

Splash!

January 2024

"Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst."

John 4:14

Living Water
Lutheran Church



PASTOR
Mark Rossman

PASTOR
Shari Bernau

OFFICE/COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER
Jennifer Kelsh

ACCOUNTING MANAGER
Christina Berlinger

FINANCE MANAGER
Stephanie McLean

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Christina Hall

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
OF MUSIC
Scott Sims

*Happy
New Year*

Living Water!

Look to the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always.

Psalm 105:4

2024



CONTENTS

Prayer List

Pastor's Message

Ask Zeke

Studies & Retreats

News & Events

9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

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 Caddow) (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@lwlcaz.org or fill one out at lwlcaz.org

A Message from Pastor Shari

As we enter a new year, the phrase “out with the old, in with the new” comes to mind. This phrase literally means to move forward. St. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17 “that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.” This reminds us that when spiritual transformation takes place in our lives, we move forward.

When I reflect on the last few years, there are so many signs that we, as a congregation, are moving forward and becoming something new.

First of all, we have a new sign! This is an important investment for our congregation. It creates a lasting impression for the people driving by, and it reinforces our identity as a congregation that is vibrant, active and welcoming.

Secondly, through our live-streaming and recorded worship services, we are able to make an impression on anyone who has access to the internet. Anyone, in any place in the world, can join us for worship. Through our technology, educational opportunities, weddings and memorial services can also be accessed from all over the world.

Third, in the last three years, we have been working on strengthening and extending our church family to include all the congregations in the Northeast Vally Consortium. Together, we are stronger, wiser, and can reach more people to know the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Fourth, we are in the midst of a new program called “Stewardship for all Seasons.” Starting in the spring of 2023, this included the involvement and commitment of many leaders in our congregation. To see the many gifts and creativity coming together is a beautiful thing. It is also wonderful to witness the hope that these people have for the future of our church, and I believe it is contagious.

Fifth, we are constantly researching ways that we can share our gifts with those in need. One of the “new” places we are sharing our gifts is Foothills Food Bank in Cave Creek.

I could go on, but I believe these are some of the highlights of the new and forward-thinking things we are working on. May we continue to tune our ears to hear what God has in store for us in the future. And, may we remember to press on as Paul writes in Philippians 3: 14, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Happy New Year!

Pastor Shari



Ask Zeke



January

Living Water's office fish endorses a trio of exceptional Bible studies for Adults

Q. I'm thinking of starting this new year with a Bible study. Any suggestions?

A. Living Water offers three weekly Bible study opportunities for adults: one for men, one for women, and one online. All three are great choices for learning. The first two have another plus: fellowship and interaction with other participants. The on-line study offers great flexibility since you choose when and where to watch it.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Pastor Mark has been leading this Thursday morning Bible study for almost a decade. The group meets weekly at 8:00 a.m. at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center. Breakfast is available for \$7. Attendance averages 15+, mostly members of our congregation but not limited to them. The sessions focus on reflecting on and studying the lessons for the upcoming Sunday worship. Along with Pastor Mark's leadership, this group is also blessed by the presence of retired pastors who share their vast knowledge. Contact Wayne Burrus if you're interested in carpooling.

Tuesday Women's Study

Myrna Ulland leads this Tuesday mornings Bible study. It meets at 10:00 a.m. in Living Water's Fellowship Hall. Attendance varies from 8-16 participants. Study topics range from video-based series to Bible studies published in the Women of the ELCA's Gather magazine and occasional book-based studies. To quote Myrna, "We grow in our knowledge of scripture and in friendship and support with the depth of the prayers and conversations that occurs each week." Zoom is an option if you're unable to attend in person.

Dennis Nelson Bible Study

Retired Pastor Dennis Nelson provides a weekly online Bible study that focuses on scripture lessons for the upcoming Sunday. At noon every Wednesday, he publishes an informative 25-30 minute study on Living Water's YouTube channel. Study outlines are available on the church's website (lwlcwz.org). Click on Worship Videos to get started.

All three of the above Bible studies are open to anyone, member or not. Spread the word!

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.

Church Council Highlights December 2023

Church Council met at Mark and Tracy Rossman's home for the December meeting and for a Christmas celebration. We all appreciated the hospitality and the time it gave us for conversation and fellowship.

"Stewardship for All Seasons" is wrapping up its work. In order to craft a realistic budget for 2024, the stewardship team will follow up with those who have not yet pledged so that the finance team can understand as fully as possible what financial resources Living Water will have to work with. Thank you to all who give of your time, talents, and treasures to fulfill the mission of Living Water.

Steve Umland and Ron Ophaug met with representatives from the City of Scottsdale and received their expertise on how we might save on our water usage inside the church buildings. There are several "fixes" we can pursue to decrease our water usage and to save money. Ron Ophaug is looking into upgrading equipment in restrooms and readjusting water levels to prevent excess water use. The Council will discuss recommendations for outside water savings in a meeting early in 2024.

Living Water's new sign is complete and on display in front of the church! Pastor Mark oversaw the specifics of the creation and installation of the sign.

The Council agreed wholeheartedly that the Christmas Cantata was a rousing success! We are very grateful to Christina Hall for providing Living Water with an inspiring and uplifting addition to the Christmas season.

Pastor Shari, working with the Northeast Valley Consortium, reported that Rev. Dr. Colleen Windham-Hughes, from California Lutheran University, will be speaking at Living Water on April 13. Her focus will be on working with those experiencing loneliness.

Living Water is in the beginning stages of planning a Blood Drive through the American Red Cross for Spring 2024 or 2025. Pastor Shari will have more information as the details are worked out.

Thank you all for your support of Living Water!

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



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

Angel Tree Results

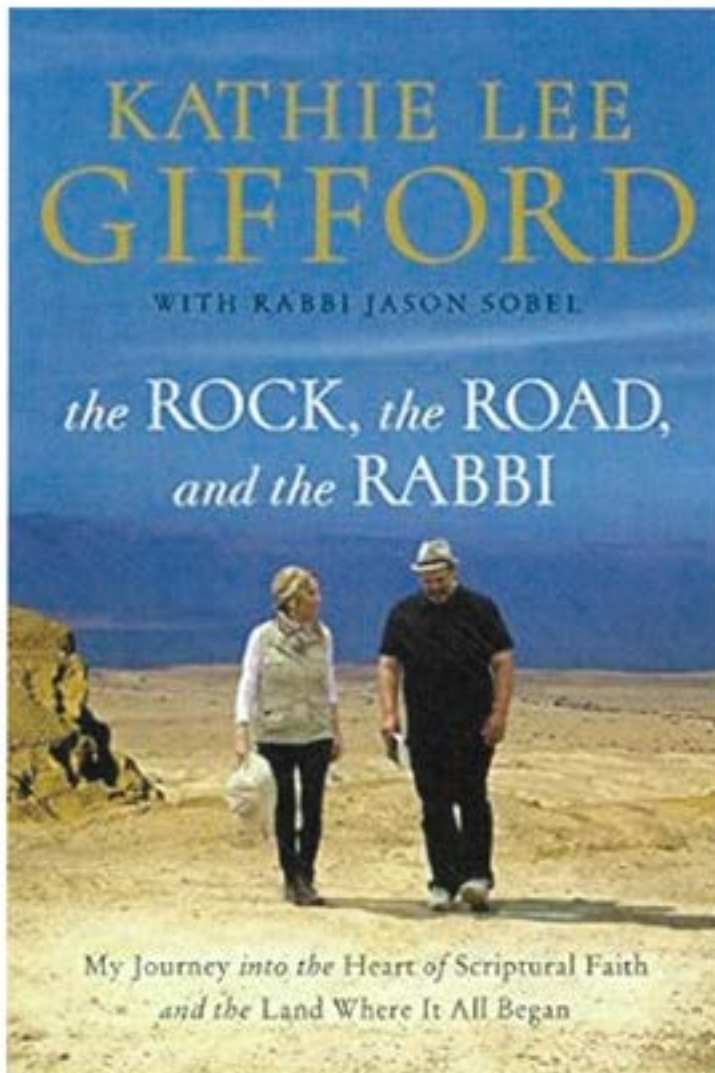
Thank you to everyone who donated Angel Tree gifts. Altogether, Living Water provided 92 children with Christmas gifts. Nourish Phoenix appreciates your generous outreach to 32 grateful families.

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.



happy new year
2024

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



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.

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.



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.

Good Gifts Donations made in 2023

Anyone having received or given to **Good Gifts** in 2023 that has not already notified Cindy or Ron Ophaug, please do so this week.

Thank you!



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.

The image features a blue horizontal band at the top with the word "Café" written in a white, stylized, hand-drawn font. Below this band is a photograph of a white coffee cup filled with a frothy beverage. Overlaid on the bottom right of the coffee cup is a red rectangular box containing the text "boldcafe.org" in white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The entire graphic is enclosed within a decorative border of small, repeating gold-colored diamond shapes.

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!



LUNCHES FOR
Learning

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,

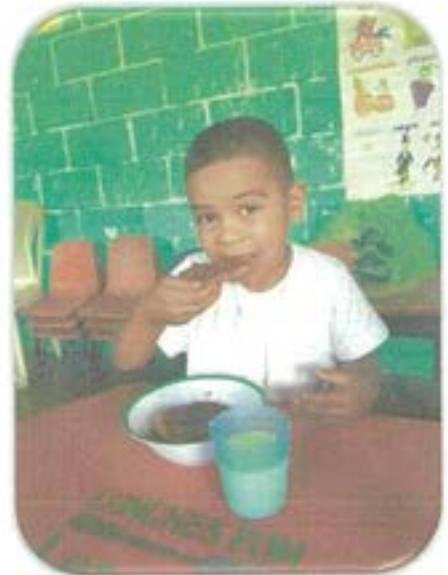
Phil Dodson, Executive Director

*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.*

Bringing hope to Honduras ... one lunch at a time
P.O. Box 2146 • Roswell, GA 30077-2146 • 678.397.1624 • lunchesforlearning.org

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.



BIRTHDAYS

Henry	Ruff	1/5
Cynthia	Ophaug	1/7
Jillian	Decker	1/8
Liz	Gilkey	1/9
Susan	Johnson	1/9
Judy	Tornowske	1/13
Flynn	Shelmire	1/13
Erik	Laudenschlager	1/16
Kevin	Ruff	1/18

Donald	Pick	1/18
Jeffrey	Dorsch	1/19
Tana	Harlan	1/20
Steve	Smith	1/20
Dan	Bonar	1/20
Karen	Syversen	1/21
Sandy	Moses	1/23
Frederick	Sherrin	1/23
Tamey	Manalli	1/26
Mike	Freesh	1/30

Please call the office if your birthday is not listed and we will make sure to enter it into our database.

PUBLICATION SUBMISSION 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@lwlcas.org ~ 480.473.8400 ~ www.LWLCAZ.org

Living Water is a Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Grand Canyon Synod.