

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

First Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2023

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

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 please take it today. Any left after service will be taken.

We have a candidate! Meet & greet will be on Thursday, January 11 @ 6:00pm. We will hold a congregational VOTE on Sunday, January 14th @10:15am.

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!

Lutheran Day at the Legislature- All are welcomed and encouraged to attend Lutheran Day at the Legislature! This year, Lutherans will gather on Thursday, January 18, beginning at 9:30 am at Wesley Bolin Plaza near the state capitol to meet other advocates, learn about bills coming up before the legislature, listen to speakers, be introduced in the galley of the senate and house, and of course, have meetings with our legislators to discuss issues important to Lutherans. To learn more and to register, go to <https://lamaz.org/news-blog/lutheran-day-2024-invite>.

Molly Hurst Celebration of Life- A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, January 27 at 11 am for Esperanza member Molly Hurst.

Esperanza Elementary School STEM fair January 19th 7:30am to 12pm they are looking for Judges. January 24 5:30-7pm they need assistance setting up and tearing down for the STEM event. Questions? Contact Peggy Shepherd 602-570-2377

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

Outreach Team: outreach@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@npx.com

Chuck Yount - (Stewardship) -

chuckyount00@gmail.com

This Week At Esperanza

Sunday, December 31st

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:00am Fellowship (FH)

Monday, January 1st

** Office Closed

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

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

Tuesday, January 2nd

6:30am Toastmasters (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

4:30pm Music Lessons (SAN)

Wednesday, January 3rd

Children of Hope Resumes Class

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, January 4th

7:00am AA (CR)

NO Thursday Matters

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

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

Friday, January 5th

8:00am Toast Masters (FH)

9:00am AA (CR)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

Saturday, January 6th

8:00am Men's AA (CR)

Sunday, January 7th

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:00am Fellowship (FH)

10:15am Sunday Funday School (CR)

10:30am Adult Study (SAN)

11:00am Worship Planning (SAN)

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-

Lector- Dennis Fox

Communion Assistants- Chuck & Pam Yount

Power Point- Joni Thorpe

Assisting Minister- Deacon Connie

Ushers- Larry Hanson, Cindy Jackson, Julie

Valenzuela

Counters- John & Kathy Gemma



Welcome to Worship!

First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023

Hymnals and Bibles are found under the seats.

Gathering Hymn: 283

Carol: # 289 v. 1, 3; #269 v1, 2; #288, #275, #295 v.1, 5;
#292

Offertory: # 297

Communion Hymn: # 300

Sending Song: # 290

We live stream our worship services.