

Esperanza Lutheran Church (ELCA)
2601 E Thunderhill Place, Phoenix
480-759-1515, www.myesperanza.org
December 29, 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/>

Poinsette's- if you ordered flowers but did not take them with you Tuesday please take it today. All flowers will be donated out tomorrow.

35th Anniversary team is hard at work to make it a wonderful celebration. We need YOU to register on line at www.MyEsperanza.org on the home page click the register button. We need head counts for food ordering!

Pastor Heller will be on vacation thru January 7th.
 Deacon Connie will be on vacation thru December 31st
 IF you need pastoral care during that time please call Joni in the office.

2024 Mission Plan Results Through November

November 2024 YTD	Revenue	Expense	Net Income/(Loss)
Actual	\$346,296	\$298,692	\$47,605
Plan	\$296,200	\$302,735	(\$6,535)

Through November, total receipts continue to run well ahead of our plan. Pledge giving is about 4% ahead of expectation while non pledge giving is well ahead, with the latter driven by a large one-time donation earlier in the year. Rental donations are also a bit favorable. Total expenses are slightly lower than expected but much of this is timing. Revenue less expense continues to run well ahead of our plan. The full year surplus will be rolled over into unrestricted fund reserves.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the ministry of Esperanza this year. Thanks be to God.

Today's Hymns:

- Song: #269
- Song:# 276
- Song: #282
- Song: #276
- Song: #295 v. 1,2,5
- Offertory: # 490 v. 1,2
- Communion: # 715
- Sending: #288

Family Promise hosting Thursday, Jan. 2

Once again Esperanza volunteers will be helping the people of St. Benedict's Catholic Church by hosting one evening's dinner for Family Promise families. We'll be serving the families at St. John Bosco school, located at 16035 S. 48th St., south of Chandler Blvd.

Our evening to provide dinner will be Thursday, January 2. We will need volunteers to provide one course of the meal. Great news - because of the generosity of Esperanza folks, we only need volunteers to bring a side dish and dessert! If you would like to help, please contact Donna Sparber at (480) 205-4143 or donnasparber44@gmail.com. Donna will provide information on how many servings will be needed and if there are any dietary restrictions or food allergies (this information usually is available the Sunday before we host). Rick and Donna Sparber will be the overnight hosts. Food will need to be brought to the school's multipurpose room by 5:30 PM. Hot foods will need to be delivered heated.

The mission of Family Promise is "providing emergency shelter and social services to help families move toward independent housing and self sufficiency." There are 32 greater Phoenix congregations that support this mission by hosting transitioning families with children for the evening meal and overnight accommodations. St. Benedict's is one of these congregations. To learn more about Family Promise, visit their web site at www.familypromiseaz.org.

Affirmations for kids- In the Narthex there are packs of sticky notes, pens, and affirmation ideas. Please stop and write a few or take some home and bring them back. We fill a bulletin board at Kyrene de la Esperanza Elementary School every month for the students and teachers to brighten their day and inspire!

With Multiple Food Needs at Family Resource Center -

Esperanza is helping with food needs on multiple fronts at the Kyrene Family Resource Center. Currently, the Center needs the following for families: peanut butter, gallon-freezer bags, and spaghetti pasta and sauce. Some children in the Kyrene School District are coming to class Monday mornings hungry, struggling to focus on learning. The Center is responding to the need by packing a Weekend Food Bag and providing to these children on Fridays. Food items can include any of the following:

- Microwavable mac and cheese
- Microwavable Chef Boyardee
- Microwavable ramen noodles
- Microwavable cup of soup
- Breakfast cereal
- Granola bars.
- Applesauce or fruit cup

The Center prefers these be a single serving, and a suggestion would be to purchase single serving containers in bulk at Costco, etc. The Center will pack the food in bags. Two weeks ago, the Center indicating they were distributing approximately 150 Weekend Food Bags every Friday. Through November, Esperanza has donated a total of 1381 pounds of food to the Center. Our food donation goal for 2024 is 1,250 pounds. Please place donations in the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your generosity. For questions, please contact Larry Hanson at lhanson2@msn.com

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- 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 if you are interested in helping out with this ministry.

Street Clean up! Please join us on Sunday, March , at 4 p.m. for our fourth Adopt-a-Street cleanup! We will park and meet at Kyrene de la Esperanza Elementary School (with whom we partner), which is located at the intersection of South Ranch Circle and 41st Place. Our trash pickup will be along both sides of South Ranch Circle from Mountain Parkway to Ray Road. Esperanza will provide safety vests, trash bags, gloves, water, hand sanitizer and prizes for the most unusual trash! Please wear your "God's Work, Our Hands" T-shirts so the neighbors know who we are! Everyone is welcome, including children accompanied by a parent or adult. Sign up online (via our E-Newsletter) or on the Sign up sheet that will be provided in November. If you have questions, please see Chris Armfield or the Outreach Team at outreach@myesperanza.org

Esperanza Staff Members

Pastor Chris Heller, Pastor.Chris@myesperanza.org

Deacon Connie Rose-Kamprath | Family Ministry Coordinator, Children of Hope Teacher

deacon.connie@myesperanza.org

Lynn Hockenberger | Children of Hope Director

childrenofhope@myesperanza.org

Joni Thorpe | Parish Administrator

esperanza@myesperanza.org

Andrew DeValk | Choir director

Andrew.DeValk@myesperanza.org

Doug Carroll | Writer doug.carroll721@gmail.com, 480-213-0599

Lai Gates | Accompanist

Amy Angilletta | Children of Hope Teacher

Cindy Gerrish | Children of Hope Teacher

Katrin Guete | Children of Hope Teacher

Jessica Mueller | Children of Hope Teacher

Rebecca Paterson | Children of Hope Teacher

Jess Pierce | Children of Hope Teacher

Vanessa Smith | Children of Hope Teacher

Jane Gisselquist | Financial Secretary

finsec@myesperanza.org

Outreach Team: outreach@myesperanza.org

Council Members/Team Leadership

Chris Armfield – Council President chrisarmfield@hotmail.com

Paige Somero – Vice President paige.somero@npx.com

Cindy Jackson- Secretary cindyjackson649@gmail.com

Chuck Yount - Treasurer- chuckyount00@gmail.com

Susan Brown - browngary214@gmail.com

Jim Gisselquist - jimgiz@gmail.com

Beth Leaf – leafb7913@gmail.com

Donna Sparber- Donnasparber44@gmail.com

KC Quah- quahaz20@gmail.com

This Week At Esperanza

Sunday, December 29, 2024

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:00am Fellowship (FH)

NO Sunday School (CR)

3:00 Girl Scouts (CR)

Monday, December 30, 2024

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

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

6:00pm Jazz Practice (SAN)

7:00pm Boy Scouts (CR)

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

6:30am Toastmasters (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics (CR)

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

****office Closed**

9:00am 12 Step (CR)

10:00am Mary's Circle (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 3014 (CR)

Thursday, January 2, 2025

****Office closed**

7:00am AA (CR)

10:00am Thursday Matters (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

5:30pm Women's Bible Study (GAR)

6:30pm 35th Anniversary Team meeting (FH)

Friday, January 3, 2025

8:00am Toast Masters (FH)

9:00am AA (CR)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

Saturday, January 4, 2025

8:00am Men's AA (CR)

4:00pm Joy Pan recitals SAN?FH)

5:00 Alanon (CR)

Sunday, January 5, 2025

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:00am Fellowship (FH)

10:15am Sunday School (CR)

3:00pm Girl Scouts (CR)

CR – Community Room (upstairs)

SAN – Sanctuary

FH – Fellowship Hall

GAR – Garden of Eatin'

LC-Lower Courtyard

Today's Worship Leaders

Greeter- Tami & Rich Hass

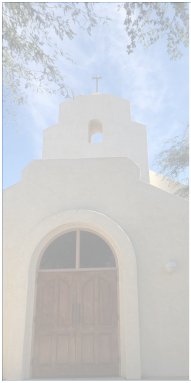
Lector- John Gemma, Jim Nelson, Judi Wold

Communion Assistants- Larry Hanson, Doris Dorwart

Power Point- Jim Gisselquist

Ushers- Denzil Klein, Jim Gisselquist, Dick Dorwart

Counters- Larry Hanson, Randy Wright



Welcome to Worship!

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024

Hymnals and Bibles are found under the seats.

Song: # 269
Song : # 276
Song : # 282
Song : # 276
Song : # 295 v 1,2,5
Offertory: # 490 v 1,2
Sending Song: # 288

We live stream our worship services.