

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

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023**

Isaiah makes clear that God is turning my mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," got the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

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/>

Playing & Praying with Deacon Connie- today, for kids ages 2-6. Deacon Connie will take the kids during the first hymn and return them to join parents at communion.

Poinsettia orders- are being taken now! Forms are on the Narthex table.

Blue Christmas- Wednesday, December 20, 7 pm At Blue Christmas worship, pain and sorrow are acknowledged; there is space for however you are. When we gather, even to acknowledge pain, community can lift us up and give hope. Please join us.

Christmas Eve Schedule:

- 9:00am Worship Service
- 4:00pm Children's Christmas Eve Worship
- 7:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

Habitat for Humanity Tax credit donations-every house we build is funded by the coalition. There is information on the Narthex table of how to make your donation for 2023 on the Narthex table.

Habitat House- The new build has begun! See John Fisher or John Gemma for more information.

Hope Talk- On **Sunday, Jan. 21, from 1-3 p.m.**, we will open our sanctuary to the community and of course the Esperanza congregation for our second Hope Talk addressing Senior Care Planning. Helping our parents,

spouse, or even ourselves plan for housing and care needs prior to life changes can bring relief and calm. Perhaps surprisingly, there are many resources available in our community for senior adults who wish to age in place. There are also many options for seniors who wish to live in some type of community in their later years. This Hope Talk on Senior Care Planning will include presentations from senior care social workers as well as an estate law attorney. **If you have specific questions you would like the social worker or attorney to address, please send them to Paige Somero at paige.somero@nxp.com.** Take-home resources and community contacts will be provided. All are welcome!

You Are Generous! Your belief that God has plans for our congregation is evident as you are declaring your generosity! So far, we have received 62 intents toward our goal of 61 (84%).

If you haven't yet responded, please submit your 2024 giving intent in one of the following ways:

- Fill out the online version of the card online at <https://myesperanza.org/intent-card/>
- Bring your intent card to church this Sunday and drop it the basket on the altar.
- If you misplaced your card or never received one, you may pick one up in the church office or narthex.
- Mail or take your card to the church office.

Your generosity will make a tremendous difference as we seek to strengthen our ministry.

Kyrene Family Resource Center: While KFRC welcomes a variety of non-perishable foods, there is a current need for granola bars, pasta sauce, dried pinto beans, rice, cereal, and shampoo. Thru Nov. 2023, Esperanza has donated 1091 lbs of food to KFRC. Thank you! 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.

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).

Promesa de Esperanza Rehearsal! The choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7 pm in the sanctuary. All adults are welcome--even if you have not participated in choir before! Questions? Contact Kazin Cole at (480) 550-0852.

Esperanza Staff Members

Interim Pastor Sarah Stadler

pastor.sarah@myesperanza.org 602-318-6876

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

Kazin Cole | Choir Director

kazin.cole@myesperanza.org

Doug Carroll | Writer 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

Council Members/Team Leadership

Jim Gisselquist - President (Personnel) -

jimgiz@gmail.com

Craig Peck - Vice President (Property) -

craigpeck.esperanza@gmail.com

Michael Paradise – Treasurer (Communications)

michaelparadise.esperanza@gmail.com

Chris Armfield – Secretary chrisarmfield@hotmail.com

Susan Brown – Outreach - browngary214@gmail.com

Julie Valenzuela - (Fellowship) - jvalenz150@gmail.com

Beth Leaf - (Education) – leafmanaz@cox.net

Paige Somero - (Worship and Music) -

paige.somero@nxp.com

Chuck Yount - (Stewardship) -

chuckyount00@gmail.com

This Week At Esperanza

Sunday, December 17th

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:00am Fellowship (FH)

10:15am Sunday Funday School (CR)

10:30am Adult Education (SAN)

Monday, December 18th

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

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

3:30pm Music Lessons (SAN)

6:00pm Jazz practice (SAN)

Tuesday, December 19th

6:30am Toastmasters (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

4:30pm Music Lessons (SAN)

7:00pm Council meeting (FH)

Wednesday, December 20th

9:00am 12 Step (CR)

10:00am Mary's Circle (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

12:30pm Staff Meeting (FH)

7:00pm Blue Christmas Worship (SAN)

7:00pm Boy Scouts (CR)

7:30pm Promesa de Esperanza Rehearsal (SAN)

Thursday, December 21st

7:00am AA (CR)

10:00am Thursday Matters (Mountain Park)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

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

Friday, December 22nd

8:00am Toast Masters (FH)

9:00am AA (CR)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

Saturday, December 23rd

8:00am Men's AA (CR)

Sunday, December 24th

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:00am Fellowship (FH)

4:00pm Family Christmas Eve Worship (SAN)

7:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship (SAN)

CR – Community Room (upstairs)

SAN – Sanctuary

FH – Fellowship Hall

GAR – Garden of Eatin'

LC-Lower Courtyard

Today's Worship Leaders

Greeter- Kathy Ron Tuszynski

Lector- None

Communion Assistants- Rocky & Chris Armfield, Susan Brown

Power Point- Julie Valenzuela

Assisting Minister- None

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

Counters- Jim Gisselquist, Tom Vega



Welcome to Worship!

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Hymnals and Bibles are found under the seats.

Gathering Song: # 257 v 5-6

Promesa de Esperanza presents their Cantata

Offertory: # 253

Communion Hymn: # 251

Sending Song: # 248

We live stream our worship services.

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