

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

17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love.

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

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

Helping a Neighbor: An elderly friend of Pastor Sarah's who recently got into assisted living after being on the street is in need of some basic household items. If you are able to donate gently used items you no longer use, he would be so grateful. Needed items include: twin bed sheets, small table, 1-2 chairs of any type, android phone charger, bath towel, hand towel, washcloth. If you're able to help, speak with, email, or text Pastor Sarah and let her know where and when she can pick up any donations. THANK YOU!

Mark Your calendar! Oktoberfest October 28th.

Esperanza's meal brigade is up and running! The cool people are in the club . Want to join? You're invited! Every now and then we have a church friend that is in need of a meal or more, delivered to their home. I'm organizing the meals, and the process. I email team members when there is a need. Great if you can help, and certainly fine if you're unavailable. The goal is to provide a meal. Costco/Sam's Club meals, restaurant take out or homemade - all appreciated. You can combine with another team member too, and share the prep/cost. Please email me if you're interested in helping out with this ministry. Pwagner255@cox.net. In His name, Peggy Wagner

Blessing of the Animals: All creatures, with the strict exception of snakes, are welcome at the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 8 at 11 am in the Lower Courtyard of Esperanza! Treats and water will be provided for non-human animals, and blessings will abound. In this brief worship, we will celebrate the goodness of God's creation, reaffirm our commitment to

care for it, and bless the animals whose lives we have the gift of stewarding.

Journeying through the New Testament in 2023

During 2023, we are reading our way through the New Testament. The reading list is on the Narthex counter and on the website.

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023	Acts 16
Monday, Sept. 25, 2023	Acts 17
Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023	Acts 18
Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023	Acts 19
Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023	Acts 20
Friday, Sept. 29, 2023	Acts 22
Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023	Acts 23
Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023	Acts 24

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, jelly, and shampoo. Place donations in box/shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall. Through mid-Sept. 2023, Esperanza has donated 943 lbs. of food to KFRC. 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).

Mission Plan Results Through August – General Fund

July 2023 YTD	Revenue	Expense	Net Income/(Loss)
Actual	\$219,979	\$197,668	\$22,311
Plan	\$212,020	\$195,454	\$16,566

Note: Not included above is a \$13,235 non-cash asset write-off of original playground equipment removed in June 2023.

Through August, pledge giving is a little ahead of our plan driven by families who have paid ahead on their commitment. This favorability is likely to decline over the balance of the year. Non pledge giving is a little behind our plan. Rental donation receipts are higher than expected due to increased facility use by outside groups.

Expenses are running higher than our plan driven by two areas. First, Property expense is \$3,500 worse than expected due to higher costs for utilities, maintenance and repair and cleaning services. Second, staff costs are \$4,000 higher than expected due to increased activity.

Offsetting this are lower than planned expense for Pastor's auto and continuing ed allowance (\$2,000), call related expense (\$1,000) and a decision to hold on extra mortgage principal payments for now (\$2,000).

On balance, Revenue less Expense is somewhat more favorable than we had planned at this time, but this favorability is expected to decline. We intend to offset higher than expected expenses with lower than planned payments for call related expense, extra principal payments and lower auto and continuing ed allowances.

New Member Orientation- Sunday Oct. 29 11:00am.

Includes a light lunch, a tour of Esperanza campus, the history of Esperanza, sharing about Esperanza ministries and the Lutheran tradition, and time to meet and talk with your New Member Sponsor. RSVP to Pastor Sarah by Oct 15.

Promesa de Esperanza Rehearsals Have Begun! 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.

Bring your own mug for fellowship!

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

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

Jane Gisselquist | Financial Secretary

finsec@myesperanza.org

Council Members/Team Leadership

Jim Gisselquist - President (Personnel) -

jimgiz@gmail.com

Chuck Yount - Vice President (Stewardship) -

chuckyount00@gmail.com

Michael Paradise – Treasurer (Communications)

michaelparadise.esperanza@gmail.com

Chris Armfield – Secretary chrisarmfield@hotmail.com

Susan Brown –Outreach - browngary214@gmail.com

Craig Peck - (Property) -

craigpeck.esperanza@gmail.com

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

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

Paige Somero - (Worship and Music) -

paige.somero@nxp.com

This Week At Esperanza

Sunday, September 24th

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:00am Fellowship (FH)

NO Sunday Funday School (CR)

10:30am Adult Education (SAN)

3:00pm Girl Scouts 3891(CR)

Monday, September 25th

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

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

Tuesday, September 26th

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

Wednesday, September 27th

6:30am Toastmasters (FH)

9:00am 12 Step (CR)

10:00am Mary's Circle (FH)

10:00am Staff Meeting (Office)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

7:00pm Boy Scouts (CR)

7:00pm Promesa de Esperanza Rehearsal (SAN)

Thursday, September 28th

7:00am AA (CR)

10:00am Thursday Matters (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

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

Friday, September 29th

8:00am Toast Masters (FH)

9:00am AA (CR)

10:00am Hope for Newborns (FH)

11:30am Ahwatukee Nooners (CR)

Saturday, September 30th

8:00am Men's AA (CR)

Sunday, October 1st

9:00am Worship (SAN)

10:00am Fellowship (FH)

NO Sunday Funday School (CR)

10:30am Adult Education (SAN)

3:00pm Girl Scouts (CR)

CR – Community Room (upstairs)

SAN – Sanctuary

FH – Fellowship Hall

GAR – Garden of Eatin'

Today's Worship Leaders

Greeter- Debbie Grayson

Lector- Liz Farquhar

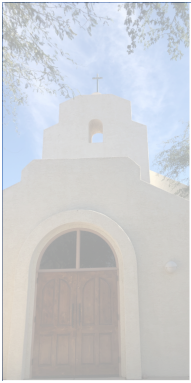
Communion Assistants- John Fisher

Power Point- Craig Peck

Assisting Minister- Paul Wagner

Ushers- Larry Hanson, Paul Gerrish, Cindy Jackson

Counters-John Fisher & Dennis Fox



Welcome to Worship!

Time after Pentecost

September 24, 2023

Hymnals and Bibles are found under the seats.

Gathering Song: # 765

Song of the Day: # 512

Offertory: # 186

Communion Hymn: # 838

Sending Song: # 583

We live stream our worship services.