

CONNECTIONS

Living Water
Lutheran Church



JANUARY 7, 2024

BORN *Again*

JESUS REPLIED,
VERY TRULY, I TELL YOU,
NO ONE CAN ENTER THE
KINGDOM OF GOD WITHOUT
BEING BORN OF

Water AND
THE *Spirit*

JOHN 3:5

*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
- 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
- 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

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

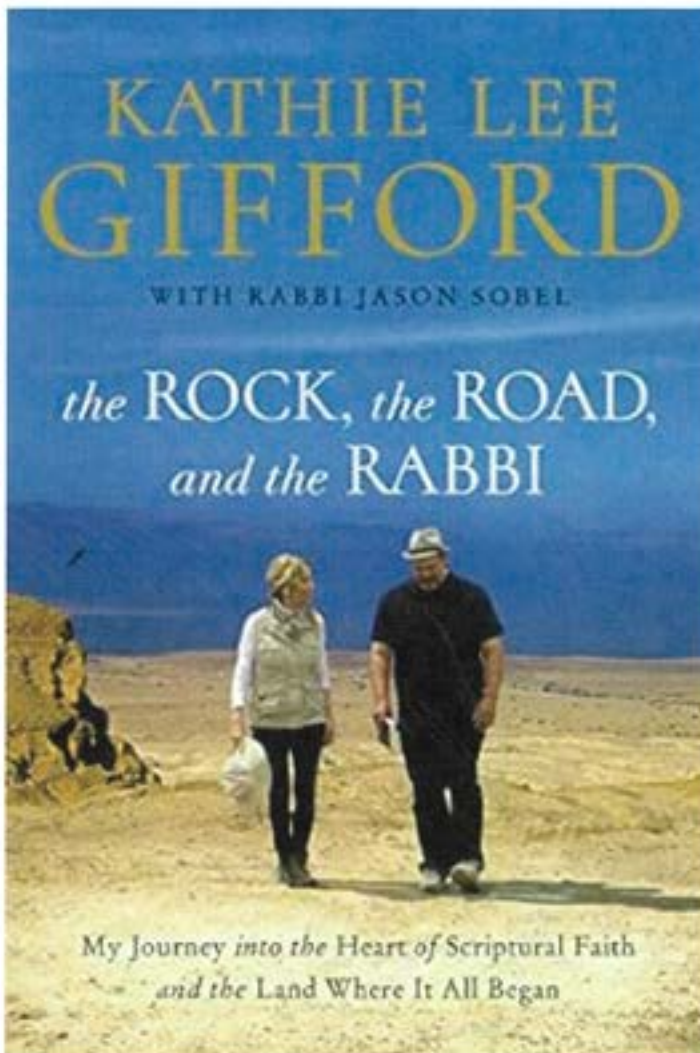
Amen.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to join our Tuesday Women's Bible study, resuming at 10 am MST in the Fellowship Hall (and via Zoom), beginning January 9th. We'll dive into new material, "*the Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi*" with Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel. Journey into Israel and the roots of our Christian faith. Rabbi Sobel will take us into a deeper understanding of Hebrew culture and language to deepen our faith.

The accompanying book is recommended but not required. Myrna is ordering the books which should be available on January 9. There is also a Kindle version.

10 am – in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee will be provided, along with hot water for hot chocolate or tea. Bring your favorite Bible translation. If you aren't on our email list, please notify myrna.ulland@gmail.com to be added.



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: **lwlcaz.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

Dear Christina,

Living Water
Lutheran Church

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



Saints and Sinners 2024

Sign-up for the 2024 Saints and Sinners small group fellowship program is now open.

You can sign -up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex (lobby) or email Wayne Burrus at wlburrus@earthlink.net. We will need your name(s), best contact phone number and email address.

Saints and Sinners is a popular "Small Groups" fellowship program at Living Water which is active in February and March. Each small group will consist of up to 14 or 15 people; both single and couples.

The purpose of Saints and Sinners is to build and foster fellowship so that we can get to know each other on a more personal level and, by doing so, build a stronger church body.

All are invited to join—Living Water members, potential members, and attendees. This fellowship is especially good for new members and those that may be contemplating joining Living Water. It's a relaxed and friendly way to get to know each other a little better.

The program is only two months long, February and March. Each small group will have an activity or get together of some sort in each month. The leader (captain) of each small group will organize an activity such as a dinner at home, miniature golf, concert, happy hour...and more. The captains are usually pretty inventive.

We will be forming the small groups in early January, so please sign up as soon as possible.



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

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!



A Evening Service of Prayer and Healing

*"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we
might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds
you have been healed."*

**We will join in prayer for others and for
ourselves for physical, emotional, spiritual,
and relational healing. Through prayer and
anointing, we seek God's strength, comfort
and peace.**

**Wednesday, January 24 at
6pm**



Living Water
Lutheran Church

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

Angel Tree Results

Thank you to everyone who donated Angel Tree gifts. Altogether, Living Water provided 92 children with Christmas gifts. Nourish Phoenix appreciates your generous outreach to 32 grateful families.

2024

Happy New Year

Living Water Lutheran Church
9201 East Happy Valley Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your most recent gift to Lunches for Learning:

Date of this gift: 12/8/2023
Amount of this gift: \$ 300.00
Your year-to-date 2023 giving: \$1,782.00

November is the month when the Honduran school year ends and graduations are celebrated. Just a few weeks ago, we hosted several groups of school sponsors who traveled with us to Honduras to celebrate at the schools which are supported by their sponsorship commitments.

While graduations in the US typically occur in May, rather than November, graduation is a highly-anticipated rite of passage for students in the US, and a time when graduates are contemplating what they might accomplish in the next phase of life. The idea of not reaching graduation – for American students – is unheard of.

In Honduras, however, far too many children never have the opportunity to reach graduation. For the more than 1 million children in Honduras who have completely fallen out of the school system, dreaming about tomorrow is replaced with a focus on how to survive today. When you have no food, tomorrow is much less important than finding a way to feed yourself today.

The children attending L4L-sponsored schools are able to dream about tomorrow ... because of you. The L4L school lunch program has kept them in school and they are able to celebrate graduation with a great deal of pride in what they have accomplished. They have hope for a better future ... because of you.



You are helping these Honduran children achieve the graduation milestone they probably could never have dreamed of without your help. We cannot thank you enough, but we plan to keep trying.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Phil Dodson', is written over a white background.

Phil Dodson, Executive Director

*Lunches for Learning is an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
All gifts are tax-deductible. No goods or services have been rendered in exchange for this gift.*

Students in L4L-sponsored schools enjoy a healthy lunch each day, provided through the support we receive from our sponsors and donors. Each lunch includes rice, beans, tortillas, a glass of milk and a chewable multi-vitamin which provides vitamins A, C, D, E, B1, B2, B6 and B12, as well as Niacin, Folic Acid, and Iron.

For many of these children, the lunch they receive at school is the only meal they will receive on any given day ... and the daily lunch is what is keeping these kids in school; allowing them to complete their education and graduate.



Lunches for Learning exists with one targeted goal – to break the cycle of poverty in rural Honduras. In a region where up to 30% of children drop-out of school each year to find food, and more than 70% live below poverty level, Lunches for Learning is making a difference.

Instead of dropping out of school to work ... or beg ... or search for food, kids are remaining in school, on their way to becoming literate adults who are employable in the Honduran economy; able to support themselves and their families; breaking a multi-generational cycle of poverty.

Gathering Hymn... "Shall We Gather At The River"



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

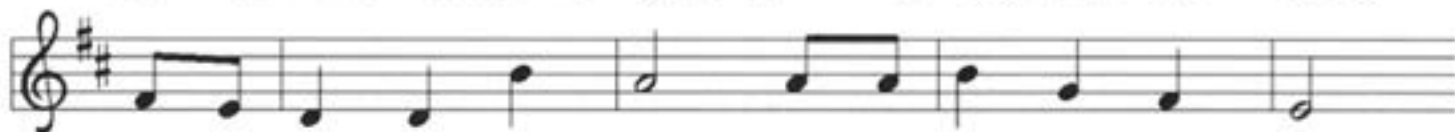
Sermon Hymn... "Baptized and Set Free"



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Sending Hymn...."Shine Jesus Shine"

Refrain



Shine, Je - sus, shine, — fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, — set our hearts on fire. Flow, riv - er, flow, —



— flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy; send forth your Word, —



— Lord, and let there be light!



1. Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2. As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on — us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on — me,
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry, Shine on — me,

to Refrain



shine on — me:
shine on — me:

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
jkelsh@lwlcaz.org

Accounting Manager: Christina Berlinger
cberlinger@lwlcaz.org

Finance Manager: Stephanie McLean
smclean@lwlcaz.org

Director of Music: Christina Hall
chall@lwlcaz.org

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

9201 E. Happy Valley Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

office@lwlcaz.org ~ www.LWLCAZ.org

~ 480.473.8400 ~