

May 2026

Splash!

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



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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
- Brian (Judy Tornowske's nephew)—Cancer
- Lizzy Caddow (Friend of Diane Salinas)—Cancer
- Christi (Daughter of Charlie and Sue Boyd)—Health Concerns
- Julia Conner (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Health Concerns
- Larry Coutts (Father of Missy Laudenschlager)—Recurring Health Issues
- Katie Dawson (Daughter of Tod and Bonnie Dawson)—Health Concerns
- Gene Dehnbostel (Brother 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
- Robert Hutson—Health Concerns
- John (Friend of Diane vanMaanen)
- Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- Pastor Robert Klein—Health Concerns
- Matt (Jim and Alison Swanson)—Health Concerns
- Jeff Millis (Son of Karen Welnhofner)—Recovering From Back Surgery
- Sandy Moses—Health Concerns
- Barbara Nelson (Sister of Janet Guthrie)—Health Concerns
- Prestyn Oglesby (David's grandson)—Air Force Deployment
- Gene and Shirley Perry—Health Concerns
- Roy Pester (Friend of Dave Oglesby)—Health Concerns
- Jana Richter (Family Member of Henri & Lynda Breault)—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
- Chris Swenson (Ben, Scout & Craig Swenson)—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 (Niece of Sharon Westergreen)—Health Concerns
- Friends and Family of John Goesling
- Friends and Family of Mary Miller (Mother of Dan Wiebe)
- Friends and Family of Scott Moore (Son of Bonnie Moore)
- Friends and Family of Kathie Roenigk

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 Shari

Some of you may wonder on the first week of May...where is Pastor Shari? Well, on May 3, I depart for Mexico City with Bishop Deborah Hutterer and a few representatives from the Grand Canyon Synod. Then, a few hours after we arrive, we will meet representatives from the Northwest Ohio Synod, and together there will be about 11 of us who will embark on what AMEXTRA calls a Seeds of Transformation experience.

You may wonder what is "AMEXTRA?" And, what is "Seeds of Transformation?"

Truth be told, I didn't know what these things were a couple of weeks ago. Since then, I have learned that AMEXTRA stands for the Mexican Association for Rural and Urban Transformation. Since 1985, AMEXTRA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and California-based Partners in Hope (PiH) have provided transformative experiences and impacting volunteer opportunities in various forms. In 2010, these organizations recognized their interdependent vision and decided it was a perfect moment to combine resources to create the Seeds of Transformation Immersion Program, to be run by AMEXTRA staff. August 2011 marked the beginning of this new program that seeks to fulfill the Seeds of Transformation mission, which is "To provide opportunities to experience Christ's community in a different social, political, and economic context, strengthening our faith in a living God and deepening commitment to building Christ's Kingdom of peace and justice."

To put it a little more plainly, the AMEXTRA staff will be teaching us and providing an itinerary that will include travelling to urban and rural Mexican communities. And, through immersive experiences, we will enjoy cultural and natural beauty, and spend quality time with local families. We will also be meeting the Young Adults in Global Mission who are stationed in Mexico City, as well as local congregations in Mexico City and Guadalajara.

I welcome your prayers as we travel, and I also look forward to sharing some of the crosses that Alan made with some of our brothers and sisters in Christ south of the border. The plan is that we will return on May 11, and I look forward to sharing more about my experiences this summer.

God's peace,
Pastor Shari



Piecemakers Quilters

Next Sessions: May 6 and 20



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

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)



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

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



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.

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

Dennis Nelson Bible Study

Weekly, published on our YouTube Channel

Wednesdays at NOON

Bible Study Outlines available on

our website: **lwlcaz.org**

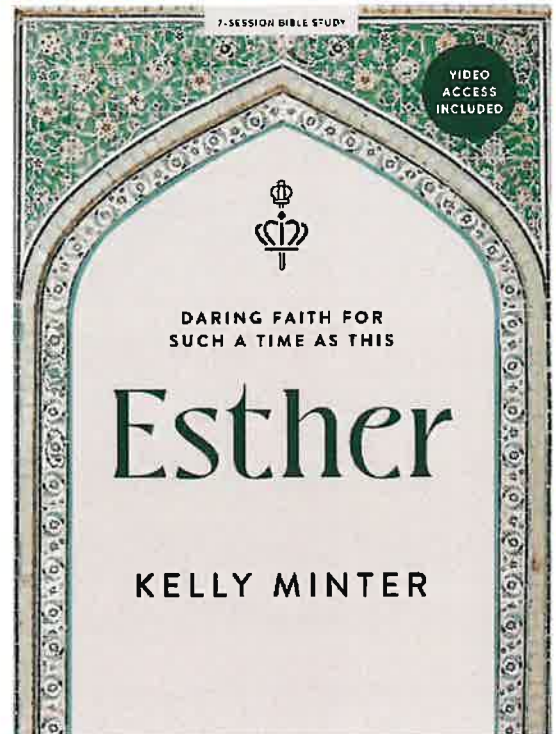
Tuesday Women's Bible Study

Spring 2026

Beginning April 21, we will dig into an epic drama in the book of **Esther: Daring Faith For Such A Time As This**, written by Kelly Minter. It's a seven-session study including videos that will take us to June 2. Kelly is a women's Bible study leader, author, speaker, songwriter, singer.

For this study, I strongly recommend you purchase the accompanying book. It's packed with lots of suggestions to deepen your understanding and enjoyment of this study. I've ordered 16 books that will be available on April 21 for \$25 each. You can also order the book through Amazon or Lifeway.com. If you can't afford the book, one will be provided. Join us at 10 am Tuesdays, MST in the Fellowship Hall, or via Zoom. Coffee and hot water for tea/hot chocolate are available each week.

This will be our last study for Spring 2026. If you aren't on our email list for Tuesday Women communications, please email myrna.ulland@gmail.com.



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/

VBS

Book Drive

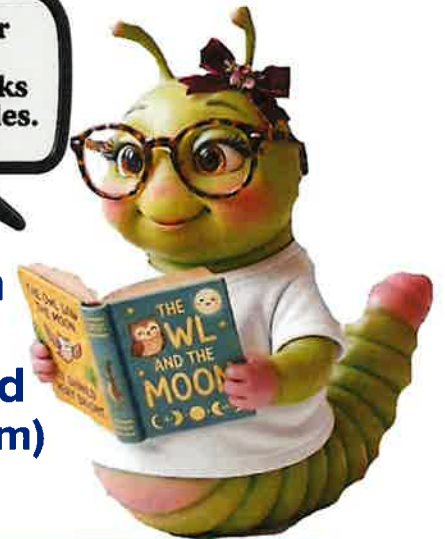
COLLECTING NEW AND GENTLY USED BOOKS FOR BABIES THROUGH ADULTS

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 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>

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.

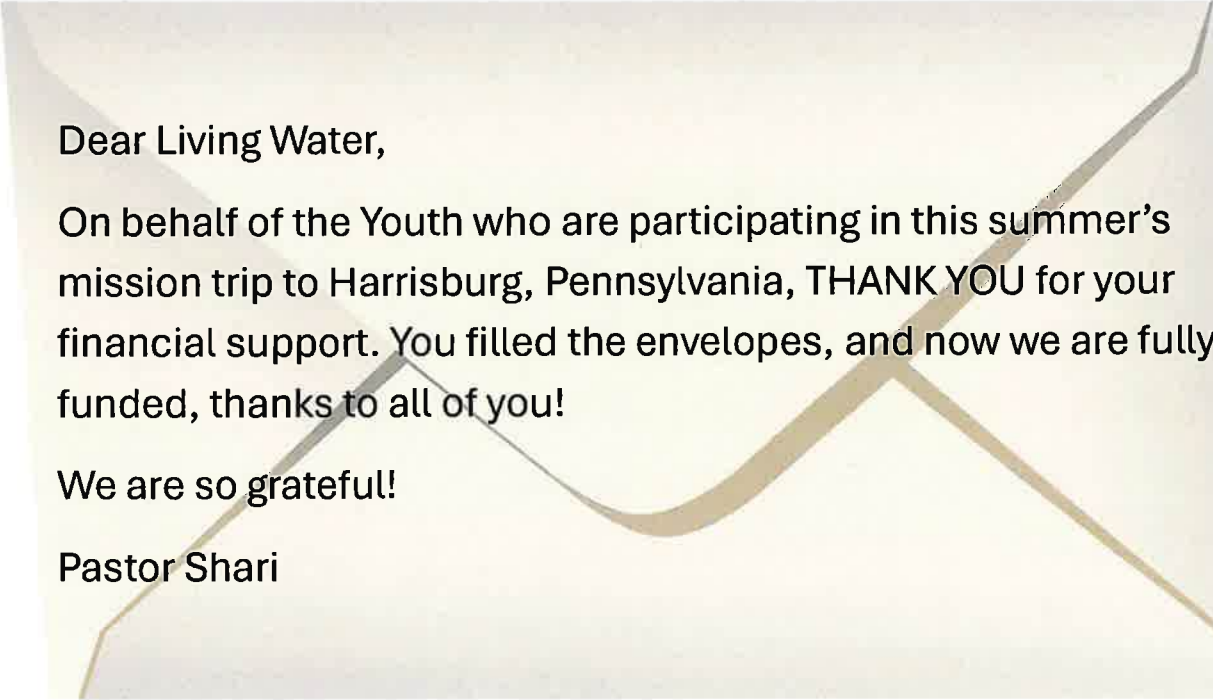
Food Donations

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.



Dear Living Water,

On behalf of the Youth who are participating in this summer's mission trip to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, THANK YOU for your financial support. You filled the envelopes, and now we are fully funded, thanks to all of you!

We are so grateful!

Pastor Shari

Tuesday, May 5th National MMIW Remembrance Day

Join others across our ELCA and our Women of the ELCA on Tuesday, May 5th, to collectively remember those women and girls who have been murdered or have gone missing from our Indigenous communities. We will pray together,

“Candlelight Vigil for Murdered and Missing Women,”

written by Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy.

May 5, 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm MST

[Welca.org/event/a-vigil-for-mmiw-2](https://welca.org/event/a-vigil-for-mmiw-2) – register to attend

Wear red next Tuesday

The red dress has become a powerful symbol of remembrance, resilience, and justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR). Across North America, Indigenous communities and allies gather to wear red, hang red dresses in public spaces, and speak the names of those who have been taken. This act of remembrance is more than symbolic; it is a call to action, a way to honor the lives lost, and a means to amplify the voices of those fighting for justice.



Seeing the Unseen: Why We Wear Red

Among many Indigenous traditions, the color red holds profound spiritual significance. For some Indigenous peoples like my own, it is believed that red is the only color spirits can see, and by wearing red, we make ourselves visible to those who have been taken. In ceremonies and gatherings dedicated to MMIR, the presence of red becomes a beacon, calling the spirits of our loved ones home, ensuring they are not forgotten, and guiding them back into our collective memory.

Wearing red and displaying red dresses is an act of defiance against this erasure. It is a way of saying, “We see you. We remember you. We will not stop fighting for you.” The red dress movement is about reclaiming space, asserting Indigenous presence, and demanding that those in power address the ongoing crisis with urgency and respect.

From Prairie Rose Seminole, an enrolled member of the MHA Nation of North Dakota and a dedicated advocate for Indigenous rights, cultural preservation, and storytelling.

You can find more information on this issue from elca.org/MMIW or firstnations.org/news/red or welca.org/MMIW

The Mutual Ministry Team at Living Water Lutheran Church

We are blessed at Living Water Lutheran Church to have the leadership and support of our Pastors and Church Council for a Mutual Ministry Team.

Mutual Ministry Teams or Committees are rooted in the ELCA Model Constitution and the governing documents of Living Water. In 2023 the Council initiated a five-member Mutual Ministry Team at Living Water. The current five-member team consists of two at large members who were appointed by the Council, one member selected by each Pastor and one member selected by the music director and associate director. The structure and purpose of the committee is stated in the Living Water governing documents as follows:

Mutual Ministry Committee

This committee functions as staff support and serves as a confidential sounding board with whom the staff, both clergy and lay, can share concerns and ideas in such issues as inter-staff problem resolution, pastoral and staff compensation, etc. It should assist the pastor(s) and staff members in the evaluation of their ministry as well as assisting the congregation in the evaluation of its ministry. The committee shall consist of at least five members of the congregation whose terms of membership shall be two years: two members nominated by the Congregation Council, one member nominated by each pastor and deacon, and one member nominated by the lay staff, and all are appointed by the Congregation Council President. Committee members will hold no other office in the congregation during their term.

Let a team member know if you have questions or would like more information. You are always welcome to contact any member with your ideas or concerns. Team members serve with confidentiality of information and input.

Current Mutual Ministry Team Members:

Sharon Augenstein, facilitator and member at large

Nancy Philabaum, recorder of minutes and member at large

Ron Ophaug, Pastor Mark appointee

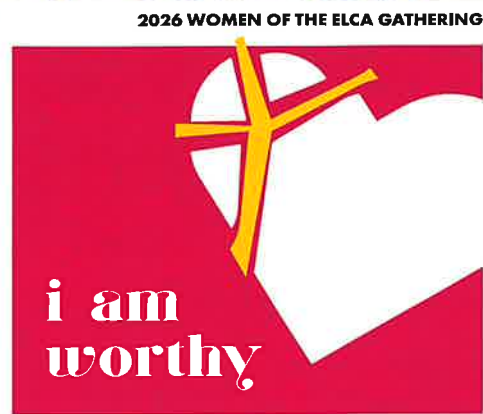
Debbie Anderson, Pastor Shari appointee

Joan Sprinkle, Music Director and Assistant Director appointee

Lou Handley is the Church Council liaison to the Team



**COME AS YOU ARE
& JOIN OVER A
THOUSAND LUTHERAN
WOMEN IN DES
MOINES, IOWA,
JULY 16-19, 2026 FOR
WORSHIP, ADVOCACY,
INSPIRATION,
SISTERHOOD & MORE!**



july 16-19, 2026 | des moines, iowa

VISIT: WELCATG.ORG



Women of the **ELCA** 



**FOOTHILLS
FOOD BANK**
& RESOURCE CENTER

April 17, 2026

Living Water Lutheran Church
9301 E. Happy Valley RD
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Dear Living Water Lutheran Church,

On behalf of everyone at Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center, thank you for your generous donation. Your support means so much to the thousands of individuals and families in our community who rely on us for nourishment and hope. Last year, we saw a 33% increase in the number of individuals and families we served—an unmistakable reminder of both the growing need in our community and the critical role supporters like you play in meeting it.

Your donation of \$367.07, received on 4/17/2026, holds immense value to us and to the individuals and families we serve. Your generosity is a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when neighbors come together to care for one another. Because of you, we are able to provide healthy meals and vital resources to those facing hunger right here in our own neighborhoods.

Thank you again for standing with us. Your generosity is truly making a difference.

With deep gratitude,

Leigh Zydonik
Executive Director
Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center

P.S. If you would like to learn more about how we support our community, please visit FoothillsFoodBank.com or follow us on social media to see the joy and gratitude reflected in the faces of those we serve and those who give.

No goods or services were promised or provided in consideration of this gift.

Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Federal Tax ID: 86-0619725
Certified Charitable Organization (QCO) Code: 20514

Please retain this receipt for your tax records.



May birthdays!

Pat	Stump	2-May
Lynda	Breault	7-May
John	Haggard	7-May
Shirley	Perry	7-May
Grayson	Wanek	7-May
Ashley	Chmielewski	8-May
Nancy	Payne	8-May
Cali	Titmas	9-May
Ondi	Pendergraft	10-May
Pamela	Ziegler	10-May
Sue	Hornacek	11-May
Austin	Sleeper	11-May

Wayne	Burrus	12-May
David	Gallimore	13-May
Steve	Yates	13-May
Cade	Laudenschlager	15-May
Ken	Bash	16-May
Gerry	Cales	19-May
Clark	Rose	19-May
Frank	Schmitt	19-May
Jim	Kreutzfeld	27-May
Debra	Anderson	30-May
Kathie	Schroedel	31-May

Please call the office if your birthday is not listed and we will make sure to enter it into our database.

The Living Water
QR code for giving:



PUBLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES:
Connections Newsletter - Every Tuesday by NOON
SPLASH! Newsletter - The 20th of each month by NOON



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.