

July 2023

Splash!

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

Living Water
Lutheran Church



PASTOR
Mark Rossman

PASTOR
Shari Bernau

OFFICE/COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER
Jennifer Kelsh

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Marcie Donovan

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★ God
★ bless
★ America



9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

We Remember in Our Prayers



- Mary Ann Bartley—Health Concerns
- Bob Bliefertnich (Barbara Brooks's brother)—Healing from Surgery
- Melissa Bloom (Friend of Susan and Steve Johnson)—Cancer
- Nelly Booty (Friend of Susan and Steve Johnson)—Cancer
- Barbara Brooks—Health Concerns
- Briden and Owen (Great Grandchildren of Maria Tillotson)—Premature Birth
- Christi (Daughter of Charlie and Sue Boyd)—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
- Frank Gasparino—Health Concerns
- Vicki Grimsley (Mother of Mason Rossman)—Cancer
- Linda Hoenig—Health Concerns
- Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- Penny Kilburn—Hospice Care
- Sandy Kohlway (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Battling Cancer
- Pam Landon—Health Concerns
- Ken MacKay—Hip Replacement
- Pete McLeod (Friend of Karen and Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns
- Hadlee Miller (Friend of Pastor Shari)—Health Concerns
- Maryann O'Shea (Barbara Brooks's sister)—Health Concerns
- Rebecca (Melissa Freesh's sister)—Health Concerns
- Joan Reisler—Health Concerns
- Trisha Rios (Jennie Stemm Son-in-law's cousin)—Health Concerns
- Henry Roenigk—Health Concerns
- Del Rogge—Health Concerns
- Ruth Schlesinger—Health Concern
- Gloria Shutter (Friend of Marilyn Nartker)—Battling Cancer
- Vince Spavale (friend of the Dawson's and Ulland's)—Health Concerns
- Michael Stevens (Friend of Michelle Brown)—Brain Tumor
- Sara Stevens (Friend of Michelle Brown)—Breast Cancer
- Sumi (Friend of Diane vanMaanen)—Health Concerns
- Celine (Friend of Diane vanMaanen)—Health Concerns
- Michael Umland (Son of Steve & Sue Umland)—Health Concerns
- Darcie Vandermate—Health Concerns
- Peter Vasiliades (nephew of Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns
- People of Syria, Sudan, Turkey and Ukraine

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

A Message from Pastor Shari



Three weeks prior to VBS, there was a bit of melancholy in the air. You see, the number of registrations we received was lower than expected, but it wasn't due to lack of effort. We had been planning and preparing for months with promotions, designing and constructing a set, coming up with ideas for crafts, recipes, games, bible stories, songs, designing and ordering t-shirts, preparing for a book drive, applying for Thrivent grants, recruiting and equipping

volunteers, creating audio visual accompaniment to our opening and closing celebrations, and ensuring that we would have a safe and welcoming environment for the kids. To say the least, it is definitely a lot of work to prepare for the type of high quality VBS program that Living Water provides, but it's also a labor of love. And, it is not that we were sad because of how hard we had worked, but we had just hoped that we would have the opportunity to bless more kids with this experience.

But that wasn't the end of the story, because by the time VBS started, we had 10 more kids! But, that's not all God provided. In fact, God blessed us in so many ways. Friendships were formed among volunteers, intergenerational connections were made, youth and young adult volunteers felt a sense of purpose in the church, the kids made wonderful memories at church and felt loved and special, and everyone was blessed by the Holy Spirit present in this place and in each other. God definitely blew all of our expectations out of the water and provided exactly what we needed.

The moral of the story is that we must not doubt what God can do, even when the patterns of this world tempt us into thinking our efforts are in vain, or when we feel defeated. We must press on, seeking God's will and opening our eyes to see God's amazing work all around us.

I give thanks for our VBS Director, Kris Crow, and our faithful VBS leadership team, who never wavered in their commitment. And thank you to everyone who said "yes" to sharing their time and unique gifts that God gave them to make this the best VBS program around!

~Pastor Shari

Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

Ask Zeke



Living Water's office fish suggests a cents-able way to lighten a hefty wallet

Q. Who benefits from contributions to the Hunger Jar?

A. Living Water's Hunger Jar has been a godsend for starving children and adults for a couple decades. This ministry originated with encouraging parishioners to help alleviate hunger locally and around the world by dropping coins into a jar. This simple collection of loose change was initially called Change for Change. About ten years ago it was re-named the Hunger Jar, perhaps to better define its focus on fighting hunger.

The jar, which sits in the front of the sanctuary near the fountain, is emptied following Sunday worship. After a few months, the Service and Caring Mission Groups select two hunger organizations to receive funds. These disbursements are split 50/50 local and global. Last February, \$884 was divided between Vista del Camino Food Bank in Scottsdale and Food for Kidz, an organization that targets food insecurity across the U.S. and around the world). A second disbursement last month provided a total of \$775.50 split between ELCA World Hunger and St. Mary's Food Bank, which provides food throughout Arizona. If we use St. Mary's "5 meals per \$1" formula, so far this year LWLC's Hunger Jar has already fed nearly 8,300 hungry people. Wow! (Sadly, inflation has significantly decreased St. Mary's previous yield of 7 meals per \$1.)

Your kind gifts of small change produce a tremendous change for hungry children and adults in Arizona as well as countries around the world. Additional organizations receiving funds in previous years include ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief, Feed My Starving Children, Grace Lutheran Church pancake breakfast for the homeless in central Phoenix, Lunches 4 Learning (a program for elementary school children in Honduras), Lutheran Disaster Response — Eastern Europe, and Nourish Phoenix (formerly Interfaith Cooperative Ministry).

Incidentally, while the clink of coins makes a joyful sound, feel free to drop in dollar bills or checks!

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.

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Another VBS program is in the history books! A huge thank you to all of our amazing volunteers. Despite the sore feet and tired backs, they worked tirelessly throughout the week. Thank you to the many members of Living Water that provided financial support for the week. You made all of our jobs easier. Thank you to the VBS Leadership Team for months of preparation, great ideas and ongoing enthusiasm!

Living Water
Lutheran Church



2023 VBS

Thank you! VBS Volunteers

Set Design and Construction:

Wayne and Leila Burrus (Leaders)
Summer Weisman
Shaina Weisman
Caroline Ruff
Heidi Ruff
Ron Ophaug
Dave Gilkey
Alyssa Stephenson
Vivian de Montmollin
John de Montmollin
Julie Ann Walker
William Ruff

Celebration Leader:

Pastor Shari

Tribe Time Activity Leader:

Heidi Ruff

Snack Shack:

Julie Ann Walker (Leader)
Marilyn Nartker
Sue Umland
Lynda Breault
Miriam Bernau

Crafts:

AJ Bernau (Leader)
Claire Bixby
Karen Roessler
Marianne Schmitt
Cherrie Heidemann-Oglesby

Registration:

Jill Wehr (Leader)
Frances DeBruyn

Village Playground:

Michael Winter
Matthew Umland
Ryan Handley
Heath Handley

Synagogue School:

Scott Sims, known as "Rabbi Scott"
Frances DeBruyn

Sound and Visual Technicians:

Heidi Ruff (Leader)
William Ruff
Christian Pilzner
Henry Ruff

VBS Leadership Team:

Kris Crow (Leader)
Pastor Shari
Heidi Ruff
Myrna Ulland
Julie Ann Walker

Bible Drama:

Wayne Burrus
Frances DeBruyn
Heath Handley
Ryan Handley
Matthew Umland
Heidi Ruff
Lily Shelmire

Book Drive Mission Projects:

Myrna Ulland (Leader)
Sue Brash
Gerry & Lynda Cales

Tribe Leaders:

Lisa Moehn
Debra Anderson
Myrna Ulland
Jeri Pounds
Joan Sprinkle
Denny Dumler
Heidi Ruff

Assistant Tribe Leaders:

Henry Ruff
Caroline Ruff
Summer Weisman
Shaina Weisman
Carly Jones
Heath Handley
Allison Handley
Lily Shelmire
Vivian de Montmollin
John de Montmollin

VBS Festival:

Kristi Winter (Leader)
John de Montmollin

Security Team:

Phil Pounds (Leader)
Jay Hoenig
Jeff Munck



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.

Church Council Highlights June 2023

The Church Council met Wednesday, June 21, 2023, right in the middle of Vacation Bible School week. Pastor Shari shared that VBS was funded totally this year by donations from the congregation and grants from Thrivent. Thanks to you all who so generously gave to make this VBS at Living Water an unqualified success. VBS has forty-seven volunteers and twenty-five youth participating. Kris Crow has ensured that this week is one of our best VBS experiences ever!

Steve Umland reported that Living Water's expenses are on track for the month and year-to-date. Living Water's financial health relies on your giving; as always, we encourage the congregation to turn in their pledged offerings on as timely a basis as possible.

Following through on Living Water's commitment to "Stewardship for All Seasons," the pastors and council members will participate in a Zoom call introducing the program on Friday, June 30.

We are looking for painting contractors to give us a bid for the exterior of the education building and the sanctuary. Let us know if you have any recommendations.

The Grand Canyon Synod Assembly met in Tucson at Resurrection Lutheran Church on June 9 and 10. Pastor Mark and Pastor Shari were joined at the meetings by Don and Patti Pick, Lisa Moehn, and Debbie Anderson. A resolution was passed to encourage congregations to do more to combat hunger. Myrna Ulland was appointed as the lay representative of the NE Valley Conference to the Synod Council.

The youth Mission Trip is set for July 8-14 to Niagara Falls. Pastor Shari reported that all arrangements are made and the group is ready to go!

Your questions and comments are always welcome. Look for Church Council members by their red name badges and feel free to share your ideas and observations.



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>



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.

For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
declares the *Lord*
Plans to *Prosper* you
and not to harm you
Plans to give you
Hope and a Future
-Jeremiah 29:11



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

Living Water Lutheran Church
Scottsdale, Arizona

Regards wishing you are well.

We are writing this letter to thank and exalt the great development in our community through the support that we receive with the Lunches for Learning program at our Santos Guardiola school located in the community of Jicaro, Moropocay. Thanks to you our little ones have a healthy lunch balancing their learning and health. As a teacher this is my first year in a school that is supported by a program like this, and I can tell you that the children are happy to have lunch provided in school. On behalf of the parents, students, and teachers in our school we give thanks and ask God to continue to bless you and your families for your continued support and for loving our school that you support.

Without further ado, we say goodbye and wish you success and blessings.

Sincerely,

Parents, Students, and Teacher
José Santos Guardiola School

Jicaro Abajo Moropocay, Nacaome Valle

To Living Water Lutheran Church
Scottsdale, Arizona, USA

Lunches for Learning

From: Dr. Ery Meja School

Best regards and wishing you rich blessings from Jesus Christ.

Through this letter we would like to express our deepest gratitude to you for your support of the lunches for our school despite the hard times that the world pandemic (Covid 19) inflicted on everyone. You continued your support 100%.

We hope to continue counting on your valuable support to our boys and girls who receive a daily meal with your help through the Lunches for Learning program. We wish for God to give you health and resources to continue these blessings for us. The parents, students, and teachers feel so happy and grateful for your generous support – Thank You!

We long for your visit and the possibility to be able to hug and thank you in person.

God Bless You

Karla Saray Moran Umanzor
Principal

Jicaro Abajo Moropocay. Nacaome Valle

Para: Living Water Lutheran Church
Scottsdale, Arizona, USA.

LUNCHING FOR LEARNING

Dr. C. E. B. Dr. Ery Sagot Mejia
Los saludamos respetuosamente, deseándole las más ricas bendiciones de nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

Por medio de esta carta deseo manifestarle nuestro profundo agradecimiento como apoyo a la alimentación a nuestro centro educativo ya que apesar de los tiempos difíciles que hemos vivido con la pandemia mundial de coronavirus (Covid 19) su asistencia ha y esta siendo efectiva al cien por ciento.

Esperamos seguir contando con su Valioso apoyo para nuestro niños y niñas que diariamente reciben alimento con su ayuda a través del programa LUNCHES FOR LEARNING.

Dios les siga brindando Salud y recursos para que sus bendiciones muchísimo tiempo más

Los padre de familia, educando y docente nos Sentimos felices y agradecidos con todo lo que recibimos por parte de su generosa ayuda muchas gracias.

Anhélamos que Vengan este año a nuestro centro educativo y poder abrazales y poder agradecer de forma personal y sinceras.



Agradecemos
Agradecemos a Saray Moran Umanzor.
Directora.

Jicaro, Marzo de 2023.

Señores Patrocinadores:
Living Water Lutheran Church
Scottsdale, Arizona

Reciban un cordial y respetuoso saludo, esperando que sus labores sean desarrolladas de la mejor manera y que se encuentren bien de salud.

El motivo de la presente es para agradecer y exaltar la gran labor que desarrollan en nuestra Comunidad a través del apoyo que nos brinda el Programa "LUNCHES FOR LEARNING" en nuestro Centro Educativo "Jose Santos Guardiola" ubicado en la Comunidad de Jicaro, Moropocay, ya que gracias a ustedes nuestros pequeños pueden tener una merienda segura y digna lo que hace que su aprendizaje y su salud este balanceada. Como Maestra es mi primer año en un Centro Educativo que es apoyado por un programa como este y puedo decirles que la alegría de los niños al ver que pueden tener merienda todos los días es muy hermosa; en nombre de los Padres de Familia, Alumnos y Docente del Centro Educativo damos las gracias y pedimos a Dios continúen llenando de muchas bendiciones sus vidas y sus familias para que sigan apoyando y llenando de amor a todos los Centros Educativos que patrocinan.

Esperamos seguir contando con su apoyo, sin más que decir nos despedimos deseando éxitos y bendiciones.

Cordialmente.

Padres, Alumnos y Maestra
Centro Educativo Jose Santos Guardiola



July Birthdays

Eric	Leinweber	3-Jul
Gene	Eilers	5-Jul
Judy	Nerison	4-Jul
Ed	Shipley	6-Jul
Susan	Purewal	8-Jul
Marilyn	Nartker	8-Jul
Linda M	Snively	9-Jul
Beth	McCarthy	14-Jul
Trace	Laudenschlager	15-Jul
Ron	Koch	15-Jul
John	Hannan	16-Jul
William	Ruff	19-Jul

Steven	Johnson	21-Jul
Ann	Sadler	21-Jul
Michael	Winter	21-Jul
Lourdes	Gasparino	22-Jul
Tom	Kelland	24-Jul
Pam	Landon	25-Jul
Paul	Evenson	27-Jul
Steve	Umland	27-Jul
Kathy	Heisler	28-Jul
Janet	Guthrie	29-Jul
John	Oujiri	29-Jul
Mason	Sleeper	31-Jul



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.