

August 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

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- 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
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- Matt (Jim and Alison Swanson)—Health Concerns
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- Frank Steen (Friend of Pastor Mark)—Cancer treatment
- Kristen Stenehjerm (Niece of Sue and Lee Stenehjerm)—Health Concerns
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- Kelly White (Niece of Sharon Westergreen)—Health Concerns
- Pr. Nanette Christofferson (Love of Christ, Mesa, AZ)—Health Concerns

Send your prayer requests to prayer@hwlcaz.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

Back in 2007 I owned a treadmill—a gracious gift from a friend. I would wake each morning, do 45 to 60 minutes on the treadmill, shower and begin the day. That is what I used to do. I somehow fell out of the routine. I had intended to get back to that routine but had not been successful in accomplishing that goal. Even then, I was old enough and smart enough to know better. I should have known better. But instead, the treadmill became a clothes rack of sorts.

In the summer of 2009, the congregation I served sponsored a young Bosnian to be part of the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Petar Obradovic was a translator on a couple of the Mission Trips I had taken to Bosnia, and I thought this would be a great opportunity for the congregation and for Petar. Apart from the Gathering there were a great many things we did to try to give him a taste of the American experience. One of those “tastes” was a trip to Washington, D.C.

And so, Petar and I saw D.C. We saw The Capitol, The White House, 8 monuments, 12 museums and numerous other sites and we saw them all on foot. We walked and walked and walked and walked and walked. I pushed myself to keep up the pace which Petar set. He was far more accustomed to the endless walking that took place on this venture. As we walked, I began to wish that I had redeveloped a better relationship with my treadmill.

Quite often we find ourselves quite challenged when life calls upon us to keep up the pace. We find such challenges not only when we are out to see the sights, but we find similar challenges in all kinds of situations—in our personal relationships, in our lives at work, in our neighborhood or in school. The pace of life can challenge us in our spiritual lives too. And it is in that area especially—our spiritual lives—that we find we do not keep pace so well.

There are ways to avoid the fear of not keeping pace, ways that allow us the ability to meet the spiritual challenges of any given day. God provides for us all exercise equipment required to help build ourselves up to allow us to meet the challenges of the days ahead, to keep pace with whatever might come our way.

The exercise equipment that is provided for us comes in many forms. Which one might best serve as the treadmill or the elliptical trainer of your spiritual life is up to you. But what we do have in our spiritual life to help us keep pace in this world is the Bible, listening to sermons, Holy Communion, Bible Studies, meditation, and conversations with the faithful, just to mention a few. In these pieces of spiritual exercise equipment, we have the Word of God present. And it is in and through that Word that we grow in strength and faith. It is with that Word we discover the growth required to keep pace with the challenges of this world.

While I survived my touring experience in Washington DC what I discovered was that it would have been a whole lot less painful if I had done what I should have done in preparation. In our spiritual lives God gives us that same opportunity. We are daily given the chance to build up our spiritual strength so that keeping pace might not be such a difficult thing. In fact, if we exercise enough, we might discover that keeping pace is not an issue at all. It is through God's Word we have all the strength and perseverance that we need for any journey on life's path. Especially this curious journey we are on now.

Be well. Stay healthy. God bless. 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

Dennis Nelson Bible Study

Weekly, published on our YouTube Channel

Wednesdays at NOON

Bible Study Outlines available on

our website: **lwlcaz.org**



Because of You: 600 Students Ready for School

Dear Mark ,

Our Back-to-School event was a success, and it's all because of supporters like you.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we distributed over 600 new backpacks filled with school supplies to local children, helping them start the school year feeling prepared and confident. Thanks to our agency partners, we also provided hundreds of new pairs of children's shoes and school uniforms to families who needed them most.

Thank you for helping make this event possible. Your generosity created excitement, confidence, and hope for hundreds of children as they head back into the classroom.

On a personal note, moments like this remind me why I love what I do. It is truly an honor to help steward your trusted gifts into programs like these and witness the direct impact of your generosity through the smiles of the children and families we serve at NourishPHX. Thank you for believing in our mission and for making moments like these possible.

With gratitude,

Shea Gilman
Donor Engagement & Development Coordinator

Summer Kids Café

During June and July, NourishPHX proudly participates in the St. Mary's Kids Café program, providing breakfast to 35 children every weekday while school is out for the summer—a tradition we've continued for the past 10 years!

While parents shop in our boutique and receive their food boxes, children enjoy breakfast, coloring, movies, and special activities with community partners who provide fun, educational experiences.

Our Contact Information

NourishPHX
P.O. Box 2225
Phoenix, AZ 85002
602-775-5740
<http://www.nourishphx.org>

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

Living Water Lutheran Church Grief Support Group



Have you lost a loved one recently or are you still grieving from a former loss? Everyone is welcome.

Group Facilitator: Diane Klumpp

Pastoral Support: Pastor Shari Bernau

**This is an 8-week program on Wednesdays 1:00-2:30pm
running from September 30 – November 11**

Please call or email Pastor Shari Bernau to sign up,
and note that this group is capped at 8 people.

480-473-8400 - pastorshari@lwlcaz.org



Living Water Lutheran Church
9201 E Happy Valley Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85255
*Education Building

Piecemakers Quilters Summer Break



Our quilters are taking a summer break from tying quilts, 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.

Thank you for your generosity. Your generosity makes a difference and is helping change lives. Thank you for believing in the mission of Living Water and helping us to continue our ministry.

If you are looking for an easy way to give a financial gift via your phone, see QR code below to access Living Water's online giving platform.

*Thank
You*



Living Water's "Hunger Jar"



The large Hunger Jar is in the sanctuary during services, to the right of the water fountain. Offerings placed in the Hunger Jar are typically distributed 50/50 between local and international/global organizations or initiatives.

The Service and Caring Team Ministry at LWLC periodically determines how to distribute offerings to the Hunger Jar. Most recently, we split the 06/30/26 balance of \$ 2,924. We allocated 50% locally to Foothills Food Bank and 50% internationally to ELCA World Hunger. Each will receive \$1462.

You are invited to make an offering to the Hunger Jar while the offering is being collected during the worship service. While the jar's tag line says, "Change for Change," your offering can be coins, bills, and even checks. And, if you prefer, you can donate through LWLC's online donation option and indicate "Hunger Jar."

From time to time, you may also see smaller Hunger Jar collection jars elsewhere in the church as we gather for worship. Each offering placed in the Hunger Jar is a reminder that our hungry neighbors, near and far, benefit from our generosity. Thank you!

The Service and Caring Committee just voted on the distribution of the Hunger Jar Collections for the first half of the year. Due to your generosity, Living Water collected \$2,924 from January through June. Thank you, Living Water!

We typically send 50% locally and 50% internationally. This time 50% or \$1,264 will be going to Foothills Food Bank and 50% or \$1,264 will be going to ELCA World Hunger.

This will make a difference to those in need! Thank you again!

Dear friend,

You've likely seen the news that two powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela. Entire communities have been shaken to the ground. More than 1,700 lives have been confirmed lost so far, thousands more are injured, and countless families are now without shelter, safety or access to necessities.

Lutheran Disaster Response is already responding through trusted, long-standing partners in the region, including the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela (IELV). ELCA partners have deployed assessment teams to affected areas, working together to identify urgent needs, provide immediate relief (e.g. food, shelter, water) and coordinate a plan for long-term assistance.

Your gifts enable this church to provide fast and effective support to communities in need and to remain for as long as recovery takes, whenever and wherever a disaster occurs. Will you give today to provide critical aid in these early days and, crucially, in the months and years to come?

Please consider a gift today. In Venezuela and around the world, your support makes a difference for families facing unimaginable loss. Please write checks to Living Water Lutheran Church, and in memo line write: VENEZUELA



Lutheran
Disaster Response



August birthdays!

Shaina	Weisman	8/1
Summer	Weisman	8/1
Allison	Handley	8/2
Turid	Sabia	8/4
Andrea	Decker	8/5
Lisa	Moehn	8/5
Karen	Roessler	8/8
Hudson	Wanek	8/10

Bob	Frost	8/11
Caroline	Ruff	8/20
Ryan	Handley	8/21
Kristi	Winter	8/23
Myrna	Ulland	8/24
Anne	Tanner	8/29
Dave	Pendergraft	8/31
Patti	Pick	8/31



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@lwlc.org ~ 480.473.8400 ~ www.LWLC.org

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