

JULY 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 Snoke

FINANCE MANAGER
Stephanie McLean

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Christina Hall

www.LWLCAZ.org



CONTENTS

Prayer List

Pastor's Message

Studies & Retreats

News & Events



We Remember in Our Prayers



- o Sylvia Behler (Daughter of Laurie Shabbick)—Hospice Care
- o Jeff & Eric Bembry (Friends of Diane vanMaanen)—Health Concerns
- o Brian (Judy Tornowske's nephew)—Cancer
- o Lizzy Caddow (Friend of Diane Salinas)—Cancer
- o Christi (Daughter of Charlie and Sue Boyd)—Health Concerns
- o Betty Copenhaver (Aunt of Pastor Mark)—Hospice Care
- o Julia Conner (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Health Concerns
- o Larry Coutts (Father of Missy Laudenschlager)—Recurring Health Issues
- o Gene Dehnbostel (Brother of Marilyn Nartker)—Health Concerns
- o Angelika Dumpf (Wife of Brett Stone)—Health Concerns
- o Gary Fjeld—Health Concerns
- o Jenna Fjeld—Health Concerns
- o Dave and Joy Gallimore—Health Concerns
- o Frank Gasparino—Health Concerns
- o Robert Hutson—Health Concerns
- o John (Friend of Diane vanMaanen)
- o Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- o Pastor Robert Klein—Health Concerns
- o Matt (Jim and Alison Swanson)—Health Concerns
- o Jeff Millis (Son of Karen Welnhofner)—Recovering from Back Surgery
- o Sandy Moses—Health Concerns
- o Marilyn Nartker—Health Concerns
- o Barbara Nelson (Sister of Janet Guthrie)—Health Concerns
- o Prestyn Oglesby (David's grandson)—Air Force Deployment
- o Gene and Shirley Perry—Health Concerns
- o Roy Pester (Friend of Dave Oglesby)—Health Concerns
- o Jana Richter (Family Member of Henri & Lynda Breault)—Health Concerns
- o Karen Roessler—Health Concerns
- o Del Rogge—Heart Concerns
- o Dale Schoenbeck (David's Brother)—Health Concerns
- o Regan Shea (Friend of Pastor Mark)—Health Concerns
- o Roger Smedberg (Nephew of Karen and Ronald Roessler)—Brain Cancer
- o Frank Steen (Friend of Pastor Mark)—Cancer
- o Kristen Stenehjem (Niece of Sue and Lee Stenehjem)—Health Concerns
- o Bob Uiland—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 (Niece of Sharon Westergreen)—Health Concerns
- o Family and Friends of Michael Hammack (Friend of Mason Rossman)

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

Departure day is getting close for the 2026 Mission Trip to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The group leaves on July 18 and returns on July 24. Please keep the group in your prayers. Along with myself, Ryan Handley will be serving as the young adult leader, and the youth participants include Allison Handley, Kaden Roos, Wesley Roos, Heath Handley and Tate Handley. We are very excited to have a mix of returning and new participants.

This will be our sixth mission trip with Youthworks, so we are familiar with the program, but we will be exploring a completely different part of the US. We will be working in community gardens and parks, doing yard work projects, pulling weeds, and trimming bushes. We will also be learning from and serving local organizations like Boys and Girls Club, Wildheart, food banks, and other nonprofit and social service agencies.



Thank you so much for your support! I want you to know that you are truly making a difference in the lives of the youth who are participating. When these youth dedicate one week out of the year to focus on serving others in the name of Christ, it positively impacts their self-esteem and confidence. Not only do they get their hands dirty and work hard to make a difference, but they also have time for self-reflection to see how they may be capable of so much more than they ever imagined.

The opportunities and relationships we encounter open our eyes to new and grace-filled



ways of seeing people around us and the world we live in. Mission Trips also connect us with what God is up to all around us.

God's calling for all of us is far more than a trip. But we know, for many, living out that calling *begins* with a trip. That's why this is so important. Thank you, Living Water!

God's peace,

Pastor Shari Bernau

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: **lwlc.org**

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

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!



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



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.



THE POWER OF CORN FLAKES

An Opportunity to Love Your Neighbor



Starting Sunday, July 5, your servant leadership team is beginning a more effective means of supporting ministries important to Living Water. We will be collecting money and goods during targeted, time-limited drives for all our ministries. We already do this several times a year including donations at Thanksgiving and the Angel Tree at Christmas and the diaper drive for Alleluia Diaper Closet before Mothers' Day, and this month we will be following that process to collect for **FOOTHILLS FOOD BANK**.


Summer is low season for donations, but the need is not less. Let's show that Living Water can respond to our community's need with a strong spirit of generosity to help ease our neighbors' challenges through tough times.

How can we help?

Corn Flakes! Rice Krispies! Raisin Bran! We will be collecting breakfast cereals geared for adults in **regular-size boxes** or in the **small box variety packs**. Our goal is **500 boxes** by Sunday, July 26.

There are three ways to contribute: **(1)** Bring your donations to Living Water and leave them in the designated area in the Narthex **(2)** take one of the envelopes addressed to FOOTHILLS FOOD BANK and place your check inside with LIVING WATER noted on the memo line. **(3)** *For those of you in other locations, send your check directly to this address: Foothills Food Bank, 4250 E. Carefree Hwy., Cave Creek, AZ 85331.* Foothills will let us know how much they collect from Living Water donors.

Living Water is a generous congregation attuned to the needs of the community. Let's throw our support behind Foothills Food Bank and show them what we can do when we put our hearts and spirits to work!



*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.*



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.

Vacation Bible School, 2026 edition is in the rear-view mirror. Twenty-four children and many teen, young adult and (old) adult volunteers spent a full week of Bible lessons, dramas, singing, crafts, games and, of course, delicious meals from the Snack Shack. There were God-sightings, chariot rides, a grumpy soldier who discovered his faith, many smiles, and voices raised in both silly songs and expressions of God's love. A BIG thank you to everyone who helped make this week possible by donating funds for supplies. Finally, thank you to the volunteers!

Set Design and

Construction:

Wayne Burrus
Leila Burrus
Alan Katuin
Sue Stenehjem
Troy Hartmann
Ben Swenson

Celebration Leaders:

Christina Hall
Allison Handley
Caroline Ruff
Stella Robinson
Pastor Shari

Snack Shack:

Julie Ann Walker
Sue Umland
Lynda Breault

Crafts:

Ellen Schoenbeck
AJ Bernau
Karen Roessler
Caroline Ruff

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

VBS Festival:

Kristi Winter
Robert Winter

Security Team:

Jim King
Steve Umland

AV Technician:

Heidi Ruff
William Ruff
Henry Ruff

Floater:

Matthew Umland
Debbie Anderson

VBS Leadership Team:

Pastor Shari
Heidi Ruff
Myrna Ulland
Julie Ann Walker
Debbie Anderson
Lisa Moehn

Family Leaders:

Myma Ulland
Joan Sprinkle
Denny Dumlner
Jeri Pounds
Patty Hamm
Jill Wehr

Assistant Family Leaders:

Taylor Kater
Naomi Finneran
Allison Handley
Tate Handley
Stella Robinson
Jackson Robinson
Kaden Roos
Wesley Roos
Mason Sleeper

Games:

Ryan Handley
Heath Handley

Drama:

Lisa Moehn
Darryl van Maanan
Wayne Burrus
Heidi Ruff

Mission Project

Book Drive:

Myrna Ulland
Sue Brash

Registration:

Jill Wehr
Shirley Koch



NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!

June 17, 2026

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

Re: Sleep in Heavenly Peace Donation Receipt

Dear Living Water Lutheran Church,

Your generous donation has made a significant impact on our community, particularly for the children who now have the comfort of a bed to sleep in. Your support enables us to purchase essential materials like lumber and mattresses, providing a sense of security and peace for local children.

We know there is still work to be done and your ongoing support is crucial in our mission to ensure that **NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!** We invite you to continue this journey with us, as your support plays a vital role in making dreams come true, one bed at a time.

Your donation was recorded on 06/16/2026 in the amount of \$300.00 dated 06/07/2026

With heartfelt gratitude,

Karen & Joe,

Sleep in Heavenly Peace - AZ-Phoenix

Please print this receipt for tax purposes. As required by the IRS regulations, we provide the following information: Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. Our federal tax identification number is 46- 4346568. As no goods or services have been provided in connection with this gift, the full amount is deductible to the fullest extent provided by law

Thank you for your donation to help the kids...

Sleep In Heavenly Peace – 669 W Quinn BLDG #42 – Pocatello, ID 83202

ARIZONA TAX CREDIT

BE SURE TO CLAIM YOUR AZ CREDIT WHEN YOU FILE

Sleep In Heavenly Peace Arizona is now a Qualifying Charitable Organization: QCO #22398

Watch QCO Video



Use AZ tax from 321



Make Donation



THANK YOU
from our
KIDS



Disclaimer: This is for informational purposes only and not tax advice. Please consult a qualified tax professional about your specific situation before taking any action.



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,

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.

Living Water Lutheran Church
9201 East Happy Valley Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85255



LUNCHES FOR
Learning

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your most recent gift to Lunches for Learning through the generosity of your Lenten offering:

Date of this gift:	5/3/2026
Amount of this gift:	\$1,710.00
Your 2026 giving:	\$1,710.00

I had an amazing encounter in Honduras earlier this year that speaks directly to the impact of the L4L program on the kids there. The photos on the back of this page help to underscore the impact of this encounter.

While visiting a school in the L4L program alongside representatives from the Alabama church that sponsors this particular school, I noticed that the volunteer kindergarten teacher looked familiar to me, but I couldn't quite figure out why. When the school's Principal introduced her to me, he stated that she had graduated from 6th grade at that school and recently returned as the volunteer kindergarten teacher. As soon as he told me this, I realized why she looked familiar. I was there nine years earlier in 2017 when she graduated from 6th grade!

Her name is Ana (pronounced "AH-na"), and after 6th grade, she found a way to complete junior high school (7th-9th grades) and then even continue – by commuting to a not-so-nearby town – and complete high school. Her family has always been desperately poor, a point she underscored when she addressed her fellow 6th grade graduates in 2017, but Ana was determined to finish her education.

For a girl whose family lived in such desperate poverty, like so many other children in this region of Honduras, Ana would have been at risk of dropping out of school as early as 2nd grade, or 3rd grade, to search for food each day. Her education would have terminated at that point ... regardless of how determined she might have been ... because that is a battle that hunger always wins. What made the difference? Daily lunch at school is what kept her in school. If she had dropped out at any point because of extreme hunger, then none of the rest – junior high school, high school, becoming a volunteer teacher – would have ever been possible.

This a real-life example of the impact that your support of Lunches for Learning is having on kids in rural Honduras. You will be seeing more mentions of this encounter I had with Ana in the coming months, because her story is worth telling. Please know that your impact is real, and we cannot thank you enough for supporting Lunches for Learning.

Sincerely,



Phil Dodson, Executive Director

*Lunches for Learning is an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
All gifts are tax-deductible. No goods or services have been rendered in exchange for any gifts.*

Bringing hope to Honduras ... one lunch at a time
P.O. Box 2146 • Roswell, GA 30077-2146 • [REDACTED] • lunchesforlearning.org



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

1776 - 2026

Living Water Lutheran Church



JULY birthdays!

Eric	Leinweber	7/3
Judy	Nerison	7/4
Gene	Elers	7/5
Ed	Shipley	7/6
Marilyn	Nartker	7/8
Susan	Purewal	7/8
Beth	McCarthy	7/14
Trace	Laudenschlager	7/15
John	Hannan	7/16
William	Ruff	7/19

Steven	Johnson	7/21
Sarge	Purewal	7/21
Ann	Sadler	7/21
Michael	Winter	7/21
Lourdes	Gasparino	7/22
Cherie	Bruckner	7/23
Tom	Kelland	7/24
Steve	Umland	7/27
Janet	Guthrie	7/29
Mason	Seeper	7/31

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@lwcaz.org ~ 480.473.8400 ~ www.LWCAZ.org

Living Water is a Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Grand Canyon Synod.