

February 2023

Splash!

"Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst."
John 4:14

Living Water
Lutheran Church



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PASTOR
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www.LWLCAZ.org

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February



Ephesians 1:2 KJV

Grace be to you, and
peace, from God our
Father, and from the
Lord Jesus Christ.



9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

We Remember in Our Prayers

- Ken Bash—Health Concerns
- Melissa Bloom (Friend of Susan and Steve Johnson)—Cancer
- Nelly Booty (Friend of Susan and Steve Johnson)—Cancer
- Barbara Brooks—Health Concerns
- 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)
- Ruth Schlesinger—Health Concern
- Sarah Shelmire (Daughter of Pam Landon)—Health Concerns
- Lee Stenehjem—Health Concerns
- Tom Stevens (Friend of Steve and Susan Johnson)—Health Concerns
- 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
- Friends & Family of Barbara Pick (Mother of Don Pick)
- Friends & Family of Susan Szucs (Friend of Joan Sprinkle)

A Message from Pastor Mark

I know some of you are thinking that you need to take down the Christmas decorations. I know others of you have just taken down your Christmas decorations. I know some of you have not yet put your Christmas decorations in the attic or storage area as of yet. I know all of us are trying to catch up from financial fun which is the Christmas season. I know we are still in the grips of winter frame of mind. More clouds and chilly rain than we are used to experiencing. But I would like to be clear that I am not responsible for the phases of the moon, nor am I the one who puts the calendar together, so don't begin to point fingers toward me when I start talking about Lent. To be clear, Easter is calculated as the first Sunday after the paschal full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox. If the full moon falls on a Sunday, then Easter is the following Sunday. And Ash Wednesday occurs 46 days (40 weekdays plus 6 Sundays) before Easter. And thusly, it all begins, in the middle of this cold month of February, with Ash Wednesday on February 14 - complete with an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM.

With Ash Wednesday begins our journey to the cross. One of the problems we seem to have with this Lenten journey can be centered around the fact that we may not feel really comfortable in dwelling on the "how" as much as the "why" all that takes place leading up to and including Good Friday. Our Lenten focus has long surrounded the understanding of why Jesus died for us as opposed to how it all took place. We hold a basic understanding of the torture of crucifixion, but we have taught ourselves not to look too deeply into the details. The details make us feel uncomfortable at best. And it can be uncomfortable to gaze into the eyes of a dying man. But beyond how those details may make us feel, the significance of the Good Friday event is found within the sacrifice itself, not within the details of the sacrifice.

It is in honor and remembrance of that sacrifice we have created the tradition of "giving up" something during Lent. In keeping with that tradition individuals have refrained from a variety of different things for the forty-day season. While such things are well and good, they do not truly reflect for us the gravity of the sacrifice that was made on our behalf. Does changing a dietary habit – like not eating chocolate - do justice in helping us remember the sacrifice made on our behalf? While the intention may certainly be a good one, the idea of us sacrificing something as inconsequential as a food product seems rather meager. I would say there needs to be something more to it.

Pick something significant, something daily, something that you have to pay for each day, and give that up. It may be coffee, a dinner out, a night out at the movies, but it needs to be one thing that is done regularly, if not daily. Take that thing and give it up. But don't stop there. Let us literally put our money where our mouths' – or faith – is in this matter. Take the money you would use for whatever it is that you give up and set it aside. Find a special container and each morning take that money and toss it in the container. As you toss the money in the jar offer a quick prayer of thanksgiving for what God has blessed you with – our blessings are a direct result of the sacrifice God has given us.

At the conclusion of the Lenten season, gather that money together and designate it to the church as a gift toward the work of helping someone else. In doing so what we find is that which we sacrifice – what we give up as a spiritual exercise – that sacrifice will offer a tangible benefit for another individual or a person in need. In doing so then we may understand a little more clearly what God has done for us. Giving up something of value for us, not because we deserved it or earned it, but simply because someone else needed it. God Bless.

Pastor Mark

Ask Zeke



February

Living Water's office fish is bowled over by people's generosity

Q. Does Living Water have a Souper Bowl challenge on Super Bowl Sunday?

A. Yep, it sure does! My sources tell me Super Bowl LVIII will be in Las Vegas on Sunday, Feb. 11. I'm hyped up for it (a fish like me has a thing for bowls). Living Water's 2023 Annual Meeting is also scheduled for that Sunday. I'm hoping the meeting kickoffs on time so football fans can get home in plenty of time for the big game's kickoff.

But, back to your question. On Super Bowl Sunday, you'll have an opportunity to go to the front of the sanctuary and toss coins and/or bills into three different containers: one for each team and a third container for ambivalent folks. As you may be aware, the money that's collected will help tackle hunger in our community. While the football game only has one winner, the Souper Bowl of Caring delivers a win-win outcome!

For more than 30 years now, the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has been inspiring people nationwide to help tackle hunger in local communities. Back in 1990, a seminary intern at a South Carolina church delivered the following prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." His simple prayer sparked a crusade that began with his church and 22 other churches in the area. By working together, they collected \$5,700; 100% of the donations were given to charities in their communities. Since then, Tackle Hunger's annual Souper Bowl of Caring event has collected more than \$193 million to help local hunger-relief charities.

Our congregation's Souper Bowl of Caring collection totaled \$563 last February. Living Water's youth determined that 100% of those funds be given to Foothills Food Bank in Cave Creek. Shall our Souper Bowl of Caring goal for Super Bowl LVIII be \$600?

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.

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

Church Council Highlights January 2024

Church Council met for two hours, 3:00-5:00pm, on Wednesday, January 24 to review Living Water's budget for 2024. Treasurer Steve Umland presented Living Water's financial information to the Council, explained our challenges and opportunities, and answered questions; Steve will do the same for the congregation at the annual meeting on Sunday, February 11.

Our new water-saving equipment for the office and sanctuary restrooms has arrived and will be installed in the next few weeks. Thanks to Ron Ophaug who has been instrumental in overseeing this project.

Living Water will host the Grand Canyon Synod Spring Gathering on Sunday, February at 2:00pm. All church members are welcome to attend. The proceedings will deal primarily with the election of the Bishop at the Synod Assembly in June.

The Ladies' Tea this Saturday, January 27, is a fundraiser to help cover the costs of sending six participants to the ELCA Youth Gathering this coming summer. Two more fundraisers will follow: Moonlight and Music on Marcy 21 and a Cinco de Mayo breakfast on May 5. As an added bonus to these efforts, the Grand Canyon Synod awarded Living Water a grant of \$2,000 to help defray the costs of the trip.

We have an opportunity for both youth and adults to volunteer for two-hours at the Foster Alliance on Presidents' Day, February 19. So far, five youth and two adults are signed up. See Pastor Shari for details.

Living Water, as part of the Northeast Valley Consortium, will host Rev. Dr. Colleen Windham-Hughes, Associate Vice President for Mission and Identity at California Lutheran University. The topic of her presentation is loneliness. All are invited!

Thank you for all you do to ensure Living Water thrives!

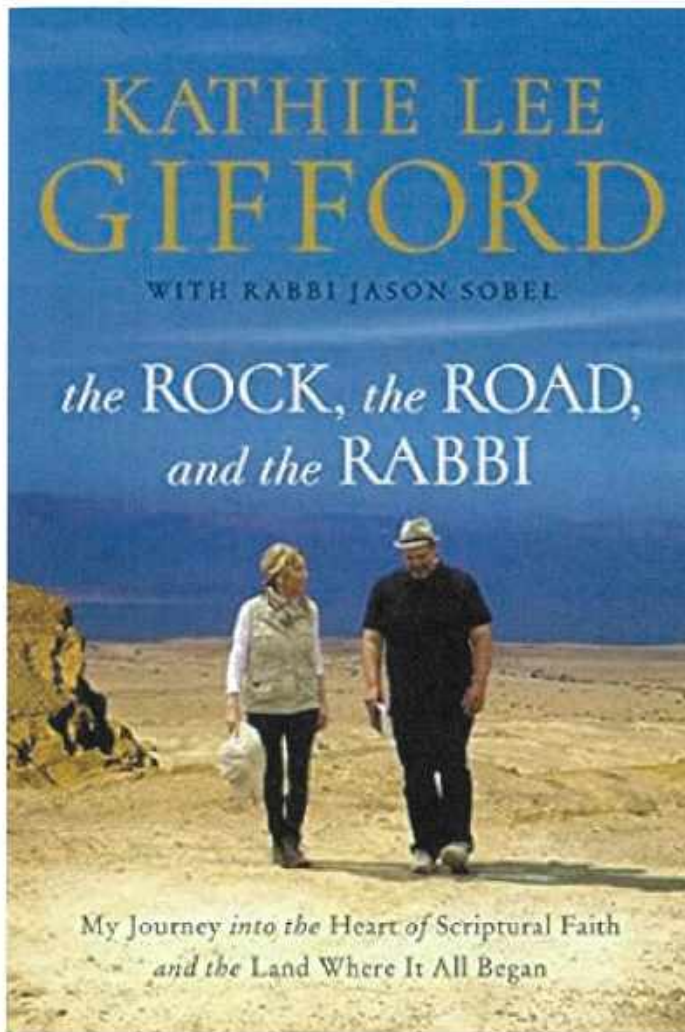
Tuesday Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to join our Tuesday Women's Bible study, at 10 am MST in the Fellowship Hall (and via Zoom). 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. 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.

NOTE: *We are taking two weeks off this month*
We will NOT meet Feb 6th OR Feb 13th.



Grand Canyon Synod-Growing In Faith/Diakonia Presents:



Fear and Power: Christian Nationalism in America

Saturday, February 17, 2024

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Light Breakfast and Lunch Provided for In-Person Attendees

Peace Lutheran Church, Peoria AZ (or Virtually)

\$20 Per Person Registration Fee

What is Christian Nationalism?

How does it affect me?

Was America founded on Christian Nationalism?

Register at <http://event.diakonia.education> or scan the QR Code
Questions? Email admin@diakonia.education



Piecemakers Quilting in the New Year

February 7 and 21, 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

WHO IS JESUS AND WHAT CAN HE MEAN FOR MY LIFE?

Wednesday Evening Bible Study on the Gospel of John during Lent

Pastor Dennis D. Nelson will be leading a five-week study on the Gospel of John after the Soup Suppers and before the Lenten Services – from 6: 00 to 6: 45 PM – on the Wednesdays in Lent beginning February 21, the week after Ash Wednesday. This Gospel shows that Jesus is –
The Bread of Life, who can give you strength to face the challenges of life
The Living Water, who can quench your thirst to know God and to find meaning and fulfillment in life
The Light of the World, who can help you get through the darkest times of your life
And the Resurrection and the Life, who can show you how you can face death with hope, strength, and confidence.
Please join us.

Medical Lending Library Ministry

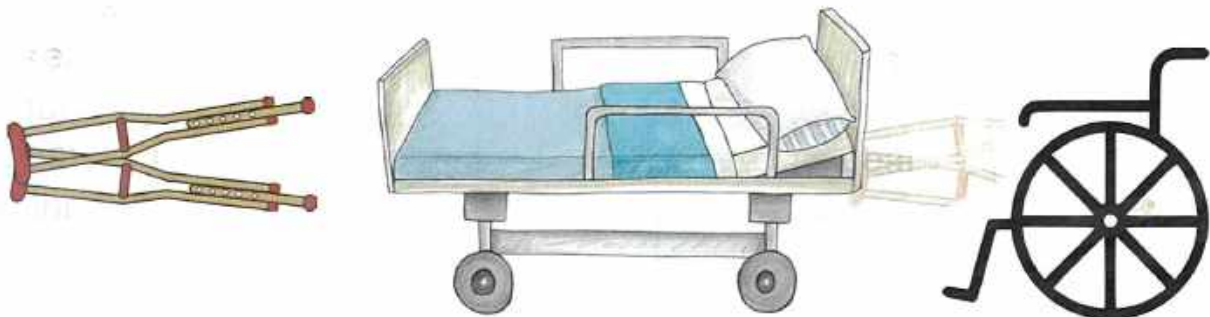
What: It's the same as a book library but lends durable medical equipment.

Who: Will be used by our partner La Sagrada Familia Church members who are mostly low-income and uninsured.

How: Donate your used crutches, commode, wheelchair/cushion, walker, hospital bed, cane, etc.

When: We will collect them on **March 10 and 17** at Living Water.

Questions: Please contact Steve McCarthy at 928-848-2458,



Food for Kidz

Join the Fountain Hills community in packaging nutritious meals of cinnamon oatmeal, fortified with 21 essential vitamins and minerals to be distributed to hungry neighbors in Arizona and around the world.

Volunteers are needed to assemble the food packages & Financial Contributions are needed to purchase ingredients.

Financial Contributions are 100% tax deductible and can be made payable to: New Journey Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 19652, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269 with notation "Food for Kidz" or by card on our website.

JOIN OUR
COMMUNITY

FOOD PACK

February 29, 2024
5:30pm - 7:30pm


Spread The Love!

Thank you for being part of the solution to curb food insecurity in our communities and around the world.

COME
TO

AN EVENT FOR ALL AGES

"I bring my two sons to this food packing event every year because I want them to know the meaning and value of serving other." - Volunteer

 Service certificates available for students in need of service hours

Volunteer Location:

Fountain Hills Community Center
13001 N. La Montana Drive, Fountain Hills



For More Info & Volunteer Registration:

Visit Our Website

www.njlc-fh.org/food-4-kidz.com



Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 11th Immediately following service

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



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!



VOLUNTEER AT THE FOSTER ALLIANCE

Join a group from Living Water to help make a difference for foster kids. Volunteers do a variety of tasks, including sorting and organizing clothing donations, packaging or decorating birthday bags and birthday cards, helping build first aid kits, and working in the warehouse.

Monday,
19 February
2023

3110 E Thunderbird
Road, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85032

10:00AM
-12:00PM

Please contact Pastor Shari if you are interested in participating or if you have any questions:
pastorshari@lwlcaz.org



Region 2

Synod 2024

Lenten Challenge

THE CAUSE

To honor ELCA World Hunger's 50th year, the 5 synods in Region 2 are challenging one another to raise money for ELCA World Hunger. **The challenge:** Participate in some spiritual and physical practices during Lent. *The synod with the most participants wins!*

WHAT TO DO?

- ✓ **The goal:** 50 congregations per synod in which at least 1 person participates.
- ✓ Each participant commits to doing 3 of the 4 practices for the 40 days in Lent.
- ✓ Visit the website, sign up, tell your friends, & cheer our synod to victory!



LEARN MORE &
SIGN UP

THE PRACTICES



DAILY DEVOTION

Subscribe to receive a devotion by Pastor Steve Holm by email each of the 47 days of Lent courtesy of Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center.



DAILY DISCIPLINE

Commit to doing one wellness activity every day, be it a workout, a walk, an extra flight of stairs or an extra glass of water.



DAILY DECLUTTER

Find a way to de-clutter, de-stress, and re-tune by clearing the garage, the calendar, or the closet and donating gently used items.



DAILY DONATION

Pledge to give \$1 a day (or more) to ELCA World Hunger for the 40 days of Lent or pledge \$50 for ELCA World Hunger's 50th anniversary.

For details:
www.LentenChallenge.org

Region 2

Synod 2024

Lenten Challenge

Welcome to the 2024 Cross-Synod Challenge for ELCA World Hunger and Health!

This year for Lent, the five synods in Region 2 are challenging one another to raise money for ELCA World Hunger.

The challenge is to pledge to participate in some spiritual and physical practices during Lent and raise some money for ELCA World Hunger. Bragging rights goes to the synod with the most individual participants.

Why Lent? Lent is 40 days to reflect, remember our dependence on God and one another, and look forward to the ways God calls us to be. Adding one or more of these small practices to your observation of Lent might help you feel more connected. A light-hearted challenge like this might help our synods be the Church together, and to see God's vision and invitation for us to be a church for the world and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

What are the 40-40-40 Lenten practices?

To participate you'll pledge to do 3 of the 4 (or all 4) practices for Lent.

- ✔ **Daily Devotion.** Subscribe to receive daily email devotions for Lent. These short reflections will be delivered right to your inbox every morning for Lent.
- ✔ **Daily Discipline.** Do one wellness activity every day. Maybe it's your daily workout, maybe is a 1-mile walk a day. Maybe it's taking an extra flight of stairs or an extra glass of water.
- ✔ **Daily Donation.** Pledge to give \$1 a day (or more) to ELCA World Hunger for the 40 days of Lent.
- ✔ **Daily Declutter.** Once a day find, a way to daily de-clutter, de-stress, and re-tune. It could be clearing out the garage, your calendar, or a desk or drawer and donating gently used items.

How is this a challenge? This a friendly competition for a good cause. In honor of 50 years of ELCA World Hunger, our goal is for individuals representing 50 congregations per synod to participate.

What does our synod win? The 'winning' bishop will play a short video with congratulatory clips recorded by the other participating bishops. This acknowledgement of the 'superiority' by the other synods for this one challenge is all in fun.

Participating Synods: Sierra Pacific (2A), Southwest California (2B), Pacifica (2C), Grand Canyon (2D) and Rocky Mountain (2E)



LEARN MORE &
SIGN UP

For details:
www.LentenChallenge.org

Café

boldcafe.org



Café is an online magazine and podcast for and with young adult women who identify as Lutheran or not, brought to you by Women of the ELCA.

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. Every month new topics that are relevant to women and how faith relates to those issues are featured. It's free: just sign up to be part of the Café community: www.boldcafe.org/about/

Join Boldcafe writers + friends for online conversation and dinner on the first Thursday of each month ! 6 pm MST (AZ) time.

Once a month we meet with some of our popular writers to talk about our favorite articles and more! Bring your own dinner (B.Y.O.D) and sign up via Zoom: <http://www.boldcafe.org/dinner>

Note regarding giving checks:

Unfortunately our bank, Wells Fargo Bank, is no longer accepting your giving checks written out to "LWLC" or "LW".

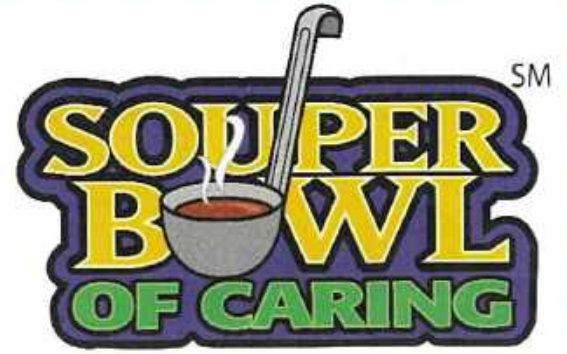
They now require our deposit checks with the church's name in the *PAY TO* line fully written out as follows:
"Living Water Lutheran Church".

Thank you! for following this guideline.



Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday February 11!

It's Super Bowl Sunday, but it's also "Souper Bowl of Caring" Sunday. Super Bowl Sunday is traditionally set aside by the organization, Souper Bowl of Caring, to lift up hunger initiatives, and we can help! This campaign began in 1990 with the vision to transform the "big game" into a nationwide movement inspiring people to donate funds for hunger relief organizations.



Watch for the three boxes labeled with the names of the two Super Bowl football teams (the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49'ers) and the Souper Bowl of Caring. Make a donation in the box for the team of your preference, or if you really don't care who wins, then donate into the Souper Bowl of Caring box!

Vote with your checks or cash for your preferred team and let's see how many dollars we can raise to support hunger initiatives in the process! You can write a check to Living Water Lutheran Church and note "Souper Bowl of Caring" in the memo line.

The containers will be near the Hunger Jar at the front of the sanctuary. The youth of Living Water will determine the hunger related agency to receive our donations. Go team!

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 singles 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.

February Birthdays

Shari	Bernau	2/3
Darryl	Harlan	2/4
Lois	Lucas	2/6
Morgan	Harlan	2/8
Jeff	Shelmire	2/8
Theoran	Sabato	2/9
Gabi	Leonetti	2/10
Roberta	Kreutzfeld	2/10
David	Gilkey	2/11

Eunice	Voorhees	2/12
Marianne	Schmitt	2/13
Leila	Burrus	2/14
Fredrik	Sadler	2/14
Bev	Rogge	2/16
Frances	DeBruyn	2/18
Nancy	Rogers	2/21
Dee	Eilers	2/26



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**



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office@lwlcaz.org ~ 480.473.8400 ~ www.LWLCAZ.org
Living Water is a Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Grand Canyon Synod.