

Esperanza Lutheran Church (ELCA)
2601 E Thunderhill Place, Phoenix
480-759-1515, www.myesperanza.org
February 23, 2025

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/>

Souper Bowl of Caring Event Was a Success! During church service on February 9, the following donations were received:

- \$197.99
- 182 pounds of non-perishable food.

Thank you to all that participated! The financial donation will be used to purchase food ingredients for Esperanza's commitment to prepare pancake breakfasts for the homeless being hosted at Grace Lutheran Church in downtown Phoenix. The food has been delivered to the Kyrene Family Resource Center. Thank you to Lynn Hockenberger and the preschool families for donating food. Also, a thank you to Deacon Connie and our youth for preparing the food donation boxes.

Personalized River Stones to Commemorate Esperanza's 35th Anniversary! For 35 years, Esperanza has been grounded in hope. During the anniversary celebration, we will build a permanent marker that will remind future generations that our church was founded and built with hope. We plan to outline the word HOPE directly into the soil to the right of the sidewalk leading to the sanctuary from the west sidewalk arch. The letters that comprise HOPE will be filled in with stones inscribed with remembrances of our past, our names and our dreams for the future of our church. All are welcome to contribute messages to be inscribed on the stones. You might offer up your own name, the names of family members, the names of loved ones who have passed, treasured memories, prayers, and dreams for the future. Please prayerfully consider what your message will be. Stones will be engraved by a Maryland-based company, CourageInStones. You may contribute more than one stone if you wish. We ask that you do not exceed 3 to 4 lines for each stone. The cost for a single stone is \$8.00. Please drop a check, money order or cash at the church office or into the Sunday offering between now and February 23rd, 2025 (the engraved stones will be placed on Easter Sunday and during the anniversary celebration we will place non-engraved stones into the HOPE marker). Please include the total amount for your household's stone(s). Please make sure you indicate that the check, money order or cash is for the HOPE installation. You can order online on the website: WWW.Myesperanza.org on home page scroll down

Participate in the ELCA Region 2 40-40-40 Lenten Challenge. You are invited to participate in the 40-40-40 Lenten Challenge as part of the Grand Canyon Synod team. The link, for details, register, and donate is www.LentenChallenge.org One hundred percent of donations will be provided to the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM) for their drinking water project. The NELM is located in far northeast Arizona, an approximate 5.5 hour drive from Phoenix. Any questions, please contact Larry Hanson at outreach@myesperanza.org

Esperanza is partnering with Feed My Starving Children for a volunteer opportunity on Wednesday, March 19th from 9:00am – 11:00am in Tempe. Here's how to volunteer: Visit <https://www.fmssc.org/get-involved/volunteer/> and look for the box titled "Looking for a Specific Group?" Search by group name, group leader name, or a unique Join Code. Our join code is VM5NMO

Our join URL is <https://www.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=VM5NMO>

Once you have clicked the "Join" button or followed the special link to your group, you will be required to log in or create an account, if you are not logged in already. Once logged in, you should see a page that says "Join Group" and includes the group name, group leader, and reservation details. You can click "see who else has joined this group" if desired.

Under "Who is attending?" be sure to select the correct box (I am coming by myself, I am coming and will be bringing others with me, or I'm not coming but need to add others to this group). If you are just signing up yourself, no additional fields will appear. If you select either of the other options, additional fields will appear for you to add attendee names. (Note: Since you are logged in at this point, you do not have to retype your own name, only additional attendees.)

Once you have added any additional attendee names, review FMSC's volunteer age and other guidelines and check the box indicating your agreement. Then, click "Continue." You should receive confirmation that you are signed up.

At this point, you are all set unless you need to add any additional names. If you have questions, email Peggy Shepherd at steves3@cox.net.

Adopt-A-Street Cleanup! Please join us for our first Adopt-A-Street cleanup of 2025 on Sunday, March 9th at 4:00 PM. We will park and meet at Kyrene de la Esperanza Elementary School which is located at the corner 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, a first aid kit and prizes for the most unusual trash found! 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 the Fellowship Hall in February. If you have questions, please contact Chris Armfield, Larry Hanson, or a member of the Outreach Team at outreach@myesperanza.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 in a bulletin board at Kyrene de la Esperanza Elementary School every month for the students and teachers to brighten their day and inspire!

2025 Food Donations to Kyrene Family Resource Center.

Through Mid-February Esperanza has donated 162 pounds of non-perishable food to the center. Our food donation goal for 2025 is 1,300 pounds.

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, beans- canned or dry, rice, spaghetti pasta and sauce, and jelly.

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.

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).

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, February 23, 2025

35th Anniversary Celebration !

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:00am Fellowship (FH)

no Sunday School (CR)

3:00pm Girl Scouts (CR)

5:00pm Alanon Meeting (CR)

Monday, February 24, 2025

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

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

6:00pm Jazz Practice (SAN)

6:00pm Girl Scouts (CR)

7:00pm Boy Scouts (CR)

Tuesday February 25, 2025

6:30am Toastmasters (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics (CR)

7:00pm Council Meeting (FH)

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

9:00am 12 Step (CR)

10:00am Mary's Circle (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 3014 (CR)

7:00pm Choir (SAN)

Thursday, February 27, 2025

7:00am AA (CR)

10:00am Thursday Matters (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

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

Friday, February 28, 2025

8:00am Toast Masters (FH)

9:00am AA (CR)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

Saturday, February 29, 2025

8:00am Men's AA (CR)

Sunday, February 30, 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