

October 2026

Splash!

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



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PASTOR
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9201 E Happy Valley Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85255

We Remember in Our Prayers



- v Joyce Bash—Health Concerns
- 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 Dimitri and Eileen (Friends of Frances DeBruyn)—Cancer
- 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 Robert Hutson—Health Concerns
- v John (Friend of Diane vanMaanen)
- v John (Friend of Lou Handley)—Health Concerns
- v Tom Kelland—Health Concerns
- v John Kelsh (Spouse of Jennifer Kelsh)—Health Concerns
- v Matt (Jim and Alison Swanson)—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 Stenehjem (Niece of Sue and Lee Stenehjem)—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 Andy Walker (Family Friend of Henri & Lynda Breault) —Health Concerns
- v Kelly White (Niece of Sharon Westergreen)—Health Concerns

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

Much of what was done in the early years of the Christian Church was based on the understanding of the importance of fellowship. The gathering of Jesus and the disciples at the Last Supper was a meal shared and in those early years of Christianity such feasts were commonplace. The whole idea of getting together to spend quality time with other people of the faith was pretty much the center of their lives together. While those beginnings have been transformed into our Sunday morning worship, there is a certain aspect of those early gatherings that have remained in our communities of faith. One such thing is our Reformation Potluck Luncheon which will be held – wait for it – on Reformation Sunday (October 25) following worship.

Another quasi-Lutheran type of celebration is the celebration of Oktoberfest. The German Oktoberfest celebration has become closely knit to Lutheranism because of its Bavarian Germanic beginnings. The variety of foods coupled with the opportunity to sit and celebrate life along with the bounty of the harvest is at the center of this ongoing gathering. While our luncheon may not hold the same level of food or drink as our overseas brethren's celebration, it is still an event you do not want to miss.

It is the number of people who share in this day that help make it so much fun and so very effortless. If just a couple of people were to be responsible for providing that amount of food to everyone, then the task would seem impossible. But rather, we have a good solid group of folks who are willing to share the vast variety of their skills to make for a very delightful day.

That is part of the joy of being in a community. In a community we are able to take tasks that would be daunting and turn them into something easy and in this case, a great deal of fun. In a community we are able to do things that would be impossible for an individual to accomplish and together are able to make the workload quite light. In a community we are able to care for the needs of one another that would never happen if we were out there on our own.

Community is a central theme of the church and of Living Water. In our community we can accomplish the impossible. In our community we can see things through that we would not be able to handle alone. In our community we can do the ministry of God in a way that would not and could not happen if we tried it alone. In our community, we can celebrate life in a way that simply is not possible to do on our own. With the help of God, in our community we can do anything – anything at all.

As it is with all times of our lives, there will be many unexpected and unanticipated challenges we will be facing in the days and months to come. But when we do gather to take on a task, what we find is that we turn a challenge into a celebration. For in that which we do together as God's people, we celebrate such opportunities that have been set before us. As a community, when we work together, when we each take a piece of the greater task, when we all band together for a common goal, with God's help there is nothing, absolutely nothing we cannot accomplish

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

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

Open Doors Campaign Update:

Thank you members of Living Water for your outstanding generosity this past year! Church council met in September to discuss proposals for our outreach using the funds now available to us after the mortgage elimination campaign.

We reviewed and accepted 2 proposals:

1. The first request is from Entryway (emtrwaytalent.org). This organization supports vocational training and housing for homeless persons including families. A 12 month commitment must be made by the candidates in order to be selected for this program. They are funded primarily through grants, foundations and AZ tax credits. In 2025, they served 109 people. Council has voted to make a donation of \$3,000.
2. Our second request is from committee at Living Water led by Deb Bash. They have requested \$500 per month to supply hygiene products to Foothills Food Bank. Once a month, the congregation will plan a service project to fill the bags for distribution. Both of these requests were approved and will be funded in the near future.

Thank you Living Water for all you do!



**GRAND CANYON WOMEN'S
RETREAT
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER
14th, 2026
LOVE OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN, MESA AZ
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM**

- ☐ **Music with Christina Hall**
- ☐ **Bible Study on 1 John 3:1-2
with Rev. Dr. Adele Resmer**
- ☐ **Keynote: "Beloved, you
belong" with Dr. Jennifer
Hockenbery, Executive Director,
Women of the ELCA**
- ☐ **Hands-on painting activity
"Lavished in Love"**
- ☐ **Closing Worship with music
and communion**

Join us for a transformative day reminding every woman she is chosen, loved, and worthy! Bring a friend! You don't need to be Lutheran! Registration forms in the church entryway. You can give your registration and payment to Joan Sprinkle vs. mailing it. Questions? See Myrna Ulland. For more information visit www.grandcanyonwomen.org/events/

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

Next Session: October 7



Join us on the first and/or third Wednesday of each month to tie mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for a few hours. 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, Cindy Ophaug or Myrna Ulland. You can also learn more about this ministry at www.lwr.org/quilts-and-kits





God's work. Our hands.



September 13, 2026

Thank you, Living Water!

Thanks to all who donated dollars and the much-needed cleaning supplies as well as to all those who helped us fill the Blue Bags. The God's Work, Our Hands campaign was a rousing success. Between the product and cash donations we were able to fill 104 full blue bags and have additional products left over to be donated as well. We delivered 1,062 pounds of cleaning supplies to the Foothills Food Bank. Snap does not cover these items, so they are much appreciated! Thank you all!

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, 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!

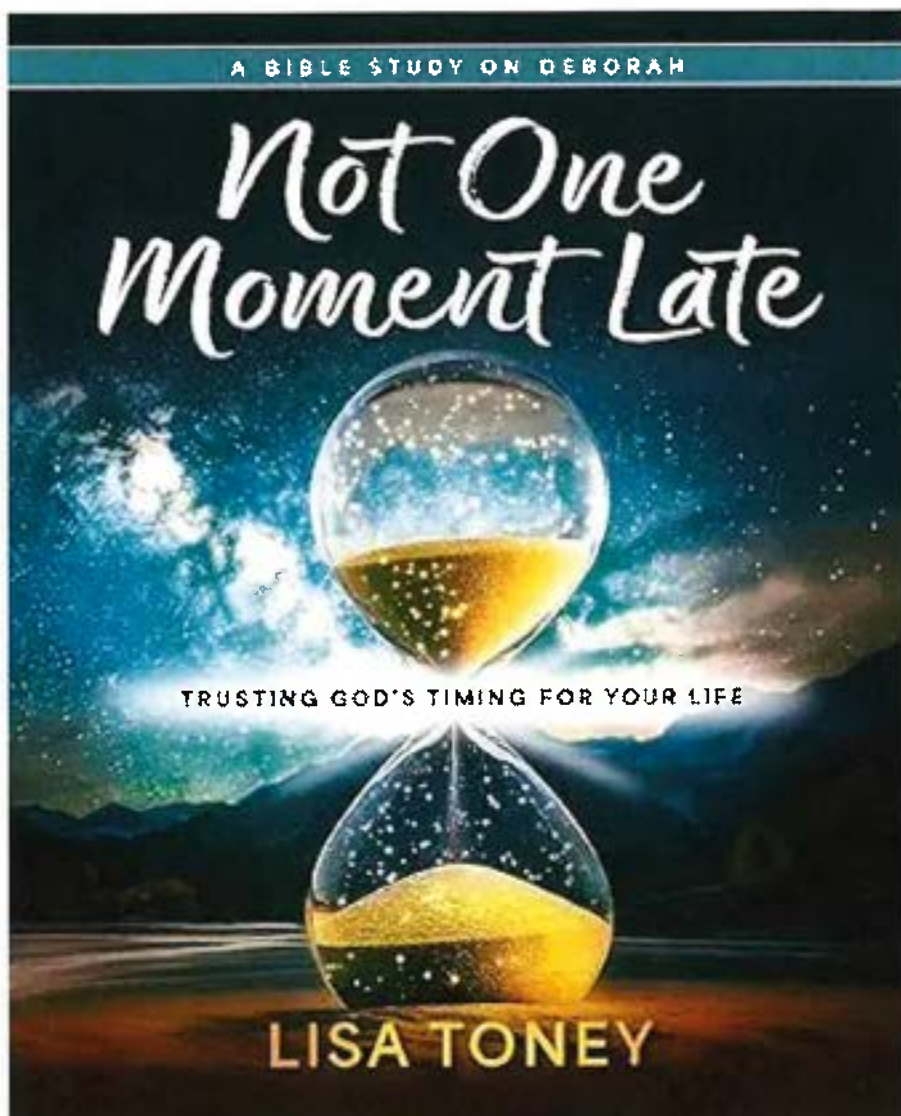
We typically send 50% locally and 50% internationally. This time 50% or \$1,462 will be going to Foothills Food Bank and 50% or \$1,462 will be going to ELCA World Hunger.

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

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 the book of Deborah from the Old Testament 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 to be added so you're up to date with our communications!

Reformation Potluck Luncheon

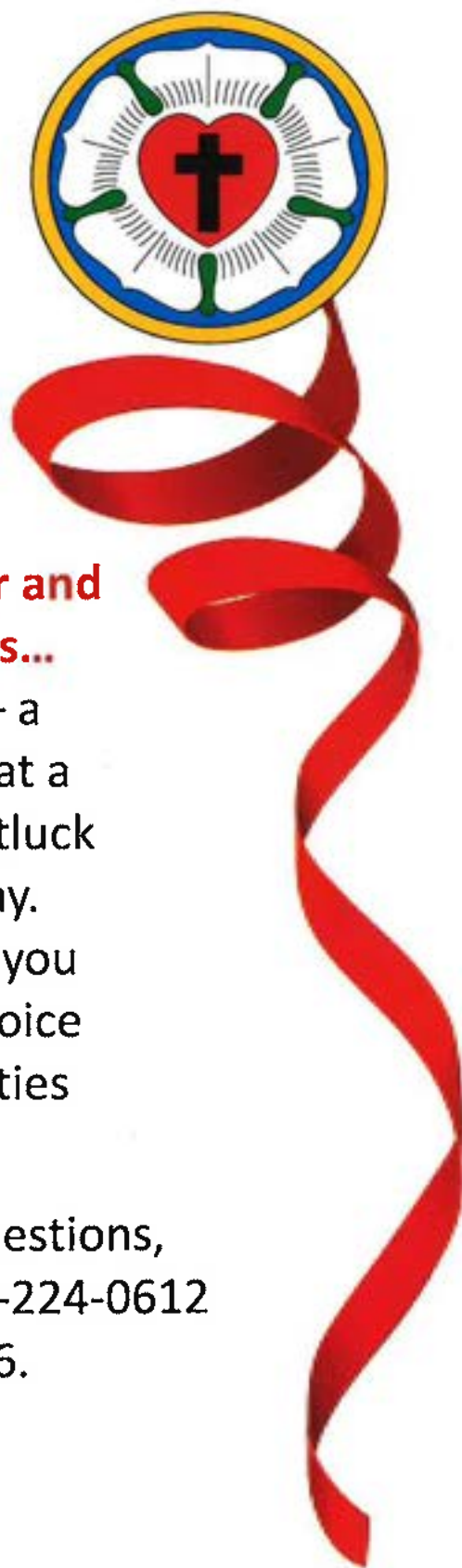
Sunday, October 25
Following Service

**If you enjoy good food, laughter and
the convivial company of friends...**

Please bring your favorite dish – a main, side or dessert – to share at a good old-fashioned Lutheran Potluck in celebration of Reformation Day. Coffee & tea will be served, and you may bring a beverage of your choice – soft drink, beer or wine. Activities will be available for children.

Sign-up is in the Narthex. For questions, please call Diane Klumpp at 406-224-0612 or Linda Hoenig at 480-766-0816.

All are welcome!



Select Ed Montessori School

Since council last updated the congregation in May, the Scottsdale Planning and Zoning Commission has approved a conditional use permit for the school to operate at Living Water. On any given day, 7-10 students are currently in attendance. Next, the Scottsdale City Council must approve. Once the Scottsdale City Council approves, Select Ed will obtain permits to modify the parking lot for the car line. Select Ed will also then publicize the school and formally enroll new students. Later this fall, we anticipate an open house where anyone interested can tour the classroom and learn more about the school.



October birthdays!

James	King	3-Oct
Davis	Shelmire	3-Oct
Lily	Shelmire	3-Oct
Michelle	Ruha	4-Oct
Julie Ann	Walker	4-Oct
Richard	Johnston	7-Oct
Joy	Gallimore	9-Oct
Paul	Wachter	9-Oct
Donna	Pettengill	10-Oct
Julie	Anderson	11-Oct
Mason	Rossmann	11-Oct
Barb	Bremer	12-Oct
Ronald	Ophaug	12-Oct
Jan	McNeeley	14-Oct
Lisa	Sleeper	14-Oct
Kaden	Roos	15-Oct
Zoey	Crow	16-Oct

Maxine	Crane	17-Oct
Marty	Lindert	17-Oct
Claudia	Igras	18-Oct
Gordon	Lindert	18-Oct
Lynda	Cadden	23-Oct
Darnell	Pettengill	24-Oct
Mike	Sadler	24-Oct
Norbert	Schroeder	26-Oct
Matt	Wanek	26-Oct
Diane	Sundquist	27-Oct
Michael	Alberti	28-Oct
Sharon	Augenstein	28-Oct
Victoria	Goebel	28-Oct
Miriam	Bernau	30-Oct
Jaida	Sosa	31-Oct
Benjamin	Swenson	27-Oct

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALL!

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



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