

JUNE 2025

Splash!

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



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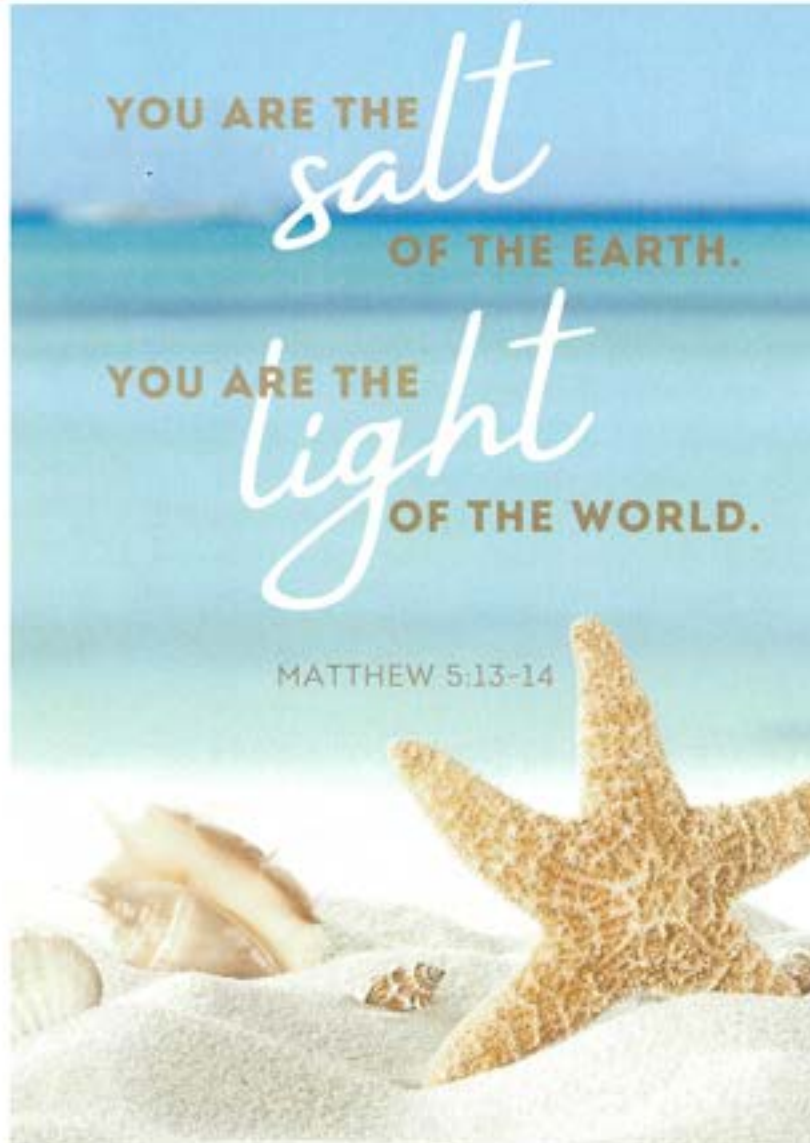
Prayer List

Pastor's Message

Ask Zeke

Studies & Retreats

News & Events



9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

We Remember in Our Prayers

- Amanda (Daughter of Cherrie Heidemann-Oglesby)—Health Concerns
- Jeff & Eric Bembry (Friends of Diane vanMaanen)—Health Concerns
- Charlie Boyd—Health Concerns
- Barbara Brooks—Health Concerns
- Lizzy Caddow (Friend of Diane Salinas)—Cancer
- Christi (Daughter of Charlie and Sue Boyd)—Health Concerns
- Katie Dawson (Daughter of Tod and Bonnie Dawson)—Health Concerns
- Angelika Dumpf (Wife of Brett Stone)—Health Concerns
- Jenna Fjeld—Health Concerns
- Dave and Joy Gallimore—Health Concerns
- Frank Gasparino—Health Concerns
- Kyle and Tyler Hornacek (Grandsons of John and Sue Hornacek)—Life Concerns
- Carol Jacobson—Recovering from Surgery
- Dick Johnston—Health Concerns
- Dan Kempf (Brother of Myrna Ulland)—In Hospice
- Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- Jill Knorra—Health Concerns
- Gabriele Laudenschlager—Health Concerns
- Gordon Lindert—Health Concerns
- Betty McCarthy (Sister of Stephen McCarthy)—Health Concerns
- Prentice Powers (Brother of Marty Lindert)—Health Concerns
- Bonnie Roberts—Life Concerns
- Kathie Roegnik—Health Concerns
- Del Rogge—Heart Concerns
- Pastor Mark Rossman—Recovering from Surgery
- Mel Simms (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Life Concerns
- Kristen Stenehjelm (Niece of Sue and Lee Stenehjelm)—Health Concerns
- Ted Stump—Health Concerns
- Bob Ulland—Health Concerns
- Michael Umland (Son of Steve & Sue Umland)—Health Concerns
- Peter Vasiliades (Nephew of Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns
- Friends and Family of Rebecca Larson (Sister of Melissa Freesh)
- Friends and Family of Gary Ruff (Father of Kevin Ruff)

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 has been an experience that has taken place on a nearly annual basis for over thirty years. While the number of folks participating seems to change just about every year and the location of the house has moved a number of times, one of my favorite vacation experiences is the annual extended family vacation gathering in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. And it is something that is less than a week away! (Actually, by the time you read this, it may be all but a memory)

It started years ago with everyone on my father's side of the family - his brother and sister, their spouses and all their children. Three houses, lots of people, food, sun, fun and chaos all mixed together. Over the years this has been a vacation I have looked forward to attending because of the opportunity to reconnect and relax with people I love in such delightful surroundings. But there have been years that showing up there was not a possibility Those years - the ones I could not go - they left me as a pretty glum fellow.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, I know that we are not to be upset about such things, but I have come clean with this one - after all, it is one of those things that is part of my life - something I have made a very regular part of my life. I want to make sure that I do this *every* year. And to be clear, wanting something, dreaming about obtaining something, striving to see that we gain something we really, really want is not a bad thing at all. It can motivate us, it can push us, it can help us strive to reach greater heights, but it can also skew our Christian perspective - and that is where we need to be a bit cautious.

Wanting to go on vacation, wanting a new car, a bigger house - whatever it may be - these are not bad dreams or misguided goals. They do become a problem however if we strive to obtain things such as these at the expense of the more important things of life.

The lives we live are gifts from God. The people who surround us are also gifts from God. The body of Christ - the church - is a gift from God. In all of these gifts, there is a responsibility we hold not only to recognize the above as gifts, but to care for them and utilize them to the very best of our ability. As caretakers of God's world, we are the ones who have been given responsibility to see that this is so, that we care for the gifts that God has bestowed upon us. And it is that responsibility which must remain foremost in our hearts and our minds.

As we enter the summer season, we enter the world of escape and get away. While these are important parts of our lives to help us recharge and renew our sense of self, they are also things which cannot be done at the expense of what God has given to us to care for and maintain. While the thoughts of vacation encourage ideas of escaping the responsibilities of our everyday life, these same thoughts do not allow us to abandon the things for which we are responsible.

A good vacation can be defined as one in which we find the desire not to return - especially to work. And while that may be our desire, the fact remains that our responsibilities cannot allow that to happen. So too, can the same be said about that which God has entrusted to our care. No matter what we do, no matter where we go, let us never leave behind the things that God has placed in our care. For these are the things of God, and to think that he has entrusted us to care for them - well, that is bigger than any dream we could ever dream.

Have a safe and blessed summer.

Pastor Mark

Ask Zeke



June

Living Water's 24/7 office fish introduces a ministry that advocates for the needy in Arizona

Q. Last month we had a guest speaker whose sermon mentioned an organization called LAMA. What is LAMA?

A. LAMA is short for Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona. This organization is a ministry of the ELCA and the Grand Canyon Synod. LAMA's mission statement is as follows: LAMA joins with the most vulnerable of our society to voice our common needs in the public square, activating our faith in love.

The function of this important ministry is based upon the following statement in the ELCA's Constitution: *To participate in God's mission, this church shall: ... Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating justice and dignity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and the powerless and committing itself to their needs.*

LAMA's role is to advocate for justice in areas such as hunger and civic engagement. It also advocates for water access with and for people who have limited or no political power. These important issues are addressed through advocacy networks that LAMA establishes with congregations and ministry partners here in Arizona. Its ministry partners include Arizona Anti-Hunger Alliance, Arizona Faith Network, Arizona Food Bank Network, Arizona Food Systems Network, Bread for the World, GCS Hunger Leader's Network, Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, and WHEAT.

Every year LAMA sponsors *Lutheran Day at the Legislature*. This event gives Lutherans, and their friends, a chance to meet with their legislators and bring up issues that concern them.

LAMA is funded through grants and gifts from congregations and individuals. To learn more about this advocacy ministry visit LAMA's website (www.lamaz.org).

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.

2025 VBS



Registration is now open for our 2025 Vacation Bible School program. Join us the week of June 16 for a week filled with great Bible stories, fun games, awesome crafts, fabulous music and a delicious take-home snack.



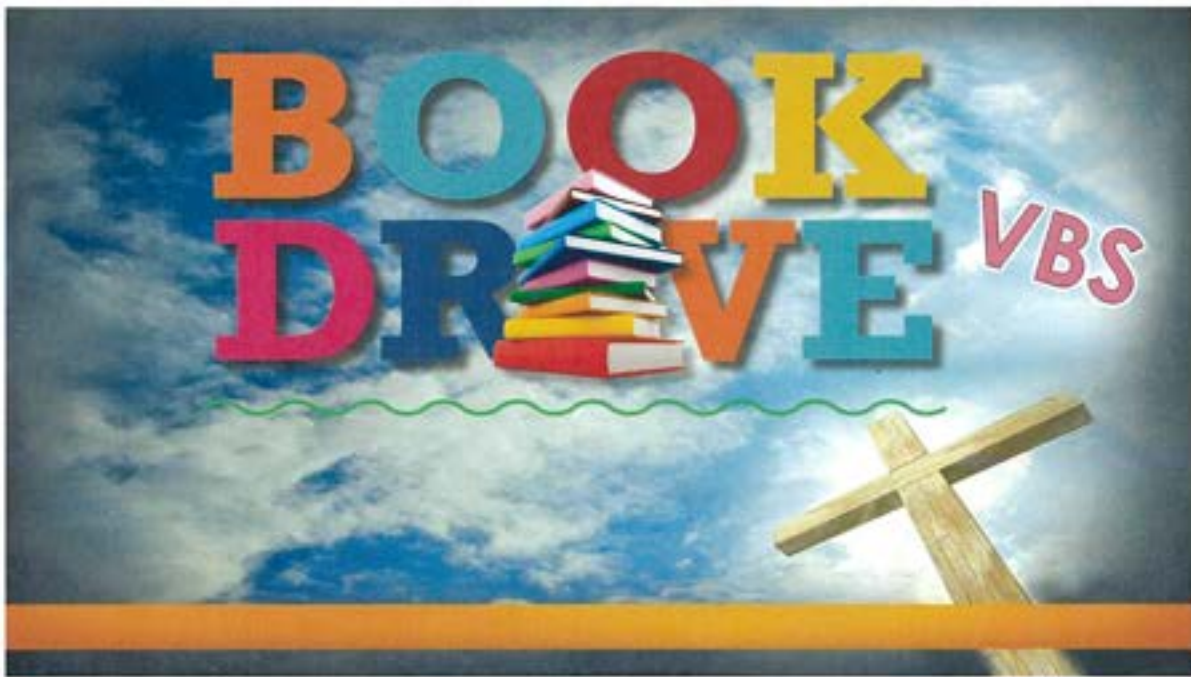
Date: June 16-20

Time: 9 - 11:30am



Go to <https://lwlcaz.org/vbs2025/> or click on the Education tab on our church website to register. We welcome children age 4 through 6th grade. Registration is free and every child receives a one-of-a-kind soft and comfortable t-shirt. Please spread the word to your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors.

Interested in volunteering? Please contact Kris Crow at kcrow737@gmail.com. Youth going into 7th grade in the fall through age 90+ are invited to participate. You won't want to miss this amazing multi-generational event!



VBS BOOK DRIVE THROUGH JUNE 20

The 2025 VBS Mission Project Book Drive has kicked off!

We're once again collecting new and "gently-used" books, **especially books for children from kindergarten through 8th grade**. All books and magazines, especially magazines with recipes, are distributed through Sue Brash's connections with Delivering Dreams of AZ (a new name/organization replacing Phoenix Assistance League) and other organizations here in the Valley. A "gently-used" book is defined by Ima Bookworm as one with 1) no rips or tears, 2) no writing, and 3) no worm holes. Think of it as a book in a condition you'd love to receive! Your donation may be the first book owned by a fortunate student!

Please bring in your books – for kids, or for any age through adult - from now until June 20 and place them in the Book Drive basket in the church entryway. A bookcase will be up after Easter to help collect incoming books! We've also received a \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant to purchase additional books! No books to donate? You can help us buy more new or gently used books with your donation of cash or check. Monetary gifts can be amplified! A gift of \$5 turns into dozens of books through the expert shopping by Sue Brash. Please note "VBS Book Drive" on your donation. Thank you on behalf of the kids, and organizations, who will be blessed by your support. Questions? Contact Myrna Ulland and/or Sue Brash.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study is taking a Summer Break
We'll see you in September!



Tuesday Women's Bible study concluded on May 20th and will resume our regular schedule in September. Watch for an announcement about a possible summer event at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center, using the summer Bible study from the Gather magazine. "Where two or more are gathered: Flourishing in relationships" by the Rev. Brooke Petersen. You can subscribe to Gather for only \$19.95 for four jam-packed print issues each year. When you subscribe, you also have digital access so you can read it wherever you are! Visit www.gathermagazine.org for subscription information.

Church Council Highlights May 2025

The agenda for the council meeting in May was reflective of the church heading into "summer mode." Sunday School, Adult Forum, Confirmation, Choir, and many other activities will take a break until fall.

The mission trip participants leave early on June 7th for a service and fun-filled trip to South Dakota.

Vacation Bible School will be June 16-20, with 20 kids and many volunteers ready to jump into this fun week.

On the financial front, offerings for April were somewhat lower than normal, and there was an added expense of a new AC unit in the kitchen.

For those who are leaving for the hot months, we will miss you and look forward to seeing you soon, for everyone else, stay cool!

Just a reminder that our **Youth Mission Trip** is coming up on **Saturday, June 7**, as we head to the **Lake Traverse Reservation in South Dakota**. This is a meaningful opportunity for our youth to serve, learn, and grow in faith as they connect with the community there.

We ask that you please keep us in your prayers—for safe travels, open hearts, and a spirit of compassion and service throughout the trip.

Thank you for your prayers!



Piecemakers Quilters on Summer Break!

We will take a break from tying quilts during the summer. Look for an announcement when we resume in September!

If you like to sew and are looking for some small projects during the summer heat, we always have quilt tops ready to be assembled. 12 or 16 pieces, using $\frac{1}{2}$ " seams. Assemble at your leisure! Ask Lynda Cales, Kay Bonar, Mary Nyberg or Myrna Ulland. You can also learn more about this ministry at www.lwr.org/quilts-and-kits



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

\$8 for breakfast

Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center

7415 East Elbow Bend Rd.

Carefree, AZ 85377



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*

JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

Virginia Conrad	6/1	Sam Winter	6/16
Karen Sherrin	6/3	David Schroedel	6/20
Suki Kisling	6/4	Erica Cole	6/22
Sarah Shelmire	6/4	Vanessa Alberti	6/23
Madison Wanek	6/5	Lynda Cales	6/23
Michelle Brown	6/6	Elen Schoenbeck	6/23
Denny Dumber	6/6	Lou Handley	6/25
Terry Nelson	6/6	Missy Laudenschlager	6/25
Joyce Bash	6/9	Tracy Rossman	6/29
Richard Gunderson	6/14	Hunter Brown	6/30
Sharon Westergreen	6/14	Sue Boyd	6/30



Happy Birthday ALL!



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.