

April 2026

Splash!

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



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CONTENTS

Prayer List

Pastor's Message

Studies & Retreats

News & Events



9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

We Remember in Our Prayers



- Jeff & Eric Bembry (Friends of Diane vanMaanen)—Health Concerns
- Brian (Judy Tornowske's nephew)—Cancer
- Lizzy Caddow (Friend of Diane Salinas)—Cancer
- Christi (Daughter of Charlie and Sue Boyd)—Health Concerns
- Debbie Connor (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Terminal Melanoma
- Larry Coutts (Father of Missy Laudenschlager)—Recurring Health Issues
- Katie Dawson (Daughter of Tod and Bonnie Dawson)—Health Concerns
- Gene Dehnbostel (Friend of Marilyn Nartker)—Health Concerns
- Angelika Dumpf (Wife of Brett Stone)—Health Concerns
- Jenna Fjeld—Health Concerns
- Dave and Joy Gallimore—Health Concerns
- Frank Gasparino—Health Concerns
- John Goesling—Health Concerns
- Dick Gunderson—Recovering from Hip Surgery
- Tricia Heidemann (Cherrie's Daughter)—Life Concerns
- Robert Hutson—Health Concerns
- John (Friend of Diane vanMaanen)
- Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- Liam McQuaid
- Matt (Jim and Alison Swanson)—Health Concerns
- Jason Oglesby (Dave's son)—Life Concerns
- Prestyn Oglesby (David's grandson)—Air Force Deployment
- Gene and Shirley Perry—Health Concerns
- Linda Perry (Daughter-in-law of 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
- 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
- Family and Friends of Rebecca Perry

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.*

A Message from Pastor Mark

The comedian Jim Gaffigan does a fantastic bit about the celebration of Easter and all that is wrapped around it. He takes a sarcastic look at the fact that part of this celebration is about chocolate, decorated eggs, and a rabbit. Gaffigan's sarcasm stems from a lack of understanding as to why these three items are tied to Jesus Christ and the resurrection. I must admit there is a little gap in my mind when it comes to that level of Easter knowledge. Most of the household traditions that surround Easter celebrations are of the type that I have no idea as to where they came from. And so, I did a bit of research.

The origin of Easter Bunny is thought to be found in Germany, but not part of a Christian celebration. The Easter bunny has its roots really in the pagan times. Anglo-Saxons were the first ones to celebrate the festival of Easter as a month-long celebration. They celebrated this festival to commemorate their Goddess Ostara, who was responsible for offspring, fruitfulness and of springtime. In fact, the name Easter along with the presence of a bunny has its history related to this Goddess too. Easter was originally a celebration of Eostre, goddess of Spring, otherwise known as Ostara, Austra, and Eastre. One of the most revered aspects of Ostara for both ancient and modern observers is a spirit of renewal. This Goddess was always seen with her bunny rabbit as a pet. Thus, the name of this festival Easter was linked up with a bunny. According to legend, it is believed that Ostara changed her pet bird into a bunny in order to entertain little children and in return, this little bunny laid colorful eggs for them. Thus, this is the Origin of the Easter Bunny with its' colorful eggs.

For me there is the story of a bunny that is all about Easter. It is not some oversized egg deliverer, but rather Barrington Bunny. In this Martin Bell classic children's story, the setting is Christmas, but in the end the sacrifice and the gift of life for others is all about Holy Week and Easter.

It is a story that reminds us of the gift of life and how we all can share that gift with the world around us. It also returns us to the understanding that the whole world is our family. And that is a concept that we seem to have misplaced.

Add another bunny to your celebration. Read about what Barrington learns and what he gives. If you have read it before, it certainly deserves another reading. It is a story that reminds us about the precious value of the gifts of life and love. It is a story that reminds us that our lives are gifts - gifts to be given and shared with others. These are gifts that certainly are the center piece of our lives - our relationship with God and of the gift we celebrate in the Resurrection of his Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16.

Easter Blessings,
Pastor Mark

Men's Bible Breakfast

We meet on Thursdays at 8:00am

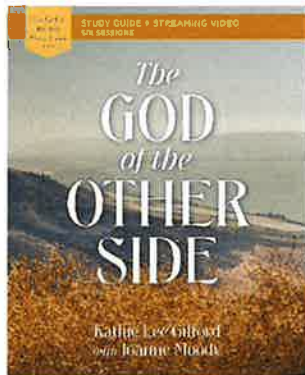
\$8 for breakfast

Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center

7415 East Elbow Bend Rd.

Carefree, AZ 85377

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 to be added.



Piecemakers Quilters

Next Sessions: April 8 and 15

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

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***

Family Sunday School returns this spring with the



curriculum entitled “Simply Loved.” We will be exploring a Jesus-centered journey through God’s story of Love. Our fall semester will focus on one simple Bible Point and Bible Verse:

*Bible Point - “Jesus rescues us.”

*Bible Verse - “He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy” (Titus 3:5)



the



Sunday, April 12, 9:00am – Jesus Forgives Thief on the Cross

Sunday, May 3, 9:00am- Jesus Comes Back to Life

We will meet in the Matthew/Mark classrooms in the Education Building. families with children ages two through sixth grade welcome to participate.



All are

Diapers for Dollars Drive to Benefit

Alleluia Better Chance Diaper Closet



Alleluia Better Chance Diaper Closet provides diapers for 120-150 infants and toddlers impacting 90 to 110 families. **In 2025, Alleluia provided 148,292 diapers and 218,252 wipes through**

a (paid) association with the AZ Diaper Bank and through *generous donations*. This ministry is a stand-alone, not-for-profit organization with a distribution center at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Phoenix, a location that has allowed the organization to increase the number of clients it serves.

Alleluia Better Chance Diaper Closet provides a two-week supply of diapers and wipes on the third Saturday of each month to approximately 150 infants and toddlers in its service radius. Babies and toddlers need an average of 8 diapers a day (more for newborns). That means 112 diapers per child for two weeks (on average). With 120 to 150 infants and toddlers, that is a lot of diapers!

Did you know that diapers cannot be bought with food stamps and are not provided as part of the WIC program? 30% of low-income moms report they cannot change their children's diapers as often as they would like. 32% of low-income families report re-using diapers to pay critical household expenses. Many families who need diapers are working parents, but their low-wage jobs do not cover the basic needs of their children. Childcare providers require parents to have a supply of disposable diapers – no diapers, no daycare - which may mean no employment for parents. In Arizona, one in six of our children lives below the Federal Poverty Line.

In the past we have given diapers, wipes, and dollars, but after discussion last year with the organization, it became clear that money is the easiest and most helpful donation we can make. A check from Living Water allows the Diaper Closet the ability to fill gaps in inventory quickly.

Alleluia needs our help. We are a generous and a giving congregation. Living Water's Service Ministry Team is kicking off a ***Dollars for Diapers Drive*** to support the Alleluia Better Chance Diaper Closet. By Mother's Day, May 10th, our goal is to collect enough dollars to meet the needs of this ministry for two weeks. With our gifts of dollars, we can help provide diapers for babies and toddlers in need.

Please make your checks payable to Living Water Lutheran Church and note "Alleluia Diaper Closet" on the memo line.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

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


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.



April 12 – Adult Forum with Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis

Faithful Goodbyes: What the Farewell Discourse in John’s Gospel Teaches us about Grief, Loss and Letting Go

Sunday, April 12 at 9am in the choir room in Education Building.

Dennis Nelson Bible Study

Weekly, published on our YouTube Channel
Wednesdays at NOON
Bible Study Outlines available on
our website: 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

**NEVC Joint Maundy Thursday Worship
Thursday, April 2nd at Noon**

**at the Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center chapel:
7415 E Elbow Bend Road, Carefree, AZ, 85377.**

**This year the Northeast Valley Consortium is planning our second
joint Maundy Thursday service!**

**We hope you'll join us for a midday service that includes nibbles,
conversation, music, communion and optional footwashing. To
help with the greeting or communion service,
contact Pastor Anna at: pastor@ctlcarefree.org.**

*Stay up-to-date with Living Water
even when you need to stay home
or are on vacation:*

An online version of our newsletters

Splash! and Connections

are available every month on our website

lwlcaz.org

*under the 'Communications'
drop-down menu.*

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.



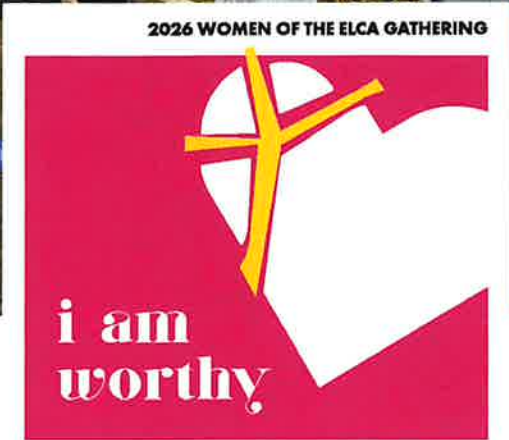
Grand Canyon Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**LUTHER
SEMINARY**



**NORTHEAST
VALLEY
CONSORTIUM**



**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



Women of the ELCA 

VBS

Book Drive

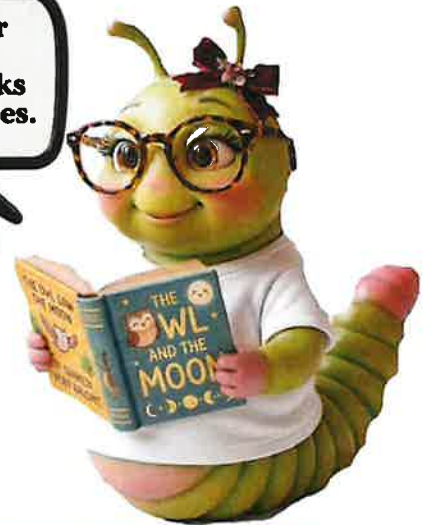
COLLECTING NEW AND GENTLY USED
BOOKS FOR BABIES THROUGH ADULTS

APRIL 6 - JUNE 30, 2026

LIVING WATER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please bring
Children's Books, Baby
Board Books, Early
Phonics Books, Youth Books, Young
Adult Books, Adult Books, Cookbooks, and
even Magazines with recipes (Financial
Donations are welcome too) to Living
Water Lutheran Church: 9201 E Happy
Valley Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85255
(Open Mon-Thurs 9am-2pm)

Remember
no rips,
tears, marks
or wormholes.



Delivering Dreams of Arizona constantly collects new and gently used books for babies through adults. These collections are distributed throughout the Phoenix core area by their volunteers, striving to put books in the homes of families who are financially challenged. For many, your donation could be the first book owned by an individual.

Please contact coordinator Sue Brash with questions, large pick-up requests or offers to donate: suebrash7@gmail.com or 602-317-9444

<https://deliveringdreamsaz.org>

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/



April birthdays!

Claudia	Ingwersen	4/3
Ed	Kilburn	4/5
Del	Rogge	4/6
Linda	Hoening	4/8
AJ	Bernau	4/9
Leslie	Mouer	4/11
Barbara	Hannan	4/12
Dave	Schoenbeck	4/15
Sally	Harris	4/16
Lynn	McLarky	4/19

Diane	Salinas	4/20
Iris	Van	4/20
Janis	Fjeld	4/21
Diane	Klumpp	4/23
Kim	Leinweber	4/23
Doug	Yock	4/24
Robz	Anderson	4/25
Dick	Blazer	4/25
Mark	Eisenhut	4/28
Jennifer	Weisman	4/30



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:

