

CONNECTIONS

Living Water
Lutheran Church



September 14, 2025

Youth Mission Trip Reflections Today!



Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00am
on-site and online

Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline—*Tuesdays at NOON*

We Remember in Our Prayers

- Amanda (Daughter of Cherrie Heidemann-Oglesby)—Health Concerns
- Jeff & Eric Bembry (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
- Gene Perry—Health Concerns
- Shirley Perry—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 or fill out a card in the Narthex.

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

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

Dennis Nelson Bible Study

Studies available on YouTube each **Wednesday**

Weekly, published on our YouTube Channel

Wednesdays at NOON

Bible Study Outlines available on

*our website: **lwlcaz.org***

Prayer of the Week:

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Living Water Lutheran Church

Mid Year Financial Review – June 2025



On June 30, 2025, the book balance of our cash was \$435,838. The balances were \$44,209 at Wells Fargo, \$381,632 at Schwab (4.01% yield currently) and \$9,997 at the ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

The balance due on the mortgage on June 30, 2025 was \$1,008,155 (@ 3.875%).

Financial results through June 20, 2025 were well off budget. The combined general and mortgage fund had a loss of \$7,641 for the six months ended June 30, \$54,256 unfavorable to budget. The YTD loss was dramatically worse than the first six-month results of 2024. 2024's YTD June results were favorably impacted the timing of painting and tree trimming offerings and the related expenses, which were largely incurred after the offerings were received.

Offerings of \$451,694 through June 30 were below budget YTD by \$47,955. Offerings were spread by month in the budget based on the average timing of the last 5 years, but the timing of actual receipts can vary materially based on church members' situations. June YTD offerings were about \$56,000 less than last year. Interest income of \$6,713 has been recorded through June 30, \$1,425 higher than was budgeted.

YTD Expenses of \$472,951 were \$3,570 above budget, largely related to higher costs related to the 25th Anniversary celebration (\$7,896) and the Synod Assembly (\$1,694). These unfavorable variances were offset by Facilities costs being \$2,377 less than budget. So, for the most part, expenses have been well managed.

The July budgeted offerings are \$58,145. Offerings of approximately \$27,000 were received in July. So, it appears that the unfavorable variance to budget will grow considerably through the end of July.

Please keep an eye out for mid-year giving statements, which will arrive via email or snail mail. If you have concerns, please email the LWLC Finance Manager, Stephanie McLean at smclean@lwicaz.org or LWLC Treasurer, Steve Umland at steveumland@gmail.com.

We continue to work with the IRS on our tax issues (payroll withholding issues from 2021 and Employee Retention Credit filing). We have recently enlisted the assistance of Congressman Schweichert's office to help resolve these long-standing issues.



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. 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 ½" 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

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!



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!

Get ready for Living Water's
DO MORE campaign to Expand our Mission.

"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

OPEN THE DOORS



DO MORE

On **November 16th**, we will have the opportunity to turn in our Statements of Intent for the 2026 Annual Stewardship Campaign and the 3-year Open the Doors, Do More! Campaign.

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!

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 to 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

*Today's altar flowers were donated
by Sue Boyd
in loving memory of Charlie.*



THE
JOY
OF THE
LORD
IS MY
STRENGTH

- NEH 8:40 -

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



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

September Boldcafe B.Y.O.D.

Join us for our next Boldcafe Monthly Dinner, Thursday, September 18 at 7pmCST. Sarah Carson will lead our conversation about the benefits of prayer. Daughters, granddaughters, nieces, and others are invited and encouraged to bring a special stuffy or doll. [Download a special coloring sheet to use during our time together.](#)

[Register and pass this invitation along: https://boldcafe.org/dinner](https://boldcafe.org/dinner)

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed time, money, and supplies for making God's Work, Our Hands on September 7 a big success! Your generosity and effort filled 100 personal care kits to help make life a little bit easier for the homeless. We delivered the kits, along with a big box of overflow items, on Monday, September 8, to a church in Tempe that serves as a respite center. The Arizona Faith Network provided both the ideas for the care kit items and the destination. Based on the warm welcome and genuine appreciation we received, we know that we made a difference. With your generous support, we can do more of these projects!



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

August 22, 2025

Thank You

Living Water Lutheran Church
9201 E Happy Valley Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85255-2228

Dear Living Water Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$467.00 to ELCA World Hunger.

*"From [Christ's] fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."
-John 1:16*

As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God's full, boundless love. Drawn together and guided by the Holy Spirit, we accomplish together what none of us could do alone, grace upon grace.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock and education, and it advances peace and justice for all people. Through your gifts, you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. You make God's love real.

With gratitude,

Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, Congregational Generosity

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.

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*



Gathering Hymn... "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

Psalm 51: Create a Clean Heart in Me, O God

Refrain



3-4 Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly was me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

Refrain.

12-13 A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me..

Refrain.

14-15 Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners shall return to you..

Refrain.

Sermon Hymn..... "Amazing Grace"



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



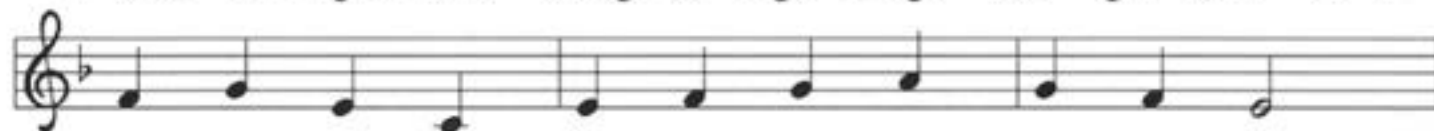
now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Sending Hymn... "Praise The Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing"



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
 2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
 3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
 one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
 lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
 by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
 Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
 firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
 ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt.

Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645-1705, adapt.

Text © Oxford University Press.

LIVING WATER

Purpose Statement: "To Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ."

Living Water is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Grand Canyon Synod and Northeast Valley Conference.

The Living Water
QR code for giving:



Ministers: All the members of Living Water

Pastor: Mark Rossman
PastorMark@lwlcaz.org

Living Water
Lutheran Church



Pastor: Shari Bernau
PastorShari@lwlcaz.org

Office/Communications Manager: Jennifer Kelsh
jkelsh@lwlcaz.org

Finance Manager: Stephanie McLean
smclean@lwlcaz.org

Director of Music: Christina Hall
chall@lwlcaz.org

Associate Director of Music: Scott Sims
ssims@lwlcaz.org

In case of Pastoral Emergency, please call Pastor Mark at 973-699-7777 (mobile)

Publication Deadlines:

Connections- Every Tuesday by noon
SPLASH! - The 20th of each month by noon

Living Water Lutheran Church

9201 E. Happy Valley Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

office@lwlcaz.org ~ www.LWLC.AZ.org

~ 480.473.8400 ~

LAST WEEK'S 10:00AM SERVICE ATTENDANCE ON SEPTEMBER 7: 84