

February 2026

Splash!

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



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Shari Bernau

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Jennifer Keish

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Shellee Snok

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psalm 27:14

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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 Bembry (Friends of Diane vanMaanen)—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
- Larry Coutts—Recurring Health Issues
- 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
- John (Friend of Diane vanMaanen)
- Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- Matt (Jim and Alison Swanson)—Health Concerns
- Gene and Shirley Perry—Health Concerns
- Jana Richter (Family Member of Henri & Lynda Breault)—Health Concerns
- Kathie Roenigk—Health Concerns
- Del Rogge—Heart Concerns
- Regan Shea (Friend of Pastor Mark)—Health Concerns
- Geri Skogen (Friend of Myrna Ulland)—Post-operative Treatment
- Kristen Stenehjøm (Niece of Sue and Lee Stenehjøm)—Health Concerns
- Janet L. Swim (Sister of Brian Goebel)—Cancer
- Bob Ulland—Health Concerns
- Michael Umland (Son of Steve & Sue Umland)—Health Concerns
- Iris Van (Eyesight Issues)
- Peter Vasiliades (Nephew of Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns
- Marge Vessey (Close Friend of Carol and Lance Jacobson)—Health Concerns
- Kelly White (Neice of Sharon Westergreen)—Health Concerns
- Pr. Brian Weinberger (Bethlehem Lutheran in Mesa)—Recovering from auto accident
- Family and Friends of Mike Handley

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

I know Christmas just ended. But I would like to be clear that I am not responsible for the phases of the moon, nor am I the one who puts the calendar together, so don't begin to point fingers toward me when I start talking about Lent. To be clear, Easter is calculated as the first Sunday after the paschal full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox. If the full moon falls on a Sunday, then Easter is the following Sunday. And Ash Wednesday occurs 46 days (40 weekdays plus 6 Sundays) before Easter. And thusly, it all begins, in the middle of this chilly month of February, with Ash Wednesday on February 18 - complete with an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM.

With Ash Wednesday begins our journey to the cross. One of the problems we seem to have with this Lenten journey can be centered around the fact that we may not feel real comfortable in dwelling on the "how" as much as the "why" all that takes place leading up to and including Good Friday. Our Lenten focus has long surrounded the understanding of why Jesus died for us as opposed to how it all took place. We hold a basic understanding of the torture of crucifixion, but we have taught ourselves not to look too deeply into the details. The details make us feel uncomfortable at best. And it can be uncomfortable to gaze into the eyes of a dying man. But beyond how those details may make us feel, the significance of the Good Friday event is found within the sacrifice itself, not within the details of the sacrifice.

It is in honor and remembrance of that sacrifice we have created the tradition of "giving up" something during Lent. In keeping with that tradition individuals have refrained from a variety of different things for the forty-day season. While such things are well and good, they do not truly reflect for us the gravity of the sacrifice that was made on our behalf. Does changing a dietary habit - like not eating chocolate - do justice in helping us remember the sacrifice made on our behalf? While the intention may certainly be a good one, the idea of us sacrificing something as inconsequential as a food product seems rather meager. I would say there needs to be something more to it.

Instead of demonstrating our appreciation of this enormous gift we have been given by giving up Brussels sprouts for 40 days why not discover a way to do more. Collect a designated amount of money - a dollar amount for each of the 40 days - and use it to support one of the many missions supported by Living Water. That is a much more appropriate way to sacrifice of ourselves. Give a little extra.

And we have the opportunity to add to our spiritual lives too. Join us for our Wednesdays in Lent. We begin at 5:30 pm with our soup supper, followed at 6:00 pm with a scintillating look into the life of Saint Peter, led by Dr. Dennis Nelson. We conclude the evening with the moving service of Holden Evening Prayer.

In doing so what we find is that which we sacrifice - what we give up as a spiritual exercise - that sacrifice will offer a tangible benefit for another individual - a person in need. In doing so then we may understand a little more clearly what God has done for us. Giving up something of value for us, not because we deserved it or earned it, but simply because someone else needed it even more.

Pastor Mark

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

Gourmet Breakfast Fundraiser

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US AFTER
THE ANNUAL MEETING TO ENJOY
DELICIOUS FOOD, FABULOUS
COMPANY, AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO
SUPPORT THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP
TO PENNSYLVANIA THIS SUMMER.



APPROX 11:45 AM | FEBRUARY 8, 2026

LIVING WATER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please make a reservation on the
patio after worship. \$25/person

note:

The LWLC ANNUAL MEETING

It's that time of year again!
Living Water's Annual Meeting
will be held on:

**Sunday, February 8th
following worship service**



Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00pm

Wednesdays in Lent:

February 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25th

5:30pm Soup Supper

6:00pm Lenten Bible Study

7:00pm Lenten Worship

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Thursday, April 2nd at 12 noon

at **Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center**



Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00pm



Good Friday Worship Service

Friday, April 3rd at 7:00pm



Easter Sunday Worship Service

Sunday, April 5th at

6:30am (SUNRISE SERVICE),

8:00am and 10:00am

9:15am Brunch

January Church Council Highlights

The January meeting is usually all about the budget. This year was no exception. Steve Umland is in the process of finalizing the 2026 budget and finishing up the accounting for the months of November and December 2025.

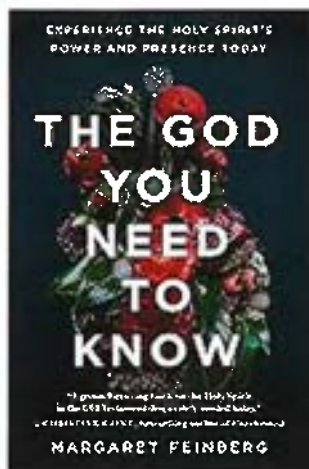
Although 2026 is still new, there has been a significant expense involving our HVAC system. Several units are being "watched," one will be repaired and two will be replaced.

Living Water has hired Shellee Snoke to assist Stephanie McLean with financial and accounting duties. Shellee's email is ssnoke@lwcaz.org. She will be in the office every Tuesday morning from 9-12. Stephanie will continue to be in the church office on the second Sunday of every month.

The annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday, February 8, immediately following worship. At the meeting there will be votes to adopt the 2026 budget and to install three new council members.

Please plan to attend the meeting and to stay for the fabulous brunch following the meeting. The brunch is a fundraiser for the mission trip.

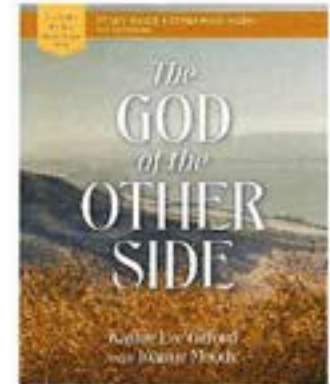
TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FOR FEBRUARY



We finish up our six-week video study using material from Margaret Feinberg titled "The God You Need to Know." This study focuses on the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the Old Testament. We meet on Feb 3 and Feb 17. **NO STUDY ON FEB. 10th.**

Beginning on February 17th we'll move to a new six-week video study called "The God of the Other Side"

with material from Kathie Lee Gifford and Janne Moody. This study illuminates how Jesus breaks the barriers to reach those whom society has abandoned, those who are lonely, lost or left out.



All women are welcome! Just bring yourself and your favorite Bible translation. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall and also by Zoom for approximately 90 minutes each week. If you aren't on our email communication list, please contact myrna.ulland@gmail.com to be added.

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



Give blood.
Help save lives.



Blood Drive
Living Water Lutheran Church

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

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
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 and use sponsor code: LivingWater



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



**Come give blood 1/26-2/28 for a \$20 e-gift card to your
choice of merchant. See rcblood.org/heart**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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**THANK YOU LWLC for supporting
the ELCA GOOD GIFTS program.**

You made it a special day for many
unfortunate families with your
donations.

Food Donations

Food insecurity is a continuous problem. Living Water contributes food and daily essentials, such as products for oral hygiene, diapers, school supplies and more, to local organizations on a continuing basis. We have two main destinations for our donations:

La Sagrada Familia Church: The grocery cart found in the Narthex during the week and outside on Sundays is for food and daily essential products.

Foothills Food Bank: Collection tubs placed in the Narthex with the sign “food donations” are for **tuna, peanut butter, and soups.**

THANK YOU for any and all donations you make. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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.

Group Facilitator: Diane Klumpp
Pastoral Support: Pastor Shari Bernau

**This is an 8-week program on Wednesdays 1:00-2:30pm
running from February 4 – March 25**

Please call or email Pastor Shari Bernau to sign up,
and note that this group is capped at 8 people.

480-473-8400 - pastorshari@lwlcaz.org



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

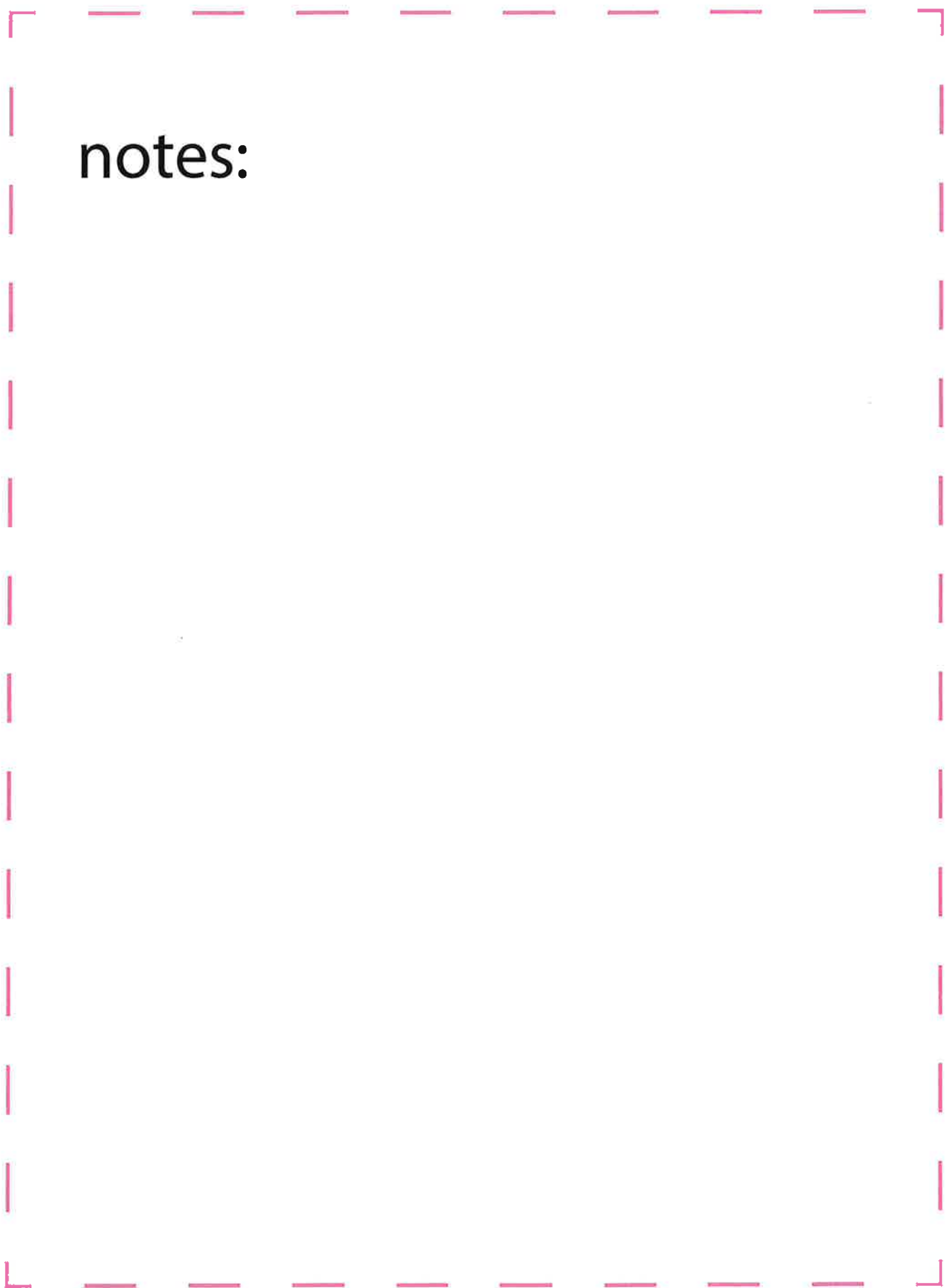


**COME AS YOU ARE
& JOIN OVER A
THOUSAND LUTHERAN
WOMEN IN DES
MOINES, IOWA,
JULY 16-19, 2026 FOR
WORSHIP, ADVOCACY,
INSPIRATION,
SISTERHOOD & MORE!**

VISIT: [WELCATG.ORG](https://welcatg.org)



Women of the **ELCA** 



notes:



February birthdays!

Shari	Bernau	2/3
Darryl	Harlan	2/4
Lois	Lucas	2/6
Morgan	Harlan	2/8
Jeff	Shelmire	2/8
Theoran	Sabato	2/9
Roberta	Kreutzfeld	2/10

Eunice	Voorhees	2/12
Marianne	Schmitt	2/13
Leila	Burrus	2/14
Bev	Rogge	2/16
Frances	DeBruyn	2/18
Nancy	Rogers	2/21
Jody	Haggard	2/22
Dee	Elers	2/26

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.