

SEPTEMBER 2025

# Splash!

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

*John 4:14*

In this new school year, God bless  
students, teachers and parents  
with rewarding learning experiences;  
and healthy personal/spiritual growth.



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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Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9



9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

## *We Remember in Our Prayers*

- Amanda (Daughter of Cherrie Heidemann-Oglesby)—Health Concerns
- Jeff & Eric Bemby (Friends of Diane vanMaanen)—Health Concerns
- Barbara Brooks—Health Concerns
- Lizzy Caddow (Friend of Diane Salinas)—Cancer
- Christi (Daughter of Charlie and Sue Boyd)—Health Concerns
- Debbie Connor (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Terminal Melanoma
- Adrian Corr (Brother-in-law of Brian Goebel, living in Turks)—Cancer
- Katie Dawson (Daughter of Tod and Bonnie Dawson)—Health Concerns
- Angelika Dumpf (Wife of Brett Stone)—Health Concerns
- Danica Enlow (Daughter-in-law of Leila Burrus)—Recovering From Surgery
- 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
- John (Friend of Diane vanMaanen)
- Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- Cherrie Oglesby—Health Concerns
- Jana Richter (Family Member of Henri & Lynda Breault)—Health Concerns
- Kathie Roegnik—Health Concerns
- Del Rogge—Heart Concerns
- Regan Shea (Friend of Pastor Mark)—Health Concerns
- Kristen Stenehjerm (Niece of Sue and Lee Stenehjerm)—Health Concerns
- Janet L. Swim (Sister of Brian Goebel)—Cancer
- Bob Ulland—Health Concerns
- Michael Umland (Son of Steve & Sue Umland)—Health Concerns
- Peter Vasiliades (Nephew of Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns
- Pr. Brian Weinberger (Bethlehem Lutheran in Mesa)—Recovering from  
an auto accident

*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

Every summer for the last 22 years that I have lived in the Valley of the Sun, I get a case of the "grass is greener." I literally get jealous of the green grass up in the Midwest and in cooler parts of the country. Of course, I also get jealous of their temperate weather, outside activities and simple enjoyment from spending time in the sun.

Now don't get me wrong, I like living in Arizona. It's an amazing state with such diverse landscapes, elevations and climates. The hiking opportunities are endless. Not to mention the rich Native American and Western history. I also really like the lower cost of living and the laid-back atmosphere. But, I can't help but always feel I am somehow missing out on something better during the blazing hot summers here. And, then I think about the Israelites who had left a terrible situation, made a long trek through the wilderness and then started to experience serious discontent.

Although God had miraculously delivered them from slavery from Egypt, their current menu option led them to tears as they longed for the food they had eaten in Egypt. "And the people of Israel also wept again and said, 'Oh that we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions and the garlic'" (Num. 11:4-5). It seems they didn't remember the food was only free in Egypt because they were slaves. The "grass is greener" syndrome blinded them from seeing the goodness of God in leading them out of slavery and providing for their needs in the wilderness.

God's Word gives us a different perspective. In Psalm 90:14, we find a prayer that helps us combat our natural bent to discontent: "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love that we may rejoice and be glad all our days." So whether we are tempted to think that a different job would make us happier, or a bigger house would solve our space issues, or losing weight would increase our confidence, we can look to the Lord to restore our gratefulness, gratitude and appreciation for where we are, what we have been given, and who we have become.

Pastor Shari

# Ask Zeke



## September

*Living Water's office fish shares the genesis and impact of the Northeast Valley Consortium*

**Q. I occasionally hear someone mention the Northeast Valley Consortium. What, pray tell, is it?**

**A.** Three years ago the Grand Canyon Synod and the Dean of our conference approached Living Water and three other churches – Christ the Lord (Carefree), New Covenant (Scottsdale), and New Journey (Fountain Hills) – about exploring ways to work together. Recently, the group welcomed a fifth ELCA congregation, Ascension Lutheran (Paradise Valley).

The creation of the Northeast Valley Consortium (NEVC) set the stage for these ELCA congregations to strengthen their relationships and mutually support one another in ministry. The NEVC is especially valuable in terms of offering parishioners more ministry and fellowship opportunities. It also seeks to develop a stronger outreach presence in communities surrounding NEVC churches.

Our pastors believe that joining forces makes us stronger together, particularly when Christian churches are experiencing overall membership and worship attendance declines. Pastor Shari views the NEVC as an opportunity: "I love to think creatively about how we can reach out to more people and be an even stronger body of Christ."

The consortium is a catalyst for sharing multiple gifts and strengths. LWLC, for example, has strong Bible study groups, Children and Youth Ministry (especially VBS), community service, and music and fellowship ministries. Our partners bring to the table strong music ministries, a preschool program, experience in interfaith relations and social ministries, and other assets. The NEVC's mix of resources paves the way for an array of joint endeavors, such as parishioners from other churches gathering at LWLC for presentations by Luther Seminary professors.

The NEVC has established an impressive track record since its formation in 2020. One recent example is our VBS Book Drive Mission Project. LWLC put the word out this year, and our partner congregations donated a boatload of books. To learn more about the NEVC's impact, I highly recommend you view a short video created by Pastor Shari (<http://lwlcaz.org/northeast-valley-consortium/>).

*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.*



## **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*

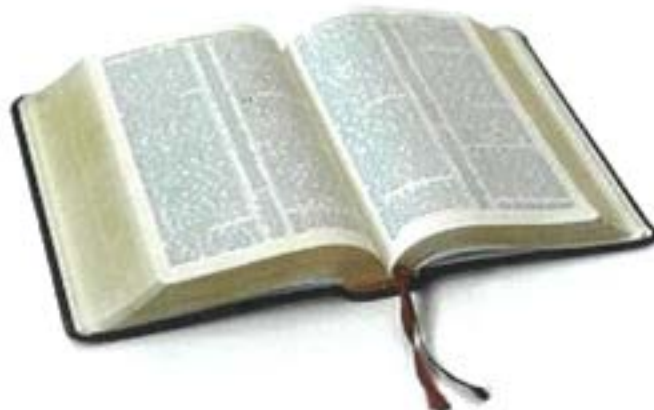
**We meet on Thursdays at 8:00am**

**\$8 for breakfast**

**Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center**

**7415 East Elbow Bend Rd.**

**Carefree, AZ 85377**





## Piecemakers Quilters in September

Join us on two Wednesdays in September when we resuming tying mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for a few hours:

Sept. 10 at 9 am – approx. noon

Sept. 17 at 9 am – approx. noon

No experience required! Come to the Education Building – Matthew/Mark

Room. Bring your coffee/tea for a mid-morning break. We are working to finish up a few more quilts before the Phoenix area LWR ingathering of quilts and kits on October 17-18.

If you like to sew and are looking for some small projects during this 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](http://www.lwr.org/quilts-and-kits)

**Join us on Sunday, September 14 at 10am**

**We will be sharing our stories and pictures from  
the 2025 Youth Mission Trip to South Dakota!**





# Join Our Church Choir!

Rehearsals start Wednesday,  
September 3 at 7pm.  
All are welcome!

Questions?  
Reach out to Christina at [challe@lwlc.org](mailto:challe@lwlc.org)



God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

THANK YOU, Living Water, for your generosity in getting us ready to participate in God's Work, Our Hands on Sunday, September 7, 2026. We have fulfilled our list of items for 100 personal care kits and more! Each item donated and each dollar collected will be used to provide personal care items for the homeless through the Arizona Faith Network.

Join us September 7 after the service to help assemble the personal care kits.  
God's Work, Our Hands!

# Confirmation



## Starting in September...

- Confirmation classes will be held two Sundays each month from 6:30-8:00pm.
- This is a two and a half-year program for middle school and high school students.
- We will be learning about the Old Testament, New Testament, Lutheran History, the Catechism and Lutheran Living. We look forward to a fun and relationship-building learning environment!
- Please let Pastor Shari [pastorshari@lwlcaz.org](mailto:pastorshari@lwlcaz.org) know if you have any questions.





# **Living Water Lutheran Church Grief Support Group**



**Have you lost a loved one recently or are you still grieving from a former loss? Everyone is welcome.**

Thanks to the request of members of Living Water and the encouragement of the Church Council and Pastors, this ministry is officially going to start this fall.

Group Facilitator: Diane Klumpp

Pastoral Support: Pastor Shari Bernau

**This is an 8-week program on Wednesdays 1:00-2:30pm  
running from October 1 – November 19**

Please call or email Pastor Shari Bernau to sign up  
480-473-8400 - [pastorshari@lwlcaz.org](mailto:pastorshari@lwlcaz.org)



Living Water Lutheran Church  
9201 E Happy Valley Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255  
\*Education Building

## Living Water's "Hunger Jar"



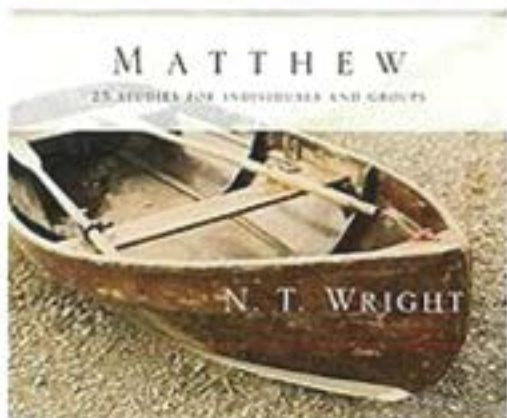
The large Hunger Jar is in the sanctuary during services, to the right of the water fountain. Offerings placed in the Hunger Jar are typically distributed 50/50 between local and international/global organizations or initiatives.

The Service and Caring Team Ministry at LWLC periodically determines how to distribute offerings to the Hunger Jar. Most recently, we split the 6/30/25 balance of **\$ 1,870**. We still allocated 50% locally but split it between three local organizations, St. Mary's Food Bank of Arizona and ELCA, Nourish Phx and Foothills Foodbank. Each received \$312. The 50% for the international portion was split between Lutheran World Hunger and Save My Starving Children. Each received \$467.

You are invited to make an offering to the Hunger Jar while the offering is being collected during the worship service. While the jar's tag line says, "Change for Change," your offering can be coins, bills, and even checks. And, if you prefer, you can donate through LWLC's online donation option and indicate "Hunger Jar."

From time to time, you may also see smaller Hunger Jar collection jars elsewhere in the church as we gather for worship. Each offering placed in the Hunger Jar is a reminder that our hungry neighbors, near and far, benefit from our generosity. Thank you!





## **Tuesday Women's Bible Study Resumes our 2025 Fall Schedule**

Beginning Tuesday, September 9, 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 still using material from New Testament scholar, N.T. Wright. We have 12 more weeks to finish this deep dive into this Gospel!

No prior knowledge of the Bible is needed, and you don't have to be Lutheran either. Come when you can, bring a friend, and bring your favorite Bible translation. We include prayers in our time together, prayers for those on our church's prayer list as well as individual prayers offered during our time together. The coffee and hot water for tea/hot chocolate will always be on. Occasionally we 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.



*You are cordially invited to attend the*

## **Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA** **Biennial Convention/Gathering**

**Saturday, November 8, 2025**

**Faith/La Fe Lutheran Church**

801 East Camelback Road Phoenix, Arizona 85014

*We will come together building relationships, across the synod,  
across the country and around the world!*



Special guests will include:

**Myrna Wells-Ulland**, *President of Churchwide Women of the ELCA*  
**Pastor Jacqui Pagel**, *Bishop's Associate for Candidacy & Faith Formation*  
**Connie Phillips**, *CEO & President of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest*

**Registration will open soon!**  
**Mark your calendars!**  
**Choose the Voting Member for your**  
**Congregational Unit!**  
**Watch for more information to come!**



# New Member Class

Saturday October 18th 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 October 18 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**

use subject: 'New Member Orientation'

## New Member Class on 10/18

# Reformation Potluck Luncheon

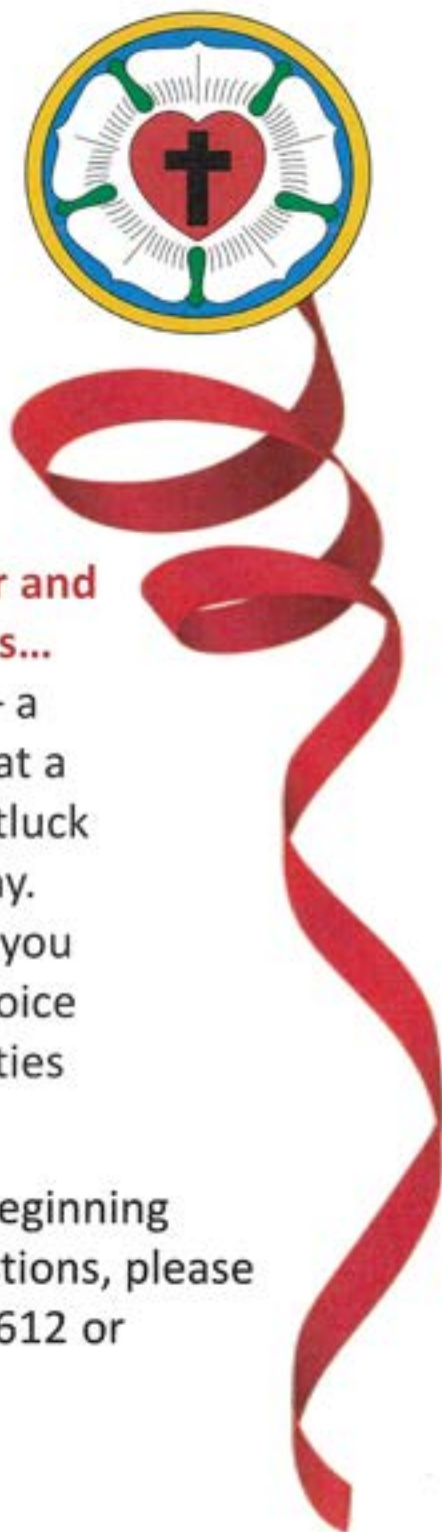
Sunday, October 26  
Following Service

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

Please bring your favorite dish – a main, side or dessert – to share at a good old-fashioned Lutheran Potluck in celebration of Reformation Day. Coffee & tea will be served, and you may bring a beverage of your choice – soft drink, beer or wine. Activities will be available for children.

Sign-up will be in the Narthex, beginning Sunday, September 28. For questions, please call Diane Klumpp at 406-224-0612 or Linda Hoenig at 480-766-0816.

**All are welcome!**





# THANK YOU!

Your donations for the  
2025 VBS Book Drive  
made it our  
best year ever!

4,649  
books!



# September

## birthdays!

Sue	Stenehjelm	1-Sep
Jenna	Fjeld	2-Sep
Scott	Sims	4-Sep
Bill	Harris	7-Sep
Ann	Madson	7-Sep
Mark	Anderson	11-Sep
Matthew	Umland	11-Sep
Scott	Donars	13-Sep
Jill	Wehr	14-Sep

Mark	Rossman	14-Sep
Ron	Rbessler	19-Sep
Gene	Perry	20-Sep
Diane	vanMaanen	22-Sep
Stephen	McCarthy	22-Sep
Nancy	Philabaum	23-Sep
Gary	Fjeld	24-Sep
Ginny	Alexander	30-Sep
Jay	Lucas	30-Sep

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.