

JUNE 2023

Splash!

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

Living Water
Lutheran Church



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9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

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

A Message from Pastor Mark

When I moved to Arizona 9 years ago, I brought along with me a 2005 Chevrolet Impala that was well used and well cared for. In fact, it was so well used that when I sold it the odometer showed a total of 454,000 miles. Nearly one half of a million miles. Thought it was a pretty neat thing.

The nice thing about cars is that you can pretty much make them run forever. Depends on the level of care you give the car and the number of parts you replace. You can have the dents knocked out, the paint redone, the wheels shined up, but if you don't keep up on the internal workings and maintenance it will be just a car that is pretty on the outside. You see, what goes on inside of the car is vitally important for the overall function of that vehicle. It is the inside that counts the most.

The sad thing is that we often place a greater value on what something looks like on the outside than what we find on the inside. If it is shiny, pretty and clean then we usually like what we see. I have a friend who knows what that is all about. Ed worked as a janitor and after work one day he went to buy a new car. His work wardrobe was well worn – for he never tossed out his work clothes until they would be as threadbare as one could imagine. So when Ed went to look at cars that day he was not looking very fashionable. It probably didn't help matters that he was shopping for a Mercedes Benz for his wife. Ed was very good with his finances. Despite the fact he was ready to buy a car on the spot and never mind the fact that he was ready to pay in full with cash, none of the not-too-busy, inattentive sales people were interested in even talking to him. So Ed took his money and he ventured to a different dealer and bought a car that day. Had the salespeople at the previous dealership looked beyond his outward appearance they would have had an easy commission.

Little doubt if Ed had donned a suit and a tie he would have been approached right away. If I was only concerned about the outside of my old car and how it looked, it would have died many miles ago. We all know that in the final analysis it is what we find on the inside that counts. While we know that to be true our initial attraction still revolves around what we see.

I think in the same manner we are a great deal like our cars. Whether we look good on the outside or not is truly irrelevant to our overall function. It is what is on the inside that counts and as time marches on, it is important for us to take a look at what we hold inside and decide whether the time has come for some work to be done. The reality of humanity is that the higher our mileage, the more set we become in our attitudes and ideals. As time marches on, the less tolerant we can become of things that are different, the more apprehensive we become of ideas that oppose our understanding.

In this world of hatred, intolerance, and prejudice, it is important for us to be reminded that Christ has called us all to a different way, a tolerant way, His way of love. It begins by taking a look at what we find inside of ourselves. What is it that drives us? What defines who we are in terms of our thoughts, actions and attitudes? Do we act and react in the manner for which Christ has taught us? Are we people who approach the things of this world with the love that has been instilled in us through the waters of baptism?

If we take a serious look at ourselves and find that we are indeed mired in the ways of this world, driven and motivated by intolerance, hatred, and prejudice, then perhaps the time has come for a spiritual overhaul. Taking out the old and worn parts of us that lead to intolerance and division and replacing them with that love of God that calls us to be so much more in this world. Not a people who point their fingers in judgment, but rather people who embrace one another in love.

Pastor Mark

Ask Zeke



Living Water's office fish shares church history highlights

Q. I'm curious about Living Water's history. As the office fish, you must know a lot about this church. Will you share some of the highlights?

A. Around a quarter-century ago, three mission partners —Mount Olivet (Minneapolis, MN), Prince of Peace (Phoenix), and St. Timothy's (San Jose, CA) —sowed the seeds for a new ELCA mission in North Scottsdale. In May 1997, Living Water Lutheran Church's first pastor, the Rev. Tim Selbo, began knocking on doors and spreading the word about a new community of faith. Pastor Tim's efforts bore fruit on Dec. 24, 1997, when 81 people attended LWLC's first worship service on Christmas Eve at the Terravita Activity Center. Our first Sunday morning worship followed on Jan. 3, 1998. Later that year, the growing congregation relocated to Grayhawk Elementary School.

A charter for membership was opened in March 1999. On March 26, 2000, the Constitution was adopted, and LWLC became fully self-supporting. Charter membership totaled 150. Upon completion of its first capital campaign—Blessed to Build...Building to Bless—in 2001, LWLC was able to purchase land. A few months later the congregation moved to the Boys and Girls Club. On Oct. 20, 2002, joyful parishioners held a ground-breaking ceremony on land along Happy Valley Road. Construction commenced, and the first worship service in the new sanctuary was on Palm Sunday in 2003. Two months later, LWLC held its first VBS.

Our church campus has continued to evolve over the last two decades. The congregation began 2009 with the ground-breaking for adding a second story to the Education Building. The magnificent Luther Rose mosaic on our patio was dedicated on Reformation Sunday in October 2014. LWLC's serene Columbarium was completed in 2018. The welcoming entrance pillars with blue LED lighting strips (a godsend in the dark) were installed in 2020. The onset of COVID that year prompted another project: a much-needed audio/video technology upgrade. Who knows what lies ahead as LWLC's 25th anniversary approaches?

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.

2023 Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars now for the 2023 edition of Living Water Vacation Bible School! During the week of June 19, we will be exploring "Jerusalem Marketplace." This curriculum provides an opportunity for children, youth and adults to follow in the footsteps of Jesus as he walked to the cross and ultimately brought God's greatest gift of love to completion. Children will discover we can walk with Jesus as we live today. We can draw strength, guidance and hope from all Jesus experienced in Jerusalem and know he walks closely with us now through our own experiences.

The program will include Bible stories, fabulous music, creative crafts and fun games. A delicious snack will be provided "to-go" at the end of each morning. Registration is free and each child will receive a colorful VBS t-shirt. All kids ages 4 through 6th grade are welcome.

Please pass the word to your friends, family and neighbors. To register, simply go to our church website at www.lwlcaz.org, click on the Education tab at the top and select VBS Week - June 2023. If you are interested in volunteering for the week of VBS, please contact Kris Crow at kcrow737@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School - "Jerusalem Marketplace"

June 19-23, 2023

9:00-11:30am daily





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.



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.

Pima Road & Happy Valley Road Improvement Projects - Update

For a description of the improvements, current construction info, project pics and schedule information, please visit www.PimaHappyValley.com

Happy Valley Road:

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

Pipeline crews continue installation of water pipeline in the north side of Happy Valley Road moving west from Alma School Road. This work is currently scheduled to cross 101st Place the week of March 27, with potholing activity prior to waterline installation. This work will be conducted one-half at a time to maintain access with a flagger in place, as needed, to assist in managing traffic while work takes place. This work will tentatively cross Golf Club Drive sometime around the end of April.

Scheduled for April 6-7, crews will mill (remove) asphalt on the south side of Happy Valley Road, from 89th St to Golf Club Dr. As this work moves across the front of driveways, access may be restricted for a short period as crews place back millings or aggregate to provide access to Happy Valley Rd. Thank you for your patience during this work.

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 APS contractor crews continue work relocating APS facilities on the north side of Happy Valley, from 96th St to Alma School; and Southwest Gas (SWG) contractor crews will return to the Happy Valley Road area the week of April 3 to relocate SWG facilities, behind existing traffic control.

Crews continue work installing conduit across Happy Valley Road at several crossings. To better accommodate traffic during daytime hours, this work is taking place during night hours when needed, from 7 p.m. to 4 a.m. Sunday through Thursday nights, with a flagger in place to assist in managing traffic near the work zone. This work should be complete by the end of March.

Plant salvage is scheduled to resume along Happy Valley Road within the next couple of weeks, with initial work taking place in front of Eagles Glen and Desert Skyline Estates, followed by Desert Highlands. This activity will be limited to tree and cactus salvaging at this time, and coordination will take place with community representatives.

*Utilities such as Cox, CenturyLink, and Southwest Gas are working or scheduled to work to relocate their facilities along Pima Road and Happy Valley Road, which may require additional traffic control. We are working to coordinate these efforts to the extent possible to minimize the impacts, but appreciate your patience as these relocations take place to clear the way for the planned improvements.

Thank you for your patience during construction.

Project Info: 480.898.4110 | www.PimaHappyValley.com | www.ScottsdaleAz.gov

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

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.





Lutheran Disaster Response: Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

Lutheran Disaster Response and its partners are prepared to accompany our neighbors impacted by these earthquakes. One hundred percent of your gifts to "Middle East Crisis" go to supporting earthquake survivors and other people affected by disasters in the region.

Lutheran Disaster Response has been active in this region for several years, partnering with ACT Alliance, the Lutheran World Federation and the Middle East Council of Churches to accompany Syrian refugees and internally displaced people with food, water, shelter, health services and sanitation support. By standing with earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria, we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need.

Your gifts designated for "Middle East Crisis" will be used entirely (100%) to provide long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by disasters in the region. GIVE THROUGH LIVING WATER (by check or online) AND INDICATE "MIDDLE EAST CRISIS" IN THE MEMO.



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.

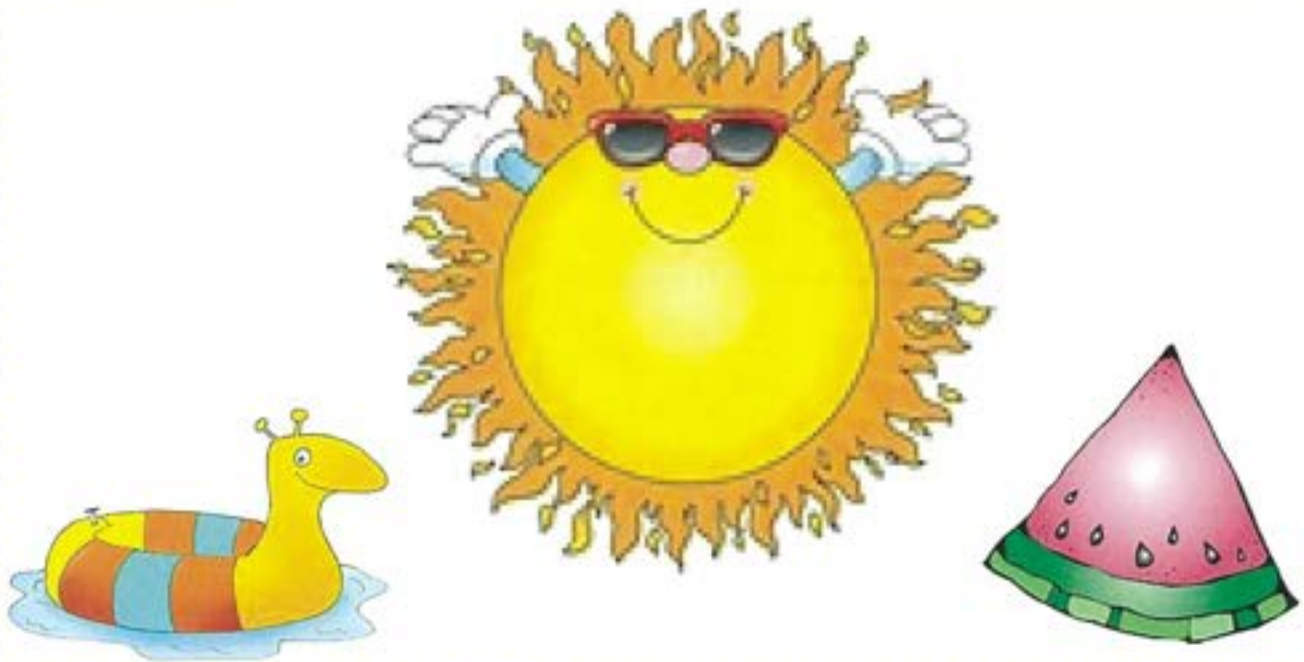
Give:

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>

June Birthdays

Virginia	Conrad	1-Jun
Karen	Sherrin	3-Jun
Ardie	Senft	5-Jun
Pam	Wilder	5-Jun
Michelle	Brown	6-Jun
Denny	Dumler	6-Jun
Bonnie	Moore	6-Jun
Terry	Nelson	6-Jun
Joyce	Bash	9-Jun
Sharon	Westergreen	14-Jun

Tamie	Miller	20-Jun
David	Schroedel	20-Jun
Vanessa	Alberti	23-Jun
Ellen	Schoenbeck	23-Jun
Lynda	Cales	23-Jun
Lou	Handley	25-Jun
Penny	Kilburn	25-Jun
Hunter	Brown	30-Jun
Sue	Boyd	30-Jun



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

Publication DEADLINES:
Connections Newsletter - Every Tuesday by noon
SPLASH! Newsletter - 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.