

May 2025

# Splash!

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



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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](http://www.LWLCAZ.org)

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Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.



9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

## *We Remember in Our Prayers*

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

*Send your prayer requests to [prayer@lwlcaz.org](mailto: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 was a glorious day on Sunday, April 27, 2025 as we celebrated 25 years of Living Water Lutheran Church in North Scottsdale. And, I truly believe the Holy Spirit was active throughout all the stages of planning and execution of the event. Even thinking back to last fall, when the plans were just starting to get in place, it was clear that the Holy Spirit was guiding the way. It all started when Pastor Mark made a phone call to our Founding Pastor Tim Selbo to see if he was available to join us. We were so happy when he said yes. Then we knew we could truly get the ball rolling. After that, we started working on Pastor Mark's vision of worship at Living Water in the morning and then a dinner offsite that didn't require any work or food preparation from our volunteers. You see, we felt it was important that everyone have the opportunity to relax and enjoy the festivities. And, when we found that Troon North Golf Club was also available on that date, we knew Pastor Mark's vision was going to become reality. We were so pleased that they could accommodate the size of our group and that it wasn't very far from our church. In addition, the process of working with their Catering Manager, Taylor Doane, was so wonderful. Not only that, it was a joy to work with Jill Wehr and Julie Ann Walker, who truly cared about every detail and providing a good experience for everyone.

This type of celebration is important in the life of a church for several reasons:

**First of all, it fosters a sense of unity among members.** This was apparent as Pastor Tim asked people to stand who recently became members, and those who had been here 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years. At the end, when almost everyone was standing, it was apparent we were united as one body of Christ and it didn't matter how long you had been here.

**Second, it provides an opportunity for thanksgiving for all of God's blessings.** During worship and at the dinner, we were able to recall and give thanks for some of the happy times and challenges that brought us to where we are today: a vibrant and healthy congregation.

**Third, it marks our journey of faith, honoring the past while looking forward with hope and vision.** At the dinner, Pastor Tim Selbo, Ron Roessler, and Carol Jacobson told stories of the many blessings they encountered along the way as Living Water was just starting, and up until today. Then, at the conclusion of the event, President Darnell Pettengill presented us with a new challenge: to pay off the mortgage in the next four years. It is our hope that if we are able to accomplish this, we will be freed up "to do more" ministry and make a bigger difference in the name of Christ.

It is so apparent that the Holy Spirit is alive and active at Living Water Lutheran Church. Let us pray that it will continue to guide us into an amazing future!

## **Living Water Council Highlights for April**

April's Church Council meeting included the discussion of final plans for the 25th Anniversary celebration. By the time you read this, the party will be part of our history, too. Our great thanks to the gala speakers, Pastor Tim Selbo and everyone who lovingly spent months making this a meaningful and fun day filled with memories and fellowship. As we move into the future, we continue to Open the Door to Do More!

There was also discussion of "routine" building maintenance. The air conditioning to the kitchen failed and has been replaced. If you can read your Connections more easily, it is because the lighting in the sanctuary and fellowship hall has been updated.

Financially, we are passing out of the four highest budgeted giving months of the year. According to treasurer Steve Umland, it appears that the offerings have been about on target. This is good news as we move into the quieter summer months.

Speaking of quieter, a thank you to the choir for their addition to worship and best wishes to Christina Hall as she welcomes her baby. Godspeed to our members who are leaving for cooler climates.



# Ask Zeke



## May

*Living Water's 24/7 office fish shares "seasoned wisdom"*

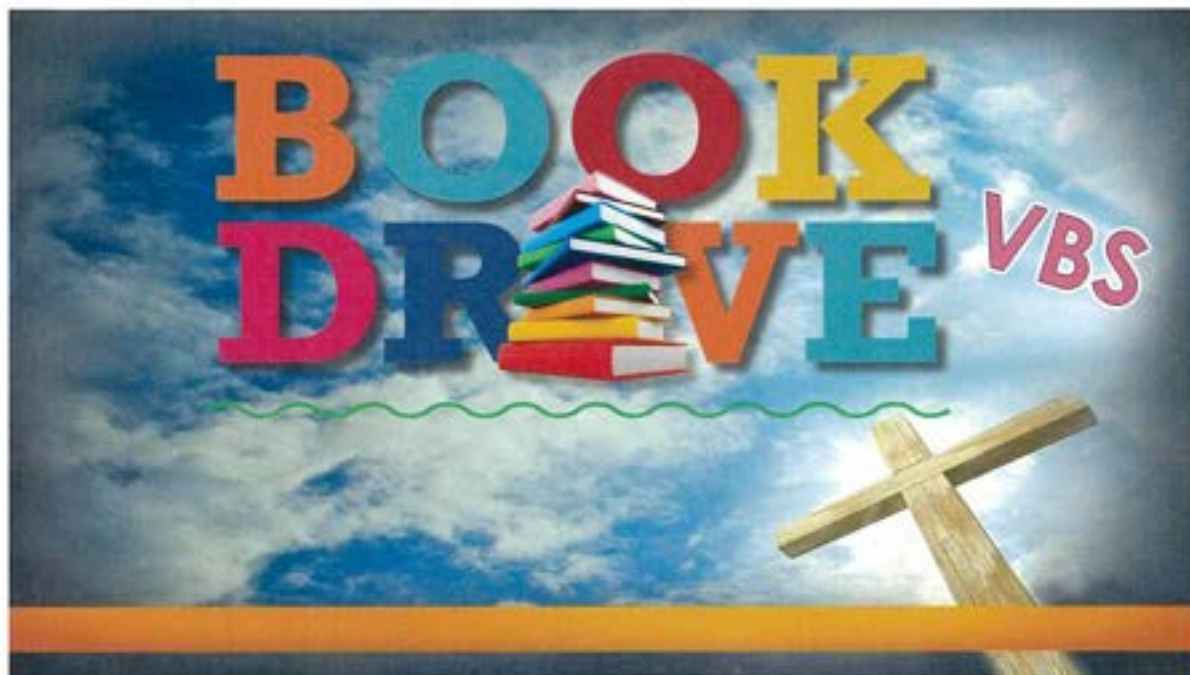
**Q.** Hi Zeke. I'm a member of the Tuesday Women's Study. Most of us are 65 or older. Last month, our leader asked us to anonymously write down a bit of wisdom we had shared with a younger person. Would you consider sharing our "seasoned wisdom" in your May column?

**A.** It's my pleasure to share your "seasoned wisdom" with the congregation. Your timing is perfect since May is the month young people are graduating and moving on to further education or the job market. I think your bits of wisdom may also be helpful for others as well.

**Wisdom** is all about love and giving. + **God's** unconditional love I have learned and witnessed as I experienced ups and downs in life. + **Always** be kind and truthful. + **Start** a ROTH IRA and contribute monthly. + **Be** true to yourself. + **Always** be kind and remember Jesus. + **Your** college future at that school is in God's hands regarding scholarship funds. + **Don't** expect others to be perfect. I'm not perfect. + **Life** has many turns which may not be like "your" life plan. + **Think** carefully before you speak. + **God** is always with me and will take care of me. + **Have** one important goal every year. + **Think** before speaking. + **Being** flexible is helpful. + **Young** women pursuing getting marriage: "You can't live on love alone." + **Show** love for your partner - even as they age. + **Think** before you speak. Once you say it, you can't take it back!! + **Always** be truthful. + **Learn** from your mistakes. + **Don't** give up on God - He doesn't give up on you. + **Cooperation** and teamwork. + **Listen** before you speak. + **Be** kind to others. + **Always** let love prevail.

*Do you have a question for Zeke? E-mail it to him at [AskZeke@cox.net](mailto:AskZeke@cox.net) or contact his writing partner, Jill Wehr, at 480-710-4506.*





## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

# 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](mailto: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!



## Dollars for Diapers Drive to Benefit

### Alleluia Better Chance Diaper Closet



Alleluia Better Chance Diaper Closet provides diapers for 120-150 infants and toddlers impacting 90 to 110 families. This ministry was part of Alleluia Lutheran Church, which closed in 2022. It is now a stand alone, not-for-profit organization with a distribution center at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Phoenix, a location that has allowed the organization to increase the number of clients it serves.

Alleluia Better Chance Diaper Closet provides a two-week supply of diapers and wipes on the third Saturday of each month to approximately 150 infants and toddlers. This organization relies on donations in order to provide enough diapers to meet the needs of children in its service radius. Babies and toddlers need an average of 8 diapers a day (more for newborns). That means 112 diapers per child for two weeks (on average). With 120 to 150 infants and toddlers that is a lot of diapers!

Did you know that diapers cannot be bought with food stamps and are not provided as part of the WIC program? 30% of low-income moms report they cannot change their children's diapers as often as they would like. 32% of low-income families report re-using diapers to pay critical household expenses. Many families who need diapers are working parents, but their low-wage jobs do not cover the basic needs of their children. Childcare providers require parents to have a supply of disposable diapers – no diapers, no daycare - which may mean no employment for parents. In Arizona, one in four of our children lives below the Federal Poverty Line.

In the past we have given diapers, wipes, and dollars, but after discussion last year with the organization, it became clear that money is the easiest and most helpful donation we can make. A check from Living Water allows the Diaper Closet the ability to fill gaps in inventory quickly.

Alleluia needs our help. We are generous and giving congregation. Living Water's Service Ministry Team is kicking off a ***Dollars for Diapers Drive*** to support the Alleluia Better Chance Diaper Closet. By Mother's Day, May 11th, our goal is to collect enough dollars to meet the needs of this ministry for one month. With our gifts of dollars, we can help provide diapers for babies and toddlers in need.

**Please make your checks payable to Living Water Lutheran Church and note "Alleluia Diaper Closet" on the memo line.**





Monthly dinner  
with Boldcafe  
writers + friends  
(B.Y.O.D.)

**May 1**  
**@ 7 pm (CST)**

## BOLD CAFÉ BYOD

**May 1 at 5:00pm Arizona time**

Bring your own dinner/bring your own drink and join in the Zoom conversation to learn more about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) in preparation for MMIW Day on May 5.

Our host, Wanda  
our conversation about creating awareness and taking action to advocate for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

This is a free event, but pre-registration is required: [www.boldcafe.org/dinner](http://www.boldcafe.org/dinner)



## Piecemakers Quilting

**Join us on May 7 and 21**

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](http://www.lwr.org)

## **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**



**donate** *blood*

**DONATE LIFE**



**American  
Red Cross**

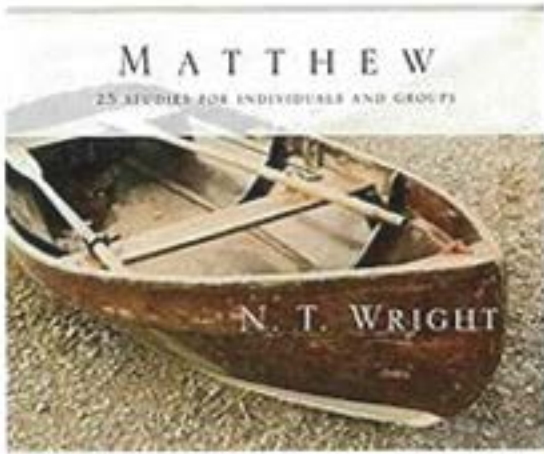
Blood drive at Living Water Lutheran  
Church Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, May 22nd, 2025**

**9:00am - 2:00pm**

Schedule your appointment by  
calling **1-800-733-2767**, use sponsor  
code '**Living Water**'.





## Tuesday Women's Bible Study

Join us on any Tuesday morning at 10 am MST in the Fellowship Hall, or at 10 am MST 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 and often go to lunch as a group on the last Tuesday of each month. 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*

# May BIRTHDAYS!

Patricia	Stump	5/2
Richard	Schmidt	5/3
Lynda	Breault	5/7
John	Haggard	5/7
Shirley	Perry	5/7
Grayson	Wanek	5/7
Ashley	Chmielewski	5/8
Nancy	Payne	5/8
Ondi	Pendergraft	5/10
Sue	Hornacek	5/11
Austin	Seeper	5/11
Wayne	Burrus	5/12

David	Gallimore	5/13
Steve	Yates	5/13
Cade	Laudenschlager	5/15
Ken	Bash	5/16
Gerry	Cales	5/19
Clark	Rose	5/19
Frank	Schmitt	5/19
Stephen	Lowe	5/23
Jim	Kreutzfeld	5/27
Megan	Sadler	5/27
Debra	Anderson	5/30
Kathie	Schroedel	5/31

## 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.