

CONNECTIONS

Living Water
Lutheran Church



February 22, 2026

Join us on Wednesdays in



LENT

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

5:30pm Soup Supper

6:00pm Lenten Bible Study

7:00pm Lenten Worship

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 (Father of Missy Laudenschlager)—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 John Berry
- 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: **lwlcaz.org***

Prayer of the Week:

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

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

Lou Handley and family thank the congregation, volunteers and staff for all their help, kind words, cards, hugs and attendance at Mike's Celebration of Life. You're the best!

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.

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.

Receiving these New Members today!:



Brandon & Anne Tanner



Dick Johnston



Kim Howard



Mark Schraeder



Susan Martin

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

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



YOU'RE INVITED TO

“BELONGING: FIVE KEYS TO UNLOCKING YOUR POTENTIAL AS A DISCIPLE”



with presenter Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis,
Professor and the Marbury E. Anderson Chair
of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026
LIVING WATER LUTHERAN CHURCH
SCOTTSDALE, AZ

Lessons from the Woman at the Well: The encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well and Jesus in the Gospel of John is the longest sustained conversation Jesus has with anyone in all of the four Gospels and she is a model for what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus. Together we will listen in on this conversation and consider how the Samaritan woman invites us to imagine our discipleship journey from wonder to witness.

Saturday, April 11, 2026 1:00-4:00pm - Reception to follow.

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

To register for free, please go to: <https://lwlcaz.org/nevcevent/>
or use QR Code below, by April 6, 2026.

Space is limited. Please email pastorshari@lwlcaz.org with questions.



Grand Canyon Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



LUTHER
SEMINARY.



**NORTHEAST
VALLEY
CONSORTIUM**

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

1 WEEK PROGRAM



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 15-19, 2026

9:00-11:30AM



Living Water Lutheran Church

Register Today!

9201 E Happy Valley Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85255
480-473-8400



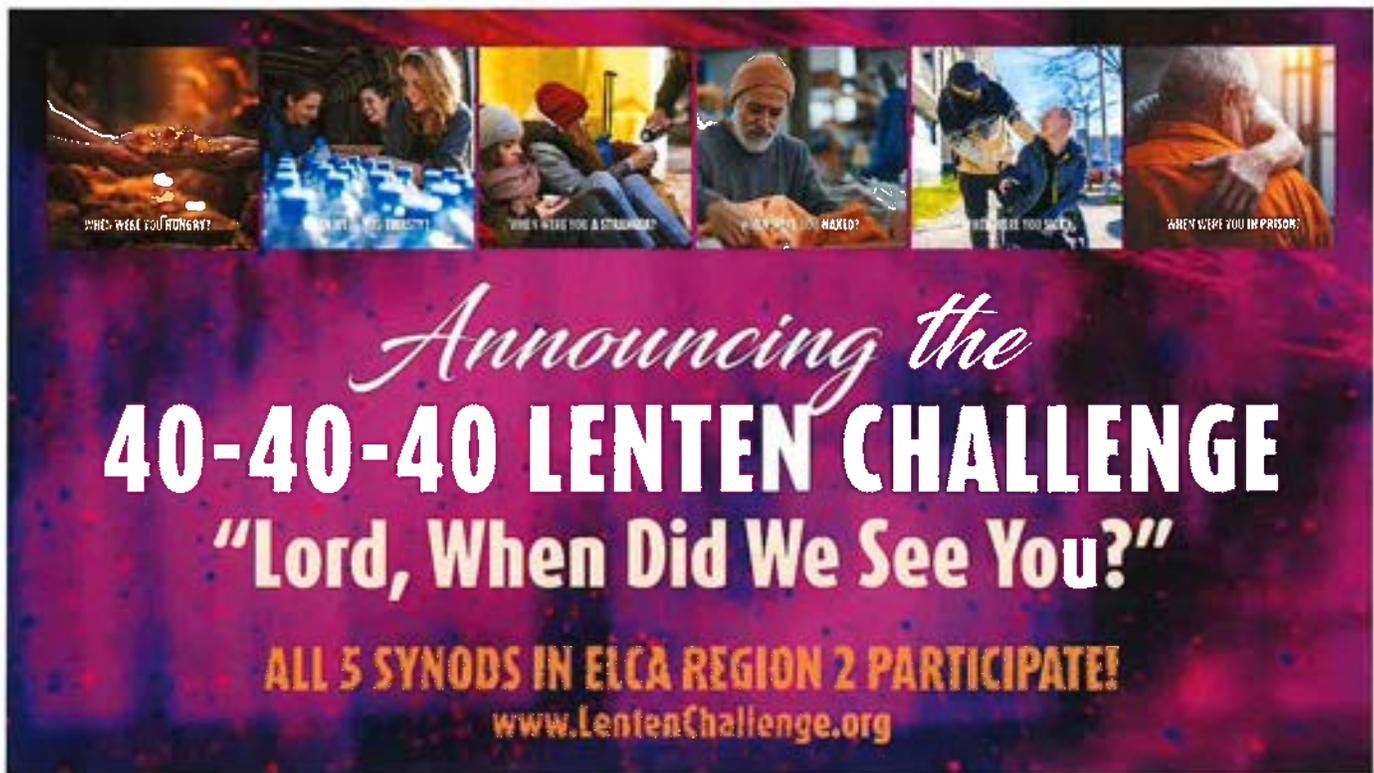
Admission
**Free +
T-shirt**



For 4-12
Years Old



More info:
www.lwlc.org/vbs2026/



Lenten Challenge for 2026

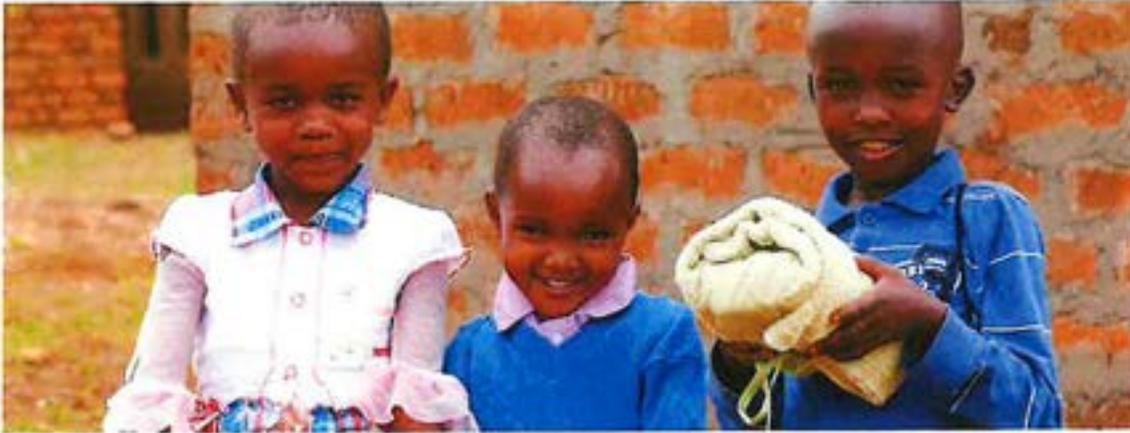
The Lenten Challenge supports ELCA World Hunger by striving to raise \$100,000 during Lent, February 18 – April 2, across all 5 ELCA Region 2 synods: Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Pacifica, GRAND CANYON, and Rocky Mountain.

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](https://www.lentenchallenge.org).

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



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) PERSONAL CARE KITS COLLECTION DURING LENT

It's that time again! Living Water's annual drive to collect items to fill Personal Care Kits for LWR. The list of items needed for each kit is below.

ONE light-weight bath-size towel, dark color recommended. Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use. Bath towels vary in size. The **52" X 27"** size is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.

TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand, in original wrapping.

ONE adult-size toothbrush in original packaging*

ONE sturdy comb, wide-toothed preferred. Remove packaging. NO pocket combs or picks.

ONE metal nail clippers (attached file is optional), remove packaging.

Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name. Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

All items should be new and in good condition.

*toothbrush multi-packs may be used; we seal them in a business-sized envelope during the kit making process

Collection bin is in the church entryway throughout the weeks of Lent until Palm Sunday (March 29). Bring in a full kit, or any components. We will shop for any items needed, using a Thrivent Action Team grant as well as any money donations directed to "Personal Care Kits." Thank you for supporting this annual Lenten project of our Service and Caring Ministry Team. Questions? Please ask Ron and Cindy Ophaug or Myrna and Bob Ulland.



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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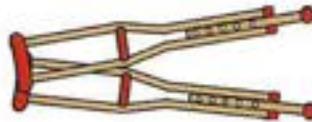
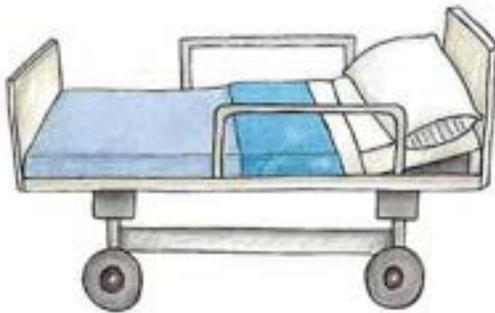
Medical Lending Library Ministry

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
Frances and Mike DeBruyn
in celebration of their nephew Bob and his wife Leslie's
anniversary!

Happy Anniversary
Bob and Leslie



Gathering Hymn... "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me"



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

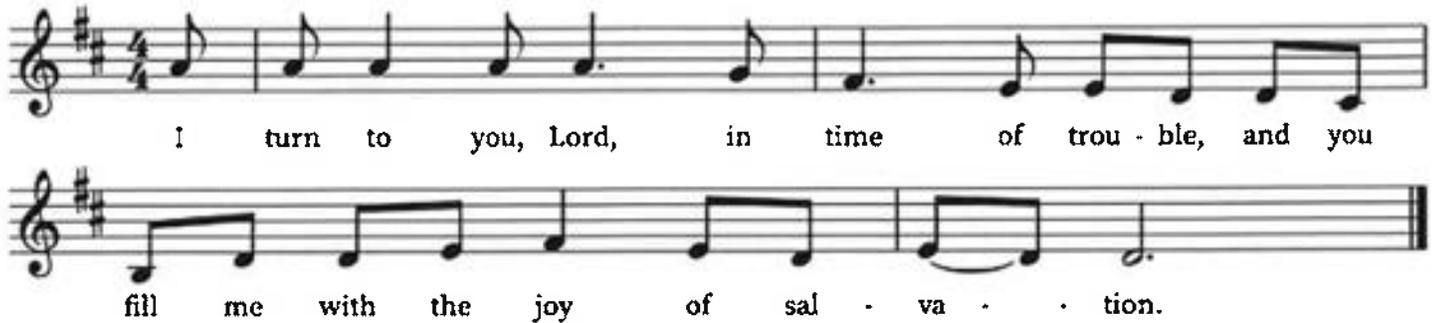


Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

Psalm 32 I Turn To You In Time Of Trouble

Refrain



I turn to you, Lord, in time of trou - ble, and you
fill me with the joy of sal - va - tion.

1-2 Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile.

Refrain.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD," and you took away the guilt of my sin.

Refrain.

11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you just; exalt, all you upright of heart.
[all you upright of heart.]

Refrain.

New accounting assistance

Living Water has hired Shellee Snoke to supplement Stephanie McLean with financial duties. Shellee's email is ssnoke@lwcaz.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.

Sermon Hymn... "Lord Jesus, Think On Me"



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375-430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-1896, alt.
Music: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalms of David*, 1579, alt.

Have you wondered?-- Can I sign up to donate and dedicate the Altar Bouquet for a future Sunday?

The answer is **Yes!** Anyone who would like to donate flowers for a future Sunday can sign-up via

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080844A9AE28A0FF2-weekly2#/>

When you sign up, you can add comments about the specific **occasion**, flower **color request** and/or **dedication**. Then, simply pre-pay for your bouquet \$50.00 to the church office.

The best part: at the conclusion of service for your Sunday, you are welcome to take the bouquet home or pick it up the beginning of the following week from the church office.

Sending Hymn... "Oh Lord, Throughout The Forty Days"



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns. we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Piecemakers Quilters

Next Sessions: March 4 and 18



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

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@lwlcaz.org

Pastor: Shari Bernau

PastorShari@lwlcaz.org

Publication Deadlines:

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

Office/Communications Manager: Jennifer Kelsh

jkelsh@lwlcaz.org

Finance Manager: Stephanie McLean

smclean@lwlcaz.org

Accounting Manager: Shellee Snoke

ssnoke@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)

Living Water Lutheran Church

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office@lwlcaz.org ~ www.LWLCAZ.org

~ 480.473.8400 ~