

Maricopa Lutheran

May, 2011

News.....

16540 North Porter Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85138 – Phone: 520-280-6102

Pastor Developer:

Rev. Cora Aguilar

Steering Committee:

Sue Fletcher, Chair
Chet Anderson, John Hancock
Nicole Mangum, Jim Rosenow
Maureen Smyth, Vince Vitale

Committees:

Worship:

Sue Rosenow
Pastor Cora
Sue Fletcher

Evangelism:

Maureen Smyth
Connie Hancock
Diane Hebert

Finance:

John Hancock
Neil Gillespie
Kim VanBatavia

Stewardship:

Jim Rosenow
Claude Marsh

Property:

Chet Anderson
Elaine Shearer
Larry Fluegge

Building:

Vince Vitale
Fred Fix
Bob Wheadon

Christian Education:

Nicole Mangum
Linda Walter
Elaine Shearer

Fellowship:

Fred & Linda Fix
Dennis & Carol VanBatavia
Gale & Eileen Stratman
John & Marie Blackwell

Ushers/Greeters:

Fred Fix

Pastor's Report...

"CHRIST IS RISEN!

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!"

One of the symbols of the resurrection that I love is the butterfly. Its breaking out of the rough brown cocoon to fly freely in the sunshine reminds me of Jesus leaving behind the grave clothes in the empty tomb that first Easter morning. Just as the cocoon cannot hold the butterfly enclosed forever, so Jesus cannot be held by the burial cloth wrapped around Him.



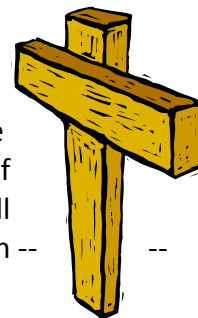
In 2008, Maricopa Lutheran as a mission church of Mountain View Lutheran Church in Ahwatukee, started like a caterpillar wrapped in a cocoon-like cloth. However, in the past three years, I saw how Maricopa Lutheran slowly and yet beautifully changed and developed into a butterfly as it moved to being a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community of the Grand Canyon Synod and ELCA and then becoming a Congregation Under Development, as a mission congregation of the Grand Canyon Synod and ELCA. I saw how Maricopa slowly broke out of that cocoon as sisters and brothers in Christ and started to be filled with the spirit of enthusiasm; as more and more people started coming to worship, then as Sunday School and adult Bible study; as women and men get involved in church work; as the choir sounds better.

Maricopa's hospitality is manifested by the way visitors are welcomed, the way peace is shared, the members and guests staying for fellowship during coffee hour. The spirit of love and care vibrates on the four walls of this church. This is **Resurrection!** This is the breaking out of the cocoon, the leaving behind of the grave clothes. This is a manifestation of the presence of the living Christ. Indeed, Jesus is alive!

We have so much to praise and thank God for. We are truly blessed with a beautiful faith community here at Maricopa Lutheran. It is the Spirit of the living Christ that brings us to where we are now and makes us what we are and what we will

be. And it is the same Spirit of the living Christ that challenges us to go out to tell others of what God has done, is doing, and will do for us.

It might seem that Easter is over---with relatives, if they came for dinner, all gone home; the wilted lily set out on the back steps --- for some, maybe, but not for us. For us, the victory of Easter continues even beyond the Easter season. We have a mission to do and that is to tell the wonderful story of the risen Jesus and to repeat the Easter proclamation again and again -- that **"Christ is risen; death is conquered; the victory is won."**



May the light of the living Christ shine on you this Easter season.

"CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!"

Peace,

Pastor Cora

Financial Report



We have learned that Maricopa Lutheran has been so blessed to be receiving \$20,000 this year from the Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA rather than \$7,500 that we expected. The additional money for operational expenses is almost exactly the

shortage we started the new fiscal year with after pledges and expected income. Indeed, God is looking over us and God is so Good!

We still need you to meet the commitment of your pledges and continue to provide to our general income and the Building Fund. The Building Fund resides in an account established within the ELCA Mission Investment Fund and currently amounts to \$2,148.64. Please consider giving to the Zita Pitkin Memorial Building Fund where the money will receive interest until we find a suitable building site in Maricopa to purchase. Contributions should be identified for the "Building Fund" and placed in the offering plate.

June Newsletter deadline: April 20th. Please email any article you want printed in the June newsletter to Sue Rosenow at JLRosenow@msn.com. Thank you!

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at the Mission House (see address and directions at MaricopaLutherans.org).

Come join the group for fellowship, fun, service to Church/Community, learning more about the Lutheran Church, and good coffee/juice.

We just concluded an excursion to the Casa Grande Ruins and learned a lot about our local Native American heritage.. The Men's Group provides an opportunity to know and enjoy each other better as well as serving God.



Come join us on Saturday, May 7, 2011. Please contact John Hancock if you desire more information. *"God's Work, our Hands"*

Answer My Prayer - Please

Jonathan, the Vicar's very young son asked his father, 'Daddy, I notice every Sunday morning when you first climb into the pulpit to give your sermon, you bow your head for a moment. What are you doing?'

The father answered, 'I'm asking the Lord to give me a good sermon.'

Jonathan inquired, 'Then why doesn't he?'



Thrivent

Maricopa Lutheran Church is enrolled as a participating organization in Thrivent Choice. Thrivent Choice is a new charitable

grant program that allows eligible members to help direct where Thrivent Financial distributes part of the charitable funds each year.

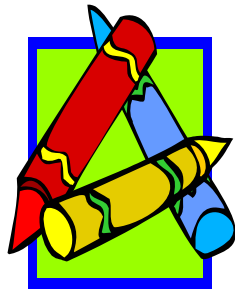
Maricopa Lutheran Church is listed in the program's searchable online catalog. For those of you that are members of Thrivent and have "Choice Dollars", please consider Maricopa Lutheran Church as your choice for the direction of your charitable funds. We have already received nearly \$2000 and hopefully will receive more.

Please contact John Hancock, Maricopa Lutheran Treasurer, if you need more information.

Can You Help!!!

The schools in Maricopa are in dire need of school supplies and are trying to collect any donations available for their schools. Here is a list of supplies needed.

- Pencils
- Construction paper
- Dry erase markers
- Overhead markers
- Big pink erasers
- Kid scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers
- Crayons
- Pencil top erasers
- Kleenex
- Paper towels
- Wipes



We have a container at church if you would like to donate. Thank you for the donations you have provided so far.

Information Technology

Perhaps You Can Help?



Maricopa Lutheran Church is seeking an individual or individuals who might want to help take over the management of some of the online technology for the Church including the website, databases and forums. As Maricopa Lutheran Church continues to grow, a little help with integration of computers, IT training and software would be a great help. Please see Sue Fletcher if interested.

Food Bank

Thank you for your generous donations to the Maricopa Lutheran Food Bank. So far this year, we have delivered just under 500 pounds of food.

When I was delivering food at the Food Bank the Monday morning after Easter, the lines of people were very long picking up food for their families. The shelves were not very full. The volunteers at the food bank were very happy to see our contribution arrive (especially the cereal).

Again, thank you, and please remember when you are grocery shopping to pick up an extra item or two (canned or packaged) and place in the container marked "Food Bank."



Sunday School.....

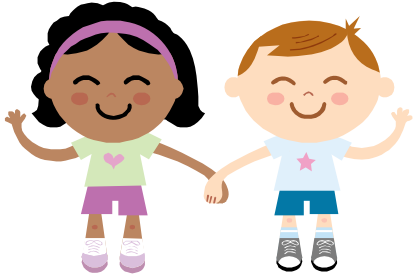
Last Day will be June 5th.

Classes will resume in mid-August.

Watch for Rally Sunday!



Vacation Bible School



June 27th-July 1st.

The only cost will be for T-shirts. It will be from 9:00 am to 12:00 am tentatively. Watch for more details.

Choir ??

Do you like to sing?

Do you like to fellowship with others? Do you enjoy hearing a choir on Sundays?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, join us Thursday evenings at 6:30pm for choir rehearsals.



Also, we need an accompanist – can you play the piano? Please see Sue Fletcher if you are interested.

Confirmation Classes....

The Youth will be attending IMPACT on Saturday, May 7th, so no Confirmation on Wednesday, May 4th.

Classes will resume on May 11th and the 18th and will finish on the 25th.

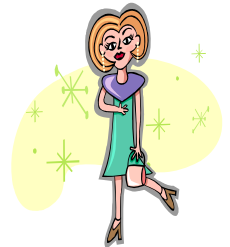
Remember in Prayer....

*Leo Flores(Pastor's brother-in-law),
James & Modestine Brown,
Judy McNall and her husband Bill,
Carol Risa,
Emma Sexton,
Norman Wilson,
Jessica,
Katie (Neil Gillespie's niece),
Peter (Pastor's brother)
Melody (Pastor's aunt)
Amelia (granddaughter of Maureen)
Dominick (Laura's husband)
Barbara (Roy's mother)
"J" father of Diane Schalow
All the snow birds returning to their summer homes.*



Womens' Groups...

Bible study using Lutheran Women Today magazine is Friday, May 6, at 7 pm at the Mission House.



Women's gathering is Friday, May 20, at 7 pm at the Mission House, potluck followed by program. Linda Fix will present table decorating using things you have at home.

All women are welcome to both events.

What Price a Sermon?

One beautiful Sunday morning, Reverend Barnard announces to his congregation, 'My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons.....

A \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes
A \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes
And a \$20 sermon that lasts a full hour.



Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver.