

CONNECTIONS

Living Water
Lutheran Church



December 10th, 2023

JESUS!

THE ADVENT OF THE MESSIAH

MARY McDONALD

and

ROSE ASPINALL

Orchestrated by Ed Hogan

This week, we are pleased
to present
the Christmas Cantata

Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline—*Tuesdays at NOON*

Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00am
on-site and online

We Remember in our Prayers

- 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
- Virginia Conrad—Health Concerns
- Angelika Dumpf (Wife of Brett Stone)—Health Concerns
- Kathy Duncan (Friend of Ron & Shirley Koch)—Cancer
- Jenna Fjeld—Health Concerns
- Dave and Joy Gallimore—Health Concerns
- Frank Gasparino—Health Concerns
- John Goesling—Health Concerns
- Vicki Grimsley (Mother of Mason Rossman)—Cancer
- Janet Guthrie—Health Concerns
- Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- Sandy Kohlway (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Battling Cancer
- Merle Malmquist (Karen Roessler's Sister)—Health Concerns
- Pete McLeod (Friend of Karen and Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns
- Prentice Powers (Marty Lindert's brother)—Health Concerns
- Rebecca (Melissa Freesh's sister)—Health Concerns
- Bonnie Roberts—(Life Concerns)
- Henry Roenigk—Health Concerns
- Katie Irwin Ruff (Daughter of Barbara Brooks)—Health Concerns
- Linda Samlaska (Pastor Shari's Sister-in-law)—Health Concerns
- Ruth Schlesinger—Health Concern
- Sarah Shelmire (Daughter of Pam Landon)—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
- Tom Stevens (Friend of Steve and Susan Johnson)—Health Concerns
- Susan Szucs (Friend of Joan Sprinkle)—Battling Cancer
- Skyler Thorne (grandson of Karen Roessler)—Health Concerns
- Michael Umland (Son of Steve & Sue Umland)—Health Concerns
- Peter Vasiliades (Nephew of Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns
- Family & Friends of Joe Franch (Brother of Kathie Roenigk)
- Family & Friends of Emily Mascola (Great Aunt of Beth and Steve McCarthy)



Send your prayer requests to prayer@swlcaz.org or fill out a card in the Narthex.

LWLC Weekly Bulletin Announcement

Safety and Security and Medical Response Teams

Over the last year, we have had several potential security and medical incidents during our weekly services. As a result your Church Council has reinforced the Safety and Security Team (SST) and it's general procedures as well as forming a new Medical Response Team (MRT) to deal with medical incidence or emergencies during services.

We believe it's important for all church members to be aware of who are the SST and MRT teams members should there be a security or medical event where instructions need to be given.

Safety and Security Team Members – Phil Pounds (leader), Jim King, Jeff Munck, Dave Shoenbeck, and Jay Hoenig

I'm sure you have noticed that we have locked all doors during the services and have made security sweeps prior to services. We ask all members to be alert and make sure you know where the nearest exits are.

Medical Response Team Members – Dr. Jim King (Leader), Dr. Doug Yock, Sharon Westergreen (RN), Steve Johnson, Bob Frost, Don Pick, and Jay Hoenig.

The Team has purchased additional medical equipment to include slider board, Ambu bag with masks for adult and children, complete first aid kit, disposable O2 masks as well as the exiting CPR and oxygen tank.

We are also scheduling CPR training for all members of LWLC sometime in the future.

Security and medical incidences are rare and we gather in a generally safe community but it's always important to be vigilant.

ADULT FORUM DURING DECEMBER

December 17, 24, and 31

Sunday mornings at 9 AM in the Education Building/Choir Room

Pastor Dennis Nelson will lead a three-week study.

DECEMBER 17 – ARE YOU READY FOR CHRISTMAS? – LUKE 1

Zechariah was not ready for Christmas because he believed that he and his wife were too old to have a child. Mary was ready for Christmas because she believed when the angel told her that she, though a virgin, would conceive. If you believe that God can intervene in your life in a mighty and unexpected way, then you are ready for Christmas.

DECEMBER 24 – THE THINGS IN MARY'S HEART – MATTHEW 1 and LUKE 2

The Gospel writer Luke concludes his account of the birth of Jesus by saying, "Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." What will you treasure and ponder in your heart from this Christmas season?

DECEMBER 31 – NEW BEGINNINGS

A New Year is an opportunity for all of us to experience a new beginning. Where do you need a new beginning? We will be looking at Elijah, who needed a new beginning because of burnout; Peter, who needed a new beginning because of failure; David, who needed a new beginning because of sin; and the Prodigal Son, who needed a new beginning because of bad decisions.

Food Drive Results

A few weeks ago the narthex filled up with Living Water grocery bags loaded with Thanksgiving dinner supplies for Vista del Camino food bank. In total 55 BAGS OF GROCERIES AND \$1,835 IN CASH/GIFT CARDS were provided to this wonderful community resource. THANK YOU!!

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

reparations are now underway to build another Habitat home with Lutheran churches starting in 2023 in the Greater Phoenix area. We need to raise our fair share to pay for the out-of-pocket costs that Habitat incurs to build these homes. Our goal is to raise \$4000 this year.

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 of Central AZ, or turn your check in to the Front Office, or hand it to Ron Ophaug.

If you send your check directly, please note on your check that it applies to the Northeast Lutheran Coalition-Living Water Church.

continued.....

If you need additional information, contact Ron Ophaug. 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.

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. We currently help the school with the collection of box top labels. We have found this brings in very little income for the school. This would be more helpful to the school. With this one, you donate right to ACSTO and specifically designate the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission Christian school. Donors can give up to \$1221/\$611 (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 \$1214/\$608. 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. Also, note that donations can be made in early 2024 if it is before the April tax deadline.



Piecemakers Quilting in the New Year

January 3 and 17, 2024

Come and tie quilts with us! Our quilting is primarily to support Lutheran World Relief (LWR). We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, from 9 am to about noon, in the Education Building on the first floor. Bring your own water or coffee for a mid-morning break. If you're a winter visitor who likes to quilt, come and tie with us. If you like to sew, we can provide pre-cut squares to make quilt tops. Many hands make light work! Questions? Ask Cindy Ophaug, Lynda Cales, Lois Lucas, Kay Bonar or Myrna Ulland. Learn more about this ministry at www.lwr.org/quilts-and-kits

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

If interested in carpooling, please contact
Wayne Burrus

Dennis Nelson Bible Study

Published on our **YouTube Channel**

Wednesdays at NOON

Bible Study Outlines available on
our website: **lwlc.org**

ONE STOP SHOPPING

Good Gifts! Gifts that make a difference.

Through the ELCA Good Gifts program you have an opportunity to purchase gifts that make a difference. Gifts for your children, grandchildren, friends or even yourself!

Stop by the display on the patio every Sunday during Advent. There are catalogs and gift cards available.

Sunday December 24th

Christmas Eve

SERVICE TIMES:

4:00pm

children & family-friendly

6:00pm

traditional



Prayer of the Week

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



notes:



Gathering Hymn... "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus!"



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Responsive Litany—WATCH

P: Advent is a time to watch.

C: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

P: During Advent we watch for hope in the midst of despair.

C: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

P: During Advent we watch for forgiveness in the midst of rebellion.

C: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

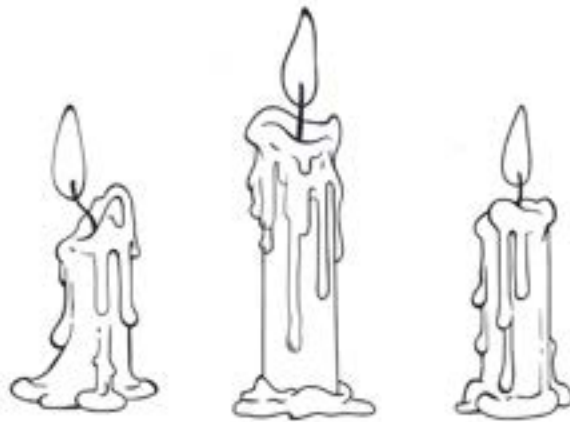
P: During Advent we watch for peace in the midst of conflict.

C: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

P: During Advent we watch for the presence of God in the midst of a fallen world.

C: We wait in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

Candle Lighting



Second Sunday of Advent—Hope for God's Peace

(please join in singing when directed)



(2nd Sunday) We watch in } hope _____ for the mom - ing Light,



for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate _____ the night. _____



We watch with } joy _____ for the Sav - ior's birth;



we watch in } hope for peace on earth.

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Hymn.... "Prepare the Royal Highway"



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress



Christmas Cantata: "Jesus! The Advent of the Messiah"

Jesus! Advent of the Messiah by Mary McDonald & Rose Aspinall

- I. Overture/Christmas Gloria!
- II. The Gathering
- III. God with Us to Dwell
- IV. Heavenly Peace
- V. He Is Born
- VI. Born a Mighty King
- VII. There is Room
- VIII. Jesus! High and Holy One!



Chamber Orchestra:

VIOLIN I	VIOLIN II	VIOLA	CELLO
Cathy Alonzo	Beth Chiarenza	Mason Haskett	Sharon Nauman
FLUTE I	FLUTE II	OBOE	CLARINET
Lauren Erickson	Benjamin Hernandez	Gabbie Wong	Sean Lucius
TRUMPET I	TRUMPET II	TROMBONE	PIANO
Dan Reed	Paul Reid	Daniel Nakazono	Scott Sims
TIMPANI+	PERCUSSION	PERCUSSION	
Chris Woodward	Jesse Milhoan	Cindy Kozacek	

Thank you! to EVERYONE who made this Cantata possible, including our Director Christina Hall, ALL our dedicated Choir Members, Narrators and Sound Technicians. Bravo!



LIVING WATER IN WORSHIP

Purpose Statement: "To Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ."



Living Water
Lutheran Church



Living Water is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Grand Canyon Synod and Northeast Valley Conference.

Publication Deadlines:
Connections- Every Tuesday by noon
SPLASH! - The 20th of each month by noon

Ministers: All the members of Living Water

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In case of Pastoral Emergency, please call Pastor Mark at 973-699-7777 (mobile)

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