

CONNECTIONS

Living Water
Lutheran Church



December 31, 2023



We are glad that you joined us for worship today!

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
 - Liz (Lizzy Cadow) (Friend of Diane Salinas)—Cancer
 - 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)
 - 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

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

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Dear Christina,

On behalf of Living Water's Church Council, we extend our appreciation to you and all who participated in the Christmas Cantata. It was joyous, uplifting and very moving. Our spiritual gifts are meant to be shared and what a wonderful gift you and the other participants gave the congregation on Cantata Sunday!

Rest assured that the hours of preparation were evident in the music you and the other participants shared. We are most grateful and look forward to continuing to be blessed by the gift of music you and others bring to Living Water. Please share this heartfelt thanks with the other Cantata participants as well.

In Christ's Name,
Darnell Pettengill
Council President

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!

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 gift card for a raffle prize, please see Pastor Shari

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM

Led by Pastor Dennis D. Nelson

January 14 and 28, February 11 and 25

9 AM in the Psalms Room (second floor of Education Building)

VOICES FROM THE CROWD

After telling us about some of the heroes of the faith, the author of the letter to the Hebrews says, "Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." What if some of these great Old Testament characters were to step out of the crowd and run one lap with us? What would they say to us? We will be hearing from such people as –

Noah – One Person Can Make a Difference

Abraham – God Always Does the Right Thing

Rebekah – Give Generously

Joseph – Others Need What You Have to Give

Moses – Live in the Faith Zone, Not in the Safe Zone

David – Overcome the Limitations Others Place upon You

The Servant Girl – One Small Act Can Make a Big Difference

Nehemiah – Big Problems Can Be Solved

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.

2024
Happy New Year

Christmas Tree Pickup & Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 818

December 30th or January 6th



Help send Boy Scouts to summer camp

Just follow these easy steps:

1. Email your address and preferred date to us at:

Troop818treepickup@gmail.com

2. Place your tree curbside by 8 AM on the date you chose

3. Make a check payable to Troop 818 and attach it your tree with a Ziploc bag and a rubber band

4. The suggested donation is **\$25** or more.



Your financial support is deeply appreciated! Your support is a critical part of providing a quality Scouting program to local youth. Thank you for your generosity!

Questions? Problems? Missed tree? You can reach us by email at

Troop818treepickup@gmail.com

Let the Boy Scouts recycle your Christmas tree!



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**



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

Gathering Hymn... "Love Has Come"



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.



Carol... "The First Noel"



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional



Carol... "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

VERSE



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by Thine
3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one



Is - ra - el; That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows
far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, and cause us in her
heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; Fill the whole world with

CHORUS



God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O
put to flight.
ways to go.
heav - en's peace.



Is - - - - - ra - - - - - el!

CCLI Song # 31982

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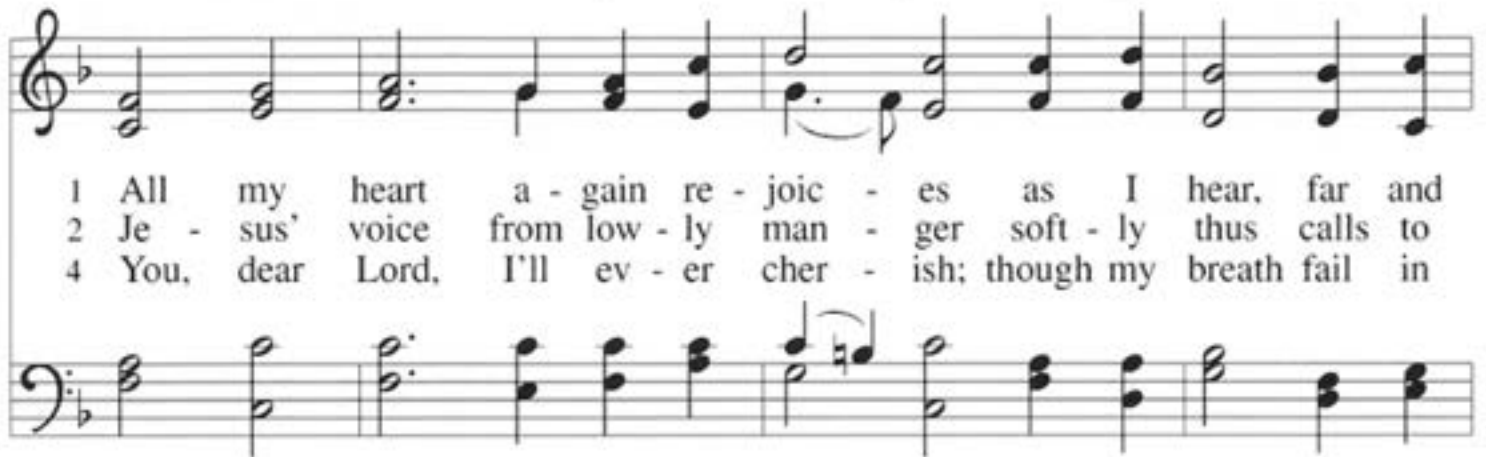
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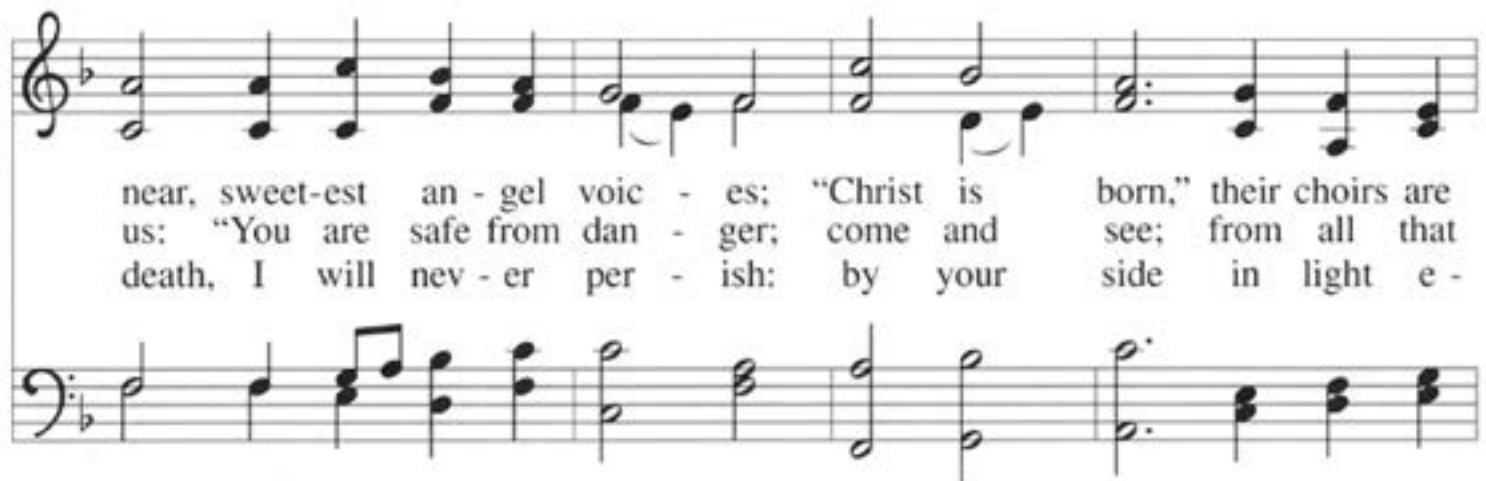
Emmanuel

GOD WITH US

Carol.... "All My Heart Rejoices Again"



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and
2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to
4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in



near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are
us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that
death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -



sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Music: WARUM SOLLT ICH, Johann G. Ebeling, 1637-1676



Carol... "In His Temple Now Behold Him"



1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -



pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,
hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,



God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,
ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!



his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.
Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!

Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825-1903, alt.

Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

*Gloria
to God*

Carol... "Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound"



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835



Carol...."Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT. African American spiritual



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

Pastor: Mark Rossman
PastorMark@lwlcaz.org

Pastor: Shari Bernau
PastorShari@lwlcaz.org

Office/Communications Manager: Jennifer Kelsh
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Finance Manager: Stephanie McLean
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Director of Music: Christina Hall
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Associate Director of Music: Scott Sims
ssims@lwlcaz.org

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

Living Water Lutheran Church

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