

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

First Sunday in Lent
February 26, 2023

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His Forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

Announcements

You can also get announcements and calendar of events at www.MyEsperanza.org

Journeying through the New Testament in 2023-

During Lent we will read our way through the New Testament. The reading list is on the Narthex counter and on the website. Here are the readings for the next few days.

Sunday, February 26, 2023	1Thess 5
Monday, February 27, 2023	2Thess 1
Tuesday, February 28, 2023	2Thess 2
Wednesday, March 1, 2023	2Thess 3
Thursday, March 2, 2023	Galatians 1
Friday, March 3, 2023	Galatians 2
Saturday, March 4, 2023	Galatians 3
Sunday, March 5, 2023	Galatians 4
Monday, March 6, 2023	Galatians 5
Tuesday, March 7, 2023	Galatians 6
Wednesday, March 8, 2023	1Corin 1

Lent Soup & Salad Suppers begin Wednesday, March 1st at 6:00pm; sign up board is in the Fellowship Hall.

Discernment Gathering Wednesdays at 6:30-6:50pm

Mid-Week Lenten Worship Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Cinderella Affair- Collection box will be here thru February 27th.

Movie – Sunday, Feb 26th, 3:00pm in the Sanctuary we will be showing the movie *Luther*.

Mission Gatherings Leading Esperanza into the Future The Esperanza Transition Team is leading us through a process of discernment about God's mission for Esperanza and our guiding principles. As part of that process, everyone is strongly encouraged to participate in at least one Mission Gathering. At each Mission

Gathering, we will be asking questions and receiving your thoughts about the values we share as a congregation and the direction that we feel the Holy Spirit moving us as a community.

- 3/1, 10 a.m., Mary Circle in the Fellowship Hall
- 3/2, 10 a.m., Thursday Matters in the Fellowship Hall
- 3/5, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Funday on the 2nd Floor
- 3/5, 10:15 a.m., Post-Worship Gathering in the Sanctuary
- 3/6 3pm via Zoom please let Pastor know so she can send you the link
- 3/7, 11:45 a.m., Preschool Teachers & Parents in the Sanctuary
- 3/12, 10:15 am, Post-Worship Gathering in the Sanctuary

God is on a mission here at Esperanza. We will just discern what God is already doing! Thank you! Pastor Sarah

Mission Plan Results Through January – General Fund

January 2023 YTD	Revenue	Expense	Net Income/(Loss)
Actual	\$33,321	\$24,397	\$8,923
Plan	\$27,325	\$27,059	\$266

Pledge giving was a little short of plan, but a little better than last year. Non pledge giving was significantly better than plan and last year. On balance, overall giving is ahead of our plan and last year. Expenses were in line with the plan across all categories except Benefits and Pension. Due to an unexpected charge from Portico (ELCA pension and healthcare insurance carrier), we elected not to pay the January bill until we could address the issue. The matter has since been resolved and will be reflected in February expense. We are off to a good start financially, but it is only one month.

Kyrene Family Resource Center Cereal Drive- Esperanza is conducting a Cereal Drive for KFRC during February. We are off to a great start! Twenty five Sixty boxes donated this week! Total thus far: 145 boxes! KFRC includes a box of cereal in each food box they pack. As KFRC packs hundreds of food boxes a week, a lot of cereal is needed. While KFRC welcomes a variety of non-perishable foods, there is also a current need for pasta sauce, jelly, rice, and beans. Place donations in box/shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall. For February 2023 Esperanza has 110 lbs. of food to KFRC. YTD including cereal 225 pounds. Thank you! Also, Thank you to Children of Hope kids, parents, and staff. Any questions, please contact Peggy or Larry Hanson.

Habitat House 2023- Our 26th year !! Site: 3610 S Roosevelt St. Tempe, AZ. If tools are not your thing they also need volunteers to provide lunch for the volunteers! Contact John Fisher, Jim Gisselquist or John Gemma if

you have any questions. Thank you to all who have made our past builds a success.

Voices For CASA- On an ongoing basis, we support Voices for CASA with \$10 fast-food gift cards. These 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. If you have any questions about this program or about Voices, please contact John Gemma at jemma@cox.net.

Prayer Shawls- Each week a group of knitters gather on campus to make prayer shawls for our community. These shawls can be found on the rack by the altar. These prayer shawls are for ANYONE who is in need (illness, birth of a baby, marriage, or in need of a pick me up). Please remember to 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). Let's spread God's comfort and peace into the world.

Pet Prayer Shawl Ministry- Pet Prayer Shawls benefit Crest Care, Inc. Shawls are knitted by Alice Schultze. A suggested donation for each shawl is: \$20.00 -50% of donations will go to the rescue and 50% goes to Esperanza. Questions? Contact Alice Schultze roseypetunia@cox.net.

Helping Hands- the community needs you! We will be putting together the worship leader list for 2023. If you can help as a Greeter, Lector, Communion Assistant, Usher, PowerPoint Operator, Livestream Operator, or Assisting Minister, please let Joni know at Esperanza@myesperanza.org.

Esperanza Staff Members

Pastor Sarah Stadler

pastor.sarah@myesperanza.org

602-318-6876

Deacon Connie Rose-Kamprath

Children's 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

Ma 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

Council Members/Team Leadership

Jim Gisselquist - President (Personnel)

jim.gisselquist@myesperanza.org

Chuck Yount - Vice President (Stewardship)

chuck.yount@myesperanza.org

Michael Paradise - Treasure -

michael.paradise@myesperanza.org

Susan Brown - Secretary (Communications)

susan.brown@myesperanza.org

Craig Peck - (Property) craig.peck@myesperanza.org

Julie Valenzuela - (Fellowship)

julie.valenzuela@myesperanza.org

Beth Leaf - (Education) beth.leaf@myeseperanza.org

Kelly Edwards - (Evangelism/Outreach)

kelly.edwards@myesperanza.org

Paige Somero - (Worship and Music)

paige.somero@myesperanza.org

This Week At Esperanza

Sunday, February 26

9:00am Worship

10:15am Funday School (CR)

10:30am Adult Sunday School (SAN)

2:00pm Girl Scouts #3891 (CR)

3:00pm *Luther* Showing (SAN)

Monday, February 27

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

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

5:00pm Girl Scouts #3384(CR)

6:00pm Jazz group (SAN)

7:00pm Boy Scouts (CR)

Tuesday, February 28

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

6:00pm COH Board meeting (FH)

7:00pm Council meeting (FH)

Wednesday, March 1

6:30am Toastmasters(FH)

9:00 am 12 Step (CR)

10:00am Mission Gathering (FH)

10:00am Mary Circle (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

2:00pm Staff meeting (FH)

6:00pm Soup & Salad Supper (FH)

6:30pm Discernment Gathering (SAN)

7:00pm Worship (SAN)

7:00pm Boy Scouts (CR)

Thursday, March 2

7:00am AA (CR)

10:00am Mission Gathering (FH)

10:00am Thursday Matters (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

5:30pm Ladies Bible Study (GAR)

Friday, March 3

8:00am Toast Masters (FH)

9:00am AA (CR)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

Saturday, March 4

8:00 am Men's AA (CR)

Sunday, March 5

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:15am Sunday Funday (CR)

10:15am Mission Gathering (SAN)

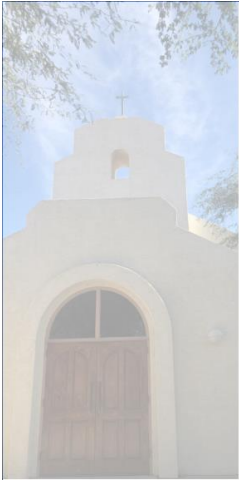
2:00pm Girl Scouts #3891 (CR)

CR – Community Room (upstairs)

SAN – Sanctuary

FH – Fellowship Hall

GAR – Garden of



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Welcome to Worship!

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February 26, 2023

Hymnals and Bibles are found under the seats.

- Gathering Song: # 322 vs 1-4
Song of the Day: # 319
Offertory: #All Are Welcome
Communion Hymn: # 325
Sending Song: # 326

We live stream our worship services.