

June 2026

Splash!

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



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Mark Rossman

PASTOR
Shari Bernau

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Christina Hall

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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

It had been an experience that has taken place on a nearly annual basis for over thirty years. While the number of folks participating seems to change just about every year and the location of the house has moved a number of times, one of my favorite vacation experiences is the annual extended family vacation gathering in the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

It started years ago with everyone on my father's side of the family - his brother and sister, their spouses and all their children. Three houses, lots of people, food, sun, fun and chaos all mixed together. Over the years this has been a vacation I have looked forward to attending because of the opportunity to reconnect and relax with people I love in such delightful surroundings. But there have been years that was not a possibility. And those years - the ones I could not go - they left me as a pretty glum fellow.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, I know that we are not to be upset about such things, but I have come clean with this one - after all, it is one of those things that is part of my life - something I have made a very regular part of my life. I wanted to make sure that I could do this *every* year. And to be clear, wanting something, dreaming about obtaining something, striving to see that we gain something we really, really want is not a bad thing at all. It can motivate us, it can push us, it can help us strive to reach greater heights, but it can also skew our Christian perspective - and that is where we need to be a bit cautious.

Wanting to go on vacation, wanting a new car, a bigger house - whatever it may be - these are not bad dreams or misguided goals. They do become a problem however if we strive to obtain things such as these at the expense of the more important things of life.

The lives we live are gifts from God. The people who surround us are also gifts from God. The body of Christ - the church - is a gift from God. In all these gifts, there is a responsibility that we hold not only to recognize the above as gifts, but to care for them and utilize them to the very best of our ability. As caretakers of God's world, we are the ones who have been given responsibility to see that this is so, that we care for the gifts that God has bestowed upon us. And it is that responsibility that must remain foremost in our hearts and our minds.

As we enter the summer season, we enter the world of escape, get away and return. While these are important parts of our lives to help us recharge and renew our sense of self, they are also things which cannot be done at the expense of what God has given to us to care for and maintain. While the thoughts of vacation encourage ideas of escaping the responsibilities of our everyday life, these same thoughts do not allow us to abandon the things for which we are responsible.

A good vacation can be defined as one in which we find the desire for it to never end. And while that may be our desire, the fact remains that our responsibilities cannot allow that to happen. So too, can the same be said about that which God has entrusted to our care. No matter what we do, no matter where we go, let us never leave behind the things that God has placed in our care. For these are the things of God, and to think that he has entrusted us to care for them - well, that is bigger than any dream we could ever dream.

Have a safe and blessed summer.

Pastor Rossman

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**



Piecemakers Quilters Summer Break

Our quilters are taking a summer break from tying quilt beginning in June.

If you like to sew and are looking for some small projects during the summer heat, we always have quilt tops ready to be assembled. 12 or 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 supporting Lutheran World Relief at www.lwr.org/quilts-and-kits

Look for our announcement when we resume our group tying again in September.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study Update

The Tuesday Women's Bible study concluded an enlightened study on the book of Esther using material from Kelly Minter on June 2nd. While not our first look at this Old Testament book, it was a deeper dive and encouraged participants to do some scripture digging in-between our seven sessions.

While we're on hiatus for the summer, we'll stay connected through prayer requests during the summer. We also regularly pray for all on our church's prayer list.

Women are encouraged to continue self-study using their subscription to Gather or from free downloadable Bible studies from Gather magazine during the summer. Go to <https://gathermagazine.org> and search for Bible studies.

As we concluded our time together, we sent gifts from our weekly offering to our Grand Canyon Women, to Foothills Food Bank, to St. Mary's Food Bank, to Peter's Hope, to Sleep in Heavenly Peace and to the Pitchfork Pantry at Grace Lutheran Church. This food pantry supports students in ASU's downtown site. We also helped assemble 129 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Tuesday Women have grown in their connections with each other, with their love of scripture, and with their generosity. If you aren't yet part of this Bible study community, we'd love to see you when we resume in September, 10 am on Tuesday's!

There is room for you at our table!



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/

VBS

Book Drive

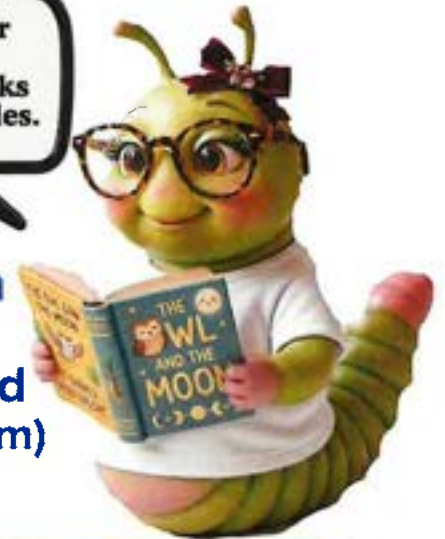
COLLECTING NEW AND GENTLY USED BOOKS FOR BABIES THROUGH ADULTS

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.



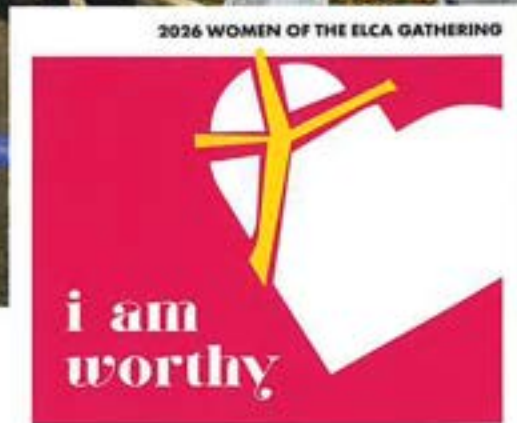
Delivering Dreams of Arizona constantly collects new and gently used books for babies through adults. These collections are distributed throughout the Phoenix core area by their volunteers, striving to put books in the homes of families who are financially challenged. For many, your donation could be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



**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 

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

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.

May 21st Blood Drive Results

Although the summer blood drives are more difficult to fill, their importance is magnified. The need for blood during the summer months is critical! Thank you to everyone who donated. There were seventeen total units collected. These will all help someone in need of blood.

We are looking in to more effective ways to advertise our drive because the Red Cross has determined that this is a great location.

Please put our next blood drive date on your calendar. It is Wednesday, August 27th



Alleluia Better Diaper Closet

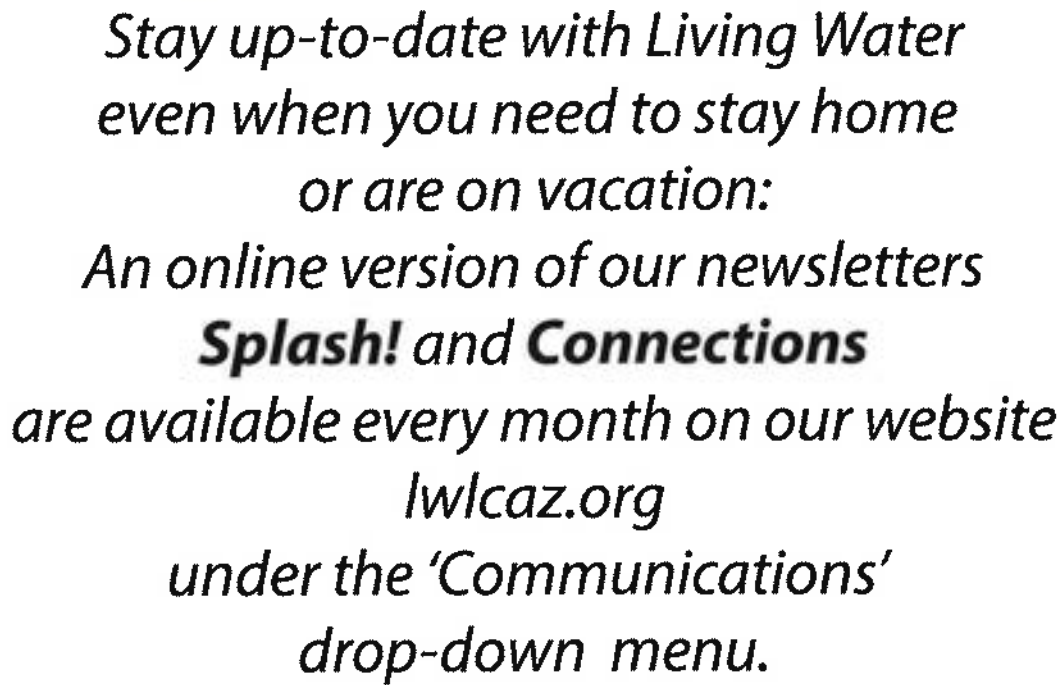
Results

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thanks to all who helped LWLC have a successful drive to raise money for Alleluia Better Chance Diaper Closet. With your help, we will be able to provide diapers for one of their distribution dates.

Through your unselfish giving, we collected \$2,295 for the diaper closet. A special thank you goes to the LWLC Women who donated \$1,000 of this total from their collections!

The Alleluia Better Chance Diaper Closet is very appreciative of your generous donation. The organization is managed and staffed by volunteers, so the entire donation goes only toward diapers. We all made an enormous difference in the lives of the families who rely on this organization's services.



*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.*



May 5, 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 \$1,710.00, received on 5/5/2026, 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leigh".

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.



SPIRIT IN THE DESERT
P.O. BOX 3254 CAREFREE, AZ 85377

May 12, 2026

Living Water Lutheran Church
Attn: Pastor Mark Rossman
9201 E Happy Valley Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Dear Pastor Mark & Friends,

Thank you for your recent donation of \$918.00 to support the mission and ministries of Spirit in the Desert! Your gift, received 4/17/2026, helps provide rest, encouragement, and strength for the many guests who come here seeking time to step back, reflect, and gain new perspective.

Your continued support makes this ministry possible. Because of partners like you, Spirit remains a welcoming place where people connect with friends and colleagues, reconnect with themselves and God, and return home refreshed and strengthened for the work and relationships that await them.

One participant expressed what so many experience when they come here: "I came in broken. I'm leaving restored." Moments like these remind us that this ministry matters and that Spirit in the Desert continues to make a difference.

Your gifts encourage us! They affirm your confidence in our mission of providing a spiritual place where healing, restoration, and transformation can occur, now more than ever. We sincerely appreciate each and every gift.

Gratefully,

Rika Beckley
Incoming Executive Director
rika@spiritinthedesert.org

Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this gift.

Tax ID #86-0736429



Vanessa	Alberti
Joyce	Bash
Sue	Boyd
Michelle	Brown
Hunter	Brown
Lynda	Cales
Virginia	Conrad
Denny	Dumler
Richard	Gunderson
Lou	Handley
Suki	Kisling

Missy	Laudenschlager
Bonnie	Moore
Terry	Nelson
Tracy	Rossmann
Elen	Schoenbeck
David	Schroedel
Sarah	Shelmire
Karen	Sherrin
Madison	Wanek
Sharon	Westergreen
Sam	Winter

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.