

SEPTEMBER 2024

Splash!

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



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9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

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- Eric Brash—Health Concerns
- Barbara Brooks—Health Concerns
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- Christi (Daughter of Charlie and Sue Boyd)—Health Concerns
- Virginia Conrad—Health Concerns
- Angelika Dumpf (Wife of Brett Stone)—Health Concerns
- Jenna Fjeld—Health Concerns
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- Ruth Schlesinger—Health Concern
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- Friends and Family of Sandy Kohlway (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)

Send your prayer requests to prayer@lwcaz.org or fill one out at lwcaz.org

A Message from Pastor Shari

On November 10, there will be nine students affirming their baptisms at Living Water. November may seem far away, but for these students, right now is the time in their confirmation journey when they are working on important tasks to prepare them for this day. Many requirements are already complete, such as classes, service hours, and worship notes; but in the next couple of months they be working on their faith papers, creating a stole to wear on confirmation day, picking a favorite bible verse, and preparing for a meeting with me. And, as each meeting comes to a close, I will ask them: Would you like to affirm your baptism?

I think this is an important question, because when they were brought to the baptismal font as infants, toddlers or even young kids; they did not really know what baptism really meant, so parents or guardians spoke on behalf of them. But, after some life experience, learning more about the church, faith, and attending confirmation classes, they have a better understanding of what it is all about.

Ultimately, when they come before the congregation on November 10, they will be asked to profess their faith in the trinity: God, Jesus and Holy Spirit, and this is how it will go:

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Pastor: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Pastor: Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Maybe you remember doing this as a teenager. Or, maybe you never had the opportunity to participate in confirmation class. Whatever your experience may be, these are important questions to continue to ponder ourselves as we continue a faith journey that always has room to change and grow. These questions are also important as we consider how we will interact with the world around us, and all the challenges we face every day. They are not ancient, nor are they not applicable to our life today. God has made a covenant with us that will not be broken. However, our promises to God must be nurtured if we are to live out God's calling for our lives.

God's peace, Pastor Shari

Confirmation



Starting September 8...

Confirmation classes for students in grades 6-8 and above will be held two Sundays each month from 6:30-8:00pm.

This is a two and a half-year program, and we will be learning about the Old Testament, New Testament, Lutheran History and Catechism and Lutheran Living. So far, we have five students who are registered to attend the class, and we look forward to a fun and relationship-building learning environment!

Please let Pastor Shari pastorshari@lwlcas.org know if you (or someone you know) are interested in joining the class.



Ask Zeke



SEPTEMBER

Living Water's 24/7 office fish explains how we fit into the overall picture of Lutherans in the United States

Q. A statement on the back of CONNECTIONS describes Living Water as “a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Grand Canyon Synod, and Northeast Valley Conference.” What does all this mean?

A. For a start, it signifies our membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), one of the largest Christian denominations nationwide. This body is united by “living, daring confidence in God’s grace” as set forth by Martin Luther. “We believe God’s grace, God’s unfathomable love, is available to all people as a gift through Jesus Christ. All are welcome here.”

The ELCA is the largest Lutheran body in the country. It has nearly 3.3 million members in more than 8,900 worship communities across the country and in the Caribbean. The church-wide organization, which is based out of the Lutheran Center in Chicago, works along with several organization. They include 7 seminaries, 27 colleges and universities related to the ELCA, campus ministries, 2,000+ early childhood education centers, social service agencies, and other agencies and institutions in the U.S. and around the world. The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton currently serves as presiding bishop.

Every congregation belongs to one of the ELCA’s 65 synods. The smallest synod has 30 worship communities, and the largest one has nearly 300 congregations. A synod’s role is to unite the work of congregations, provide regional support, and guide staff placement for pastors and other candidates. Living Water is in the Grand Canyon Synod, which has close to 90 congregations. Each synod has a bishop; ours is the Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer, who was re-elected in June to serve a six-year term. This Phoenix-based synod encompasses Arizona as well as churches in four Nevada counties and a congregation in St. George, Utah.

The Northeast Valley Conference is one of eight geographical groupings our synod established to foster relationships among congregations for missional purposes. The conference consists of Living Water and seven other congregations in Scottsdale and nearby communities. Pastor Mark currently serves as this conference’s dean.

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.

Dennis Nelson Bible Study

We are starting-up again this autumn, with the first study available on YouTube for

Wednesday, September 4th

Weekly, published on our YouTube Channel

Wednesdays at NOON

Bible Study Outlines 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

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.





FEED 1

1 BAG. 1 FAMILY. 1 MISSION.

PS&R

*Truly
Grateful
for you.*



Thank 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



God's 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 pens (no gel ink) Secure with rubber band.

One - Box of 16 or 24 crayons

One - 2 ½ inch eraser

September Boldcafe Monthly Dinner: Starting over

Join us for our next Boldcafe Monthly Dinner (B. Y. O. D.) via Zoom,
Thursday, September 5, at 7:00pm CDT.

The Rev. Meredith Harber will lead our conversation on the topic of starting over.
Participants are encouraged to bring their friends!

Please use the link below to register and be sure to pass this invitation along!
<https://boldcafe.org/dinner>

Do you know about WELCA events?
Check out our calendar and see how you can [get involved!](#)

Church Council Highlights August 2024

The Fall season always has a sense of anticipation of the fellowship ahead. Discussions in the council meeting included the moms' event on September 13th, the kickoff of Sunday School with the packing of school supplies for the God's Work Our Hands project, the return of confirmation classes and the Celebration of Confirmation in November. There will also be a Red Cross Blood Drive on October 23rd.

In the financial health of the church, June was a favorable month for revenue and July, predictably, was less favorable. There were expenses incurred with the necessary maintenance of painting the church, inside and out, as well as tree trimming and landscape updating. A year-to-date picture of finances shows favorable to budget, some of this may be due to timing.

Continue reading Connections and Splash! for details on the many ways to be involved in Living Water life. As always, feel free to bring questions to any Council members (we have red name tags).



Thank you for your
Support!
IT MAKES A
DIFFERENCE!

IN MEMORY & HONOR
OF
DAVID GARRETT BECK
WE ARE HOSTING OUR
5TH ANNUAL



CLOTHING & DONATION DRIVE



AUGUST 2ND - SEPTEMBER 7TH



ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO
~ GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ~
WHO THEN SHARE THE ITEMS
WITH THE LESS FORTUNATE.



CALL OR TEXT ME @ 408-314-6671 & WE CAN A
ARRANGE TO PICK ITEMS UP, OR GET INFORMATION
ON WHERE THEY CAN BE DROPPED OFF
OR SHIPPED

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:
GENTLY USED MEN & WOMEN'S CLOTHING,
SOCKS, UNDERWEAR,
TRAVEL SIZE TOILETRIES,
BLANKETS, COATS, HOODIES, FOOTWEAR
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



For questions contact, Diane at 408-314-6671 or email dvan922@icloud.com

Piecemakers Quilting

September 4 and 18, 2024

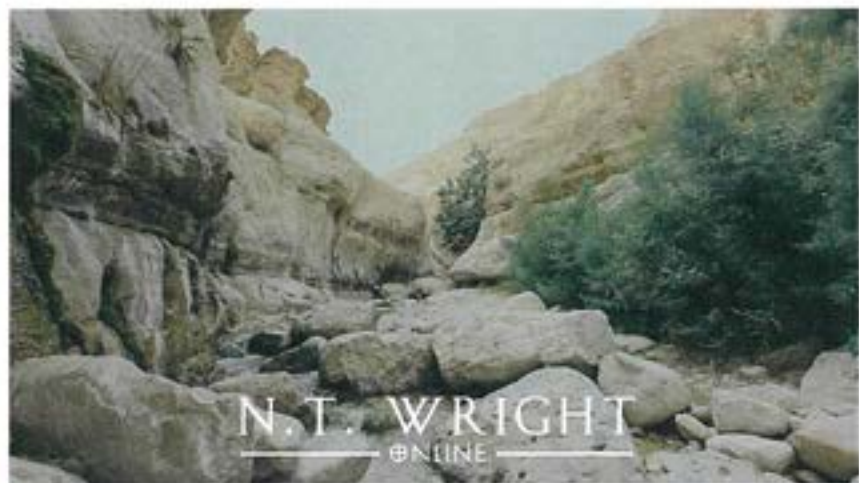
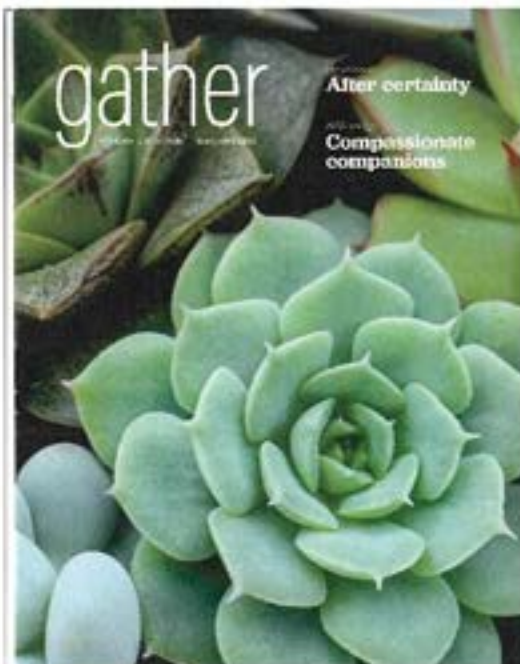


Come and tie quilts with us! Our quilting primarily supports Lutheran World Relief (LWR), and we also make quilts for refugee families and our high school graduates. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, from 9 am to about noon, in the Education Building on the first floor. Bring your 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 Lynda Cales, Kay Bonar, Mary Nyberg, Cindy Ophaug or Myrna Ulland. Learn more about this ministry at www.lwr.org

Tuesday Women's Bible Study Returns

Join us beginning Tuesday, Sept. 10, when we resume our regular Tuesday morning in-person and virtual Zoom connection Bible study at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin with the 3-session study on *After Certainty* from the Gather magazine summer issues, May/June and July/August. This study was written by ELCA pastor and now Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod, Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni. Drawing from Biblical texts and Lutheran tradition, we'll ponder what it means to live faithfully in times of uncertainty. And we'll see how God leads us beyond certainty to curiosity, community and compassion. Study material will be provided if you don't have your copies of the Gather magazine. (This is the study we attempted to do at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center on July 23 before Myrna got delayed trying to get out of New Orleans after the Youth Gathering!)



We'll trace themes of Jesus' authority throughout the Gospel, consider how to apply the new way of life as Jesus describes it, and discover faith as the appropriate human response to Jesus' message.

Both studies include some video, and we always include some meditative music and prayer. You don't need to purchase any material. Just bring your favorite Bible translation and connect with us for about 90 minutes each Tuesday morning. Coffee and hot water for tea/hot chocolate are provided. Occasionally we also have a treat! If you aren't on our email distribution list, please contact myrna.ulland@gmail.com to get our Tuesday Women messages. The Zoom link is always provided in advance.

Then, beginning on October 1, we are going to return to a favorite New Testament scholar, N.T. Wright, to take a deep dive into the Gospel of Matthew. This material will nearly fill up our schedule until Spring of 2025. We'll look at the structure and artistry of Matthew, how Matthew presents Jesus as God with us, authoritative over heaven and earth.

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*

*Join
Us!*

Reformation
Potluck
Luncheon
Sunday, October 27

If you enjoy good food, laughter and
the convivial company of friends...

Please bring your favorite dish to share at a good
old-fashioned Lutheran Potluck in celebration of
Reformation Day.
More details to follow.

All are welcome!



September birthdays

Jenna	Fjeld	9/2
Scott	Sims	9/4
Bill	Harris	9/7
Mark	Anderson	9/11
MaryLee	Sturgeon	9/11
Matthew	Umland	9/11
Scott	Donars	9/13
Charlie	Boyd	9/13
Mark	Rossman	9/14
Jill	Wehr	9/14
Rbn	Ressler	9/19



Gene	Perry	9/20
Linda	Coutts	9/22
Stephen	McCarthy	9/22
Diane	VanMaanen	9/22
Nancy	Philabaum	9/23
Gary	Fjeld	9/24
Jake	Titmas	9/26
Ginny	Alexander	9/30
Sarah	Dorsch	9/30
Jay	Lucas	9/30

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.