

February 2023

Splash!

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

Living Water
Lutheran Church



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FAITH
HOPE
LOVE



...love never fails
1 Corinthians 13:8



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
- Christi (Daughter of Charlie and Sue Boyd)—Health Concerns
- Larry Coutts—Health Concerns
- Sue Dixon (Sister of Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns
- 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
- Francisco Hernandez (Father of Lourdes Gasparino)—Health Concerns
- Jay Hoenig—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
- Michael (Cousin of Lynda Cales)—Health Concerns
- Jay Lucas—Health Concerns
- Hadlee Miller (Friend of Pastor Shari)—Health Concerns
- Henry Roenigk—Health Concerns
- Del Rogge—Health Concerns
- Ruth Schlesinger—Health Concern
- Sarah Shelmire—Health Concerns
- Gloria Shutter (Friend of Marilyn Nartker)—Battling Cancer
- 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
- Family & Friends of Lowell Howard (Brother-in-law of Gene and Shirley Perry)
- Family & Friends of Nancy Lowe
- Family & Friends of Donald Pettengill (Darnell Pettengill's Father)
- Family & Friends of Dorie Underkofler

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



A Message from Pastor Mark

I know Christmas just ended. But I would like to be clear that I am not responsible for the phases of the moon, nor am I the one who puts the calendar together, so don't begin to point fingers toward me when I start talking about Lent. To be clear, Easter is **calculated** as the first Sunday after the paschal full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox. If the full moon falls on a Sunday, then Easter is the following Sunday. And Ash Wednesday occurs 46 days (40 weekdays plus 6 Sundays) before Easter. And thusly, it all begins, in the middle of this chilly month of February, with Ash Wednesday on February 22 - complete with an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM.

With Ash Wednesday begins our journey to the cross. One of the problems we seem to have with this Lenten journey can be centered around the fact that we may not feel real comfortable in dwelling on the "how" as much as the "why" all that takes place leading up to and including Good Friday. Our Lenten focus has long surrounded the understanding of why Jesus died for us as opposed to how it all took place. We hold a basic understanding of the torture of crucifixion, but we have taught ourselves not to look too deeply into the details. The details make us feel uncomfortable at best. And it can be uncomfortable to gaze into the eyes of a dying man. But beyond how those details may make us feel, the significance of the Good Friday event is found within the sacrifice itself, not within the details of the sacrifice.

It is in honor and remembrance of that sacrifice we have created the tradition of "giving up" something during Lent. In keeping with that tradition individuals have refrained from a variety of different things for the forty day season. While such things are well and good, they do not truly reflect for us the gravity of the sacrifice that was made on our behalf. Does changing a dietary habit – like not eating chocolate - do justice in helping us remember the sacrifice made on our behalf? While the intention may certainly be a good one, the idea of us sacrificing something as inconsequential as a food product seems rather meager. I would say there needs to be something more to it.

Instead of demonstrating our appreciation of this enormous gift we have been given by giving up Brussels sprouts for 40 days why not discover a way to give. Collect a designated amount of money – a dollar amount for each of the 40 days – and use it to support one of the many missions supported by Living Water. That is a much more appropriate way to sacrifice of ourselves. Give a little extra.

In doing so what we find is that which we sacrifice – what we give up as a spiritual exercise – that sacrifice will offer a tangible benefit for another individual - a person in need. In doing so then we may understand a little more clearly what God has done for us. Giving up something of value for us, not because we deserved it or earned it, but simply because someone else needed it even more.

Pastor Mark

Ask Zeke



Living Water's 24/7 office fish dives into financial waters

Q. Did I hear correctly that Living Water has borrowed money from the IMF?

A. Well, you got the three letters right. But they're in the wrong order. Our mortgage is with the Mission Investment Fund (MIF), not the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

This fund plays an important role in the brick-and-mortar aspects of ministry by financing church land purchases and building projects. MIF's President and Chief Executive Officer says its mission is "to help grow the church and to share God's boundless love with the world . . . by providing loans that help congregations and ministries build, renovate, or expand facilities."

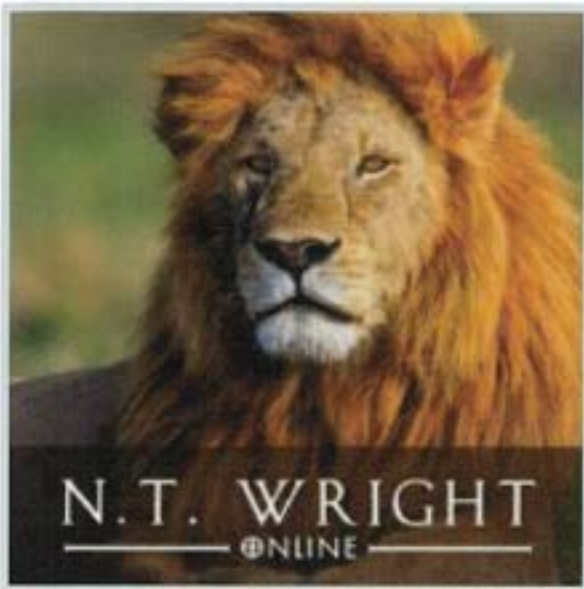
MIF and its predecessors have been the go-to lender for Living Water and hundreds of other congregations, schools, and organizations of the ELCA for over 150 years. Churches borrow from this ELCA lending ministry for three key reasons: it specializes in church building projects, it offers competitive rates and terms, and its loans are financed by faithful stewardship.

Lutheran lending dates back to 1869. That year the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church created a Church Extension Board. A total of \$1,800 was distributed among four churches. The lending continued, and 150 years later MIF finished the 15th decade of Lutheran lending with \$575 million in loans, \$493 million in investment obligations, and total assets of \$712 million.

Like a bank, MIF offers ELCA ministries and individuals competitive investment products. They include term and demand investments, retirement savings, education accounts, and health savings accounts. These customer deposits create a pool of funds for making relatively low-interest loans available. Loan payment proceeds replenish this pool, and MIF account holders earn interest in the process.

This financial organization's values are "rooted in Christian faith, Lutheran traditions, and our identity as a ministry of the ELCA." Interestingly, all six MIF Officers are women. Its Board of Trustees consists of four men and four women.

Do you have a question for Zeke? E-mail it to him at AskZeke@cox.net or contact his writing partner, Jill Wehr, at 480-710-4506.



Tuesday Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to join us at 10 am each Tuesday morning, in person in the Fellowship Hall, or via a Zoom connection. We began a 10-week study of the book of Daniel from the Old Testament, which started Jan. 17. Video lectures from Biblical scholar, N.T. Wright, will give us insight into the exiled people of God as revealed in this Prophets section of the Bible.

We meet every Tuesday, 10 am. No additional material is needed, other than your favorite Bible

translation. Coffee and hot water for tea/hot chocolate is provided. Join us, no matter what level of Biblical knowledge you have. We learn, pray, laugh and support one another as we grow in faith together. Not on our email notification list? Email myrna.ulland@gmail.com to be added. We look forward to your presence!

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.



Living Water
Lutheran Church

**THE 2ND GREAT LIVING WATER
DINNER AUCTION**

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17TH 6-8PM





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



love



one another

JOHN 13:34



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 Road & Happy Valley Road Improvement Projects - Update

For a description of the improvements, please visit www.PimaHappyValley.com

Provided below is current construction 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.

Happy Valley Road:

Happy Valley Road traffic is being maintained with one lane in each direction, currently shifted to the south from Golf Club Drive to Alma School Road.

APS contractor crews are currently working to relocate electric facilities along the north side of Happy Valley Road from Grand Vista to Golf Club Drive, moving in an easterly direction. Scheduled for approximately Jan. 23, work will continue from Golf Club Drive and continuing east toward Alma School Road.

Scheduled for Jan. 21, paving crews will place temporary asphalt where needed in areas that were cleared to make way for the improvements. Work across driveways will be conducted to maintain access; however, there may be a brief period where access is restricted to allow time for the asphalt to cure. Thank you for your patience during these periods.

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.

Electric crews are currently working to install electric conduit on the south side of Happy Valley Road, from Pima Road working in an easterly direction toward Golf Club Drive. As this work crosses side streets or driveways, crews will work to maintain access; however, there may be short periods where access is restricted.

Scheduled for Jan. 23, Happy Valley Road traffic from Pima Road to Golf Club Drive will be shifted to the north side of the road, still one lane in each direction, to accommodate work on the south side of Happy Valley.

Scheduled to begin Jan. 23, work will take place to install storm drain pipe across 92nd Street and moving east. During this work, 92nd Street will be closed on the south side of Happy Valley Road; however, a flagger will be in place to provide access as needed. Once work across 92nd Street is completed, as work crosses Living Waters Church driveway, the driveway will be closed with church access provided at 92nd Street.

Scheduled to begin the week of Jan. 23, crews will work to relocate segments of wall, as needed, primarily in locations where drainage improvements will be constructed. This work will begin on the north side of Happy Valley Road, working from Pima Road to the east.

Scheduled for the week of Jan. 23, crews will begin installing waterline in the north side of Happy Valley Road beginning at Alma School Road and working to the west toward Golf Club Drive.

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. 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.

Happy Valley Rd Detour Begins Feb. 18





**AN INTERFAITH PRAYER
GATHERING
(via Zoom)
FINDING HOPE IN NEW BEGINNINGS**

February 15, 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. Hear stories of new beginnings where hope was found 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 Susan Masood sharing her story of ***Finding Hope in New Beginnings*** and time for individual reflection:

Susan Masood

Faith & Community Engagement - Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest
Susan shares her hopeful story of new beginnings as she resettled from Afghanistan to the United States amidst the crisis. Experience Susan's journey through her stunning pictures of Afghanistan and her profound life story.

**February 15, 2023
via Zoom
12 Noon MST**

Click on: [Hope in Our World Now](#) to register and receive the Zoom link

**Hosted by
Northeast Valley Consortium & Fountain Hills, AZ, Interfaith Alliance**



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>

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.



February Birthdays

Shari	Bernau	2/3
Darryl	Harlan	2/4
Lois	Lucas	2/6
Morgan	Harlan	2/8
Jeff	Shelmire	2/8
Theo	Sabato	2/9
Gabi	Leonetti	2/10

David	Gilkey	2/11
Eunice	Voorhees	2/12
Leila	Burrus	2/14
Fredrik	Sadler	2/14
Frances	DeBruyn	2/18
Nancy	Rogers	2/21
Karen	Sauer	2/22
Dee	Eilers	2/26



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