

September 2026

# Splash!

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



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Mark Rossman

PASTOR  
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OFFICE/COMMUNICATIONS  
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[www.LWLCAZ.org](http://www.LWLCAZ.org)



*Then all things will be given to you. | Matthew 6:33*



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9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

## *We Remember in Our Prayers*



- v Sylvia Behler (Mother of Laurie Shabbick)—Hospice Care
- v Jeff & Eric Bemby (Friends of Diane vanMaanen)—Health Concerns
- v Brian (Judy Tornowske's nephew)—Cancer
- v Lizzy Caddow (Friend of Diane Salinas)—Cancer
- v Christi (Daughter of Charlie and Sue Boyd)—Health Concerns
- v Julia Conner (Friend of Frances DeBruyn)—Health Concerns
- v Larry Coutts (Father of Missy Laudenschlager)—Recurring Health Issues
- v Gene Dehnbostel (Brother of Marilyn Nartker)—Health Concerns
- v Don Doench (Brother-in-law of Joan Sprinkle) – Health Concerns
- v Angelika Dumpf (Wife of Brett Stone)—Health Concerns
- v Jenna Fjeld—Health Concerns
- v Dave and Joy Gallimore—Health Concerns
- v Frank Gasparino—Health Concerns
- v Paul Heinze (Friend of the Pettengill's)—Knee Replacement and Broken Femur
- v Sandy Heinze (Friend of the Pettengill's)—Upcoming Surgery
- v Robert Hutson—Health Concerns
- v John (Friend of Diane vanMaanen)
- v Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- v John Kelsh (Spouse of Jennifer Kelsh)—Health Concerns
- v Pastor Robert Klein—Health Concerns
- v Matt (Jim and Alison Swanson)—Health Concerns
- v Jeff Millis (Son of Karen Welnhofner)—Recovering from Back Surgery
- v Sandy Moses—Health Concerns
- v Marilyn Nartker—Health Concerns
- v Terry Nelson—Recovering from Hip Surgery
- v Prestyn Oglesby (David's grandson)—Air Force Deployment
- v Gene and Shirley Perry—Health Concerns
- v Roy Pester (Friend of Dave Oglesby)—Health Concerns
- v Jana Richter (Family Member of Henri & Lynda Breault)—Health Concerns
- v Karen Roessler—Health Concerns
- v Del Rogge—Heart Concerns
- v Keith Runge (Friend of Pastor Mark)—Health Concerns
- v Jim Samlaska (Father of Pastor Shari)—Health Concerns
- v Dale Schoenbeck (David's Brother)—Health Concerns
- v Kristen Stenehjerm (Niece of Sue and Lee Stenehjerm)—Health Concerns
- v Bob Ulland—Health Concerns
- v Michael Umland (Son of Steve & Sue Umland)—Health Concerns
- v Iris Van—Eyesight Issues
- v Peter Vasiliades (Nephew of Rick Sherrin)—Health Concerns
- v Marge Vessey (Close Friend of Carol and Lance Jacobson)—Health Concerns
- v Kelly White (Niece of Sharon Westergreen)—Health Concerns
- v Pr. Nanette Christofferson (Love of Christ, Mesa, AZ)—Health Concerns
- v Family and Friends of Roger Smedberg (Nephew of Karen and Ronald Roessler)

*Send your prayer requests to [prayer@lwlcaz.org](mailto: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



# *Living Water*

Lutheran Church

*Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.*  
*John 4:14*

I love the name of our church! It is welcoming to say the least. For ALL people are thirsty physically and/or spiritually from time to time and are in need of Living Water. And, ALL of those thirsty people are welcome here. Even the Samaritans of today. Even those who feel like they are not worthy. Even those who don't feel like they fit in. Even those who think we are hypocrites. Even those who we may go out of our way to avoid during the week.

In Jesus' time, most rabbis went out of their way not to go through Samaria, because of their extreme dislike of the Samaritans.

Not so with Jesus, He came up from Judea, traveling towards Galilee which is north of Jerusalem. Jesus did not choose the longer route in order to avoid contact with the Samaritans. Instead, He had a divine appointment with the woman at the well.

Jesus arrived at the well around noon time shortly before the woman would come to the well to draw water. And, she came by herself because she was somewhat of an outcast in her village.

At first the woman did not understand that Jesus was talking about spiritual things to her. Nor did she have any idea that she was talking to the Messiah, the true and living God in the flesh. Furthermore, she had no idea that this encounter with Jesus would change her whole life and the life of many more Samaritans that came to faith because Jesus went out of His way to meet her.

But, he did change her whole life. Because the Living Water from Jesus changes everything.

*Pastor Shari*

## 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**

Studies available on YouTube each **Wednesday**

*Weekly, published on our YouTube Channel*

*Wednesdays at NOON*

*Bible Study Outlines available on*

*our website: **lwlc az.org***



Interested in joining the Living Water church family?

If so, please rsvp with the front office or  
signup on the clipboard in the Narthex for our next

New Members Orientation (and dinner)  
on Saturday, October 10th from 4:00-6:00pm



# *Save the Date*

**Reformation  
Potluck Luncheon**  
Sunday, October 25  
Following Service

## **Piecemakers Quilters Return!**



Our quilters will resume our quilt tying sessions beginning on September 16 at 9 am in the Education building. If you would like to join us and can tie a square knot (we'll teach you how!), we'd love to see you! We meet for about 2.5-3 hours typically on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Bring your own beverage for a short break mid-morning.

We hope to tie as many quilts as we can before the Phoenix area LWR ingathering of quilts and kits on October 16-17, 2026.

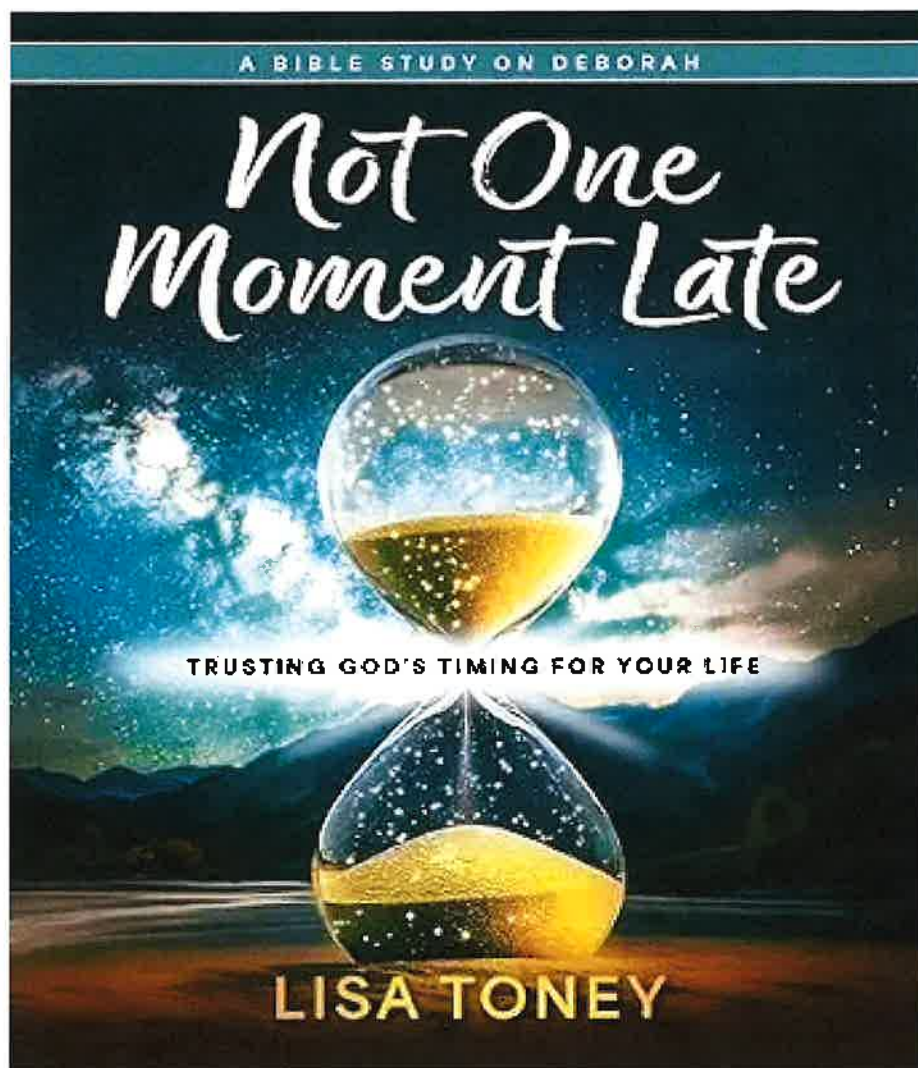
Can't join us on Wednesdays? If you like to sew and are looking for some small projects, we always have quilt tops ready to be assembled. 12 or 16 pieces, using ½" seams. Assemble at your leisure! Ask Lynda Cales, Kay Bonar, Mary Nyberg or Myrna Ulland. You can also learn more about this ministry supporting Lutheran World Relief at [www.lwr.org/quilts-and-kits](http://www.lwr.org/quilts-and-kits)



## TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FOR SEPT-OCT 2026

All women are invited to our weekly women's Bible study, resuming Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 10 am MST. Have you ever felt frustrated with God's timing for your life? Perhaps you find it difficult to see God's hand? Join us for a seven-week video series on a prophetess and judge, Deborah, from the Old Testament book of Judges, with material newly released by author, pastor, teacher and professor Lisa Toney. Gain insight in living with confidence in every season of your life.

### **"Not One Moment Late"**



The first session on Sept. 8 will be introductory and about 60 minutes. Participant books are encouraged and they will be available for purchase at \$20 each on Sept. 8. A Kindle version of the participant book is also available through Amazon. The study book is not required, however, but do bring your favorite Bible translation. We'll then resume each Tuesday for about 90 minutes for six more sessions, taking us through the end of October. We also offer a Zoom connection so you can join us from anywhere you have Wifi access!

Coffee and hot water for hot chocolate/tea are available each week. No prior Bible study experience needed and you don't need to be Lutheran to join us. Occasionally we also begin with a treat. On the last Tuesday each month we try to get together for lunch following our study time at a local restaurant. There is a spot for you at our study table!

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us beginning September 8. If you're not on our Tuesday Women's email list, please contact Myrna Ulland at [myrna.ulland@gmail.com](mailto:myrna.ulland@gmail.com) to be added so you're up to date with our communications!

## **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, 2026**

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](mailto:pastorshari@lwlcaz.org)



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



At present, we are still short 43 of the Amazon Basics Liquid Laundry Detergent, Free of Perfumes and Dyes.

You can find this item by looking up the Living Water Lutheran wish list on Amazon. Choose the Gods Work, Our Hands list to see how many we still need. Otherwise, cash and check are still very welcome.



note: We must receive all donations by  
Sunday morning, September 13th.

(You can still donate before service on Sunday, September 13th.)

## Join Our Church Choir!

Rehearsals start Wednesday,  
September 9 at 7pm.  
All are welcome!

Questions?  
Reach out to Christina at [chall@lwlcas.org](mailto:chall@lwlcas.org)



## 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!

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*



# **Family Sunday School** returns this fall 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 - "God takes care of us."

\*Bible Verse - "If God is for us, who can ever be against us?" (Romans 8:31)



- **Sunday, September 20, 9:00am** – Moses Is Rescued by Pharaoh's Daughter
- **Sunday, October 18, 9:00am** – Moses Talks to God at a Burning Bush
- **Sunday, November 8, 9:00am** – God Spares the Israelites at Passover
- **Sunday, November 22, 9:00am**- ADVENT

FAIR!

- **Sunday, December 6, 9:00am** – Christmas Lesson



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.

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 has collected \$2,924 from January through June. Thank you Living Water!

We typically send 50% locally and 50% internationally. This time 50% or \$1,462 will be going to Foothills Food Bank and 50% or \$1,462 will be going to ELCA World Hunger.

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





# September birthdays!

|         |          |      |
|---------|----------|------|
| Sue     | Stenehem | 9/1  |
| Jenna   | Fjeld    | 9/2  |
| Bill    | Harris   | 9/7  |
| Ann     | Madson   | 9/7  |
| Mark A. | Anderson | 9/11 |
| Matthew | Umland   | 9/11 |
| Jill    | Wehr     | 9/14 |
| Eugene  | Perry    | 9/20 |

|          |           |      |
|----------|-----------|------|
| Stephen  | McCarthy  | 9/22 |
| Diane    | vanMaanen | 9/22 |
| Nancy    | Philabaum | 9/23 |
| Gary     | Fjeld     | 9/24 |
| Virginia | Alexander | 9/30 |
| Sarah    | Dorsch    | 9/30 |
| Jay      | Lucas     | 9/30 |

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
ALL!**



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:



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