

# Splash!

*"Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst."  
John 4:14*

**DECEMBER 2022**

*Living Water*  
Lutheran Church



PASTOR  
Mark Rossman

PASTOR  
Shari Bernau

OFFICE/COMMUNICATIONS  
MANAGER  
Jennifer Kelsh

FINANCE MANAGER  
Stephanie McLean

CHOIR DIRECTOR  
Marcie Donavon

PRaise BAND DIRECTOR  
Scott Sims

[www.LWLCAZ.org](http://www.LWLCAZ.org)

## **CONTENTS**

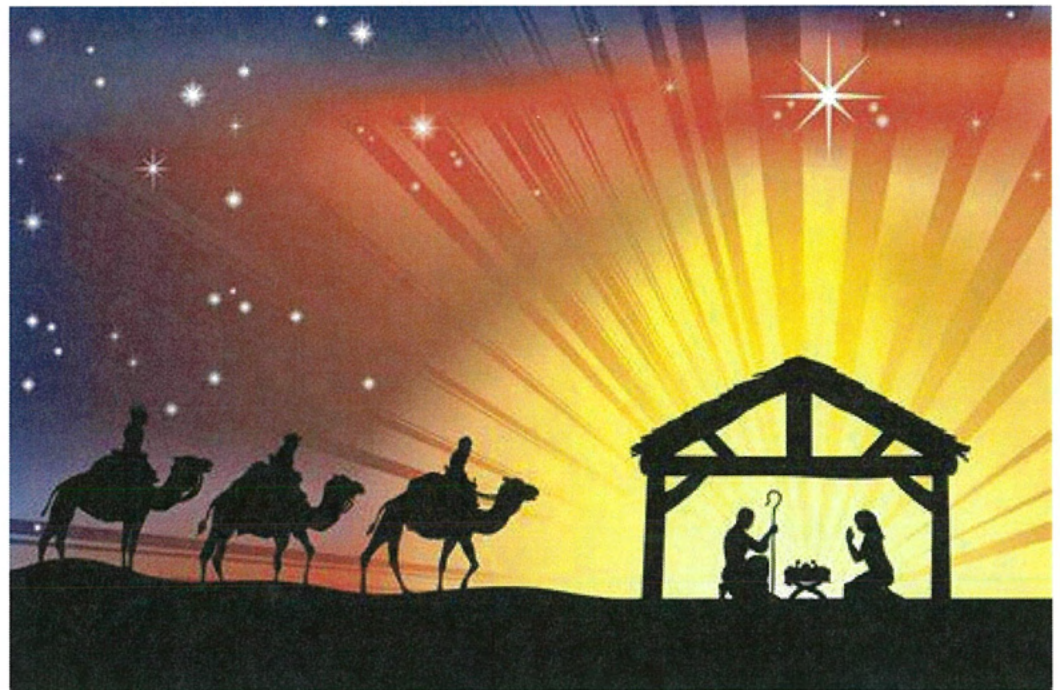
*Prayer List*

*Pastor's Message*

*Ask Zeke*

*Studies & Retreats*

*News & Events*



# Merry Christmas!

## Living Water



9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

# *We Remember in Our Prayers*

- Mary Ann Bartley—Health Concerns
- Don Benson—Health Concerns
- Barbara Brooks—Health Concerns
- Kristy Burke (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Health Concerns
- Charlie (Friend of Daryl & Diane vanMannen)—Recovery
- Christi (Daughter of Charlie and Sue Boyd)—Health Concerns
- Larry Coutts—Health Concerns
- Danielle (Friend of Mike and Melissa Freesh)—Health Concerns
- Sue Dixon (Sister of Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns
- Dominic and Megan (Friends of Deb Bash) Dominic is a Trauma Surgeon with Air Force in Kabul
- Michael Donavon—Health Concerns
- Vicki Dugas (Friend of Barbara & John Hannan)—Battling Cancer
- Jenna Fjeld—Health Concerns
- Joe Franch (Friend of Kathie Roenigk)—Health Concerns
- Dave and Joy Gallimore—Health Concerns
- Vicki Grimsley (mother of Mason Rossman)—Cancer
- Barbara Gunderson—Health Concerns
- Francisco Hernandez (Father of Lourdes Gasparino)—Health Concerns
- Tyler Hornacek (Grandson of John & Sue Hornacek)—Deployed
- Norm Jouett (Janis Fjeld's father)—Health Concerns
- Penny Kilburn—Hospice Care
- Michael Koch (Grandson of Ron and Shirley Koch)—Health Concerns
- Lee Landon—Health Concerns
- Katy Lauritsen (Family Member of Steve and Susan Johnson)—Battling Cancer
- Hannah Lehrke (Granddaughter of Jay and Lois Lucas)—Health Concerns
- Marni Lucas (Daughter of Lois Lucas)—House Fire
- Michael (Cousin of Lynda Cales)—Health Concerns
- Hadlee Miller (Friend of Pastor Shari)—Health Concerns
- Bobby Reiser—Health Concerns
- Henry Roenigk—Health Concerns
- Ruth Schlesinger—Health Concern
- Sarah Shelmire—Health Concerns
- Joan Sprinkle—Health Concerns
- Lisa Squires (Bob Ulland's Daughter)—Health Concerns
- Sumi and Celine (Friends of Diane vanMaanen)—Health Concerns
- Jim and Carolyn Tonneson—Health Concerns
- Michael Umland (Son of Steve & Sue Umland)—Health Concerns
- Gavin Vaughan (Nephew of Gordon & Marty Lindert)—Health Concerns
- Sandy and Dale Williamson (Parents of Heidi Ruff)—Health Concerns
- Friends and Family of Wayne Malmquist (Husband of Merle Malmquist and Karen Roessler's Brother-in-law)
- Friends and Family of Kathy Nelson
- People of Ukraine

***Send your prayer requests to [prayer@lwlcaz.org](mailto:prayer@lwlcaz.org) or fill one out at [lwlcaz.org](http://lwlcaz.org)***

# A Message from Pastor Mark

There is a story my mother loves to share about my report card in first grade. At the conclusion of the grades there was a section for teacher comments. The comment I received was that “Mark is very enthusiastic”. It is a rather euphemistic way of saying Mark is a tad overly excitable. At least that was what we referred to folks like me at first, then hyperactive, then we advanced them ADD, then on to ADHD, now ADHD – PI (ADHD predominantly inattentive). We have historically done this with a number of diseases and disorders throughout modern history but while the name or definition may change the problem seems to remain the same. As for ADHD – PI, it is something that modern Christians all have a touch of – not enough to require prescriptive therapy – but enough that we should be thinking and reflecting on that fact.

One of the characteristics of ADHD – PI is the inability to remain focused, or that the individual is at least easily distracted. When it comes to this time of year, we have a very real tendency to turn into something akin to monkeys. We lose focus and become distracted by the shiny trinkets and the bright lights that surround us during this time of year. We get so focused on the trappings of the Christmas season and the commercial call that beckons us that we lose sight of who we are and what we are to be about.

The singular thing that can set the great ones apart from everyone else is the ability to focus and concentrate. This is something that does not apply merely to people we consider to be exceptional, but it is something that applies to each and every one of us, in just about every facet of our lives. To be good, to be disciplined, to be able to succeed, depends upon our ability to stay focused on that which we are doing. It is that ability to focus on tasks at hand that has a great deal to do with our level of success.

It is tough being a Christian, because in living this sort of life in the best way possible we are required to stay focused, to keep our attention where it is supposed to be. There probably is no time more evident of this type of difficulty than Christmas. While it is the time where we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, it has become a time that is so beset with glitter, glitz, presents and bright lights, that it is difficult not to be distracted by all the other things that have nothing to do with our understanding of the celebration.

We battle to keep our focus on the gift of Christ in the midst of the wrapping, presents, lights, and cookies. While none of these are inherently bad, they are nonetheless the things of the holiday that can cause us to lose our focus. When we get so bent on getting things like these taken care of then the accomplishment of these tasks can cause us to lose our sense of Christian joy. When that happens then we have lost our focus.

With the financial concerns of the current economic situation, we run the risk of being more concerned with figuring out how to pay for the gifts than allowing our children and grandchildren to understand the gift of the Christ child birth narrative. When we find ourselves in that place, then we have lost our focus. When we are more concerned with cards and cookies than sharing our Christmas joy with those less blessed than we, it is then that we have lost our focus.

Amid our preparations, let us do our very best to keep our focus. Let us keep our focus on the blessings of God. Let us keep our focus on the gifts of God, especially the birth of His Son. Let us stay focused on the things of God that are part of our lives – after all, those are the things we are supposed to stay focused on.

Have a wonderful Christmas celebration.

Pastor Mark


# **Christmas Worship Services**

**Christmas Eve Worship Services**  
**Saturday, December 24**

**All Ages Service at 4:00 PM**  
**Traditional Candlelight Service at 6:00 PM**



**Christmas Day Lessons & Carols**  
**Sunday, December 25th**  
**10:00 AM**



*A Christmas Play*

**LOVE FINDS A WAY**

*The story behind the world's  
most famous Christmas carol*

Join us for worship on Sunday, December 11  
for this intergenerational mini play  
to celebrate God's faithfulness during this  
season of Advent.

---

**Piecemakers Quilters in  
December**

Want to help us tie quilts destined  
for Lutheran World Relief  
ministries? Join us on the first  
and third Wednesdays of the  
month, at 9 am in the Education  
Building. If you can hold a  
needle, we can teach you to tie!



Last year, we made more than 100 quilts and we've already resumed this fall. We will gather next on December 7 and December 21, from 9 am to about noon. We now convene in the Education Building in Matthew/Mark. Many hands make light work! Questions? Ask Lynda Cales, Kay Bonar, Mary Nyberg, Cindy Ophaug or Myrna Ulland. You can also learn more about this ministry at [www.lwr.org/quilts-and-kits](http://www.lwr.org/quilts-and-kits)

# The Joy of CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATE THE SEASON



## JOIN US TO MAKE LEFSE IN DECEMBER

Want to try your hand at making Lefse (lef'-suh), a Norwegian flatbread made from potatoes, butter & cream, traditionally made during the holidays?

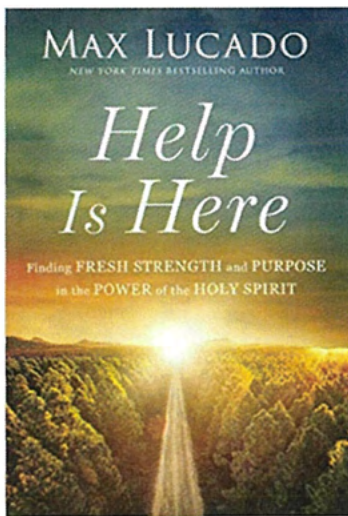
Joan Sprinkle will open her home in North Scottsdale to host lefse making sessions. Myrna and Bob Ulland will lead the sessions, involving rolling, frying, and enjoying lefse! (The dough will be made in advance!) We can accommodate around 8-10 persons per session so everyone can have a "hands-on" experience.

We're planning two afternoon sessions right now. If there is more interest, we may plan a third session. If you'd like to join us, please email [myrna.ulland@gmail.com](mailto:myrna.ulland@gmail.com) and indicate your date preference: Thursday, December 15, or Friday, December 16. We plan to begin around 2 pm and should conclude by 4:30 pm.

Sing to the Lord a new song! The Living Water Choir welcomes new and returning singers, and now is the perfect time to join. We are just kicking off the program year, and we invite YOU to come and sing with us! Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Psalms room of the Christian Education building. All are welcome!



For more information, contact Marcie: 602.321.2561 or email [MLC123@cox.net](mailto:MLC123@cox.net).



## TUESDAY WOMEN'S NEW STUDY

NOTE: We will NOT meet on Nov. 22 – we're taking a break for Thanksgiving Week.

Join us on Nov. 29 to begin a 5-week study with new material from Max Lucado: "Help is Here. Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose in the Power of the Holy Spirit." Lucado will lead us in the tools and encouragement needed to become joyful, enthusiastic, and empowered as you draw closer to God, learn who the Spirit is, and how the Spirit can help you find true rest and peace. The book is recommended and

there are a few copies remaining in the church office. \$18 to purchase, pay to Myrna Ulland. You can also get a Kindle version of the book.

All women are invited to join us, in-person in the Fellowship Hall, or virtually via a Zoom connection. We meet for 90 minutes every Tuesday morning. Bring your favorite Bible translation and the book. Coffee and hot water for tea/hot chocolate will be available if you're joining us in person. If you aren't on our email notification list for our Tuesday Women, please contact Myrna at [myrna.ulland@gmail.com](mailto:myrna.ulland@gmail.com) to be added to the list.

## **AZ TAX CREDITS**

Arizona permits taxpayers to claim multiple credits for contributions to charitable organizations and schools. This means that you can claim credits for donations to Habitat for Humanity (a charitable organization), and to a public school and to ACSTO (a private school tuition organization). For more information, visit <https://azdor.gov/tax-credits>.

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Preparations are now underway to build or remodel another Habitat home with Lutheran churches starting in 2023 in the Greater Phoenix area.

AZ law provides a tax credit for contributions made to qualifying charitable organizations. Habitat is one of the qualifying organizations. So, if you are going to be paying income taxes to the State of Arizona, you can claim a credit on your income tax return. Taxpayers filing as "single" and "head of household" and "married filing separate" may claim a maximum credit of \$400. Taxpayers that file as "married filing joint" may claim a maximum credit of \$800. You may do this even if you don't itemize deductions.

You can either send your check directly to Habitat for Humanity of Central AZ or hand your check to Stephanie Mclean, Financial Manager or to Marilyn or John Goesling. If you send your check directly, please note on your check that it applies to the **Northeast Lutheran Coalition-Living Water Church**. If you need additional information, contact Marilyn or John Goesling. And, if you are interested in working on the build next spring, a signup sheet will be available in the narthex once details are confirmed.

continued...



## **Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission Christian School**

Here is another AZ Tax credit opportunity. This is through the Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization (ACSTO). One of the schools helped by this tax credit is the **Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission Christian** school in Rock Point. This school needs financial help. You donate right to ACSTO and specifically designate the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission Christian school. Donors can give up to \$1245/\$623 (married/single) towards the original tax credit. Any donation above this amount will then go towards the Overflow Tax Credit, up to a maximum of an additional \$1238/\$620. It is clearly explained at the ACSTO website which is <http://acsto.org>. They walk you through the donation process right there on the website. The website also provides the tax reporting instructions and documents needed if you participate in this unique tax credit opportunity.

# *Bible Studies & Retreats*

## *Dennis Nelson Bible Study*

Published via our YouTube Channel

Wednesdays at NOON

Bible Study Outlines also available on our website:  
[lwlcaz.org](http://lwlcaz.org).

## *Men's Bible Breakfast*

**New in December!:**

**We meet on Thursdays at 8:00am**

**Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center**

**7415 East Elbow Bend Rd.**

**Carefree, AZ 85377**


\$7 for breakfast



# What Child Is This?



Please join us on  
Sunday, December  
18 as the Living  
Water Choir  
presents the  
Cantata  
*What Child is This?*  
By Joel Raney



Come  
Let Us  
Adore  
Him

## **Pima & Happy Valley Road Improvements Project Update**

The City of Scottsdale's Pima Road Improvements will widen Pima Road from Pinnacle Peak to just north of Happy Valley Road to three thru-lanes in each direction, and Happy Valley Road from Pima Road to Alma School Road to two thru-lanes in each direction with roundabouts at Golf Club Drive and Alma School Road. Both projects include raised median or center turn lane, bike lanes, sidewalk, multi-use path, drainage improvements and utility relocations.

The Pima Road Improvements project includes a regional drainage channel to reduce the potential for flooding on the homes to the west which will be funded by fees from the stormwater utility bill and the Flood District of Maricopa County. The Pima Road project will include a sound wall on the west side of Pima Road from Pinnacle Peak Road to just south of Happy Valley Road. Noise mitigation on Happy Valley Road was not warranted.

Provided below is information on the upcoming construction schedule, but please remember schedules can be impacted by a variety of factors to include weather, materials scheduling, availability of resources, and coordination with others.

### **Current Construction Information:**

#### **Pima Road:**

- Crews continue work to construct box culverts and retaining walls on Pima Road at La Mirada Shopping Center as part of the drainage improvements for the project. **Work on the box culvert at the south driveway continues with the south driveway closed.** Access to La Mirada continues to be provided at remaining Pima Road driveways and all Pinnacle Peak Road driveways to the plaza.
- Scheduled to begin the week of Nov. 28, crews will apply rip rap to the basins near the La Mirada Shopping Center to minimize erosion during stormwater events.
- Crews continue work on channel excavation for the future channel on the east side of Pima Road. You may notice increased truck activity as trucks load and travel north on Pima Road to the west on Happy Valley Road. No additional traffic restrictions are required for this hauling activity.
- APS contractor crews continue work relocating electric facilities along the west side of Pima Road near the Happy Valley Road intersection. This work is nearing completion south of Happy Valley Road, with approximately two weeks more needed to complete work to the north of Happy Valley. This work has been shifted to night hours to minimize the impact to traffic.
- Electric crews continue their work installing electric conduit on the east side of Pima Road nearing the Happy Valley Road intersection.
- **Scheduled to take place the week of Dec. 12**, crews will begin the first of eight relocations of reclaimed and raw water pipeline to accommodate future box culvert construction along Pima Road. This first relocation will take place on the west side of Pima Road, between De La O and Chama Road and will likely extend into the night hours to minimize the water outage to customers on the pipelines being relocated. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this work.

#### **Happy Valley Road:**

- Landscape crews continue work salvaging native plants along Happy Valley Road, within the City's right-of-way and easements, by spading and boxing trees to prepare for relocation to the contractor's nursery.
- Scheduled to begin Nov. 30, crews will conduct clearing on the south side of Happy Valley Road to prepare for **placement of temporary asphalt on Saturday, Dec. 10**, to accommodate Happy Valley Road traffic during construction. Clearing of the north side of Happy Valley Road will begin the week of Dec. 12.
- **Scheduled to begin the week of Dec. 5**, electric crews will install electric conduit on the south side of Happy Valley Road, from Pima Road working in an easterly direction. As this work crosses side streets or driveways, crews will work to maintain access; however, there may be short periods where access is restricted.

continued.....

- **Scheduled to begin the week of Dec. 19**, pipeline crews will trench and install a water pipeline.

Pima Road and Happy Valley Road remain open for travel during this work; however, there may be lane shifts or turn restrictions to shift traffic away from the work zone. During construction, business and resident access will be maintained, although there may be times wherein it will not be the most direct route, so please allow extra time for your travel during construction. Work typically takes place weekdays during daytime hours, though some overnight concrete pours may occur as needed. Traffic control remains in place even during non-work hours with speeds reduced near the work zone in the interest of safety.

Thank you for your patience during this construction.

**Project Info: 480.898.4110 | [www.PimaHappyValley.com](http://www.PimaHappyValley.com) | [www.ScottsdaleAz.gov](http://www.ScottsdaleAz.gov)**

Get your church pictorial directory today!

Thanks for posing for Living Water's pictorial directory. You can get your copy after worship on three Sundays this month: Dec. 4, Dec. 11, or Dec. 18. If the weather is good, look for Jill Wehr out on the patio (otherwise in the Fellowship Hall). A digital copy of the church directory is also available upon request. Simply contact the church office.





# Eastern Europe Crisis Response

## **The Situation:**

On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea and air attacks. Russia has launched air strikes across the country, including on the capital of Kyiv and other major cities. Millions of people fleeing the violence of Russia's war against Ukraine and are moving toward Ukraine's western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter and such basic necessities as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

## **Our Response:**

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as this Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis created by Russia's war against Ukraine. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an [interfaith call for peace](#) in the region.

## **What you can do:**

### **Pray:**

Please pray for those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries that have been affected by the war in Ukraine. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

### **Give:**

Your gifts designated for "[Eastern Europe Crisis Response](#)" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region. To donate online, go to <https://community.elca.org/eastern-europe-crisis-response>

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Great



# Living Water Lutheran Church

## Auction

### Friday, February 17, 2023



Please contact Pastor Shari if you would like to donate an item toward the auction or have any questions. This is a fundraiser for the Youth of Living Water who are planning to attend the Mission Trip to Niagara Falls, New York next summer.

## La Sagrada Familia Lutheran Food Shelf Needs Our Help!

Your support of non-perishable food items for our neighbors at La Sagrada Familia in northern Phoenix is appreciated, and there is a continuing need. Items needed most frequently are noted on the “shopping list” in the grocery cart that is set out each Sunday morning. For the safety of our

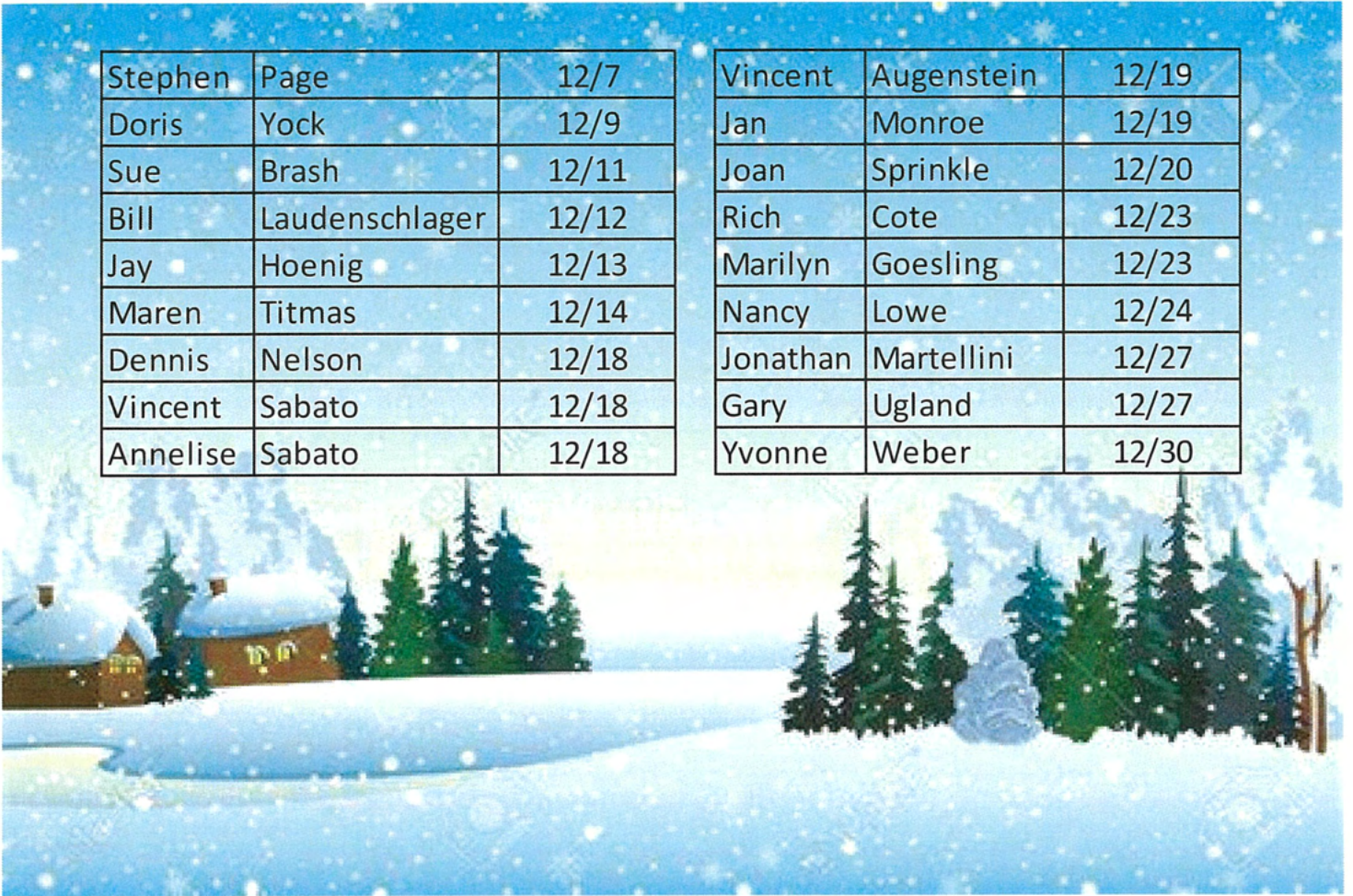
friends at La Sagrada, please do not donate expired or “close-to” date items. Please continue to be generous in remembering our neighbors in need.



# December Birthdays

Stephen	Page	12/7
Doris	Yock	12/9
Sue	Brash	12/11
Bill	Laudenschlager	12/12
Jay	Hoenig	12/13
Maren	Titmas	12/14
Dennis	Nelson	12/18
Vincent	Sabato	12/18
Annelise	Sabato	12/18

Vincent	Augenstein	12/19
Jan	Monroe	12/19
Joan	Sprinkle	12/20
Rich	Cote	12/23
Marilyn	Goesling	12/23
Nancy	Lowe	12/24
Jonathan	Martellini	12/27
Gary	Ugland	12/27
Yvonne	Weber	12/30



# Happy Birthday!

Please call the office if your birthday is not listed and we will make sure to enter it into our database.

**Publication Deadlines:**  
Connections- Every Tuesday by noon  
SPLASH! - The 20th of each month by noon



9201 E. Happy Valley Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255  
office@lwlcaz.org ~ 480.473.8400 ~ www.LWLCAZ.org  
Living Water is a Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Grand Canyon Synod.