

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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 24, 2023**

*God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."*

**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/>

**Poinsettias-** if you ordered a flower you may take it after the 7:00pm service tonight.

**Meet & Greet and Voting Meeting-** Members of Esperanza should have received a letter sharing the news that, after prayerful deliberation, the call committee and council are unanimously presenting a pastoral candidate on which the congregation will vote to, possibly, extend a call. All are welcome to meet the candidate on Sunday, January 14 immediately following worship; the voting meeting will commence at 10:45 am that same day. While the name of the candidate cannot be shared until January 14, any other questions should be directed to Pastor Sarah, Jim Gisselquist (council president), or Brad Somero (call committee chair).

**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.

**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](mailto:paige.somero@nxp.com).** Take-home resources and community contacts will be provided. All are welcome!

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

<b>November 2023 YTD</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>
Actual	\$297,529	\$276,463	\$21,066
Plan	\$273,150	\$274,067	(\$917)

Through November, pledge giving is almost \$16,000 ahead of our plan, while non-pledge giving is about \$1,000 below. Rental donation receipts are \$9,500 better than our plan due to increased use by outside groups and facility use payments from COH Preschool. Overall, total receipts are \$24,000 better than expected.

While year to date expense is just slightly worse than planned, there have been some significant swings within a couple areas. Property expense is now (\$8,200) worse than budget driven by higher costs for utilities, maintenance and repair and cleaning services. Staff costs are (\$3,000) higher due to increased activity. Offsetting this are lower than planned expense for Pastor's auto and continuing ed allowance of \$3,200, call related expense of \$3,000 and a decision to hold on extra mortgage principal payments for now of \$5,000.

On balance, Revenue less Expense is somewhat more favorable than we had planned at this time. And while December revenue can be hard to predict, we believe we will end the year with a surplus. We are planning to make an extra mortgage principal payment of \$4,000 in December. Thanks be to God for the generous support of the Esperanza community.

**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 64 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](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).

### **Esperanza Staff Members**

#### **Interim Pastor Sarah Stadler**

[pastor.sarah@myesperanza.org](mailto:pastor.sarah@myesperanza.org) 602-318-6876

**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, December 24th**

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:00am Fellowship (FH)

4:00pm Family Christmas Eve Worship (SAN)

7:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship (SAN)

#### **Monday, December 25th**

\*\* Office Closed

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

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

#### **Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Sarah on Vacation

6:30am Toastmasters (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

4:30pm Music Lessons (SAN)

#### **Wednesday, December 27th**

9:00am 12 Step (CR)

10:00am Mary's Circle (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

7:00pm Boy Scouts (CR)

7:30pm Promesa de Esperanza Rehearsal (SAN)

#### **Thursday, December 28th**

7:00am AA (CR)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

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

#### **Friday, December 29th**

8:00am Toast Masters (FH)

9:00am AA (CR)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

#### **Saturday, December 30th**

8:00am Men's AA (CR)

#### **Sunday, December 31st**

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:00am Fellowship (FH)

10:30am Adult Bible Study

CR – Community Room (upstairs)

SAN – Sanctuary

FH – Fellowship Hall

GAR – Garden of Eatin'

LC-Lower Courtyard

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

Greeter- Julie Valenzuela

Lector- Tom Vega

Communion Assistants- Jim & Josie Nelson

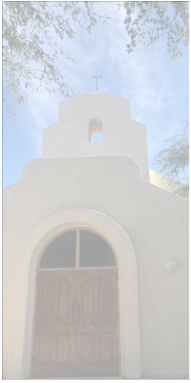
Power Point- Julie Valenzuela

Assisting Minister- Deacon Connie Rose-Kamprath

Children's message- Tina Knoell

Ushers- Larry Hanson, Paul Gerrish, KC & Christine Quah

Counters- Linda Dickson, Larry Hanson



# Welcome to Worship!

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

*Hymnals and Bibles are found under the seats.*

Gathering Song: # 257 v 7-8  
Song of the Day: # 265  
Offertory: # 253  
Communion Hymn: # 254  
Sending Song: # 267

**We live stream our worship services.**