles of bleach. Your donations may be placed along the wall by the Choir Room.

Other items may be donated for their bingo prizes such as large bottles/boxes of laundry detergent, \$10-\$15 gift cards to WalMart, blankets, bath towels, small coffee makers, small fans, etc. Feel free to put aside Thursday, August 16th, 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM, if you'd like to join us in volunteering at the Poz Café. Be sure to let Diane know!

TIHAN provides continual Volunteer Orientations and Care and Support Trainings for those interested in helping those living with HIV/AIDS enroll in TIHAN's programs and services, and ensuring that they are aware of all available services – including medical care, social support, case management, financial assistance, nutritional support, and other needed services.