

March 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 Snoko

FINANCE MANAGER  
Stephanie McLean

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
Christina Hall

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
OF MUSIC  
Scott Sims

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



His mercy endures forever  
Psalm 136:1

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9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

## *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
- Dick Gunderson—Recovering from Hip Surgery
- 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
- Ron Koch—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 Brian Goebel
- Family and Friends of Joan Tryhus

*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 Shari*

When I was a child, I did not understand or appreciate the meaning of Lent. I simply wished that Easter would come quicker. Now, as an adult, I still feel as though there is more to learn about Lent, but I have come to appreciate the experience of delayed gratification. I also understand that every year has its seasons and cycles that keep us grounded and connected with the rhythm of nature.

In the rhythm of the Church's worship, Lent holds a meaningful place. The liturgical year is not a random sequence of holidays, but a Christ-centered pattern that tells the story of salvation. Beginning with Advent's hope and expectation, moving through Christmas joy and Epiphany's revelation, the Church then turns toward the cross in Lent. For Lutherans, Lent is not a season of spiritual self-improvement, but a focused journey into repentance, faith, and the saving work of Jesus Christ.

In Lutheran theology, the cross stands at the center of everything. As Martin Luther emphasized in his "theology of the cross," God reveals His saving power precisely in suffering and weakness. Lent gives us time and space to dwell on this profound truth.

Lent intensifies what is always true for Christians: we are sinners in need of grace, and Christ alone is our righteousness. The ashes placed on foreheads on Ash Wednesday are not a work that earns God's favor. Rather, they are a stark reminder: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." In this sobering truth, we are driven again to the promise that we belong to Christ, marked not only with ashes but with the sign of the cross in Holy Baptism.

The Sundays in Lent continue to celebrate the resurrection, even amid the season's solemn tone. Every Sunday is a "little Easter," reminding us that repentance never ends in despair. In this way, Lent teaches us the pattern of the Christian life: death and resurrection, repentance and faith, sorrow for sin and joy in forgiveness.

Ultimately, Lent matters for our faith as Lutherans because it keeps us anchored in the Gospel. It strips away illusions of self-sufficiency and brings us face to face with both our sin and our Savior. It trains us to live in daily repentance and trust in Christ's finished work. And it prepares our hearts to hear anew the Easter proclamation: "Christ is risen!"

*Pastor Shari*

## 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@wlcaz.org](mailto:ssnoke@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.

*Upcoming Dates to Remember:*

**Wednesdays in Lent:**

March 4, 11, 18 and 25th

**5:30pm** Soup Supper

**6:00pm** Lenten Bible Study

**7:00pm** Lenten Worship



**Palm Sunday Worship Service**

*Sunday, March 29th at 10:00am*

**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 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.

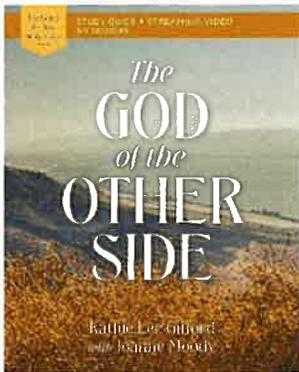
The theme of the 2026 Lenten Challenge is “Lord, When Did We See You?” “The passage emphasizes that caring for the poor, sick, and marginalized is an act of service to Christ...”

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!

## TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT



Beginning on February 24th 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.

### **Dennis Nelson Bible Study**

Weekly, published on our YouTube Channel  
Wednesdays at NOON  
Bible Study Outlines available on  
our website: [lwlc.org](http://lwlc.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**

# 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

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.

## 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](http://www.lwr.org/quilts-and-kits)



## **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.

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

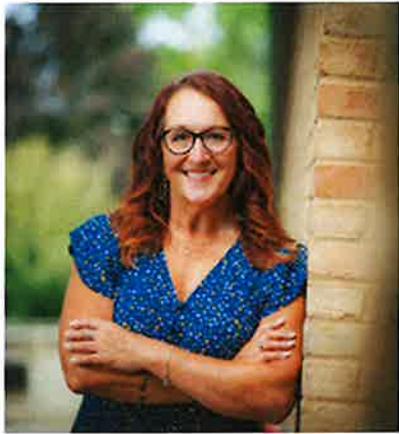


More info:

[www.lwlcaz.org/vbs2026/](http://www.lwlcaz.org/vbs2026/)

**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](mailto:pastorshari@lwlcaz.org) with questions.



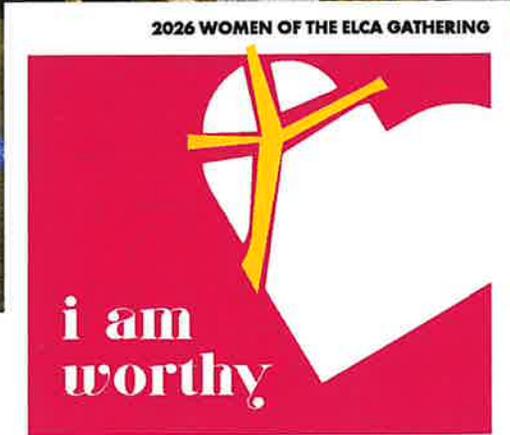
Grand Canyon Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**LUTHER  
SEMINARY.**



**NORTHEAST  
VALLEY  
CONSORTIUM**



**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 <sup>of the</sup> ELCA 



## **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.

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

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



# March birthdays!

John	Goesling	3/1
Sheila	Fankhauser	3/2
Valerie	Wachter	3/3
Kristin	Wanek	3/3
Alison	Swanson	3/6
Julie	Yates	3/10
Dennis	Hagstrom	3/14
Kay	Bonar	3/15

Rozenah	Goebel	3/17
Robert	Ulland	3/17
Lauren	Harlan	3/18
Karen	Weinhofer	3/19
Eric	Brash	3/22
Jeri	Pounds	3/22
Mary	Nyberg	3/26
Landon	Wanek	3/28
Erika	Diaz	3/30



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.