

OCTOBER 2025

# Splash!

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



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GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,  
FOR HE IS GOOD  
FOR HIS STEADFAST  
LOVE ENDURES FOREVER  
**PSALM 136:1**



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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
- 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
- Georgia Sekf (Sister of Frances DeBruyn)—Health 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.*



## Living Water Lutheran Church

### Mid Year Financial Review – June 2025

*Living Water*  
Lutheran Church



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 25<sup>th</sup> 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@lwlcaz.org](mailto:smclean@lwlcaz.org) or LWLC Treasurer, Steve Umland at [steveumland@gmail.com](mailto: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.

# A Message from Pastor Mark

When it comes to Jesus' advice/suggestion/command to "love our neighbor as ourselves", we tend to apply it to a select group of neighbors and quite often only when it is found to be convenient to whatever we might have going on in our lives. It does not happen often, but occasionally, we are touched by someone who seems to have taken hold of those same life lessons as we continue to struggle to make part of our lives.

What follows is the actual obituary on one such person. Under the title of The Best Thing You Will Read Today, this very well might be one of the best things you will ever read.

It is the obituary of Mary A. "Pink" Mullaney was an 85-year-old Wisconsin woman who died in 2017. Below is the family's look back on the lessons of Mullaney's life.

*If you're about to throw away an old pair of pantyhose, stop. Consider: Mary Agnes Mullaney (you probably knew her as "Pink") who entered eternal life on Sunday, September 1, 2013. Her spirit is carried on by her six children, 17 grandchildren, three surviving siblings in New "Joisey", and an extended family of relations and friends from every walk of life. We were blessed to learn many valuable lessons from Pink during her 85 years, among them:*

*Never throw away old pantyhose. Use the old ones to tie gutters, child-proof cabinets, tie toilet flappers, or hang Christmas ornaments.*

*Also: If a possum takes up residence in your shed, grab a barbecue brush to coax him out. If he doesn't leave, brush him for twenty minutes and let him stay.*

*Let a dog (or two or three) share your bed. Say the rosary while you walk them.*

*Go to church with a chicken sandwich in your purse. Cry at the consecration, every time. Give the chicken sandwich to your homeless friend after mass.*

*Go to a nursing home and kiss everyone. When you learn someone's name, share their patron saint's story, and their feast day, so they can celebrate. Invite new friends to Thanksgiving dinner. If they are from another country and you have trouble understanding them, learn to "listen with an accent."*

*Never say mean things about anybody; they are "poor souls to pray for."*

*Put picky-eating children in the box at the bottom of the laundry chute, tell them they are hungry lions in a cage, and feed them veggies through the slats.*

*Correspond with the imprisoned and have lunch with the cognitively challenged.*

*Do the Jumble every morning.*

*Keep the car keys under the front seat so they don't get lost.*

*Make the car dance by lightly tapping the brakes to the beat of songs on the radio.*



*Offer rides to people carrying a big load or caught in the rain or summer heat. Believe the hitchhiker you pick up who says he is a landscaper, and his name is "Peat Moss."*

*Help anyone struggling to get their kids into a car or shopping cart or across a parking lot.*

*Give to every charity that asks. Choose to believe the best about what they do with your money, no matter what your children say they discovered online.*

*Allow the homeless to keep warm in your car while you are at Mass.*

*Take magazines you've already read to your doctors' office for others to enjoy. Do not tear off the mailing label, "Because if someone wants to contact me, that would be nice."*

*In her lifetime, Pink made contact time after time. Those who've taken her lessons to heart will continue to ensure that a cold drink will be left for the overheated garbage collector and mail carrier, every baby will be kissed, every nursing home resident will be visited, the hungry will have a sandwich, the guest will have a warm bed and soft nightlight, and the encroaching possum will know the soothing sensation of a barbecue brush upon its back.*

*Above all, Pink wrote -- to everyone, about everything. You may read this and recall a letter from her that touched your heart, tickled your funny bone, or maybe made you say "huh?"*

*She is survived by her children and grandchildren whose photos she would share with prospective friends in the checkout line: Tim (wife Janice, children Timmy, Joey, T.J., Miki and Danny); Kevin (wife Kathy, children Kacey, Ryan, Jordan and Kevin); Jerry (wife Gita, children Nisha and Cathan); MaryAnne; Peter (wife Maria Jose, children Rodrigo and Paulo); and Meg (husband David Vartanian, children Peter, Lily, Jerry and Blase); siblings Anne, Helen, and Robert; and many in-laws, nieces, nephews, friends and family too numerous to list but not forgotten.*

*Pink is reunited with her husband and favorite dance and political debate partner, Dr. Gerald L. Mullaney, and is predeceased by six siblings.*

*Love your neighbor as yourself, feed the hunger, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the dying, visit the prisoner, share the love. The life lessons Jesus offered 2000 years ago were lived out by some woman 1800 miles away. This woman whom we have never met, has through her life and has now through her family, reminded us what Jesus had in mind when it comes to loving neighbor. A lesson to be lived, a lesson to share.*

*Pastor Mark*

# Ask Zeke



## October

*Living Water's 24/7 office fish delivers a news flash with a splash*

**Q. I've read a lot of your columns. But I'm curious about you.  
What's YOUR story, Zeke?**

**A.** Huh? You want to know about *moi*? Well, my full name is Ezekiel Page, but everyone calls me Zeke. I'm a proud Betta fish. And a super swimmer. But I reckon you're wondering how I ended up writing my monthly column.

You may remember my mom, Marcia Page, who worked in the church office several years ago. I'm not sure why, but one day she brought me to the church office. I'm pretty sure I was the first Betta fish to literally live in a bowl there. It was a terrific life. I got to see lots of people coming in the door. My picture was even included in the church directory a couple of years. Then things changed in the fall of 2011.

A fairly new pastor had arrived, and of course it took him a little while to get adjusted. At one point, somebody suggested we needed a point person to answer people's questions. Someone jokingly said, "Zeke would be great for that job. He lives at the church 24/7, so he must know a whole lot about what goes on around here." To my surprise, another church member, who also worked in the church office, floated the idea with the new pastor. My gills dropped when I heard he liked the idea. So instead of endlessly taking leisurely laps around my bowl (it did get a bit boring), I was offered a job! I was hooked on it from the start.

So that's my story. I wrote my first monthly column in late 2011—almost 15 years ago. It's been a boatload of fun to fish for answers to the questions I've been asked over the years. I want to thank Pastor Mark, Pastor Shari, and the many Living Water members who have kindly answered *my* queries. I've thoroughly enjoyed this unexpected gig. However, I decided it's time for "Zeke the aquatic columnist" to dive into retirement with a joyful splash!



# Thank you! Zeke



Darling Zeke,

Wherever the waters take you, we just wanted to say Thank You! for being willing, observant (on a 24/7 basis) and inquisitive enough to provide so many thorough answers to your family here at Living Water's questions.

Monthly, we anxiously awaited finding out more about every-day and every Sunday church operations, extracurricular opportunities, traditions and curiosities from your observations.

We owe gratitude to your mom Marcia Page for introducing your monthly article lineup and more recently to your colleague Jill Wehr for years more of collaboration! The Living Water congregation was definitely schooled by your insights.

Congratulations on retirement!  
from  
All your readers, friends and fellow-members.

*Living Water's 24/7 office fish has now left the tank.*



**The *OPEN THE DOORS, DO MORE* Campaign is underway!**

“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

This church has always stepped up when it mattered most. When we faced turbulent financial times, or unforeseen facility needs in the past, the people of living Water responded with courage and generosity. That same spirit lives in us today. We are a congregation that leads with love, welcomes like no other, and builds deep and meaningful connections. Volunteers take ownership, pastors equip, and together, we serve with joy.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.



# 2026 YOUTH MISSION TRIP

## Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



When: July 19-24

Who: Youth in grades 6-12

Cost: \$400 + help with fundraisers

Deadline to register with \$100 deposit: November 1

Pennsylvania's capital, Harrisburg, is home to Hershey's Chocolate, City Island and Broad Street Market. Not only does the city have a rich history for its role in the Civil War and Industrial Revolution but it also continues to be a small city with plenty of outdoor activities, arts and tourism. However, despite multiple efforts to recover from economic challenges, in 2011, the city filed for bankruptcy. Since then, the city has made strides to bring resources back to the community. By supporting community efforts to improve the city through redeveloping local parks, community gardens, food banks, thrift stores and local ministries, the work that happens in Harrisburg provides a direct impact on the challenges experienced by the city's residents. During your time in Harrisburg, you will get to learn from and serve with local organizations like Harrisburg Parks and Rec, Boys and Girls Club, food banks and other nonprofit and social service agencies meeting tangible needs. Also, at several partnerships in Harrisburg, we work in community gardens and parks, doing yardwork projects, pulling weeds and trimming bushes.

If you have any questions, see Pastor Shari: [pastorshari@lwlcaz.org](mailto:pastorshari@lwlcaz.org)

## **Dennis Nelson Bible Study**

Weekly, published on our YouTube Channel  
Wednesdays at NOON  
Bible Study Outlines available on  
our website: [lwlcaz.org](http://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**

## **Blood Drive**

## **Living Water Lutheran Church**

Fellowship Hall  
9201 E. Happy Valley Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

**Wednesday, November 5, 2025**  
**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

For more information or to schedule an appointment,  
please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)  
or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code: LivingWater



Scan to be directed to  
RapidPass®

**Come to give blood Oct. 20-Nov. 16 for a \$10 e-gift card  
+ chance at \$5K prize! [rcblood.org/harvest](http://rcblood.org/harvest)**



Scan to schedule  
an appointment



## Church Council Highlights

September 2025

Discussions at the September meeting of the council included regular business as well as the kick-off of the Mortgage Elimination Campaign.

In financial updates, treasurer Steve Umland reported that offerings remain significantly behind last year at this time, and below budget. In a positive development, the ongoing effort to receive Employee Retention Credit money and reimbursement for interest and penalty payments from the IRS has finally resulted in a partial payment.

After consultation with the family of Lee and Pam Landon, Pastor Mark reported that gifts given to the church in their memory will be used to replace some very outdated appliances in the kitchen. This seems to be a perfect way to honor their service to Living Water.

If you did not attend church on September 14, be sure to log in to the website and watch the mission trip attendees give their report. Fundraisers for next year's trip have been scheduled and will include a Ladies' Christmas Tea in December and an all-ages Tacos and Bingo night!

### Piecemakers Quilters

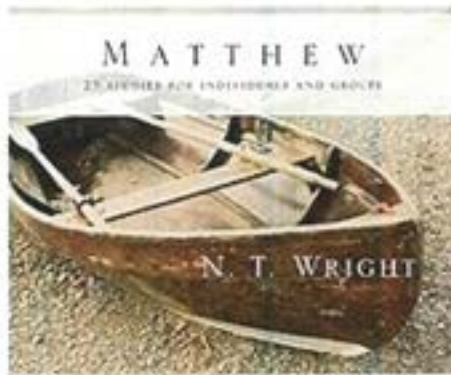
**Next Session: October 15**



Join us each month to tie mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for a few hours each month. We meet at 9 am and conclude between 11:30 and noon.

No experience required! You'll find us in the Education Building – Matthew/Mark or the Martha Room. Bring your coffee/tea for a mid-morning break.

If you like to sew and are looking for some small projects, we always have quilt tops ready to be assembled. 12 to 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](http://www.lwr.org/quilts-and-kits)



## **Tuesday Women's Bible Study**

### **Resumes our 2025 Fall Schedule**

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 8 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) to be added.

## **Sunday Morning Adult Forum**

9 AM – Music Room (second floor of Education Building)

### **HARDER THAN HERDING CATS**

Five Week Study on the Life of Moses led by Pastor Dennis D. Nelson

Begins October 12 and then continues every other week

It's been said that leadership is like herding cats. For Moses leading the Israelites for forty years through the wilderness was harder than herding cats. How did he have the strength, patience, and sustenance to lead a huge group of people who were constantly complaining, ready to stone him, bored with their food, and continually criticizing him for bringing them out of the bondage that they now want to return to? There is much we can learn from the life of Moses – from the circumstances of his birth to his ultimately not being able to lead the Israelites all the way into the Promised Land.



# 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

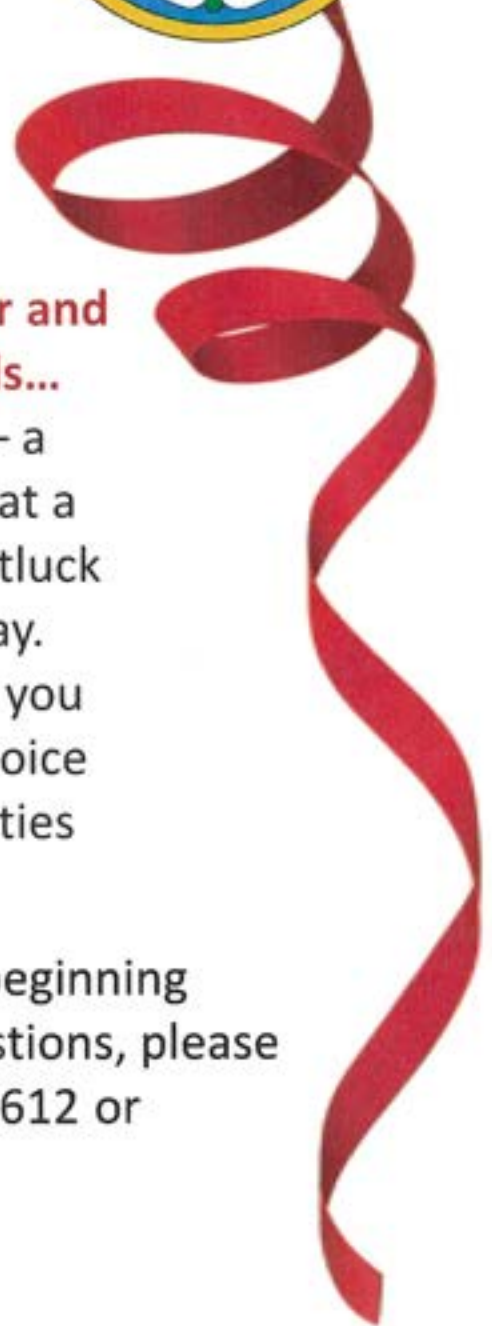
Sunday, October 26  
Following Service

**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!**







*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!**

# October birthdays!

Nicholas	Ingwersen	10/1
Michelle	Ruha	10/4
James	King	10/3
Davis	Shelmire	10/3
Lily	Shelmire	10/3
Julie Ann	Walker	10/4
Kip	Wachter	10/9
Donna	Pettengill	10/10
Julie	Anderson	10/11
Mason	Rossmann	10/11
Barb	Bremer	10/12
Ronald	Ophaug	10/12
Jan	McNeeley	10/14
Lisa	Seeper	10/14
Kaden	Roos	10/15
Barbara	Brooks	10/16
Zoey	Crow	10/16
Maxine	Crane	10/17

Marty	Lindert	10/17
Claudia	Igras	10/18
Gordon	Lindert	10/18
Aubrey	Coutts-Donavon	10/19
Lynda	Cadden	10/23
Darnell	Pettengill	10/24
Mike	Sadler	10/24
Ashlee	Denekamp	10/25
Kristin	Smith	10/25
Matt	Wanek	10/26
Diane	Sundquist	10/27
Sharon	Augenstein	10/28
Michael	Alberti	10/28
Victoria	Goebel	10/28
Miriam	Bernau	10/30
Jaida	Sosa	10/31

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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.