

March 2024

Splash!

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

Living Water
Lutheran Church



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www.LWLCAZ.org

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**Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.
Psalm 25:4**

**Palm Sunday is March 24
Easter Sunday is March 31**



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
- 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
- Steven Hill (cousin of Tracy Rossman)—Recovering From Stroke
- Kristin Klarkowski—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



A Message from Pastor Shari

Lent: An invitation to experience spiritual renewal

"Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever." It is at baptism where it all begins, when we set out on our journey as a Christian in this world. And, it is the symbol of the cross that we carry on our foreheads throughout that journey, everywhere we go.

On Ash Wednesday, we are marked...once again, with that same cross, but this time it is made upon us with ashes. In this act, we are invited to reflect on anything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor, and we are reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. This is where the meaningful discipline of Lent begins every year.

This year, I encourage you to experience Lent in a new, and transforming way, and consider adding some of the traditional practices (with a new perspective) listed below to your 40-day journey. For it is through the discipline of Lent, we can find spiritual renewal, freedom and grace.

Spiritual Practices:

- **Repentance:** Remember your Baptism each day when you rise and before you retire by placing a small bowl of water in your bedroom, dipping your fingers in it and making the sign of the cross while saying the Invocation: "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."
- **Prayer:** We are drawn closer to God in contemplation and communication. Prayer is our half of a conversation with God. That means that prayer is not only speaking, but listening as well.
- **Fasting:** This does not necessarily mean giving up all food for a day. More frequently it is the giving up or limiting of a particular food or food group (sweets, desserts, chocolate, butter, fat, eggs, etc.).
- **Works of Love:** The intention of this part of the Lenten Discipline is to connect our faith in God's love for us with actions that are loving of others in the world.

As you begin this Lenten discipline, I invite you to begin with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit for guidance in choosing those things that would best fit you for your Lenten Discipline. Prayerfully dedicate all your choices to God as a commitment for the 40 days of Lent, and ask that your Lenten Discipline move you closer to God and bring you spiritual renewal. And, may your journey bring you to a glorious Easter morning in which we long to hear, "He is Risen!"

Pastor Shari

Ask Zeke



March

Living Water's office fish wishes he could attend the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July

Q. The Ladies Tea fundraiser was delightful. It piqued my interest in the Youth Gathering. What can you tell me about this event?

A. Lutheran youth have been coming together for more than 100 years. The first ELCA Youth Gathering was in San Antonio in 1988 (the year three Lutheran denominations merged to form the ELCA). Since then, there's been a Gathering every third year with one exception when it was cancelled due to COVID in 2021.

The ELCA describes the Gathering as follows: "Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a time of faith formation. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service, and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives."

The 2024 Gathering's theme is "Created to Be." This youth faith formation mission has five goals: (1) affirmed and challenged in their faith, (2) experience new perspectives, (3) ponder their vocation, (4) bond with their congregational group, and (5) learn more about the ELCA and our partners. These goals will be achieved as young people converge together for music, speakers, and worship and as they engage in other activities, including God's work already being done in New Orleans and nightly congregational devotions and briefings.

Living Water's six participants are using the Gathering's 10-lesson curriculum to prepare for their trip. To pay for it, they're involved in fundraisers, including this month's Moonlight and Music event. Pastor Shari has also obtained a generous grant from the Grand Canyon Synod. Additionally, each participant contributes \$400 to help cover expenses.

Experiences like the ELCA Youth Gathering can be life changing. When Pastor Shari attended the Gathering in Dallas in 1991, she "was blown away with the speakers. They inspired me to see the world and my faith in a new and beautiful light."

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 February 2024

Two new Council members were elected to two-year terms at the Annual Meeting on February 11. They are Sue Boyd, who will serve as Council Vice President, and Jim King who will serve as a member-at-large. Lisa Moehn was elected to a second term and will serve as Secretary.

The Happy Valley Road project continues but progress is evident! Pastor Mark met with a liaison to the project to discuss a few problems that affect us. Our sidewalk leading to the road needs to be connected to the sidewalk running parallel along Happy Valley, some low voltage wires and irrigation lines need to be buried, an entrance light needs a new base to match others, and a pile of sand needs to be removed. Thankfully, all these problems are being addressed! Once the project is complete, we will reinstall our stop sign and provide a white stripe to indicate where to stop.

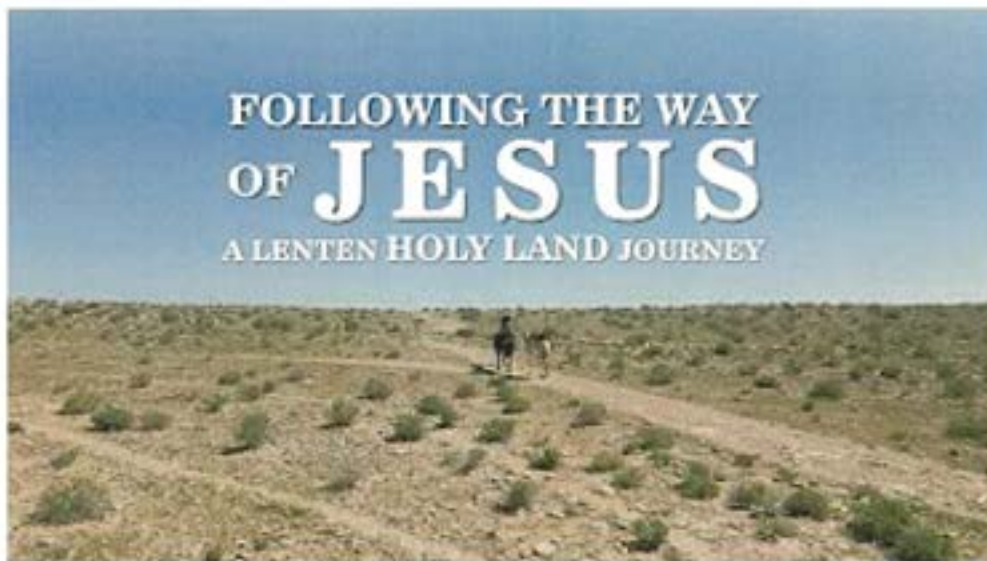
The Healing Service on January 24 provided a moment to share the Light of Christ. Hopefully, another service will be scheduled in the future.

The Ladies' Tea was held on January 27. The event raised almost \$3,000 that will help cover the cost of sending six people to the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer. Thanks to all who attended, bought raffle tickets, or sponsored tables. GREAT THANKS to all the organizers, crafters of exquisite pastries, kitchen helpers and patient servers who never spilled a drop of tea! The next event, Moonlight and Music, is scheduled for March 21. Be watching for more information about this fun evening.

April 13 is the date that Living Water will host Rev. Dr. Colleen Windham-Hughes, Associate Vice President for Mission and Identity at California Lutheran University. Her topic will be loneliness. This is an event sponsored by our Northeast Valley Consortium. As always, all are welcome!

The Eucharistic Ministry Team, whose members bring Communion to anyone not able to attend church, will soon be back in action. Thanks to the volunteers who are reviving this important ministry.

If you have any questions for Council, look for our red name badges!



TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING MARCH 5TH

Join us on Tuesday mornings for a 6-week study on SUMUD: Following the Way of Jesus: A Lenten Holy Land Journey. We'll use material provided by the ELCA, including videos, scripture readings and discussion questions. We begin this study on March 5 at 10 am MST in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a Zoom connection as well. Coffee and hot water for tea/hot chocolate are provided. Bring your favorite Bible translation and join us every Tuesday morning.



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



Piecemakers Quilting:

March 6 and 20, 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

Palm Sunday is March 24th
Worship Service at 10:00am

Easter Sunday is March 31st
Worship Services at
6:30am, 8:00am and 10:00am
Brunch at 9:00am



Save the Date

**Musical Instrument Museum
"VIP Behind the Scenes Tour"**

10 AM Saturday

April 27, 2024

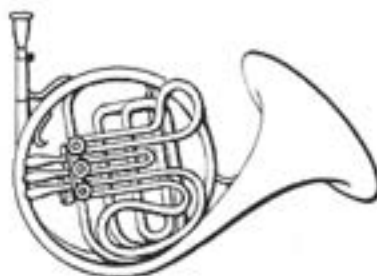
Join us for lunch following the tour!



**Please join us for this informative tour, organized by
Great Gatherings, and discover how exhibits are created and
instruments are repaired.**

**Visit the theatre backstage and more at the world's only
global musical instrument museum.**

More details and sign up to follow!





Moonlight and Music

Thursday, March 21 at 6:30 pm

- Live Music by our own LWLC Band*
- Appetizers and desserts*



We hope you can join us for a wonderful evening on the Living Water Lutheran Church patio. Reservations are \$25/person and can be made up until Sunday, March 17. All proceeds go toward the Youth Mission Trip. Thank you for your support of our young people who are going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.



An invitation from Grand Canyon Synod Bishop Deborah Hutterer:

In honor of [ELCA World Hunger](#)'s 50th year in mission and ministry, the 5 synods in ELCA Region 2 are challenging one another to raise money for ELCA World Hunger. The challenge: Participate in some spiritual and physical practices during the 40 days of Lent, 2024. The synod with the most participants wins!

How does the 40- 40- 40 Lenten Challenge work? There are 4 Lenten practices to consider, and you commit to 3 of the 4. The Synod with the most individuals participating wins the challenge!

1. **Daily Devotion** ~ Subscribe to receive daily email devotions for Lent or use ELCA World Hunger pre-made devotions. [Learn more.](#)
2. **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. [Read more.](#)
3. **Daily Declutter** ~ Once a day find a way to daily de-clutter, de-stress, and re-tune. It could be cleaning out the garage, cleaning your calendar, or finding some time to de-clutter a desk or drawer and donating gently used items. [Get ideas.](#)
4. **Daily Donation** ~ Pledge to give \$1a day (or more) to ELCA World Hunger for the 40 days of Lent. [Ways to give.](#) Watch for the special World Hunger offering envelope in the Connections on Palm Sunday!

In honor of ELCA World Hunger's 50th anniversary in 2024, our goal is for individuals representing 50 congregations per synod to participate. Join others already signed up from Living Water! *The more individual sign-ups, the better.*

Ready to sign up? Go to www.lentenchallenge.org

Café

boldcafe.org

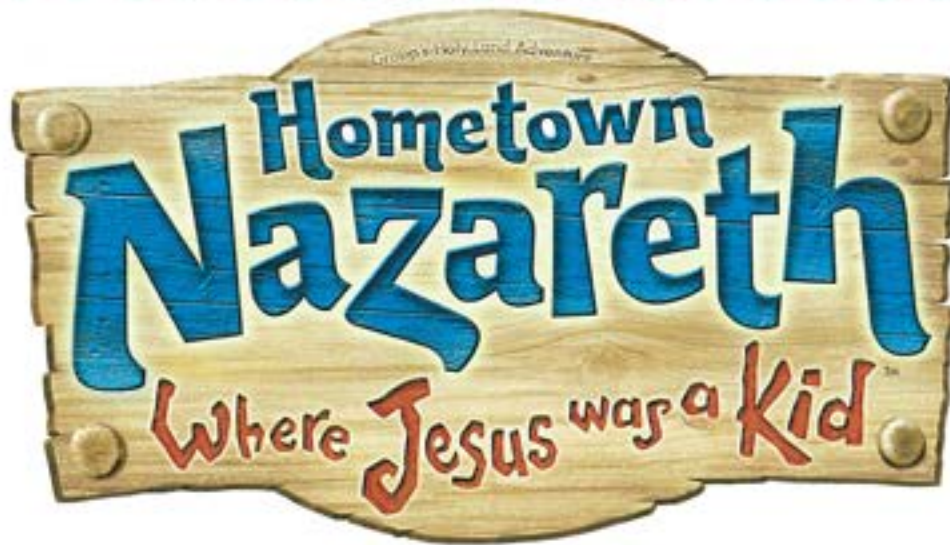


Café is an online magazine and podcast for and with young adult women who identify as Lutheran or not, brought to you by Women of the ELCA.

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>



Registration is now open for Vacation Bible School at Living Water Lutheran Church. Go to lwlcas.org/vbs2024 to register your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends.

Date/Time: June 17-21, 9-11:30am

Theme: "Hometown Nazareth - Where Jesus was a Kid"

Join us as we explore the culture of ancient Nazareth - the hometown of Jesus - and get the inside scoop on what it was like when Jesus was a kid. Each day of the week is filled with great music, meaningful Bible stories, fun and games, awesome crafts and a delicious take-home snack.

Registration is free and each child will receive a one-of-a kind t-shirt. We welcome kids age 4 through 6th grade.

We are looking for youth and adult volunteers to help us before and during VBS. If you are interested, please contact Kris Crow at vbs@lwlcas.org or call/text 480-298-8910 and join in the fun!



Today is Bold Women's Sunday!

Once a year, on the first Sunday in March, we celebrate all Lutheran women who are boldly living out our baptismal call. Some are bold in unceasing prayers, others are bold in serving those in need. Still others offer bold hospitality or advocacy. Wherever we live out our bold story of faith – in the workplace, the family, the home, the church, the community – our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. Today, celebrate the bold women in your life!

Adult Forum

March 10 and 24 at 9:00 AM

A Look at Luther

Join Pastor Mark and Rick Steves
as we take a look at the life, legacy
and theology of Martin Luther

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.

notes:



Peter's Hope
c/o Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
700 Snelling Avenue S.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55116

1/28/2024

Hi Living Water Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the board of Peter's Hope, we are very grateful for your support this year. Contributions from our donors provide the majority of the funds which support our mission of educating children and empowering women.

Date	Amount
7/6/2023	\$250.00

Your total deductible amount for 2023 is \$250.00.

May we make one more request? Does your employer offer to match charitable gifts? Please check with your human resources office to help make your support go further.

Thank you again for your support of Peter's Hope and the women and children we serve. If you ever have any questions/suggestions, please feel free to contact us:
contact@petershope.org

With sincere gratitude,

Myrna Wells-Ulland
Board Chair

Peter's Hope is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Your donation is fully tax-deductible according to the rules of the IRS.

www.petershope.org



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

January 24, 2024

Thank You

Living Water Lutheran Church
9201 E Happy Valley Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85255-2228

Dear Living Water Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$521.00 to ELCA World Hunger.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA you share this amazing grace with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda White".

Amanda White
Director, Congregational Generosity

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

January 24, 2024

Living Water Lutheran Church
9201 E Happy Valley Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85255-2228

Thank You

Dear Living Water Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$165.00 to ELCA Global Mission.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA you share this amazing grace with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your support enables ELCA Global Mission to send missionaries, including Young Adults in Global Mission, to serve in over 40 countries. It provides scholarships to international women leaders responding to God's call to ministry. And it funds investments in evangelism, education and church expansion.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

With gratitude,

Benjamin A. Hogue

The Rev. Benjamin A. Hogue
Director of Giving, Christian Community and Leadership

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your official receipt.



January 23, 2024

Living Water Lutheran Church
9301 E. Happy Valley RD
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Dear Living Water Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the entire team at Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center, I wanted to express our deepest gratitude for your 2023 donation. Your contribution has made a significant impact on the lives of families in our community, providing them with hope, help, and healing.

Your 2023 Donation total is \$2,211.00.

Date	Amount
12/4/2023	\$771.00
12/31/2023	\$1,440.00

In 2023, we witnessed a staggering 30 percent increase in client visits, serving over 900 new families. With your support, we were able to provide essential resources, including food and other necessities, to those in need.

As we embark on the new year, we have set ambitious goals to further expand our reach and make an even greater difference. Your continued support will play a vital role in helping us continue to reach those in our community facing difficult times.

Once again, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation for your generosity. Every day, your contributions enable us to fulfill our mission of providing food, services, and programs to those who need them most.

Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy and fulfilling 2024!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leigh".

Leigh Zydonik, Executive Director

P.S. Did you know you can receive a dollar-for-dollar Arizona charitable tax credit, up to \$841 based on your filing status, when you donate to the Foothills Food Bank?

No goods or services were promised or provided in consideration of this gift. Therefore, all of your contribution is deductible. We are a registered 501 (c) 3 Corporation, our Federal Tax ID number is 86-0819725
We are a Certified Charitable Organization. This donation is eligible for full Arizona Tax Deduction and beginning in 2018, you MUST use QCO Code "20514" to claim the tax credits for contributions to the Foothills Food Bank.

March Birthdays

Sheila	Fankhauser	3/2
Valerie	Wachter	3/3
Julie	Yates	3/10
Maria	Tillotson	3/10
Dennis	Hagstrom	3/14
Kay	Bonar	3/15

Robert	Ulland	3/17
Karen	Welnhofer	3/19
Eric	Brash	3/22
Jeri	Pounds	3/22
Mary	Nyberg	3/26
Landon	Wanek	3/28
Erika	Diaz	3/30



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@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.