

# CONNECTIONS



*Living Water*  
Lutheran Church



February 8, 2026

In case you didn't know:  
Pastor Shari's birthday  
was Tuesday, February 3rd!

Let's all wish her a very happy  
year to come, today!



**Happy 50th Birthday  
Pastor Shari!**

Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00am  
on-site and online

Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline—\*Tuesdays at NOON\*

# *We Remember in Our Prayers*

- o Amanda (Daughter of Cherrie Heidemann-Oglesby)—Health Concerns
- o Jeff & Eric Bembry (Friends of Diane vanMaanen)—Health Concerns
- o Lizzy Caddow (Friend of Diane Salinas)—Cancer
- o Christi (Daughter of Charlie and Sue Boyd)—Health Concerns
- o Debbie Connor (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Terminal Melanoma
- o Adrian Corr (Brother-in-law of Brian Goebel, living in Turks)—Cancer
- o Larry Coutts—Recurring Health Issues
- o Katie Dawson (Daughter of Tod and Bonnie Dawson)—Health Concerns
- o Angelika Dumpf (Wife of Brett Stone)—Health Concerns
- o Jenna Fjeld—Health Concerns
- o Dave and Joy Gallimore—Health Concerns
- o Frank Gasparino—Health Concerns
- o Trisha Heidemann (Cherrie's Daughter)—Life Concerns
- o Kyle and Tyler Hornacek (Grandsons of John and Sue Hornacek)—Life Concerns
- o John (Friend of Diane vanMaanen)
- o Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- o Matt (Jim and Alison Swanson)—Health Concerns
- o Jason Oglesby (Dave's son)—Life Concerns
- o Gene and Shirley Perry—Health Concerns
- o Jana Richter (Family Member of Henri & Lynda Breault)—Health Concerns
- o Kathie Roenigk—Health Concerns
- o Del Rogge—Heart Concerns
- o Regan Shea (Friend of Pastor Mark)—Health Concerns
- o Geri Skogen (Friend of Myrna Ulland)—Post-operative Treatment
- o Kristen Stenehjerm (Niece of Sue and Lee Stenehjerm)—Health Concerns
- o Janet L. Swim (Sister of Brian Goebel)—Cancer
- o Bob Ulland—Health Concerns
- o Michael Umland (Son of Steve & Sue Umland)—Health Concerns
- o Iris Van—Eyesight Issues
- o Peter Vasiliades (Nephew of Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns
- o Marge Vessey (Close Friend of Carol and Lance Jacobson)—Health Concerns
- o Kelly White (Neice of Sharon Westergreen)—Health Concerns
- o Pr. Brian Weinberger (Bethlehem Lutheran in Mesa)—Recovering from auto accident
- o Family and Friends of Joan Tryhus (Mother of Kristi Winter)
- o

*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.*

## **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:*

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
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.



# The LWLC ANNUAL MEETING

It's that time of year again!  
Living Water's Annual Meeting

**TODAY**  
following worship service



The red and white Altar Bouquet was donated by  
Lou Handley in loving memory of Mike Handley.



**Ash Wednesday Service**  
*Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00pm*



*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*

## 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



## **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**

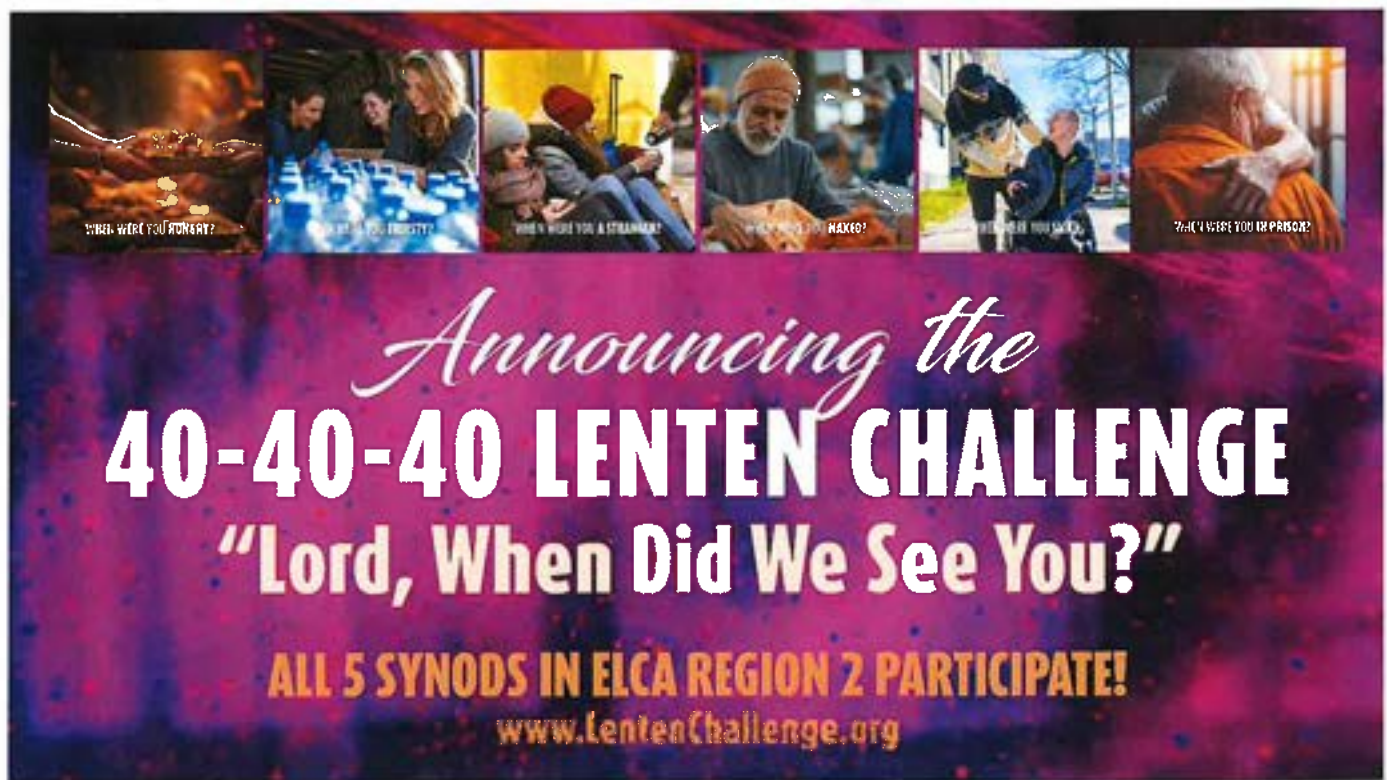
#### **Join us in February**

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](http://www.lwr.org)



## 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](http://lentenchallenge.org).

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

# 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.





## 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

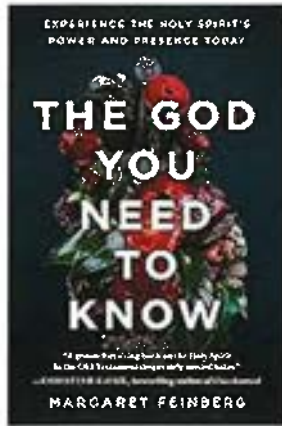
Why did all four Gospel writers include the account of the greatest failure of Peter's life – the collapse of his courage and denial of his Lord? I believe that they told this story because Peter himself told this story over and over again. Peter and the Gospel writers wanted us to see that we all, like 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.

The floral bouquet in autumn colors was donated  
by Frances DeBruyn  
in loving memory of her father  
Frank Klanduch





## TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FOR FEBRUARY

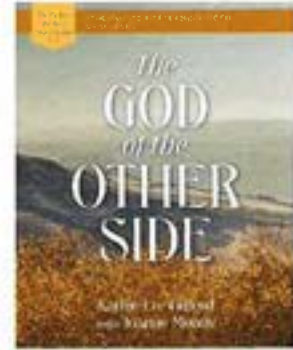


We finish up our six-week video study using material from Margaret Feinberg titled "The God You Need to Know." This study focuses on the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the Old Testament. We meet on Feb 17.

**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 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](mailto:myrna.ulland@gmail.com) to be added.

### Souper Bowl of Caring

**TODAY!**

Today is not only Souper Bowl Sunday, but it is also "Super Bowl of Caring" Sunday. LWLC Youth each February solicits an offering to combat hunger and Souper Bowl Sunday is traditionally set aside to do this. And, we can help!

Look for the three boxes labeled with the name of the two Super Bowl football teams (Seattle Seahawks and New England Patriots) and a third box labeled with, "I Don't Care." These will be located near the Hunger Jar. Please vote with your checks or cash for your preferred team and let's see how many dollars we can raise for Hunger in the process! Go Team!





**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](https://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 [redcrossblood.org/heart](https://redcrossblood.org/heart)**



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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## 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](mailto: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.



## Gathering Hymn... "Gather Us In"



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the  
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.



## Psalm 112 The Man Is A Light In The Darkness

### Refrain



4-5 Light Shines through the darkness for the upright; he is gracious and merciful and just. Well for the man who is gracious and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice.

*Refrain.*

6-7 He shall never be moved; the just one shall be in everlasting remembrance. An evil report he shall not fear; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.

*Refrain.*

8-9 His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear. Lavishly he gives to the poor; his justice shall endure forever, his horn shall be exalted in glory.

*Refrain.*

## Sermon Hymn... "Lord of Light"



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and  
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -  
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch-ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom  
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance  
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -  
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -  
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.  
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:  
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

### *Refrain*



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

# Sending Hymn... "We Are Marching In The Light Of God"

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',  
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',  
We are march - ing in the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984  
 Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional  
 Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

# 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

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**smclean@lwlcaz.org**

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**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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**~ 480.473.8400 ~**