

November 2023

Splash!

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

Living Water
Lutheran Church



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Mark Rossman

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Christina Hall

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
OF MUSIC
Scott Sims

www.LWLCAZ.org

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IN EVERYTHING
Give Thanks
*for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you*

1 Thessalonians 5:18



Join us for Thanksgiving Worship Service
on November 21st at 7:00 pm



9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

A Message from Pastor Mark

It used to be that a display of manners by an individual was simply an act of common courtesy. Those same courtesies are still part of our world today, but unfortunately, they do not seem so common anymore. The terms “please” and “thank you” are ones that were ingrained into my very being at a very early age. In fact, I cannot remember life prior to knowing and using those two words.

Now don't get me wrong, I doubt very much that they were part of the natural progression of my life. The use of such words was instilled into me – albeit at times with vigor – by my family. You were nothing, if not polite. I too find myself doing the same sort of thing. I have coaxed, pleaded, forced, and insisted that my children use those two words whenever appropriate. And they do – at least when I am around – but even at times on their own, I hope.

“Thank you” is an integral part of the life of the Christian. It is in our words and expressions of thanks that we acknowledge the abundance and the magnitude of all that God has done for us. Unfortunately, even in our relationship with God, the whole idea of offering thanks is no longer a common act. While God's generosity has not changed, nor has it diminished, our acknowledgement of what God does for us seems to have dissipated. We simply do not take the time we need to offer the necessary “thank you.”

November is our month of thanksgiving. For Living Water Church, it is the time (Stewardship Appeal Sunday is on November 19) for which we consecrate our gifts to God for the upcoming year. In our country it is also our time to offer thanks. Some 200 plus years ago, George Washington suggested the date November 26 as Thanksgiving Day. Then in 1863, at the end of a long and bloody civil war, Abraham Lincoln asked all Americans to set aside the last Thursday in November as a day of thanksgiving. Are we as a society so poor at showing our gratitude that we have to set a day aside to do so? I would think not, but we always run the risk of taking certain things for granted. When something is part of our everyday lives, we can fall into the trap of taking it for granted – we simply assume it is always going to be there.

Bottom line is this – as Christians – as those who have been truly blessed – we need to live everyday of our lives as Thanksgiving Day. We are to share ourselves with the people around us. We are to open our hearts and our homes to our family, friends, and neighbors. We are to share the gifts that God has given us – our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We need to give back to God for those things that have been first shared with us. When we give back to God in a way that not only shows our gratitude, but also works to improve the quality of the lives of people around us, then we are living our lives in a manner fitting for the faithful. For it is in the sharing that we truly can find joy – a joy that can only come from God. In the end, perhaps, that is why we find so much joy when we gather on the fourth Thursday of the month. In the end, that is why we need to take the time and make the effort to ensure that we offer to God an ongoing offering of thanks. Thanksgiving Day allows us the moment to offer our thanks for the gift of this country in which we live. Our Stewardship Appeal Sunday allows us the opportunity to give our thanks to God in a very tangible and regular way for all our blessings. Our Thanksgiving Worship on Tuesday, November 22 reminds us of to whom we are to be thankful toward, for our country, our family and friends, for our lives, in fact for all we are and all we have we give thanks to God.

So, to help us out, we have a single holiday to remind us to do so – our National Day of Thanksgiving. And ever year, the President of the United States of America reminds us that we need to take the time to offer thanks for what we have received. And for us at Living Water we set aside a single Sunday - Appeal Sunday - where we pledge to offer to God, in a tangible way, our thanks for the blessings of our lives. In a way it is a shame that we have distilled our pledge of thanks down to a single day, yet it is a very good thing that we do have these days before us.

As we gather wherever we might, to give thanks on that special Thursday, let us not forget that this is not an annual event that takes place, but rather a reminder of a daily happening that needs to be part of all of our lives. As we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us do so, by daily offering our thanks to the God who has given us life, not to mention the means to celebrate this wonderful day.

Pastor Mark

- Melissa Bloom (Friend of Susan and Steve Johnson)—Cancer
- Nelly Booty (Friend of Susan and Steve Johnson)—Cancer
- Barbara Brooks—Health Concerns
- Christi (Daughter of Charlie and Sue Boyd)—Health Concerns
- Bonnie Dawson—Health Concerns
- Sue Dixon (Sister of Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns
- Michael Donavon—Health Concerns
- Angelika Dumpf (Friend of Brett Stone)—Health Concerns
- Kathy Duncan (Friend of Ron & Shirley Koch)—Cancer
- Jenna Fjeld—Health Concerns
- Joe Franch (Friend of Kathie Roenigk)—Health Concerns
- Dave and Joy Gallimore—Health Concerns
- Frank and Lourdes Gasparino—Health Concerns
- John Goesling—Health Concerns
- Vicki Grimsley (Mother of Mason Rossman)—Cancer
- Janet Guthrie—Health Concerns
- Linda Hoenig—Health Concerns
- Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- Sandy Kohlway (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Battling Cancer
- Leslie (Friend of Sue Stenehjem and Melissa Freesh)—Life Concerns
- Marty Lindert—Health Concerns
- Merle Malmquist (Karen Roessler's Sister)—Health Concerns
- Joan Martin (Friend of Karen & Ron Roessler)—Health Concerns
- Pete McLeod (Friend of Karen and Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns
- Bob Miller (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Health Concerns
- Hadlee Miller (Friend of Pastor Shari)—Health Concerns
- Prentice Powers (Marty Lindert's brother)—Health Concerns
- Rebecca (Melissa Freesh's sister)—Health Concerns
- Linda Reese (Daughter of Diane Sundquist)—Surgery
- Trisha Rios (Jennie Stemm Son-in-law's cousin)—Health Concerns
- Bonnie Roberts and Family—Life Concerns
- Henry Roenigk—Health Concerns
- Del Rogge—Health Concerns
- Katie Irwin Ruff (Daughter of Barbara Brooks)—Health Concerns
- Ruth Schlesinger—Health Concern
- Mary Schroeder (Jay and Linda Hoenig's sister)—Health Concerns
- Gloria Shutter (Friend of Marilyn Nartker)—Battling Cancer
- Vince Spavale (Friend of the Dawson's and Ulland's)—Health Concerns
- Lee Stenehjem—Health Concerns
- Michael Stevens (Friend of Michelle Brown)—Brain Tumor
- Sara Stevens (Friend of Michelle Brown)—Breast Cancer
- Tom Stevens (Friend of Steve and Susan Johnson)—Health Concerns
- Skyler Thorne (grandson of Karen Roessler)—Health Concerns
- Michael Umland (Son of Steve & Sue Umland)—Health Concerns
- Darcie Vandermate—Health Concerns
- Peter Vasiliades (Nephew of Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns



We Remember in Our Prayers

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

Ask Zeke



November

Living Water's office fish gives a "fins up" to getting involved

Q. I've never been in a congregation as busy as Living Water. So much gets done here, especially all the ways we help people who are less fortunate. What gives?

A. What gives is parishioners with a strong desire to serve, pastors who are receptive to new ideas, and a well-organized framework for smoothly carrying out an array of Mission Program Groups. This framework consists of more than 60 teams that are divided into 7 different Mission Program Groups: Caring, Fellowship, Giving, Learning, Service, Witness, and Worship and Music.

Each group has a designated Mission Program Leader. Pastor Mark, for example, oversees the Worship and Music Mission Program Group, which includes the Altar Guild, Choir, Liturgical Arts, Praise Band, Servant Teams, and 6 other teams. Each Mission Program Group also has a Church Council contact.

The Mission Program Groups vary in size. The Giving Mission Program Group, for instance, consists of the Annual Stewardship Drive, Finance, Endowment Fund, and 3 other teams. Our Service Mission Program Group is considerably larger. It includes the Angel Tree, ELCA Good Gifts, LWLC Book Drive, Grace Pancake Breakfast, and more than a dozen other teams.

Living Water's outpouring of activity wouldn't be possible without members of our congregation who have stepped up to serve as Team Leaders and Team Members. As they know, becoming part of one or more of Living Water's 60-plus teams is a win-win proposition: Your efforts make a difference for others, and you benefit from getting to know fellow parishioners as you work alongside each other.

As the end of this year approaches, consider getting involved in a team in 2024. Living Water offers many opportunities to be part of its well-organized framework. You can learn more about "Our Faith in Action" teams in Living Water's 2022 Annual Report, which is available online. Simply log on to the church website (lwlcw.org), click on *About*, and then click again on *2022 Annual Report*.

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.



mark your calendar to join us for:

Thanksgiving Worship Service

on Tuesday
November 21st
at 7:00 pm



Living Art Event

Thursday, November 16

Happy Hour - dinner at 4:15pm
(details to follow)

CAREFREE
Art Night



Art Walk 5:30pm-7:00pm

See Leila Burrus
or Sign-up sheet



Great Gatherings Annual Advent Party

Advent
*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

Please join us for an evening of fun and food. We celebrate the beginning of Advent this year with our friends and Church family at

Spirit in the Desert.

Sign up early because seating is limited to 60 persons.

\$26 per person due no later than
November 19, 2023

Make checks payable to:
Living Water Lutheran Church and put "Advent Dinner" in Memo line.

Date: **Sunday, December 9, 2023**
Place: 7415 E Elbow Bend Rd, Carefree, AZ 85377
Time: 5:00 – 8 PM
Cost: \$26 per person (includes appetizer, Entrée, vegetables, salads and dessert. Coffee, Tea, soft drinks will be provided . BYOB if you wish.

Note: Please note on sign-up sheet if you have food allergies.





Family Sunday School returns this fall with the curriculum entitled “Simply Loved.”

We will be exploring a Jesus-centered journey
through God’s story of Love.

All families with children ages 2 through 6th grade are invited to join us
in the Education Building.

- **Sunday, November 5, 9:00am** – Jesus Talks with a Samaritan Woman



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.

**Join us for Adult Forum
at 9:00 am with select speakers
on the following dates:**

Nov 12 - Pastor Adele Resmer - Nogales Shelter

Nov 26 - Dr. Deb Bash - Foothills Food Bank



Piecemakers Quilters in November

Join us on the designated first and third Wednesdays of November 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! If you are a winter visitor, and enjoy being among women who love quilting, you're invited to join us! If you'd like to sew a quilt top at home, let us know and we'll get you the fabric pieces.

We gather next on November 1 and November 15 from 9 am to about noon. We now convene in the Education Building in Matthew/Mark classrooms. Many hands make light work! Bring your favorite beverage to share during a mid-morning break. Questions? Ask Lynda Cales, Cindy Ophaug, Kay Bonar, Mary Nyberg or Lois Lucas. Learn more about this ministry at www.lwr.org/quilts-and-kits

The image features a blue horizontal band at the top with the word "Café" written in a white, stylized font. Below this band is a photograph of a white coffee cup filled with a frothy beverage. An orange rectangular box is overlaid on the coffee cup, containing the text "boldcafe.org" in white.

Café

boldcafe.org

Café is an online magazine and podcast for and with **young adult women** who identify as Lutheran or not.

Café shares stories written by bold young women who write about faith, relationships, advocacy and more. Readers and writers of Café include pastors, seminary and college students, and other young adult women who use Café as a Bible study resource individually or with a group. Although many women in their 20s and 30s contribute in every issue, Café can be used and shared by women of all ages.

It's free from Women of the ELCA, and available monthly to your email. You can access it anytime. Just go to boldcafe.org to sign up. Share this resource with your women friends, including daughters, granddaughters, nieces, college students!



VISTA DEL CAMINO FOODBANK

THANKSGIVING-MEAL PROGRAM


The Vista Del Camino Food Bank depends on your donations of food, cash, and grocery store gift cards to help feed members of the Scottsdale Community who are families and seniors in need, homeless, or otherwise experiencing crisis.

Please help by filling a Living Water grocery bag, picking up a grocery store gift card, or putting a check in the offering to Living Water but marked for Vista Del Camino.

THANKSGIVING WISHLIST UPDATED FOR 2023

- 2 Boxes of Stuffing Mix
- 2 Cans of Sweet Potatoes
- 1 Box of Instant Mashed Potatoes
- 2 Cans of Gravy
- 2 Cans of Corn
- 2 Cans of Green Beans
- 1 Can of Cranberry Sauce
- 2 Cans of Chicken Broth
- 1 Can of Pumpkin (large)
- 1 Can of Evaporated Milk
- 1 Graham Cracker Pie Crust
- A \$25 grocery gift card (please staple card to top of bag)
(Gift cards are used by Vista Del Camino staff to purchase a turkey or ham for inclusion in the food box.)

Donations should be delivered to Living Water
by **Sunday, November 12.**



Living Water Lutheran Stewardship for all Seasons!

We are blessed and a blessing to others. My 2024 appeal effort has begun with information on our plans for the coming year. The emphasis will be on strengthen our service, ensuring our excellence, and ensuring our future. The support of our full time, part time, and guests have permitted us to share the gifts we have received with others locally, nationally and internationally.

Over the next several weeks, temple talks will be shared on our mission and on November 19 we will have the opportunity to express our intent for support for the coming year. All full time, part time, and other supporters will be encouraged to share at that time and we will celebrate the intent as a congregation to the needs we might fulfill. If you have any questions or comments, please share with any member of the stewardship committee or council.

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.

Men's Bible Breakfast

We meet on Thursdays at 8:00am

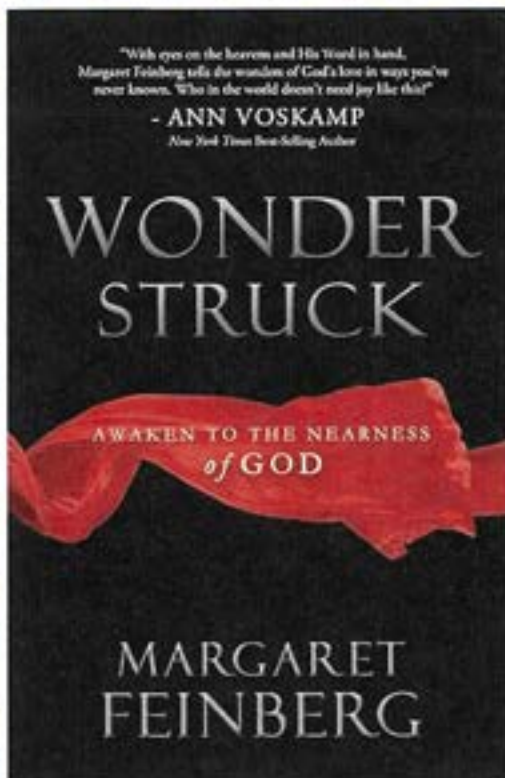
Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center

7415 East Elbow Bend Rd.

Carefree, AZ 85377

\$7 for breakfast

Please contact Wayne Burrus if you would like to carpool.



TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We began a new Bible study on Sept. 26 at 10 am. In-person in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom. The material for our first study is from Margaret Feinberg. Some of you may remember our study called "Taste and See" from this same author. "Wonder Struck" is a seven-session study with video. The accompanying book is recommended but not required. There will be some copies of the book available for \$16 at the study. You can also get a Kindle version of the book. This material will take us through November 7.

All women are invited. Coffee and hot water for tea/hot chocolate are provided. The Tuesday Women's group is also a core prayer group for our church. Each week, we lift up the prayers from the worship service, as well as individual prayer requests.

If you aren't on our group email list, please contact Myrna Ulland at myrna.ulland@gmail.com to be added to our communications.

Church Council Highlights October 2023

October's Church Council meeting was held in person in Fellowship Hall on Monday, October 16. After Zoom meetings in July, August, and September, it was a pleasure to meet in person once again.

The "Stewardship for All Seasons" team is in full swing; you will be receiving information in the mail and hearing more at church as we gear up for Generosity Sunday on November 19. The Adult Forum at 9:00am on Sunday, October 29, will feature Geoff Caldwell speaking on "The Joy of Charitable Giving." Specifically, Mr. Caldwell will explain and answer questions relating to minimum distribution, trusts and all that is involved in charitable giving.

Treasurer Steve Umland, with the Council's input, created a 2023 budget for Living Water based on 100% of pledged offerings. This is an optimistic budget made in good faith and dependent on the receipt of pledged offering on a timely basis. Steve's data shows that we have fallen behind with offerings. We ask that you review your pledge and help us stay up-to-date with the church's financial obligations. Thank you!

We have had some issues with Cox concerning our online streaming services. Pastor Mark has been able to post the services after they conclude, but we are working with Cox to ensure we can livestream on Sundays. We appreciate your patience.

Jay Hoenig has assembled a security team for the church and is putting together a medical team to develop protocols for emergencies at Living Water. We appreciate Jeff Munck, Phil Pounds, Jim King, Sharon Westergreen, Steve Johnson, and Jay Hoenig for their willingness to serve.

Living Water's Youth Ministry is thriving with six confirmed participants for the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer and the fifteen students involved in confirmation classes.

Let us know your thoughts!

SHOP ELCA GOOD GIFTS

The ELCA is called to do Gods work in the world. Together as the ELCA we can do more than we could ever do alone; grow our congregations, inspire more leaders, and care for those around the world who live with hunger and poverty.

ELCA Good Gifts change at least three lives: the life of the person helped by your gift, the life of a friend or loved one, and your own. Information will be available on Sunday mornings after worship during Advent.

November Birthdays

Darrell	Shipley	11/1
Lance	Jacobson	11/5
Jenny	Dorsch	11/6
Gabriele	Laudenschlager	11/9
Shirley	Koch	11/10
Sue	Umland	11/11
James	Bernau	11/12

Conrad	Roos	11/12
Pat	Guthrie	11/17
Heidi	Ruff	11/19
Carol	Gasser	11/20
Tori	Titmas	11/23
John	Nerison	11/27



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



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.