

AUGUST 2024

Splash!

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



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CONTENTS

Prayer List

Pastor's Message

Ask Zeke

Studies & Retreats

News & Events



summertime!



9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

We Remember in Our Prayers

- Joyce Bash—Health Concerns
- Charlie Boyd—Health Concerns
- Eric Brash—Health Concerns
- 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
- Sarah Faulk (Friend of Ron & Shirley Koch)—Health Concerns
- 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
- Doris Groh (Mother of Kris Crow)—Health Concerns
- Donna Harder (Mother of Bonnie Roberts)—Health Concerns
- Tyler Hornacek (Grandson of John and Sue Hornacek)—Life Concerns
- Kristin Klarkowski—Health Concerns
- Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- Michael Koch (Grandson of Ron & Shirley Koch)—Health Concerns
- Sandy Kohlway (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Battling Cancer
- Gabriele Laudenschlager—Health Concerns
- Nancy Malitz (Frances DeBruyn's Nephew's Mother-in-law)—Health Concerns
- Merle (Karen Roessler's Sister)—Health Concerns
- Terri Powell (Friends of Bonnie and Tod Dawson)—Battling Cancer
- Prentice Powers (Marty Lindert's brother)—Health Concerns
- Rebecca (Melissa Freesh's sister)—Health Concerns
- Bonnie Roberts—Life Concerns
- Kathie Roegnik—Hip Surgery Recovery
- Ruth Schlesinger—Health Concern
- Bob Ulland—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@lwicaz.org or fill one out at lwicaz.org

A Message from Pastor Mark

ROY G. BIV. Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet. The colors of the light spectrum. If I remember correctly when you put all those colors together you get black and an absence of all those colors produces white light. It seems to me that within that light spectrum indigo really gets the short end of the stick. In fact, I am pretty sure that I didn't even know indigo was a color until I was taught the spectrum. While I was not aware of indigo, it is still an equal part of the light spectrum and just as important and integral as any of the other colors. Indigo matters.

Have you ever yawned for the sole reason that a person you are with yawned first? It is known as an empathetic response. Feeling and experiencing what the other is feeling. Such responses are important within our community. It is that type of response that moves an individual beyond the realm of merely tolerating another person and places them in a setting where they might be willing to actually walk a bit in their shoes. Empathy is really about attempting to understand the life through the eyes of another. It is not an easy thing to do.

As the political and social rancor of this country grows to unheard of proportions, it seems that what is dissipating is the level of personal empathy. Individually we seem less and less willing to take that walk in the shoes of another, to try to experience life from their perspective, to trying to understand what it feels like to be them in this world.

When the group Black Live Matters is mentioned there are more than a few upper middle class white folks who begin to froth at the mouth and contort themselves like Linda Blair in the movie the Exorcist. For instead of trying to understand what might be behind all of it, there is a knee jerk reaction that takes place.

And it is not just that one group. Our world has become inundated with words and phrases that create confusion, anger and indignation. And yet they are just words. Words such as border, immigrant, refugee, progressive, right wing, radical, woke, pundit, blue state, red state and so many more. The power we have given to these words has created chaos, separation and hostility. But despite what you may hear from politicians, this is not the world God desires for us.

The world that God has created for us is a world not of barriers, walls, and separation, but one of bridges and conversations – a world where we are solely defined by our humanity and our faith.

Galatians 3.28: There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Despite what we hear and see of others in the world around us, we are called to be people of faith. It is that faith which binds us, it is that faith which guides us. And most importantly in these troubled times, it is that faith which calls us to heal, to bind wounds and to love – to love above all else. For as Christ taught,

Luke 10.27: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.'

For when we live out of the love of Christ, then we better understand that all colors matter, all people matter, and it is that love which we share that matters the most.

restore

soul care for moms

Friday, September 13th: Living Water Lutheran Church

5:30-8:00pm

You're invited to Restore: Soul Care for Moms!

The heart behind Restore is to encourage you: to give you an enjoyable night off and remind you that you're not alone in motherhood.

We're going to have food, encouraging teaching, comedy, and a lot of fun!

Invite your mom friends to join us!

To register: <https://abf.ticketspice.com/restore2024> (\$29.00)

This Year's Speakers



Alison Wallwork

Alison is a wife, mother, author, speaker, and encourager. She has been in ministry for over fifteen years, and is passionate about seeing people truly connecting to the heart of God and His plan for their lives. She has walked through painful times and had her faith shaken to the core, but she has learned to lean into the promises of God to find strength and hope.

Alison has written two books, *Living Freedom: Losing a Spiritual 10 lbs.* and *#MOMLIFE Devotional Study*. She and her husband are the lead pastors of HIS Church in Phoenix, Arizona. They have 4 energetic, fun-loving boys between the ages of 5 and 11 years old.



Andrea Fortenberry

Andrea Fortenberry is a writer, speaker and Bible teacher. She is also the host of *The Perfectionist's Guide to Mothering Podcast*. She equips women to find freedom from perfectionism and show up for the life God has for them.

Andrea founded Restore in 2017 out of her own need for a night of refreshment and encouragement in her role as a mom.



Noelle Rhodes

Noelle is a writer, podcaster and comedian who will win you with her bold, Jersey style and irresistible humor, all the while pointing you to Jesus. She enjoys creating sketches for the internet and using humor to talk about the Bible. When she isn't podcasting and writing scripts, Noelle is living life in New Jersey, eating bagels with her two awesome children and husband.



Ask Zeke



AUGUST

Living Water's 24/7 office fish applauds the VBS Book Drive Mission Project's impact on children in need

Q. How many new or gently used books were donated during VBS this year?

A. Thanks to the efforts of Ima Bookworm and many other folks, a total of 2,862 books were received during VBS. Donors included VBS participants and their families, LWLC members, and people from an ELCA church that is part of the Northeast Valley Consortium. The book drive also received monetary donations: a generous \$250 grant from Thrivent and \$120 from anonymous donors. Within a month, that \$370 was used to procure an additional 1,699 new and gently used books. In total, the VBS Book Drive netted 4,561 books for distribution, primarily to children in need. That's a lot of reading material!

LWLC's point person for allocating all the books explained that "Assistance League of Phoenix is honored to handle the distribution of books from this drive to area children in need. After volunteers put LWLC and ALP logos on bookplates in every title and sorted quantities into grade-leveled boxes, 861 books were picked up by NourishPHX (the food and clothing bank also served by our Angel Tree, etc.). Remaining quantities are headed to UMOM Chapel, NOAH clinics, Head Start locations, unwed mothers, and Title I schools."

The boatload of books collected during the VBS Book Drive will have an important impact on the children who receive them. According to The National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance, "books help kids develop basic language skills and profoundly expand their vocabularies — much more than any other media. Books let kids try on the world before they have to go out into it. Books give us the tools to achieve our dreams." Having access to books helps a child in multiple ways: thinking skills, writing skills, listening skills, memory, concentration, cognitive development, imagination, creativity, empathy, parents-child bonding, and the joy of reading.

Kudos to everyone involved in the 2024 VBS Book Drive Mission Project!

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.

The Tuesday Women's Bible Study

and

The Dennis Nelson Bible Study

are on break until fall

Have a Great Summer!

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

Hope you can join us on...

Sunday, August 11 at 10:00am.

➤ Back to School Blessing

All Students, Teachers and Staff who are soon going back to school are invited for a special blessing to begin the new school year surrounded in prayer.

➤ ELCA Youth Gathering Trip Reflections

The students who participated in the trip to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering will share stories and pictures.





Thank You



Truly Grateful for you.



Dear Living Water Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your donation to HCC last month! In the past 30 days, we have used your Souper Bowl gift to purchase food, hygiene products, and baby products for 1,539 families! Amazing!

This has been a very busy summer for us at Harvest Compassion Center. The number of new families visiting HCC is at record levels. Just this week, one of our centers served 50% brand new clients in one shift!

Your gift is helping us meet the immediate needs of families in the Valley, and we cannot do this work without you. Thank you for coming alongside us as we work to feed and love families in our community.

Blessings,
Nicolee and Team HCC

JOIN US ONCE A MONTH!

Summer Church Choir

PRACTICE MUSIC AHEAD OF TIME OR
SING WITH US MORNING OF

9am Rehearsal in Sanctuary



August 18

QR Code and Link for practice:
tinyurl.com/summerchoir2024

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE



Study

TUESDAY WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

We're continuing on our summer vacation from our regular Tuesday women's Bible study time until September.

Watch for updated information here in September.

If you aren't on our email distribution list

for Tuesday Women, please send a request to be added to

myrna.ulland@gmail.com

Personal Care Kits for LWR Thank you!



Once again, Living Water's generosity came through and helped us create 129 Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) during Lent. We estimate you donated items for 90 kits, and another \$140 in cash/checks to help us buy needed items. With the additional help of a \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant to also purchase kit items, the grand total reached 129! Ten confirmation students helped us assemble the kits in April on the last evening of their confirmation class for this spring. THANK YOU to everyone who made this annual project another success. LWR calls this "love in action." You can learn more about their ministries at lwr.org.

Personal Care Kits provide dignity and hope in the most dire situations. You may be interested in hearing of LWR in action in the port of Baltimore, when the recent bridge collapse left seven international ships and their crews stranded aboard ship for many days, unable to disembark. <https://lwr.org/blog/2024/video-your-quilts-kits-offer-warm-hospitality-ships-stuck-baltimore-after-key-bridge>

Thank you for your generosity. Your generosity makes a difference and is helping change lives. Thank you for believing in the mission of Living Water and helping us to continue our ministry.

If you are looking for an easy way to give a financial gift via your phone, see QR code below to access Living Water's online giving platform.



*Thank
You*



Gods work. Our Hands September 8, 2024

This year Living Water will be one of 8,700 ELCA congregations participating in "God's work. Our Hands" on September 8th. This year for our service project we will provide school backpacks to children around the world through the Lutheran World Relief "School Kit" program.

Across the country, thousands of ELCA members will engage in service work to make positive changes in the community and in the world, build and deepen relationships and share God's Love. Please join us as we do God's work with our hands!

The backpacks will be donated by one of our members. We have applied for a Thrivent Action Team Grant to purchase additional items needed to fill each backpack. A collection bin is in the church entryway. You may bring your items (**listed below**) on or before Sunday, September 8th. If you would prefer us to shop for you, please make a donation to Living Water Lutheran Church and note GWOH on the memo line.

Questions? contact Debbie Anderson (debbiea@elitemail.org) or Sue Umland (sueumland@gmail.com)

We will join after the worship service on September 8th to fill the bags.

Here is what is needed to fill each backpack. Feel free to donate any quantity of any of these items. Please do not donate anything other than what is on the list below:

Four - 70 sheet notebooks (wide or college ruled paper) No loose-leaf paper.

One - 30-centimeter ruler (or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other)

One - Pencil sharpener

One - Pair blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

Five - Unsharpened number 2 pencils with erasers. Secure with rubber band

Five - Black or blue ballpoint pends (no gel ink) Secure with rubber band.

One- Box of 16 or 24 crayons

One - 2 ½ inch eraser



August Birthdays



Allison	Handley	8/2
Turid	Sabia	8/4
Andrea	Decker	8/5
Lisa	Moehn	8/5
Marcie	Donavon	8/6
Karen	Roessler	8/8
Grant	Smith	8/9
Hudson	Wanek	8/10

Bob	Frost	8/11
Carol	Jacobson	8/19
Caroline	Ruff	8/20
Adena	Seeper	8/22
Kristi	Winter	8/23
Myrna	Ulland	8/24
Ryan	Handley	8/21



Happy Birthday!!

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**

The Living Water
QR code for giving:



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