

**Esperanza Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
2601 E Thunderhill Place, Phoenix  
480-759-1515, www.myesperanza.org**

**April 21, 2024**

**Esperanza Mission Statement**

Esperanza Lutheran Church creates authentic connections and a deep sense of belonging as a Christ-centered community.

**Esperanza Guiding Principles**

1. We set our goals guided by God.
2. We welcome all and respect diverse opinions.
3. We deepen our spirituality and put our faith in motion.

**Announcements**

To access our weekly Words of Hope newsletter visit:  
<https://myesperanza.org/woh>

To access our up to date calendar visit:  
<https://myesperanza.org/calendar/>

**Graduates-** Do you have someone graduating this Spring? Please send a photo, where they are graduating from and what they are going to be doing next to Joni [Esperanza@myesperanza.org](mailto:Esperanza@myesperanza.org)

**TODAY ! Special Congregation Meeting** (following the 9AM service) to approve proposed changes to the Esperanza Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions. There are copies of these documents on

**VBS!**- Let's go on a Vacation Bible School Adventure! Join us for this EPIC three-day VBS Adventure! Tuesday, May 28th through Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – Noon Registration begins April 1<sup>st</sup> Sign up online Vacation Bible School 2024 – ESPERANZA LUTHERAN CHURCH ([myesperanza.org](http://myesperanza.org)) or at the church office Cost: \$50 per child – ages 3 through 5th grade (Maximum cost \$125 per family) Questions?- see Deacon Connie

**Mission Plan Results Through March – General Fund**

March 2024 YTD	Revenue	Expense	Net Income/(Loss)
Actual	\$91,765	\$73,768	\$17,997
Plan	\$87,200	\$78,146	\$9,054

Through March, total receipts are a little better than planned. Pledge giving is a little behind but more than offset by non-pledge giving and rental donations. Total expenses are a little lower than expected, but most of this is timing. Overall, Revenue less Expense is better than planned which is a good place to be as we head into to summer lull. We recently transferred \$100,000 from our MidFirst bank accounts to a Fidelity money market fund where we will earn significantly higher interest.

**ELCA Region 2 Lenten Challenge for Hunger**

**Results:** Thank you to the Esperanza members that participated in the recent ELCA Region 2 Lenten

Challenge. The five synods in ELCA's Region 2 challenged one another to raise money for ELCA World Hunger. The challenge involved participating in spiritual and physical practices during the 40 days of Lent. The intent was to consider the following four Lenten practices and commit to three:

1. Daily Devotion: Subscribe to receive daily email devotions for Lent.
2. Daily Discipline: Do one wellness activity every day.
3. Daily Declutter: Once a day find a way to de-clutter, de-stress, and re-tune.
4. Daily Donation: Pledge to give \$1 a day or more.

The Challenge raised more than \$56,000 for ELCA World Hunger to impact anti-hunger efforts. As a side-note, the Grand Canyon Synod won the Challenge!

**Community Outreach Team Meeting-** All are welcome at our regular Community Outreach Team meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**Kyrene Family Resource Center:** While KFRC welcomes a variety of non-perishable foods, there is a current need for granola bars, microwavable mac & cheese, Apple sauce( individual pks), cereal, dry rice, and dry beans. Thru mid-April Esperanza has donated 449 lbs of food to KFRC. In 2024 our goal is 1,250 lbs.! You can place donations in box/shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you! Any questions, please contact Peggy or Larry Hanson.

**Voices For CASA:** \$10 fast-food gift cards go to CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for their meetings with the foster children they help. Please bring any gift cards to the church office. Questions? Contact John Gemma at [jgemma@cox.net](mailto:jgemma@cox.net).

**Prayer Shawls:** Prayers shawls can be found on the rack by the altar and are for ANYONE who is in need (illness, birth of a baby, marriage, or in need of a pick me up). Please fill out the white card that is attached and place the card in the Prayer Shawl container (on the counter in the entryway to the sanctuary).

**Join the Meal Brigade-**Esperanza's meal brigade is up and running! The cool people are in the club. Want to join? You're invited! Every now and then, a church friend is in need of a meal or more, delivered to their home. Peggy Wagner is organizing the meals and the process, emailing team members when there is a need. Could you help provide a meal? Costco/Sam's Club meals, restaurant takeout or homemade — all of these are appreciated. If you like, you can join forces with another team member and share the prep/cost. Email Peggy at [pwagner255@cox.net](mailto:pwagner255@cox.net) if you are interested in helping out with this ministry.

**Hope for Newborns** a group of volunteers that makes clothing items for Arizona infants in need, has been known by different names in its lengthy history at Esperanza. But its mission hasn't changed, according to a 15-year member of the group who is its current organizer. "Our focus is to make things and get them to the people who need them,"

Doris Dorwart says. "There are all sorts of things we get asked for, and we say, sure, we can do that." The group, which is open to Esperanza members and also to those who do not belong to the church, meets at 10 a.m. on the third Friday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. Several in the group are talented in knitting, crocheting, sewing and quilting, and those skills are important in preparing kits that go out to infants and their mothers via Valleywise Health Medical Center and Dignity Health's Chandler Regional Medical Center. Each kit includes six diapers plus a washcloth, bib, booties, hat, flannel blanket or quilt, and nightgown or onesie. The bibs, booties, hats, blankets and quilts are handmade by the group. "These kits go only to babies in need," Dorwart says. "The nurses (at the hospitals) determine this. When we have something, it has to get out to a family in need." The group, which previously was part of the national program Newborns in Need and then the nonprofit Arizona Needy Newborns, also has filled requests from organizations such as the Salvation Army, UMOM New Day Centers, Helen's Hope Chest and Project Linus. In 2022, Hope for Newborns donated nearly 3,800 items, filling 200 kits and Christmas stockings. That represented an increase of about 25% over 2021. Those who are unable to attend the monthly meeting can help by donating leftover yarn or fabric in a cupboard. "Most of us joined with just a desire to help newborns and were taught, guided and encouraged by the more experienced members," Dorwart says. For more information about Hope for Newborns, email Doris Dorwart at [dddorwart@hotmail.com](mailto:dddorwart@hotmail.com) and put the word "Newborn" in the subject line.

#### **Esperanza Staff Members**

**Pastor Chris Heller**, [Pastor.Chris@myesperanza.org](mailto:Pastor.Chris@myesperanza.org)

**Deacon Connie Rose-Kamprath** | Family Ministry Coordinator, Children of Hope Teacher  
[deacon.connie@myesperanza.org](mailto:deacon.connie@myesperanza.org)

**Lynn Hockenberger** | Children of Hope Director  
[childrenofhope@myesperanza.org](mailto:childrenofhope@myesperanza.org)

**Joni Thorpe** | Parish Administrator  
[esperanza@myesperanza.org](mailto:esperanza@myesperanza.org)

**Kazin Cole** | Choir Director [kazin.cole@myesperanza.org](mailto:kazin.cole@myesperanza.org)

**Doug Carroll** | Writer [doug.carroll721@gmail.com](mailto:doug.carroll721@gmail.com), 480-213-0599

**Lai Gates** | Accompanist

**Amy Angilletta** | Children of Hope Teacher

**Kathy Dolny** | Children of Hope Teacher

**Cindy Gerrish** | Children of Hope Teacher

**Jessica Mueller** | Children of Hope Teacher

**Rebecca Paterson** | Children of Hope Teacher

**Jess Pierce** | Children of Hope Teacher

**Caleb Rose-Kamprath** | Children of Hope Teacher

**Jane Gisselquist** | Financial Secretary

[finsec@myesperanza.org](mailto:finsec@myesperanza.org)

**Outreach Team:** [outreach@myesperanza.org](mailto:outreach@myesperanza.org)

#### **Council Members/Team Leadership**

Jim Gisselquist - President (Personnel) - [jimgiz@gmail.com](mailto:jimgiz@gmail.com)

Craig Peck - Vice President (Property) - [craigpeck.esperanza@gmail.com](mailto:craigpeck.esperanza@gmail.com)

Michael Paradise – Treasurer (Communications)  
[michaelparadise.esperanza@gmail.com](mailto:michaelparadise.esperanza@gmail.com)

Chris Armfield – Secretary [chrisarmfield@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisarmfield@hotmail.com)

Susan Brown –Outreach - [browngary214@gmail.com](mailto:browngary214@gmail.com)

Julie Valenzuela - (Fellowship) - [jvalenz150@gmail.com](mailto:jvalenz150@gmail.com)

Beth Leaf - (Education) – [leafmanaz@cox.net](mailto:leafmanaz@cox.net)

Paige Somero - (Worship and Music) -

[paige.somero@nxp.com](mailto:paige.somero@nxp.com)

Chuck Yount - (Stewardship) - [chuckyount00@gmail.com](mailto:chuckyount00@gmail.com)

#### **This Week At Esperanza**

##### **Sunday, April 21, 2024**

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:00am Fellowship (FH)

10:15am Sunday School (CR)

10:15am VOTE on constitutional changes (SAN)

##### **Monday, April 22, 2021**

9:00am Women's AA group (CR)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

3:30pm Dave Coste Music Lessons (SAN)

6:00pm Jazz practice (SAN)

##### **Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

6:30am Toastmasters (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

4:30pm Music Lessons (SAN)

##### **Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

9:00am 12 Step (CR)

10:00am Mary's Circle (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

12:30pm Staff Meeting (FH)

7:00pm Boy Scouts (CR)

7:30pm Promesa de Esperanza Rehearsal (SAN)

##### **Thursday, April 25, 2024**

7:00am AA (CR)

10:00am Thursday Matters

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

5:00pm Women's Bible Study (FH)

##### **Friday, April 26, 2024**

8:00am Toast Masters (FH)

9:00am AA (CR)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

##### **Saturday, April 27, 2024**

8:00am Men's AA (CR)

##### **Sunday, April 28, 2024**

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:00am Fellowship (FH)

10:15am Sunday School (CR)

CR – Community Room (upstairs)

SAN – Sanctuary

FH – Fellowship Hall

GAR – Garden of Eatin'

LC-Lower Courtyard

#### **Today's Worship Leaders**

Greeters- Jim Gisselquist

Lector- Pam Coste

Communion Assistants- KC & Christine Quah

Power Point- Craig Peck

Assisting Minister- Judi Wold

Ushers- Julie Valenzuela, Dennis Fox, KC & Christine Quah

Counters- Larry & Peggy Hanson



## Welcome to Worship!

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

*Hymnals and Bibles are found under the seats.*

Gathering Song: # 502 v.1,2,3  
Song of the Day: #764  
Offertory: # 314  
Communion Hymn: # 780 , #385  
Sending Song: # 502 v.4,5,6

We live stream our worship services.