

Splash!

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

Living Water
Lutheran Church



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January 2023

happy
new
year!

2023



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
- 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
- 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 Tonneson—Health Concerns
- Michael Umland (Son of Steve & Sue Umland)—Health Concerns
- Darcie Vandermate—Health Concerns
- Gavin Vaughan (Nephew of Gordon & Marty Lindert)—Health Concerns
- People of Ukraine

Send your prayer requests to prayer@lwlcaz.org or fill one out at lwlcaz.org

A Message from Pastor Shari

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
Corinthians 5: 17

Being that it's a new year, I have been thinking a lot of the scripture from Corinthians about the new creation that is offered to us as children of God, or followers of Christ. This scripture reminds us that we get a fresh start, a clean slate, a brand-new beginning. But, it means even more than that. It means that we get a new relationship with God, and we can now draw near to God's presence. It also means that we get a new purpose, as we are now equipped to accomplish what God has created us to do.

I know sometimes we get stuck in the cyclical nature of the calendar. We think about every year being similar as we have the same seven days/week, the same holidays, the same routine, and surroundings. But, what if we looked at the start of a new year as an opportunity to draw close to God and focus on what God is calling us to do?

Have you ever moved to a new house, started a new job, or went somewhere completely different for vacation? The anticipation and start of a new adventure can give us a new perspective on life, our surroundings, ourselves, and the people around us.

I invite you to consider the start of 2023 as a new adventure into a new relationship with Christ and a new purpose. This doesn't require any money or travel, and it isn't singularly focused like a New Year's resolution/goal would be. For in fact, the possibilities are endless when it comes to God's creativity and power. And, when we let God work in and through us, we just might be completely surprised at what God has in store for us. So, let's allow God to make 2023 a year of beautiful and unexpected blessings in our lives.



Pastor Shari

Discipleship Training with New Covenant

How do you measure the effectiveness of your church? Is it the number of chairs that you fill each week with attendance or the amount of money that you collect from offerings? Meeting the budget, measuring attendance and supporting other outside ministries are certainly worthwhile goals, but have you ever measured the number of new converts that your church has guided to faith in Jesus? What is the number of missional ministries that have been birthed by lay members of your congregation? When you serve mission opportunities what kind of contact do you have with the people you serve, or do you just send money and product? If you have ever struggled with these questions, then a discipleship focus may be of help to you.

We invite you to join us as we explore in-depth biblical teaching that guides our discipleship. You will experience hands-on exercises and tools for personal and group development along with time for personal processing. We believe all of these things will bring about a clearer understanding of your role Christ followers in a discipling community. However, we don't do this in a vacuum. Our intent is to develop objectives that can help to transform our ministries and congregations.

Our objectives are:

1. To learn to follow Jesus Christ together, multiplying disciples who make disciples.
2. To empower spiritual families to live on mission.
3. To become a richly diverse movement of people from different walks of life, socio-economic contexts, ethnic backgrounds, and spiritual traditions.
4. To grow in our love for God, our desire to live the life Jesus modeled for us, and our passion to see the good news of God's kingdom come for all people.

So, if you are interested in engaging in a discipleship process, please join us beginning Tuesday evening from 4:00 -5:00 pm, on January 10 at New Covenant Lutheran Church. Send an email to Pastor.Steve@newcovenantaz.org as your commitment to participate in this 12-week process. We also plan to provide a Zoom option for this training.



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.

Ask Zeke



Living Water's 24/7 office fish makes a convincing case for adults to sign up for Saints and Sinners

Q. Will we have a Saints and Sinners program this year?

A. Yes! As Saints and Sinners veterans know, it's a great way to interact with people you worship with on Sunday mornings. The goal is to strengthen ties in our church family by bringing folks together in a small group to have fun and enjoy camaraderie. These adult gatherings are an ideal way to get to know people, discover commonalities, and develop new friendships. They're also a great way to welcome and involve Living Water's newer members, prospective members, and visitors.

Participants are assigned to a different small group (14-15 people) each month. The groups are spearheaded by captains who organize an activity. Previous adventures include an Arabian Horse Show, an Escape Room, happy hour at a captain's home, Penske Racing Museum, Star Barn planetarium, and Taliesin West. Most events included food!

Pre-COVID, this profoundly popular program featured a large kickoff party in January and small-group gatherings in February and March. This year the focus is on organizing small groups ASAP. Sign-ups begin in early January (snowbirds and other latecomers are also welcome). This potentially gives you three golden opportunities to mingle with other Saints and Sinners participants.

Interestingly, and entirely by coincidence, the name "Saints and Sinners" is quite appropriate for a bunch of Lutherans like us. As you may know, Martin Luther redefined a saint as a forgiven sinner, which makes Christians "simultaneously saint and sinner." I imagine this revered theologian would approve of our co-opting his words for our successful Saints and Sinners program.

So, have I convinced you this is a NOT-TO-BE-MISSED opportunity for fun and friendships? Watch for a Saints and Sinners video in early January. Then beat feet for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or send an email to Wayne Burrus (wlburrus@earthlink.net). Be sure to provide your preferred email address and phone number.

Do you have a question for Zeke? E-mail it to him at AskZeke@cox.net or contact his writing partner, Jill Wehr, at 480-515-4813.



The 2nd Great



Living Water
Lutheran Church

Auction

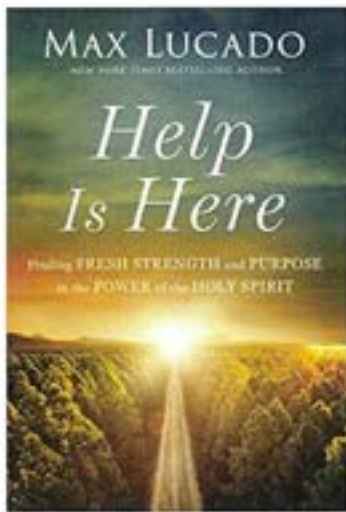
Friday, February 17, 2023



Donations are welcome to help make this a success! Maybe you have a special talent in painting, pottery, photography, etc. We also welcome gift cards to restaurants or stores, items for themed gift baskets, tickets to concerts or sporting events, or passes to area attractions. All donations are due to the church office no later than January 27. Thank you for your support!

Tickets for the event will go on sale on Sunday, January 8, for \$25 per adult and \$10 for kids 8 and under. The ticket includes dinner, entertainment and access to the live and silent auction.

Please save the date for this Fundraiser for the 2023 Youth Mission Trip to Niagara Falls, NY



TUESDAY WOMEN

We continue with a video study 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.

We are taking a Christmas holiday break on Tuesday 12/20 and Tuesday 12/27. We will resume again the first Tuesday in January.

All women are invited to join us, in-person in the Fellowship Hall, or virtually via a Zoom connection. We meet for 90 minutes on Tuesday mornings. Bring your favorite Bible translation and the Lucado book if you have it. 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 to be added to the list.

Saints and Sinners 2023

Sign-up for the 2023 Saints and Sinners small group fellowship program is now open.

You can sign -up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex (lobby) or email Wayne Burrus at wlburrus@earthlink.net. We will need your name and best contact phone number and email address.

Saints and Sinners is a popular “Small Groups” fellowship program at Living Water which is active in February and March. Each small group will consist of up to 14 or 15 people; both single and couples.

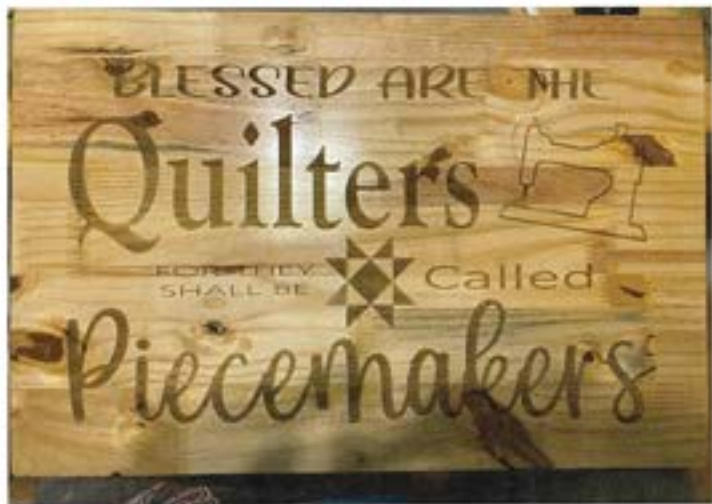
The purpose of Saints and Sinners is to build and foster fellowship so that we can get to know each other on a more personal level and, by doing so, build a stronger church body.

All are invited to join—Living Water members, potential members, and attendees. This fellowship is especially good for new members and those that may be contemplating joining Living Water. It’s a relaxed and friendly way to get to know each other a little better.

The program is only two months long, February and March. Each small group will have an activity or get together of some sort in each month. The leader (captain) of each small group will organize an activity such as a dinner at home, miniature golf, concert, happy hour...and more. The captains are usually pretty inventive.

We will be forming the small groups in early January, so sign up as soon as possible.





Piecemakers Quilters in the New Year!

Join us on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, at 9 am in the Education Building.

Help us tie quilts destined for Lutheran World Relief ministries. If you can hold a needle, we can teach you to tie!

Last year, we made more than 100 quilts. We will gather next on January 4 and January 18, 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



Special Event: Parenting Expert Sheryl Gould – Moms of Tweens & Teens

Join us for a FREE Mom's Night Out on Jan. 21 at 5:30 pm!



Moms Night Out!

Escaping
Entitlement:
Raising *Responsible,*
Respectful and
Kind Teens
in an Entitled
Generation

Schedule

5:30 pm Social time and Appetizers/Refreshments

6:00 pm Presentation and Small Groups

7:30 pm Q & A time with Cookies and Coffee

Register today at <https://lwlc.org/momsnightout/>

About Sheryl Gould



I'm a parenting expert that focuses on tweens and teens, and I wrote the "[SOS! The Technology Guidebook for Parents of Tweens and Teens: Get The Answers You Need, Keep Them Safe and Enjoy Your Kids Again](#)" because we need it!

I founded Moms of Tweens and Teens 15 years ago, and it has grown into an international organization that supports moms as they grow in their self-awareness, become more effective parents, and build stronger connections with their adolescents and families.

I have worked with moms for over 15 years and provide simple, practical tools, backed by solid research and real-life stories, that will help you understand your adolescents on a deeper level. I will teach you how to communicate so you can start building real connections, love, and trust; in order to raise emotionally healthy, happy, and responsible

adults.



GIVE NOW FOR EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES ARRIVING IN BUDAPEST PHOTO CREDIT: REV. ZACH COURIER, ELCA

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>

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.

Men's Bible Breakfast

We meet on Thursdays at 8:00am

Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center

7415 East Elbow Bend Rd.

Carefree, AZ 85377

\$7 for breakfast

Carpool leaves LW at 7:30am

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 | www.ScottsdaleAz.gov

AN INTERFAITH PRAYER GATHERING (via Zoom)

FINDING HOPE IN NEW BEGINNINGS

JANUARY 25, 2023 AT NOON MST

New beginnings are a shared experience of our common humanity, irrespective of culture, country, ethnicity or faith. These may include any number of changes in our lives, both joyful and painful that are anticipated with HOPE. Come together to embrace these new journeys ahead with hope.

You are invited to join us for an Interfaith Prayer Gathering of inspirational stories of hope. Experience "Finding Hope in New Beginnings," a virtual zoom community bringing people of different faiths and perspectives together to share stories of hope and inspiration. We will hear from faith leaders and others sharing stories of new beginnings and where they found hope even when feelings of defeat seemed the only outcome.

Finding hope in new challenges and difficult situations may not be easily found, but we believe that possibilities abound when we come together.

Program format includes speakers sharing their stories of Finding Hope in New Beginnings and time for individual meditation:

Shakira – Islamic Speakers Bureau

Rabbi Sara

Refugee from LSS

Email HopeinOurWorldNow@gmail.com to register and receive the Zoom link

Hosted by

Northeast Valley Consortium & Fountain Hills Interfaith Alliance

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.



THANK YOU LIVING WATER! Your support of the Fund For Leaders November 2022 Golf Classic resulted in more than \$32,000 to date going to the Scholarship Funds of the ELCA and the Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA. These funds will be used to provide financial assistance to students in the Seminaries of the ELCA, our future pastors and diaconal church leaders. Again this year your church and its members were the leading supporters of this event. Last year 9 students from the Grand Canyon Synod received \$38,000 from these scholarship funds. Thank you for making a significant difference.

The Fund For Leaders Golf Classic Committee



January Birthdays

Sharon	Ugland	1/4
Henry	Ruff	1/5
Cindy	Ophaug	1/7
Jillian	Decker	1/8
Liz	Gilkey	1/9
Dave	Sleeper	1/10
Judy	Tornowske	1/13
Flynn	Shelmire	1/13
Erik	Laudenschlager	1/16
Donald	Pick	1/18

Kevin	Ruff	1/18
Jeffrey	Dorsch	1/19
Dan	Bonar	1/20
Tana	Harlan	1/20
Steve	Smith	1/20
Karen	Syversen	1/21
Sandy	Moses	1/23
Rick	Sherrin	1/23
Tamey	Manalli	1/26
Mike	Freesh	1/30

As for me
and my house
we will serve
the Lord.
Joshua 24:15



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



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Living Water is a Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Grand Canyon Synod.