

February 2025

Splash!

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



PASTOR
Mark Rossman

PASTOR
Shari Bernau

OFFICE/COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER
Jennifer Kelsh

FINANCE MANAGER
Stephanie McLean

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Christina Hall

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
OF MUSIC
Scott Sims

www.LWLCAZ.org

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

- ALL impacted by the Los Angeles, CA Wildfires
- Pastor Shari Bernau—Hand Surgery Recovery
- Charlie Boyd—Health Concerns
- Terry Brooke (Daughter of Maria Tillotson)—Health Concerns
- Barbara Brooks—Health Concerns
- Lizzy Caddow (Friend of Diane Salinas)—Cancer
- David Cales (Brother of Gerry Cales)—Health Concerns
- Joyce Chattry (Friend of Tracy Rossman —Health Concerns
- Christi (Daughter of Charlie and Sue Boyd)—Health Concerns
- Angelika Dumpf (Wife of Brett Stone)—Health Concerns
- Jenna Fjeld—Health Concerns
- Dave and Joy Gallimore—Health Concerns
- Frank Gasparino—Health Concerns
- Vicki Grimsley (Mother of Mason Rossman)—Cancer
- Tyler Hornacek (Grandson of John and Sue Hornacek)—Life Concerns
- Mark Jacobson (brother of Lance Jacobson)—Health Concerns
- Dick Johnston—Health Concerns
- Kristin Klarkowski—Health Concerns
- Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- Michael Koch (Grandson of Ron & Shirley Koch)—Health Concerns
- Gabriele Laudenschlager—Health Concerns
- Prentice Powers (Marty Lindert's brother)—Health Concerns
- Rebecca (Melissa Freesh's sister)—Health Concerns
- Bonnie Roberts—Life Concerns
- Kathie Roegnik—Health Concerns
- Pastor Mark Rossman—Health Concerns
- 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
- Don Martin (Friend of Ron and Karen Roessler)—Health Concerns
- Del Rogge—Health Concerns
- Jeff & Eric Bembry (friends of Diane vanMaanen)—Health Concerns
- Pastor Michael Dubsy (friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Health Concerns
- Family and Friends of Pam Landon
- Family and Friends of Spencer Phinney (Suki Kisling's Brother)

Send your prayer requests to prayer@lwlcaz.org or fill out a card in the Narthex.

**If it is time to remove someone from the prayer list, please contact the front office.*

A Message from Pastor Mark

It is February. It is considered the month of love. February is the month that contains St. Valentine's Day, the day where we are to show our love to those who are special around us. It is not too terribly clear how this came about. In the tradition of the church, the commemoration known as St. Valentine's Day has to do with two Christian martyrs nearly 1800 years ago. While the truth of their stories has disappeared over time, what has also disappeared is the commemoration of their lives.

Since we do not know the truth of the matter concerning their lives, it does not seem to be that great of a loss for the church. But the fact of displacing their commemoration with a holiday that seems to have been created by a greeting card company, or worse, one that found its creation with some ancient pagan sexual festival seems to be a sad commentary concerning our way of life.

Now don't get me wrong, love is a good thing. But when we trivialize to the point of setting aside a single day to prove the point, that seems a little wrong. And love certainly cannot be distilled down to the point of being found in cards, candy, flowers, and jewelry. Love is something that goes far beyond those things. Biblically, there are over 150 references to the word love – 150. The fact that when God inspired the writers of the Bible, the fact that they were motivated to use that word so often has a great deal to say about the thinking of Christianity. Or at least where our thinking should be.

For us, February could be considered the gift of love month. It is the one time in the year that we set time aside to truly express our love. In this case, love is not expressed as much in flowers, cards, and candy, as it is in acts of love – expressed in what we do. God calls us to love one another, calls us to love our neighbors as our selves, calls us to love God with all our heart and mind and soul. These requests are big ticket items to fill, and all the candy and all the flowers in the world will not see that happen. What sees this type of love through has much more to do with the action of our lives – what we do with ourselves. What we do with ourselves, how we chose to live our lives, and the interactions we have with others, these are the ways we display the love – or lack thereof – we have to share with others.

For the people of Living Water love is not limited to a single month. Love seems to be a lifestyle here. It is exhibited in the things that we do, the time that is shared, the tasks we accomplish, the compassion shown, the programs we support, the ministry that we do. As a people we understand that what we give we do in the name of Christ. Giving and caring not for ourselves, but for the sake of others. All in the name of Christ. When you take all we do and wrap it together what we find is that our ministry is truly a gift of love. A gift not just shared on February 14th, but a gift of love that is seen in the lives we lead.

Now this does not mean that on the 14th the cards, candy, flowers, and all the rest should not be sent out and shared with those important to us. But if we are so determined in seeing this celebration of love through, then we should be equally focused on making the other 364 days of the year equally as special. Not by showering that special someone with those gifts every day. But rather, on those days, finding a way to express the love we hold for God and for the world. In doing so, perhaps people will understand what God has given us is truly a Gift of Love, and it is a gift that we are asked to simply pass on and share with those around us.

Pastor Mark

Church Council Highlights January 2025

The top agenda item for the January meeting was finalizing the budget for the coming year. Creating a budget is an important and time-consuming process for any organization and we thank Treasurer Steve Umland for his work.

The new budget, along with the final totals of the financials for 2024 were summed up by Steve like this, "Financials for 2024 and the budget for 2025 are essentially break even." This is great news. Clean books for a congregation are the result of the generous giving of the membership, so a big thank you to all.

Another agenda item was preparing for the Annual Congregational Meeting. At that meeting there will be a recap of 2024, a review of the 2025 budget and new council members elected. Many thanks to outgoing council person Jay Hoenig.

As we move into our 25th Anniversary year, we have much for which to be grateful and much to celebrate. We also look forward to continuing Living Water's mission of service in the future.

Ask Zeke



FEBRUARY

Living Water's 24/7 office fish is fishing for blood donors

Q. I was shocked when I learned just one auto accident victim can need as many as 100 units of blood. Where does all the blood come from?

A. Blood can't be manufactured. It's provided by volunteers who are willing to roll up their sleeves and donate. Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood or platelets. That adds up to nearly 30,000 units of red blood cells daily. The American Red Cross provides about 40% of the blood and blood components needed nationwide. It receives red blood cells from donors. Unfortunately, only 3% of age-eligible people donate yearly.

About 46% of people have Type O blood. This type serves as the universal donor for emergencies and surgeries. Arizona's Type O supply hit an 18-month low last summer. Though teenagers are the largest donor group, there aren't any school blood drives during the summer recess. Hence the significant drop in the supply of blood, which must be used within 42 days (or less).

LWLC has committed to provide the American Red Cross with space for quarterly blood drives. Donors include LWLC members and people living or working in this general area. One LWLC donor, whom I'll call BD, estimated he's giving blood around three times yearly for a half-century.

It began with his employer's blood bank. For 15 years, BD contributed to the bank. His donations ensured access to blood if he or his spouse needed it. Meanwhile, his red blood cells have been a godsend for innumerable recipients. BD has A negative blood, a type shared by 8% of the population. His A negative red blood cells can be used to treat around 40% of the population. After more than 150+ blood draws, BD continues to roll up his sleeve.

LWLC is hosting a blood drive this month on Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 9am to 2pm. Donors need to register in advance. Details are available in *CONNECTIONS*. I know BD will be there. How about you?

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.

Adult Forum
February 2, 16

Join Rev. Robert Hutson for
conversations about
Luther's Small Catechism.

Sunday Mornings
February 2, 16
9:00-9:45am

in the *Psalms room* (2nd story
of the Education Building)

join us for
Living Water's
Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 9th
directly after service



Tuesday Women's Bible Study

Join us on any Tuesday morning at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall, or at 10 am via Zoom, to continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew. We're using material from New Testament scholar, N.T. Wright.

No prior knowledge of the Bible is needed, and you don't have to be Lutheran either. Come as you can, bring a friend and your favorite Bible

translation. The coffee and hot water for tea/hot chocolate will always be on. Occasionally we also have a little treat. We meet for approximately 90 minutes on Tuesday mornings. If you're not receiving our Tuesday Women email communications, please notify myrna.ulland@gmail.com to be added.



Dennis Nelson Bible Study

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
\$8 for breakfast



Piecemakers Quilting

Join us on February 5 and 19

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. We also accept donations of 100% cotton appropriate for quilting work, as well as donations to purchase batting. Many hands make light work! Questions? Ask Lynda Cales, Kay Bonar, Mary Nyberg, Cindy Ophaug, Lois Lucas or Myrna Ulland. Learn more about this ministry at www.lwr.org

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*

Blood Drive
Living Water Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall
9201 E. Happy Valley Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Wednesday, February 26, 2025
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information or to make an appointment,
please call the American Red Cross at 1(800) 733-2767
or log onto redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: LivingWater



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

**Create a flurry of hope! Come give blood Jan. 27 to Feb.
28 for a \$15 e gift card rcblood.org/flurry**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

New Member Class

Saturday March 8 from 4:00 to 6:00pm.

Are you curious about **membership** at
Living Water Lutheran Church?



If so, we would love for you to join us for an informative
Orientation and dinner learn more about Living Water
followed by dinner
on **Saturday March 8 from 4:00 to 6:00pm.**

If **you** would like to attend, please **rsvp** via the
front office:

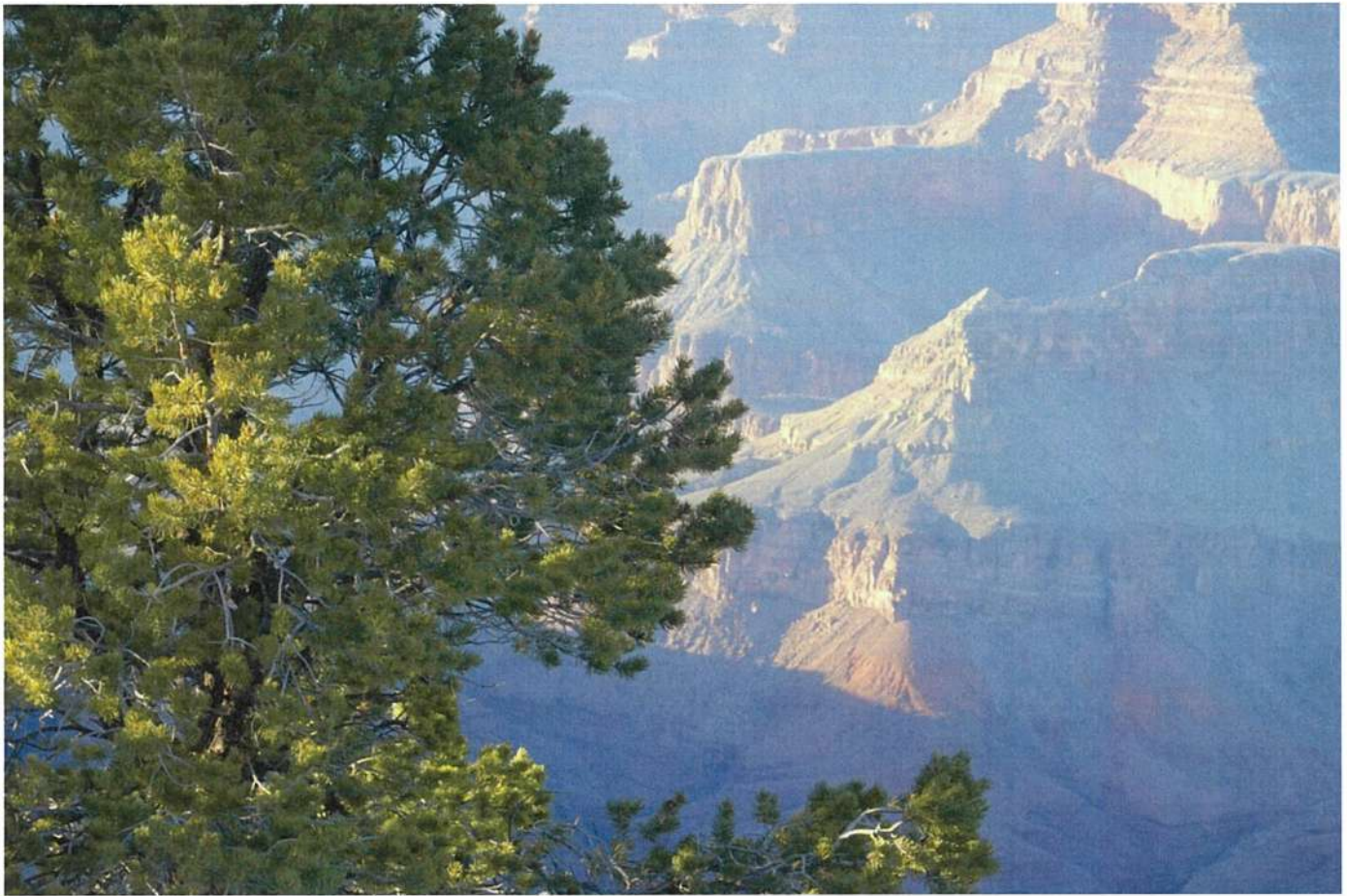
via phone: **480-473-8400**

or

email: **office@lwlcaz.org**

(subject: New Member Orientation)

New Member Class on 3/8



Deepen your connection to our Grand Canyon Synod

Sign up for the Synod Newsletter!

You are invited to subscribe to the Grand Canyon weekly synod e-newsletter. It arrives in your in-box every Friday morning at 8 a.m. The newsletter offers a wealth of stories from congregations and ministries within our synod, uplifting tales of faith in action, and insights into the work being done at the ground level within our broader church. The newsletter also brings you news from the partner ministries and organizations at the synod level, Region 2, the wider ELCA, and even updates from the global church, including Lutheran World Federation.

Be inspired by the work of others and help us weave a tighter fabric of community across our synod and beyond. Click one of the links below to subscribe:

[Get our newsletter — Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA](#)

<https://www.gcsynod.org/newsletter>

Open the Door to Do More



When I came to the city of Troas to preach the Good News of Christ, the Lord opened a door of opportunity to me.

II Corinthians 2:12

Living Water's 25th Anniversary

Sunday, April 27

10:00am Worship

5:00pm Dinner at Troon North Golf Club

\$50.00 per person

Reservations through February



*Please join us next week
for a Celebration of Life for
Pam Landou*

Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Living Water Lutheran Church


9201 E. Happy Valley Rd

Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Reception Following

*Please do not wear black, Pam's wishes
were that you wear bright colors.*

*In lieu of flowers, Pam asked that donations be made
to Living Water Lutheran Church in her memory.*



You are invited to a
Gourmet Valentine's Breakfast
Sunday, February 9 ~ 11:45am

It's \$25 to attend and proceeds go
toward Youth Mission Trip to
South Dakota.

Sign up starting on
January 12.

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
Trisha	Schmidt	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**

The Living Water
QR code for giving:



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.