

January 2025

Splash!

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



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

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Happy
New Year
2025



9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

We Remember in Our Prayers

- Charlie Boyd—Health Concerns
- Eric Brash—Health Concerns
- Terry Brooke (Daughter of Maria Tillotson)—Health Concerns
- Barbara Brooks—Health Concerns
- Lizzy Caddow (Friend of Diane Salinas)—Cancer
- Joyce Chatry (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
- Carol Gasser—Health Concerns
- Vicki Grimsley (Mother of Mason Rossman)—Cancer
- David Henderson (Brother-in-law of Judy Tornowke)—Health Concerns
- Tyler Hornacek (Grandson of John and Sue Hornacek)—Life Concerns
- Dick Johnston—Health Concerns
- Kristin Klarkowski—Health Concerns
- Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- Michael Koch (Grandson of Ron & Shirley Koch)—Health Concerns
- Connor Kokott (Grandson of Erika Diaz)—Back Surgery
- Gabriele Laudenschlager—Health Concerns
- Merle (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
- 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 Dubsky (friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Health Concerns

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 Shari

It's 2025 and it's a year for new possibilities, adventures, relationships and perspectives! It's exciting to think how God can work to turn things around or change things, or even turn them right side up. We just never know what could happen. Of course, we may have a pretty good idea of what will happen. We have a routine, and we have plans, but who knows what people God will put in our pathway, or what opportunities might present themselves. It's a beautiful thing to have hope and be ready for what God has in store for us.

However, some days it's so hard to have hope. As I type this, my hand really hurts and I am not happy about the fact that I have surgery scheduled to repair the nerve in my finger in a few days. And, I'm not happy that I will have more acute pain and swelling for days following the surgery. But, this little bump in my road reminds me of the pain that many people experience on a daily basis, not only physically, but also mentally and emotionally. And, pain makes it difficult to have hope for better days. It's hard to see past it. We, as human beings, have a tendency to turn into ourselves when we are in pain. It's not until we are through it, that we see where God was working all along.

Singer and Song Writer, Zach Williams, wrote a song called "There was Jesus." I love this song because it reminds us of how God was there all along, working through the big and little things and holding out his hand to help us. Below are some of the lyrics of the song. I hope they resonate with you as you reflect on where God has been working in your life from your very beginning to today.

-Pastor Shari



*Every time I tried to make it on my own
Every time I tried to stand and start to fall
And all those lonely roads that I have travelled on
There was Jesus*

*When the life I built came crashing to the ground
When the friends I had were nowhere to be found
I couldn't see it then but I can see it now
There was Jesus*

*In the waiting, in the searching
In the healing and the hurting
Like a blessing buried in the broken pieces
Every minute, every moment
Where I've been and where I'm going
Even when I didn't know it or couldn't see it
There was Jesus*

Ask Zeke



JANUARY

Living Water's 24/7 office fish recommends ways to get involved

Q. I've been a Living Water member for about a year. I want to be involved in something that I could contribute to. I also want to get to know more people. Any suggestions?


A. Participating in one of Living Water's ministries is a great way to meet people. I encourage you to think about the skills and talents that you could share. For instance, are you a photographer? Do you like working with kids? Are you a whiz with A/V equipment and/or computers? Any chance you like to sing? Do you enjoy baking? Are you a tall guy who can reach places others can't? Do you like to crochet, knit, or quilt?

There are oodles of options for volunteering. For starters, you might want to take a look at the latest Annual Report. It's available online. After you login to lwlcwz.org, click on "ABOUT US" and then scroll down to "2023 ANNUAL REPORT." You'll find a lengthy list of ways to help out on pages 10 and 11. Subsequent pages provide information about all these ministry teams' activities. If something piques your interest, contact the leader of that team to learn more. Or maybe you were involved in something at a previous congregation and think it might be a good fit at Living Water. Our pastors are receptive to fresh ideas.

While all of the above suggestions will get you started, I want to put in a plug for two Living Water weekly Bible studies: the Tuesday Women's Study, which meets in our Fellowship Hall on Tuesday mornings, and the Men's Breakfast Bible Study, which meets at Spirit in the Desert on Thursday morning. By participating, you can interact with lots of people and potentially find your niche (or niches) at Living Water.

In closing, I'll share a surefire way you can become acquainted with lots of Living Water people. All you need to do is sign up for the ever-popular Saints and Sinners gatherings in February and March. Stay tuned for details!

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.



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.

Adult Forum
January 5 and 19th

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

Sunday Mornings
January 5th and 19th
9:00-9:45am

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

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
\$7 for breakfast



25th Anniversary

Living Water
Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 27

10:00am Worship at Living Water

5:00pm Dinner at Troon North Golf Club

Stay tuned for more details.



Piecemakers Quilting

Join us on January 8 and 22

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



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](mailto:myrna.ulland@gmail.com) to be added.

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*

TRUST *in*

the LORD

with ALL

YOUR 

PROVERBS 3:5

January Birthdays!

Henry	Ruff	1/5
Andy	Ophaug	1/7
Jillian	Decker	1/8
Liz	Gilkey	1/9
Susan	Johnson	1/9
Dave	Sleeper	1/10
Judy	Tornowske	1/13
Flynn	Shelmire	1/13
Erik	Laudenschlager	1/16
Donald	Pick	1/18

Kevin	Ruff	1/18
Jeffrey	Dorsch	1/19
Dan	Bonar	1/20
Tana	Harlan	1/20
Steve	Smith	1/20
Karen	Syversen	1/21
Cherrie	Heidemann-Oglesby	1/23
Sandy	Moses	1/23
Rick	Sherrin	1/23
Tamey	Manalli	1/26
Mike	Freesh	1/30



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**

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.