“We are laborer’s together with God”
1 Corinthians 3:9
Our first day of Autumn is September 23, 2023
In the Midwest this is when the leaves are changing colors and falling from the trees. Then raking and gathering the leaves into piles for wiener roasts and marshmallow roasting. In Tucson we rake beans from the mesquite trees and we roast wieners and marshmallows on the BBQ grill.
Whatever tradition you do, have fun and be safe.
Greetings from your Treasurer! As you know, I had a blip in last month’s Newsletter regarding our growing deficit in our Operating Account. What I didn’t mention was just how much that deficit is. Pastor Bob thought it might be a good idea to share that information with you. As of the end of July we are in the hole by $10,482.56. Just last year at that very same time we also had a deficit; however, it was only $378.71. Please, we’re asking that you do your best in catching up with your offering, whether or not you are in church on any given Sunday. Although, when you’re not present, we miss you! Remember, we are a community of saints, together; we offer our gifts and talents, together; we hear God’s Word, together; we share our joys and sorrows, together. Isn’t that how Jesus wants it? Blessings - Diane

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diane provided the following information on monthly income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 2022</td>
<td>Year 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18228.00</td>
<td>January 19722.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 11756.00</td>
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<td>March 12191.00</td>
<td>March 10812.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st quarter 42175.00</td>
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<td>April 10748.00</td>
<td>April 9272.00</td>
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<td>May 9126.00</td>
<td>May 8920.00</td>
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<td>June 8475.00</td>
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<td>3rd quarter 29530.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9699.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 10456.00</td>
<td>December</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th quarter 30845.97</td>
<td>4th quarter</td>
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</table>
Total income in 2022 was 130,899.97

SERVING OUR LORD DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 9:30 am Worship

3  Asst Minister/Lector Melody Hensley
Music Director: Mark Herr
Acolyte: Marliza Andrade
Ushers: LeAnne Mitts & Vicky Hohmann

10  Asst Minister/Lector Stu Weidenschilling
Music Director: Mark Herr
Acolyte: Brooklyn Johnson
Ushers: Cheryl Bahrychuk and Pam Kern
Potluck: Ruth Senkbeil and ???

17  Asst Minister/Lector Kenny White
Music Director: Mark Herr
Acolyte: Kenny White
Ushers: Diane White and Joanie Contreras

24  Asst Minister/Lector Gay Kline
Music Director: Mark Herr
Acolyte: Guillermo Andrade
Ushers: Ruth Senkbeil and Melody Hensley

ZOOM MEETINGS
FRIDAY EVENING Lectionary Study 6:00 pm. This is a recurring meeting.
Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 829 4366 6767
Passcode: 100921

We Live Stream our worship services Sunday mornings on our Facebook page SantaCruzLutheranChurchTucson. You can watch it live or watch later. Members of SCLC also post information, notes and photos on our Facebook page.
Ladies Lunch Bunch will be gathering at 12:30 pm on Friday September 15, 2023 Café A La Carte 150 N. Main St. Everyone has a good time. Join Us. We meet the 3rd Friday each month. Signup sheet on table at back of sanctuary.

Thank you.....
Dana Scholer for doing yard work and cleaning up after our storms.
Kristin Smith for keeping our memorial garden weed free and looking nice.

Food bank volunteers...You are so appreciated and dedicated. We could not keep going without you.

Food bank donations...We thank all who bring donations to hand out each week. Also thanks for grocery bags.

Acolytes, Assistants to Pastor, Mark, Ushers, Hostesses for refreshments.

Mark Herr for choosing hymns and special music.
Carol and Chuck for singing for us during the offertory, and for other special music.

Filling buckets for food pantry clients UPDATE
As mentioned in the August newsletter our Food Bank received a grant of $5000.00. Members and volunteers from the Food Bank filled buckets. In the month of August we gave out 160 buckets with cleaning supplies or women’s hygiene items. Each client signed for what they received. We are required to report back to the Phoenix
Food Bank Committee to let them know how the grant money was used. We are still handing out toothbrushes and toothpaste.

**From Carol: FYI/Important Dates:**

- 09/10  Acolyte Refresher Course – Sanctuary w/ Carol
- 09/17  SCLC Council Meeting – 11:00 AM - office
- 09/24  Sunday School - Rally Sunday – Patio
- 10/01  1st Sunday School Class - **BE BOLD**
- 10/08  Reverand Solvieg Muus – Temple Talk & Advocacy Forum (If Reverand Muus chooses to arrive on Saturday night, would anyone have a guest bedroom available?)

**Committee reports from Carol Radler**

**PROPERTY REPORT:** The bridge is now in Phase 5, and almost completed. Thanks to the Rummage Sale last spring for our funding, and the following for their work and efforts to make this new safe bridge come to fruition: **Ray & Sandy Mathis-Arment; Mike, Luke, & Lisa Wood-Hromidko.** After Labor Day Weekend, we will gather and move the completed bridge into the improved moorings. Pastor will have a Blessing of the Bridge soon after. **The next project** will be to sand and paint the rest of the railing that surrounds the North side of the Ramada.

If there are monies left over, we will look at replacing the blinds that are in shambles on our windows. I will again start window washing as soon as the rains end.

We still have not heard from **MGM regarding the repair of our doors**, but they have not forgotten us. The doors are very old, so the mechanisms are also decrepit, thus taken longer than they expected to replace.

Thank you to **Miguel Dominguez** who cut down some of the Palo Verde by Cardinal Road that was causing a blind spot for leaving our property. Thanks to Kris Smith for hauling the cuttings away.

If you spot areas of concern, please let one of our Property Team members know so we can address the situation: **Melody Hensley, Carol Radler, Dana & Todd Scholer, Kristin Smith, or Kenny & Diane White.**

**Music & Worship Committee** met on Sunday, 8/27 with new Hymn suggestions, a look at special music groups, a proposed liturgy for our Fall Sunday Worship, and some ideas for Christmas Eve which falls on a Sunday this year.
In coordination with the Altar Guild, Luminaries were again recommended for our Christmas Eve Worship. Thanks to Ann & Bill Devinny, Mark Herr – Music Minister, & Gay Kline, for their input.

**GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS SUNDAY**
The actual day September 10th. This year our project is Lutheran Social Services Foster Kids program.

This year we are not doing just one day. We are going to collect items in September and October. LSS wants Comfort Bags for the foster children. Ongoing needs for babies to teens.

Lunch boxes for kids, Snack containers, Sandwich cutters vegetable shapes, Silicone cupcake baking cups, Insulated thermos. First aid kits, Laundry basket, Twin bedsheets and Bed pillows

Back packs kids and teens

Notebook paper, Crayons all size boxes, Colored pencils, Sharpies fine point, Spiral notebooks, 3 ring binders

Baby nursery grooming kits, Baby lotion and shampoo, wipes

Shampoo, combs, brushes, hair conditioner, Hair products, body wash for boys and girls. Plastic hangers.

We will have boxes for the items and you can bring them in for the next two months. These boxes will be taken to Lutheran Social Services at 3364 E. Grant. 85716 between 10-1pm Mon-Thursday.

You can also make a monetary donation and mail to the address on Grant Road.

Thank you.
Melody Hensley and Cheryl Bahrychuk, Outreach
Temple Talk: Carol Radler talked about Education and Youth on 8/27/23

Christian Education at Santa Cruz is an ongoing ministry including Elementary ages through adults. Currently we offer Sunday School Classes fall-spring, with curriculum based on current issues the youth may encounter, on a daily basis, and how the Bible always has an answer. The youth chose Group Publishing’s Be Bold for our upcoming sessions that begin with Rally Sunday on September 24.

Pastor Bob encourages learning through the Gospel and weekly sermons and is currently offering a Confirmation Class where the youth are learning what it means to be a Lutheran and be baptized in Christ. They recently enjoyed a weekend retreat on Mt. Lemmon, and I understand it was a great experience.

Adults are invited to participate in Lectionary Zoom Meetings on Fridays, special Forums on pertinent issues, and studies on different books of the Bible, often taught by lay leaders. Stu Weidenschilling led the last Bible Study on Job, and Pastor Solveig Muus is scheduled to hold a Forum on Advocacy in October.

We usually offer a Vacation Bible School Saturday in June, where a theme is reinforced through Bible Adventures, Games, Music, and Projects with a Purpose. We have also held Mission Fund Drives related to that year’s curriculum where we have raised monies for ‘Shoes that Grow’, Back Packs for Schools, Chickens and pigs for farmers, a water well in an arid land, and a new smile via the SmileTrain.

Both youth and adults have participated in weekend retreats at Water of Life Bible Camp, Triangle Y with the Southeran Arizona Camping Association, Madera Canyon, St. David, and even Mexico. Learning and studies have no age or geographical boundaries.
This is continued

Temple talk from Carol continued

Three different groups of youth have attended the ELCA Youth Gatherings in New Orleans, Houston, and Detroit. They raised all the monies to attend those events and have had their lives impacted forever by those experiences. Community projects, nightly band concerts and Sunday Worship with 35,000 other young Lutherans are awe-inspiring events.

None of the above would be possible without a host of volunteers to help both physically and monetarily. I listed the VBS ‘Critter Crews’ in August’s Newsletter, but those behind the scenes that donated food for our snacks and lunches were also appreciated.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to your participation in one or more of our various educational and youth offerings here at Santa Cruz.

Respectfully – Carol Radler