

February 2026

# Splash!



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

PASTOR  
Mark Rossman

PASTOR  
Shari Bernau

OFFICE/COMMUNICATIONS  
MANAGER  
Jennifer Kelsh

ACCOUNTING MANAGER  
Shellee Snoke

FINANCE MANAGER  
Stephanie McLean

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
Christina Hall

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
OF MUSIC  
Scott Sims

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



## CONTENTS

*Prayer List*

*Pastor's Message*

*Studies & Retreats*

*News & Events*



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 Stenehjem (Niece of Sue and Lee Stenehjem)—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](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 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.



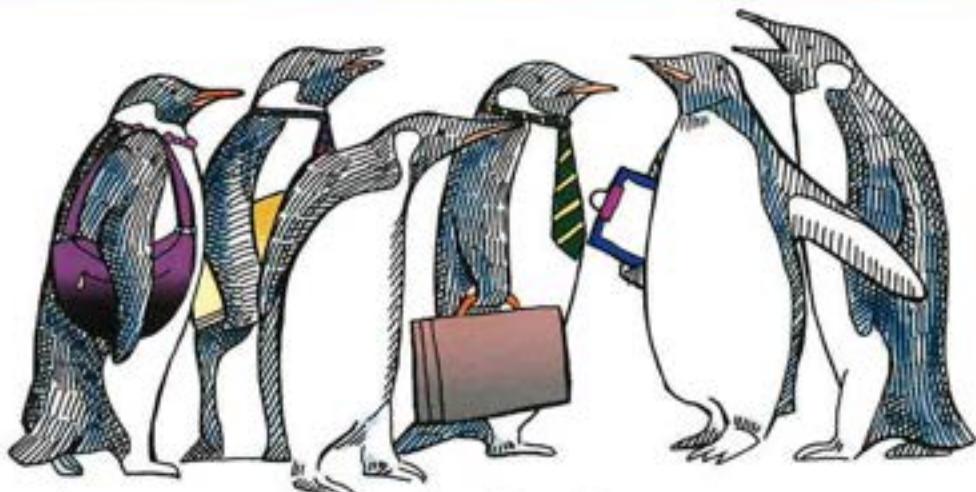
APPROX 11:45 AM | FEBRUARY 8, 2026  
LIVING WATER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Please make a reservation on the  
patio after worship. \$25/person

*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.

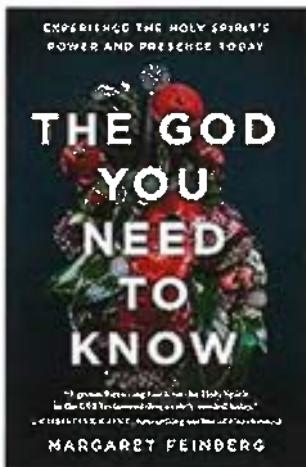
Although 2026 is still new, there has been a significant expense involving our HVAC system. Several units are being "watched," one will be repaired and two will be replaced.

Living Water has hired Shellee Snone to assist Stephanie McLean with financial and accounting duties. Shellee's email is [ssnone@wlcaz.org](mailto:ssnone@wlcaz.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.

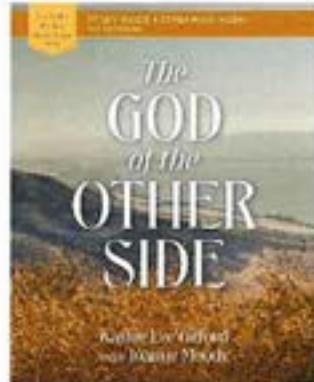
## TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FOR FEBRUARY



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. 10<sup>th</sup>.**

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 Jbanne 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](mailto: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](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**



**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](http://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](http://rcblood.org/heart)**



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

**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

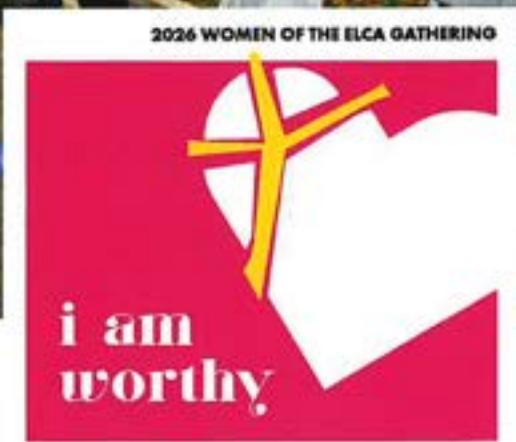
**This is an 8-week program on Wednesdays 1:00-2:30pm  
running from February 4 – March 25**

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](mailto:pastorshari@lwlcaz.org)



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



july 16-19, 2026 | des moines, iowa

**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](http://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	Shelmine	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	Eilers	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



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.

The Living Water  
QR code for giving:

