



March 22, 2020

CONNECTIONS

What we are experiencing today is not new. Nearly 500 years ago Luther had some words concerning the Black Plague—the pandemic of his day. Luther wrote:

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me, and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."



Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline—*Tuesdays at Noon*

We Remember in our Prayers

- Judi Bechhoefer (Friend of Michelle Brown) – Battling cancer
- Bev (Sister of Sue Hornasek) – Healing from surgery
- Becky Bliefertnich (Niece of Barbara Brooks) – Battling cancer
- Nancy Blazer – Health concerns
- Doug Burnett (Friend of Phil & Nancy Rogers) – Battling Cancer
- Christi (Daughter of Charlie & Sue Boyd) – Recovery
- Lynda Cadden - recovering from car accident
- Collin Cassem – Active Military Member
- Vicki Dugas (Friend of Barbara & John Hannan) – Battling Cancer
- Bernie Eccles (friend of Larry and Linda Coutts) – Bone marrow transplant
- Ethan (Grandson of John & Sue Hornacek) – Life struggles
- David Fernandez – Active Military Member
- Joy Gallimore – Health Concerns
- Jason Green (Nephew of Michael Donavon) – Fighting Coronavirus
- Matt and Kristen Garrett (husband and wife) – Active Military Members
- Sharon Holland (Friend of Barbara & John Hannan) – Battling cancer
- Al Hopkins (cousin-in-law of Lee and Sue Stenehjem) – Battling cancer
- Mike Knytch – Battling cancer
- Michael Koch (Grandson of Ron and Shirley Koch) – Health concerns
- Lynne Mohr (Stepdaughter of Carol Gasser) – Battling cancer
- Annika Nelson & Family (Heidi Ruff's cousin's daughter) – Health concerns
- Jack Page (father of Stephen Page) – Health concerns
- Richard Reeder Sr. (Friend of Michelle Brown) – Health concerns
- Ruth Schlesinger – Health concerns
- Jay Van (Iris Van's son) – Health concerns
- Gil Wahlberg – Health concerns
- Joan Walther (Friend of Sheila Fankhauser) – Battling cancer
- Lew Wilson (Friend of Lee and Sue Stenehjem) – Battling cancer
- Chuck Woods (Friend of Beth & Steve McCarthy) – Health concerns
- Family and Friends of Mary Cadden (mother of Pete Cadden)
- Family and Friends of Jeanne Folmer (Niece of Sue & Lee Stenehjem)
- Family and Friends of Celia Giontzeli
- Family and Friends of Lori Kalainov
- Family and Friends of Harold Keyser





News & Events



Pray, fast and give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving – for the good of our families, our neighbors and communities around the world.

ELCA World Hunger is our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty. We walk alongside our partners and companions in the US and more than 60 other countries. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger address hunger and poverty around the world with creative and courageous action, giving hope for a just world where all are fed.

This Lent, you're invited to join together with fellow members and supporters of ELCA World Hunger to study, reflect and give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. Experience how the grace of Christ moves us to engage in transformative works of love around the world as God calls us into the ministry of hope, liberation and restoration for our world.

Here at Living Water, we are again lifting up ELCA World Hunger during Lent:

We'll make available a 40 Days of Giving Devotional Calendar in early March. We encourage you to use the calendar to learn more about ELCA World Hunger through daily ideas included on the calendar.

*A special offering to support ELCA World Hunger will be received throughout March if you would like to send in an offering either via mail or drop it off in person, or through our website. Please note that it is designated for ELCA World Hunger.

New Member Orientation

New Member Orientation and Dinner
Saturday, April 18
4:00pm—6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sign up at office@lwlcaz.org or by calling 480-473-8400

Bridge Group

Are you a former bridge player? A newbie? A bridge whiz who can help others step up their game? Players of all levels are invited to participate in an enjoyable evening of casual party bridge. Please submit your name and contact information to the office. The hosts will email you directions to their home.

For more information on this monthly fellowship opportunity, please contact

Richard or Jill Wehr (480-515-4813 or jillajw@cox.net).

Piece-Makers Quilting

Join us as we continue our ministry of making mission quilts for LWR. Gather with us to tie quilts that have been assembled at home. Imagine the comfort and care you feel when you snuggle under a comforter or wear a piece of clothing made or worn by a loved one. That's the feeling being shared through a LWR Mission Quilt. Useful for shielding against the cold and rain, and for warm bedding, quilts can also be purposed as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother's back. In a simple combination of fabric and thread, you reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope: you are not alone.

Thank you to those who have contributed fabric or monies toward purchasing fabric and batting! Your gifts extend this ministry!

Come and tie quilts with us! We meet in the Fellowship Hall on every other Wednesday, from 9:00am to about noon. The coffee and hot water for tea/hot chocolate will be on. Many hands make light work! Questions? Ask Cindy Ophaug, Lynda Cales, Lois Lucas, Kay Bonar or Myrna Ulland. Learn more about this ministry at www.lwr.org/quilts-and-kits



20 Year Celebration for Living Water Church

Dear friends, it is with great joy that I write to you and congratulate you on the 20th Anniversary celebration for Living Water Lutheran Church. The words of the Apostle Paul come to mind. Paul writes to the Philippian church:

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ." --
Philippians 1:3-6*

One of the great pleasures and privileges of my life has been being able to be part of a brand new congregation of God's people. It was an exciting and invigorating journey to assist in developing a congregation from the ground up. I recall knocking on doors throughout the North Scottsdale area and inviting people to be part of the new community of faith, Living Water. Our very first worship service was held on Christmas Eve of 1997 at the Terravita Activity Center. The first Sunday service was on January 4th, 1998. We worshiped for about eight months at Terravita before moving into the brand new Grayhawk Elementary School in the fall of 1998.

The mission of the Holy Spirit back then was to create a Christian community which embodied the love that Jesus has for all of us and to put that love into action both locally and globally. We wanted a DNA for Living Water that cared for one another, but which also included loving outreach into the community, and a strong sense of evangelism which invites all people into a vibrant relationship with Christ. And today I know that the Holy Spirit is still active at Living Water, as those attributes remain part and parcel to who you are today.

It was indeed a celebration in March of the year 2000 when we closed the charter with 150 names on it, adopted our Church Constitution, and became an official congregation of the ELCA. Such great memories!

Yet, by far, the best part of my years as the founding pastor of Living Water have been the Christ-centered relationships that were created. To live, work, and witness together is special. And the bonds and friendships created are etched into my heart and soul. The same is true for my wife Lorrie and our two children, Sarah and Ben.

You are a blessed congregation. You are generous and loving people. May the God who has led you and loved you through these first twenty years continue to do the same long into the future. And as you are blessed by God, may you always be a blessing to others.

Happy 20th Birthday Living Water.

Very Sincerely, Pastor Tim Selbo

OUR WEDNESDAY ONLINE LENTEN STUDY ON MATTHEW

This emphasizes the kingship of Jesus and how He is the fulfillment of Old Testament hopes and prophecies. Since the majority of the Sunday morning Gospel lessons for this year are from Matthew, Pastor Dennis Nelson will be presenting a five-week study on Matthew on the Wednesdays during Lent, after Ash Wednesday.

Please join us as we look at Jesus as the one who should be the king of our lives and the one who gives us hope. We urge everyone to read the Gospel of Matthew during the season of Lent as part of your journey with Jesus to the cross and the empty tomb.

Join us in collecting items for Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief's "A Season of Hope"

Once again, we will collect items for Lutheran World Relief's (LWR) Personal Care Kits as part of LWR's "A Season of Hope" during Lent. **Our collection begins on Sunday, March 1 and ends on March 29. The kits will be assembled at WAVE on April 1 and blessed on Palm Sunday, April 5.**

Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.



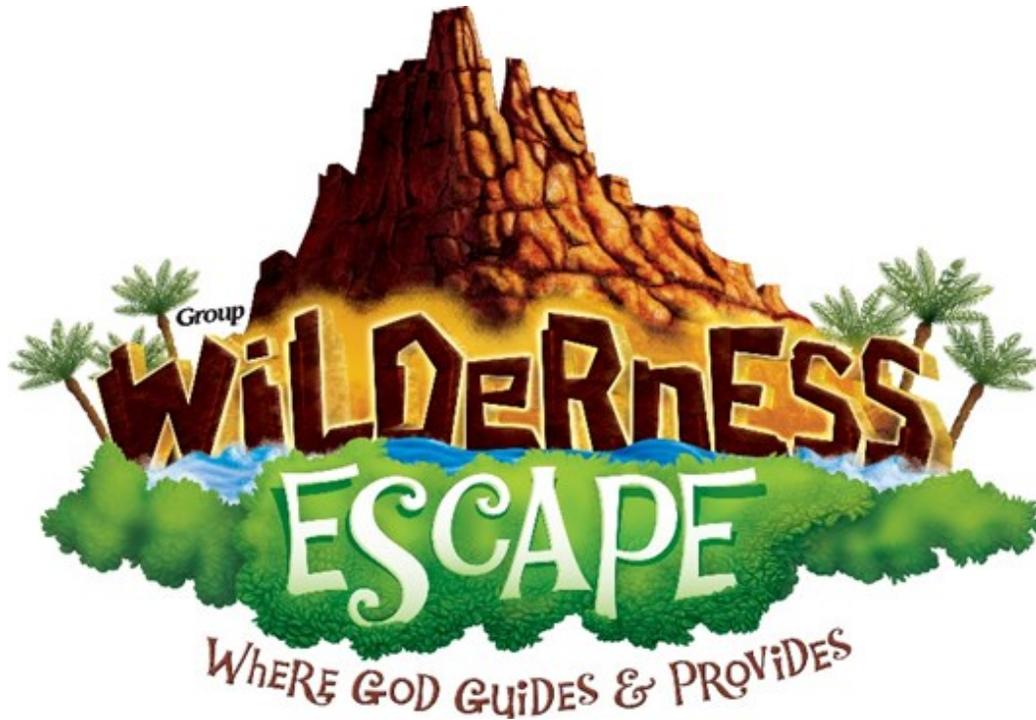
We can give hope through these 5 items: **2-3 bars of soap totaling 8 or 9 oz. in original wrapping , a new lightweight bath towel minimum size 20"x40" and maximum 52" x 27" (dark color preferred) , 1 toothbrush in its original wrapping**, 1 wide-toothed comb (not a pocket comb), and 1 metal nail clipper (with or without a nail file attached)**

Bath towels should be light or medium weight (no heavy, fluffy towels, please) and the **preferred size is 52" x 27"**. The minimum size is 20" x 40" and it should NOT be a hand towel. Dark colors are requested by LWR. **we can accept multi-packs of toothbrushes. They will be opened and individual toothbrushes placed in a sealed business-size envelope at the time of kit assembly.

We ask that you bring in the items for a complete kit if you can. There will be a collection bin in the church entryway. The kits will be assembled at the WAVE event on April 1 and blessed on Palm Sunday, April 5. They will be picked up by the LWR Ingathering truck at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran in Phoenix on Saturday, April 18. We'll again have some financial support from a Thrivent Action Team Grant to help us fill out needed items. Last year, through your generosity and the help from Thrivent, we were able to assemble 122 Personal Care Kits. Can we do it again? Thank you for your support!

Questions: please contact Myrna Ulland at myrna.ulland@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School 2020



Registration is now open for our 2020 Vacation Bible School!! Just go to www.lwlcaz.org/vbs to open the registration form. Children ages 4 through 6th grade are welcome to attend. Registration is **FREE** and every child registered before June 1 is guaranteed a soft and colorful t-shirt. Spread the word to your kids and their friends, neighbors, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

This year's theme is "**Wilderness Escape – Where God Guides & Provides.**" Throughout the week we will take an exciting journey with God's people, the Israelites, that brings God's Word to life for kids and adults. Moses will be our guide as we escape Egypt and see, hear, touch and even taste what it might have been like to live in the Bible-times wilderness. The children will participate in large and small group discussions, join Moses in his tent for our daily Bible stories, burn off some energy in the Fun & Games area, make innovative crafts, enjoy a healthy snack and sing and cheer in our opening and closing celebration times. The week will conclude with a **VBS Festival BBQ** on Friday, June 19, from noon until 2:30 and a **VBS Celebration Worship Service** on Sunday, June 21, at 9:30am.

If you are interested in joining us for our VBS program as a youth or adult volunteer, please send Kris Crow an email at kcrow737@gmail.com or give her a call at (480) 502-0916. You won't want to miss this fantastic opportunity to plant the seeds of faith with a wonderful bunch of God's children!!

LIVING WATER IN WORSHIP

Purpose Statement: "To Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ."

Living Water is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Grand Canyon Synod, and Northeast Valley Conference.



Ministers: All the members of Living Water

Pastor: Mark Rossman

PastorMark@lwlcaz.org

Pastor: Shari Bernau

PastorShari@lwlcaz.org

Office/Communications Manager:

Jennifer Kelsh

office@lwlcaz.org

Finance & Building Manager: Greysen West

Greysen.West@lwlcaz.org

Choir Director: Marcie Donavon

Accompanist: Scott Sims

Sexton: Michael Collins

In case of Pastoral Emergency, please call

Pastor Mark at 973.699.7777(cell)



**Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline
Tuesdays at Noon**

Living Water Lutheran Church

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