

CONNECTIONS

Living Water
Lutheran Church



February 15, 2026

THIS WEEK, join us for:

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00pm



*Sunday worship service is at 10:00am
on-site and online*

Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline—*Tuesdays at NOON*



We Remember in Our Prayers

- 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
- Tricia Heidemann (Cherrie's Daughter)—Life 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
- Jason Oglesby (Dave's son)—Life Concerns
- Gene and Shirley Perry—Health Concerns
- Roy Pester (Friend of Dave Oglesby)—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 Joan Tryhus

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.*

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: **lwicaz.org***

Prayer of the Week:

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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*



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

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.

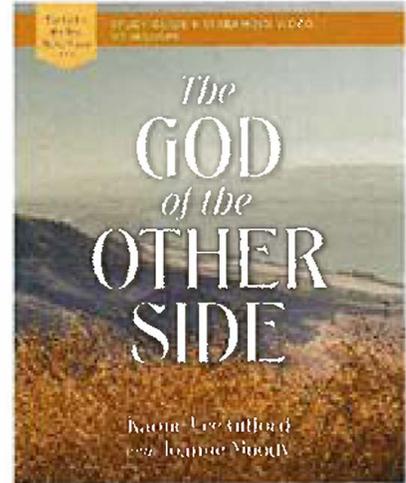
Foothills Food Bank: Collection tubs placed in the Narthex with the sign "food donations" are for **tuna, peanut butter, and soups.**

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

TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FOR FEBRUARY

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 Joanne 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.





The Results of the Votes Are In:

LWLC once again showed what a generous Congregation it is. It also showed there were a lot of Seattle Seahawks fans! We raised **\$734.14** for the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Results of your donations

Seahawks	\$ 464.29
Patriots	\$ 45.00
I Don't' Care	\$ 224.75

Thank you again for all your support for this very worthwhile cause.

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



Lenten Soup Suppers

Soup Suppers will be held prior to Bible Study and Lenten Worship on

February 25

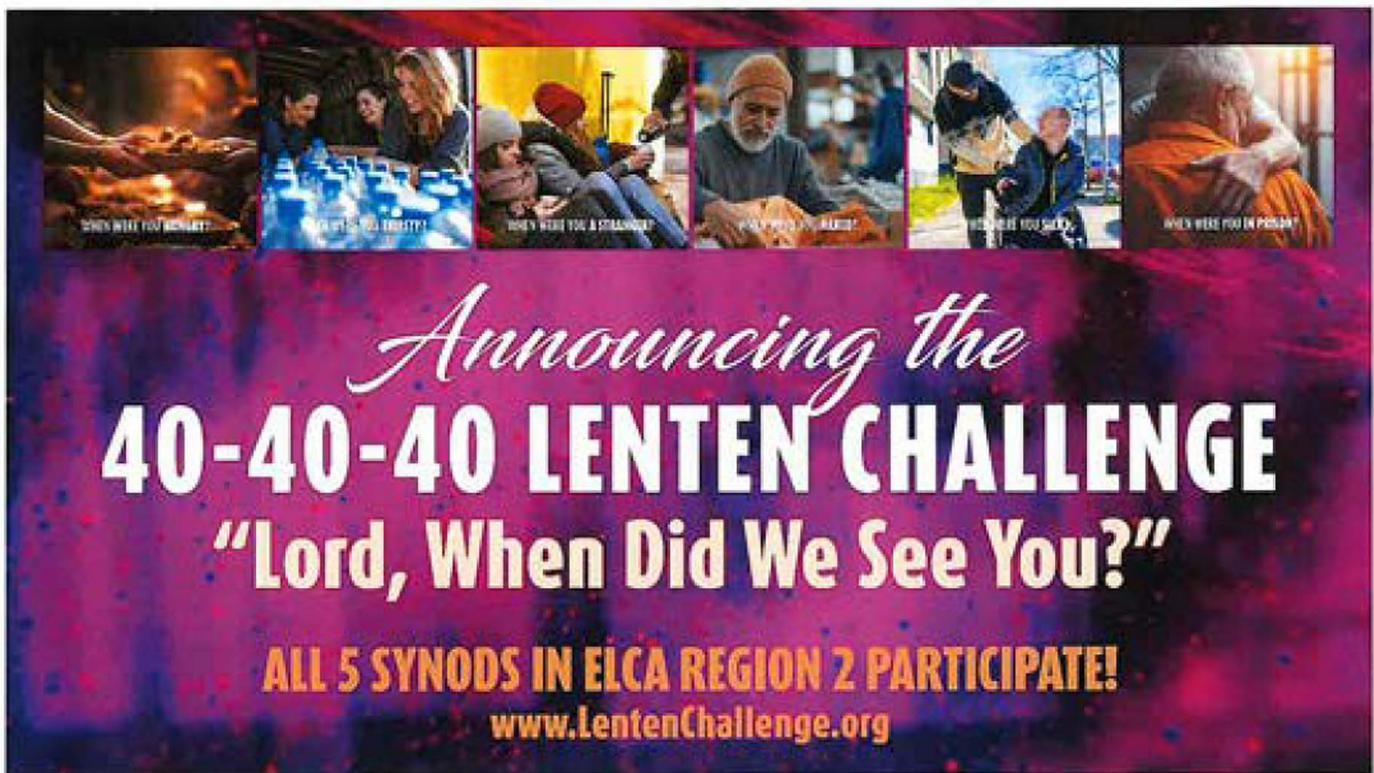
March 4, 11, 18, 25

Serving starts at 5:30 pm

A different Ministry Team prepares and serves each Wednesday. A free will offering is requested, going to Nourish PHX and for Fellowship Team kitchen supplies.

These simple suppers are wonderful opportunities for Fellowship, nourishment, and preparation for worship and acknowledgement of our Ministry Teams. Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center is providing soup and bread at one of the Suppers as well.





Lenten Challenge for 2026

The Lenten Challenge supports ELCA World Hunger by striving to raise \$100,000 during Lent, February 18 – April 2, across all 5 ELCA Region 2 synods: Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Pacifica, GRAND CANYON, and Rocky Mountain.

The theme of the 2026 Lenten Challenge is "Lord, When Did We See You?" "The passage emphasizes that caring for the poor, sick, and marginalized is an act of service to Christ..."

As you sign up, you commit to your choice of **3 of 4** spiritual practices: Devotions, Learning, Action, Donation. In addition to your commitment, you may reference the "Matthew 25 Lenten Challenge Tool Kit," which offers you options for spiritual practice based on Matthew 25: 37-40.

Sign up at lentenchallenge.org.

Let's demonstrate our commitment to relieving hunger by our participation this Lenten season!

Angel Tree Assistance Needed:

HELP WANTED: Patient, dedicated person who is not too perfectionistic and has a little bit of woodworking skill to join the Angel Tree team as a cutter.

DUTIES: Each February- Cut out/free up approximately fifty-five angels from a board of wood and sand them up a little so others can make them pretty.

INCIDENTAL REQUIREMENT: Scroll saw- if you don't have one, you can purchase one for around \$100 and on your own time, use it to make all kinds of cute things.

CONTACT: JAY LUCAS, ANGELIC COORDINATOR
480-419-8166 jayloislucas4@gmail.com



Piecemakers Quilting

Join us in February

Come and tie quilts with us! Our quilting primarily supports Lutheran World Relief (LWR), and we also make quilts for refugee families and our high school graduates.

We meet from 9 am to about noon, in the Education Building on the first floor on February 18. Bring your own water or coffee for a mid-morning break. If you're a winter visitor who likes to quilt, come and tie with us. If you like to sew, we can provide pre-cut squares to make quilt tops. Many hands make light work!

Questions? Ask Lynda Cales, Kay Bonar, Mary Nyberg, Cindy Ophaug or Myrna Ulland. Learn more about this ministry at

www.lwr.org

OPEN THE DOORS, DO MORE WISH LIST

This is a list of the great suggestions the congregation provided for ways we can DO MORE ministry and outreach with the mortgage obligation partially eliminated. Many of the suggestions were offered by multiple people.

Adult day care on some regular schedule, may be specific to those with Alzheimer's or dementia

More musical programs for example, holiday concerts, a youth musical, an intergenerational bell choir

Sponsor classes (maybe for a small participation fee?) in art, music, language, bridge, exercise geared to over 50.

Have a contingency fund for facilities repair and improvement.

Increase budgeted support for outreach programs (some of which we already support) like Foothills food bank and others, help for homeless persons, home building, Native American scholarships, foster children, Salvation Army,

Increase budgeted support for mission trips and other youth programs.

Have more intergenerational activities and service opportunities.

- Sponsor a seminarian
- Offer addiction recovery support
- Do more with social media (reaching out to neighbors)
- Offer transportation to church
- Provide meals when necessary
- Serve a Thanksgiving dinner
- Host a Halloween carnival
- After school or preschool program
- Support for Navajo Lutheran Mission Rock Point
- Establish a relationship with an ethnic congregation or mission congregation
- Ask Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest for suggestions for ministries
- Support Chaplaincy for the Homeless

PETER: FAITHFUL BUT FLAWED DISCIPLE

Five-week study on the life of Peter led by Pastor Dennis D. Nelson

Wednesday evenings during Lent after Ash Wednesday
Between the Soup Supper and the Holden Evening Prayer

February 25 – The Call of the Fisherman

March 4 – Walking with Jesus in the Storms

March 11 – Solid Rock or Stumbling Block?

March 18 – “I Will Not Deny You”

March 25 – From Cowardice to Courage

Why did all four Gospel writers include the account of the greatest failure of Peter’s life – the collapse of his courage and denial of his Lord? I believe that they told this story because Peter himself told this story over and over again. Peter and the Gospel writers wanted us to see that we all, like Peter, have denied Jesus. We all have lived in ways that are inconsistent with our pledge to follow Jesus. We all have had moments when our witness or example was needed, but we remained silent and did nothing. Peter’s story shows us that we do not need to be defined by our failures. God does not look at us in terms of the worst thing we have ever done. Jesus uses flawed disciples. And sometimes He uses us even more profoundly, not merely in spite of our flaws and failures but because of them.

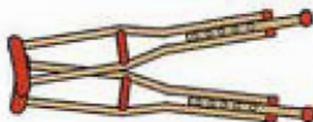
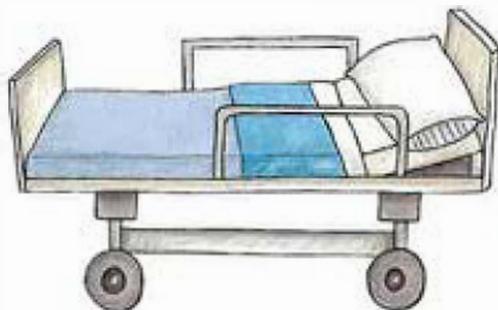
Medical Lending Library Ministry

What: It's the same as a book library but lends durable medical equipment.

Who: Will be used by our partner La Sagrada Familia Church members who are mostly low-income and uninsured.

How: Donate your used crutches, commode, wheelchair/cushion, walker, hospital bed, cane, etc.

When: We will collect them on Sundays,
March 22 and 29 at Living Water.



This week's altar flowers were donated by Lou Handley in celebration of Frances DeBruyn's birthday (today!).

Happy Birthday Frances!



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 12/31/25 balance of **\$ 2,042**. We allocated 50% locally to Foothills Food Bank and 50% internationally to ELCA World Hunger. Each will receive \$1021.

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 accounting assistance

Living Water has hired Shellee Snoke to supplement Stephanie McLean with financial duties. Shellee's email is ssnoke@lwlcaz.org. She will be in the church office every Tuesday morning from 9:00 am to Noon. Stephanie will continue to be in the church office the second Sunday of every month.



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

© 2023 The American National Red Cross | 418001-03-Field-RW

1 223 | Order ID: 1915509 | Item ID: 6657319 | Qty: 1 of 5 | 465563 | 2025-APL-0980 | AG07 | 253717

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 2 You Are My Son

Refrain

You — are my son; this day have I be - got - ten you.

1-2 Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats? Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the Lord and against the Lord's anointed?

Refrain.

3-5 "Let us break their yoke," they say; "let us cast off their bonds from us." God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the Lord holds them in derision. Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.

Refrain.

Sermon Hymn... "I Love to Tell the Story"



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

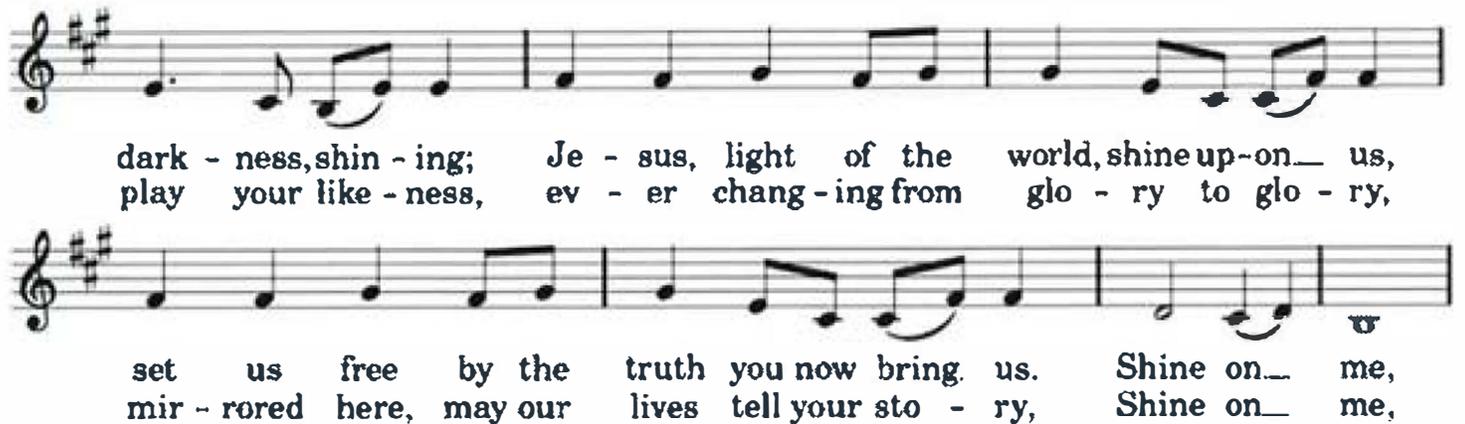
Sending Hymn... "Shine Jesus Shine"

Refrain



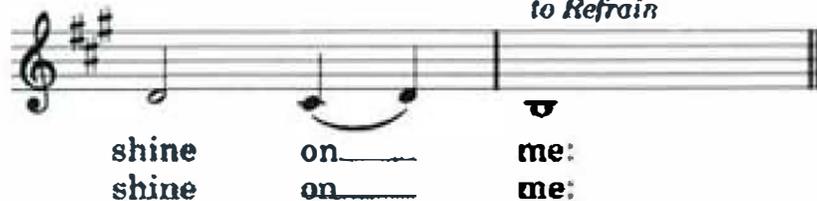
Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, riv - er, flow,
flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy; send forth your Word,
Lord, and let there be light!

1. Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2. As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,
set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me,
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry, Shine on me,

to Refrain



shine on me:
shine on me:

LIVING WATER

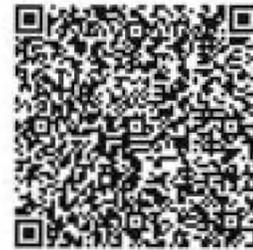
Living Water
Lutheran Church



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@lwlc az.org

Pastor: Shari Bernau

PastorShari@lwlc az.org

Publication Deadlines:

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

Office/Communications Manager: Jennifer Kelsh

jk elsh@lwlc az.org

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smclean@lwlc az.org

Accounting Manager: Shellee Snoke

ssnoke@lwlc az.org

Director of Music: Christina Hall

chall@lwlc az.org

Associate Director of Music: Scott Sims

ssims@lwlc az.org

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

Living Water Lutheran Church

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~ 480.473.8400 ~