

CONNECTIONS

Living Water
Lutheran Church



December 17, 2023

The Joy
of CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATE THE SEASON



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
- Paul Haakenson—(Kristin Klarkowski's dad)—Health Concerns
- Todd Klarkowski—(Troy Klarkowski's brother)—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)
- 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
- 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)
- Family & Friends of Henry Roenigk



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

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.

Sunday December 24th

Christmas Eve

SERVICE TIMES:

4:00pm

children & family-friendly

6:00pm

traditional



**Wednesday, December 20th is
Matching Funds Day
for Good Gifts!**

Ladies Tea

Saturday, January 27 at 1:00pm
Living Water Lutheran Church



Join us for the return of our beloved "Ladies' Tea" event. This is a fundraising event to support the youth who will be attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. Enjoy a delightful afternoon tea with friends.

Indulge in a selection of mini sandwiches, scones, and delicious treats while helping to raise money for a good cause. \$30/person. Make reservations starting December 31.

If you would like to host a table or donate a giftcard for a raffle prize, please see Pastor Shari

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 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



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.

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



If interested in carpooling, please contact
Wayne Burrus

\$7 for breakfast

Dennis Nelson Bible Study

Published on our **YouTube Channel**

Wednesdays at NOON

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

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.



Angel Tree Results

Thank you to everyone who donated a gift.
We were able to deliver **32 Angel Tree bags** to
Nourish Phoenix this year!

Gathering Hymn... "People, Look East"



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.



Advent Candle Lighting

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.

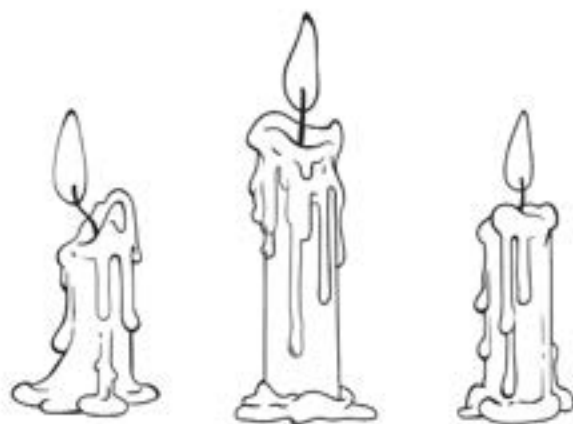
C: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

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.



Third Sunday of Advent —Hope for God's Peace

(please join in singing when directed)



m (3rd Sunday) We pre - pare in } hope _____ for the morn - ing Light,



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



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



we pre - pare in } hope for peace on earth.

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Sermon Hymn...."Soon and Very Soon"



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

Sending Song...."Soon and Very Soon"



1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,
2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?
3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,
4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;



long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,
Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,
dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,
riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,



plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish,
giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?
death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling,
bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.



Will not day come soon?	Will not day come soon?
Will you help us soon?	Will you help us soon?
Christ is com - ing soon!	Christ is com - ing soon!
Come and save us soon!	Come and save us soon!

Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859-1943, alt.

Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune

Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress



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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