

JULY 2018



Splash!

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

Living Water
Lutheran Church



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Mark Rossman

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MOPS & MOMSnext

Are you a mother or know a mother of a preschool or school age children?

Last year Living Water Lutheran Church started our MOPs & MOMSnext Program. We will be starting up again in September and would love for you to spread the word about this amazing program!

What is MOPS & MOMSnext?

MOPS stands for Mothers of Preschoolers, and by preschoolers we mean kiddos from birth through kindergarten. MOMSnext is the next step with school-aged kids. We know it's a little confusing so let's just stick with "MOPS."

Being a mom is beautiful and hard and we get that sometimes you just need a safe place to breathe. A place to get some encouragement that what you are doing matters. A MOPS group is an open, accepting place for all mothers to experience authentic community, personal growth, practical help, and spiritual hope.

We meet from 9:30-11:30am on the First and Third Thursdays of the month starting on September 6! Childcare is always provided.

Questions? Contact Pastor Shari Bernau
pastorshari@lwlcaz.org
480.473.8400



We Remember in our Prayers

- John Bliefernich (Barbara Brook's brother) – Battling stage 4 cancer
- Fred Cummins (Friend of the Reamer's) – Battling cancer
- David Olive (Pete Pritt's son-in-law) – Battling cancer
- Dave Quarantara (Friend of Barbara Brooks) – Battling stage 4 cancer
- Jim Smith (Steve Smith's father) – In hospice care
- Linda Timmons (Sister of Patty Sell) – In hospice care
- Family & Friends of Virginia Baird (Grandmother of the Ingwersens) – Mourning her death
- Family & Friends of Michael Steele (Friends of the Coutts) – Battling cancer
- Maren McKay (Daughter of Lance & Carol Jacobson) - Health Concerns



Send your prayer requests to prayer@lwlcaz.org or fill one out at lwlcaz.org

Happy Birthday!

May you be gifted with God's blessings on your special day and always!

Leinweber, Eric	7/3
Eilers, Gene	7/5
Bauer, Lindsay	7/6
Shipley, Ed	7/6
Patton, Michael	7/7
Purewal, Susan	7/8
Nartker, Marilyn	7/8
Larson, Sophia	7/11
Moore, Laura	7/13
Liguori, Beth	7/14
Laudenschlager, Trace	7/15
Koch, Ron	7/15
Sell, Reed	7/15
Hannan, John	7/16



Brown, Karen	7/16
Elliot, Ian	7/19
Ruff, William	7/19
Pura, Lauren	7/20
Davis, Dylan Elle	7/21
Winter, Michael	7/21
Purewal, Sarge	7/21
Gasparino, Lourdes	7/22
Landon, Pam	7/25
Gavelda, Meghan	7/26
Evenson, Paul	7/27
Heisler, Kathy	7/28
Marquardt, Kristin	7/31

Please call the office if your birthday is not listed and we will make sure to enter it into our database.

A Message from Pastor Mark

Nothing short of incredible. That is the only way I can think of describing it. *Vacation Bible School 2018* also known as *Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity*. The incredible part for me was found in the amazing number of people who stepped up to help out in such a vast variety of ways. It began long ago – last year, in fact - when Kris Crow and Janice Moore began the extensive and elaborate planning that went into this year of VBS. And it was before most of us were even thinking about VBS that folks began to show their commitment to this ministry by offering some significant financial support to allow this to be as successful as possible.

And then there were the other folks. The ones who created, the ones who designed, the ones who crafted, built and painted. The ones who took ideas and made them into reality. The ones who brought Babylon and Ishtar's Gate to Scottsdale, piece by piece, stone by stone, using their creativity to make it all work in a fantastic sort of way.

And if I was not amazed by those folks, there was the contingent of people who committed to be here each day during the week of the event. These folks taught, created, acted, cooked, cleaned, led, played and guided all the young people who came out to be part of this incredible week. We had actors, stage hands, recreational experts, craft creators, chief cooks and bottles washers, Daniel, a King, along with a whole lot of others. Each person playing a very vital role in making this the incredible week it was to all of us.

Special thanks need be offered to Janice Moore, Kris Crow, Pastor Shari Bernau, Myrna Ulland, Julie Ann Walker, Carol Jacobson, Denny Dumler, Dave & Liz Gilkey, Pam Landon, Amya Anderson, Ashley Chmielewski, Jordan Kennedy, Joan Sprinkle, Lily Shelmire, Flynn Shelmire, Kinsley Smith, Dean Samartzis, Rebekah Kontz, Richard & Jill Wehr, Leila & Wayne Burrus, Linda & Jay Hoenig, Lou Handley, Naj Stuck, Karen & Ron Roessler, Nancy Rogers, Marianne Schmitt, Marilyn Nartker, Rita Reamer, Bonnie Moore, Barb Bremer, Frank Stock, Jordan Fordiani, Gage Knorra, Mason Rossman, Davis Shelmire, Colby Branum, Michael Winter, Patti Pick, Larry & Linda Coutts, Barry Burrus, Lynda & Gerry Cales, Mike Fresh, Timmy Moore, Sue & Lee Stenehjem, & Zoey Crow.

These are the people who made this incredible week. These are some of the people that make Living Water such an incredible place. For they are the people who step up, they are the people who put up, they are the people who give, who share, they are the people who love. They are not just the folks who worked the *Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity* but "they" also include you. You who give so generously of yourself and your time. You, who share the love that God has blessed you with to be a blessing in this place. You. Who proclaim the love of Christ through your activity here at Living Water and through how you choose to live your life on a daily basis

It is all of you who make Living Water the incredible place it is. It is all of you, who have humbled me with this gift of serving as your Pastor. It is all of you who change the world in which we live, changing in through sharing God's love in such profound ways. You may see them as little ways, but when you roll it all together it comes out as that really big love of God that is shared through the actions of our lives. You really do make a huge difference.

Pastor Mark



Ask Zeke

Living Water's 24/7 office fish exuberantly encourages everyone to use our eye-catching, eco-friendly tote bags

Q. I read about the new Living Water tote bags in SPLASH! last month. I'm in Minnesota for the summer. Will they be available in the fall?

A. The bright blue tote bags debuted in late May after you beat feet for the land of lakes, lower temps, and lefse-loving Lutherans. They'll definitely be available for the same nominal price – \$3 each or two for \$5 – when you return to Arizona.

Our PACE team — the Pro-Active Community Engagement squad – initiated “operation tote bag” to help everyone spread the word about Living Water. The bags prominently display the church's logo, name, location, and website address. Using them at the grocery store makes YOU a Living Water ambassador. Feedback indicates some of the 125+ bags already in circulation have sparked conversations with other shoppers. Way to go!!!

These bags also promote better stewardship of God's world. When I cast about online for information about plastic bags, I was flabbergasted to discover the average American household brings home around 1,500 plastic shopping bags each year. Whoa!! The lifespan of a good reusable bag – our waterproof, washable, well-reinforced bags are super-durable – is equivalent to that of 700 disposable plastic bags. Buying a tote is a no-brainer!

The tote's bottom has a poly-board insert made from recycled plastic. This provides extra strength for carrying heavier items. Cashiers and baggers like this feature, since it keeps the bag sitting upright for easier loading. The bag also has a handy loop for hanging empty bags in your car and then on your grocery cart so they're visible to fellow shoppers.

If you or other folks who are away for the summer can't wait any longer to experience the fintastic value of these sturdy, roomy, reusable bags, I'll gladly mail you one. A little subtle advertising aimed at Minnesotans and other high-latitude folks seeking warmth in winter months may inspire them to check us out next January or February.

Do you have a question for Zeke? E-mail it to him at AskZeke@cox.net or contact his writing partner, Jill Wehr, at 480-515-4813.





Bible Studies & Retreats

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

Join us each Thursday at 7:30am at Soul Cafe
(Pinnacle Peak, 7615 E Pinnacle Peak Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255)



**Adult Forum,
Tuesday Women's Bible Study
& Sunday School
will resume in September**





News & Events

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A fun evening is in the cards on July 20!

Former, current, and prospective bridge players of all levels are invited to a fun evening of party bridge at the home of Richard and Jill Wehr on Friday, July 20, starting at 7:00 pm. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the Narthex. The Wehrs will email you directions to their home. For more information on this monthly fellowship opportunity, please contact Richard or Jill (480-515-4813).

A Note from Pastor Gene Perry

The 60th Anniversary celebration of my ordination on Pentecost afternoon was one of the finest days of my life! I want to express my profoundest thanks to Pastor Mark for thoughtfully initiating the event, to all who made it happen, and to all present: our remarkable choir (Marcie & Scott), dear members, close family and collegial pastors — especially Pastor Schaumburg and my son, Pastor Mark — glad you had an opportunity to meet him! Together we represent 85 years of ordained ministry!

Pastor Gene Perry



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A Note from Spirit in the Desert

Dear Pastor Mark & Friends -

Thank you for your generous gift to Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center, to be used for our Healing Memories All-Women Workshops. Your financial support has helped make a difference in the lives of people like Michael, Susan, and Maria.

These three adult siblings were at odds with one another over an inheritance. They had received unequal distribution at the time of the death of their parents. They were upset with and found it difficult to talk to one another. While on retreat at Spirit in the Desert they found safety and the freedom to talk through their problem. They came to an understanding and were able to speak words of forgiveness and reconciliation to one another. Their retreat was transformative.

Your donation represents those grants and gifts we receive making up one third of our budget. That's right; one third of our budget comes from donations while the other two thirds is generated service income.

We have provided retreats for 1,771 guests to date in 2018. We are projecting over 5,000 guests from across the United States and 15 countries.

I would love to give you a tour of our beautiful campus so that you can meet some of our staff and have lunch or coffee with me. If you are here on a Wednesday afternoon you are welcome to join us for our community worship with Holy Communion. Our resident night host and faith mentor, Jim Hanson, will be sharing his Touchpoint which is based on the text for the next Sunday.

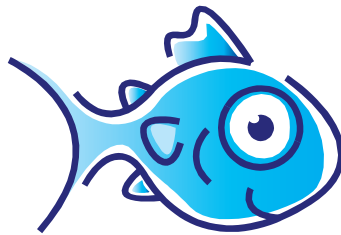
We would like to keep you in the loop with emails and our newly designed website. You can listen to Jim Hanson's Touchpoint which is posted as an audio file and you can sign up for our Daily Devotions written by Steve Holm.

Perhaps, you too, will find renewal, reconciliation, healing and transformation at Spirit in the Desert. Thanks for all you do for our retreat guests. You are part of our lives too.

Sincerely,
Rev. Richard Andersen

Dates to Remember

JUNE 27	ELCA YOUTH GATHERING BEGINS IN HOUSTON
JUNE 28	INTERACTIVE LEARNING DAY - ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
JUNE 29	SYNOD DAY - ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
JUNE 30	SERVICE LEARNING DAY - ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
JULY 1	CLOSING WORSHIP - ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
JULY 1	GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PANCAKE BREAKFAST
JULY 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY - OFFICE CLOSED
JULY 20	BRIDGE - 7 PM (WEHR'S HOUSE)



Weekly Events

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Thursday 7:30am (Soul Cafe)

FRIDAY MORNING CLUB
Friday 9:00am (FH)

Publication Deadlines:

Connections- Every Tuesday by noon
SPLASH! - The 15th 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.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY MESSAGE

Building Stewardship Through Our Personal Finances

In today's world, we are constantly being told about financial issues that impact our ability to plan our financial future and establish the necessary financial margin we need in our lives. Some of these recent issues include tax law changes, interest rate increases, inflation, the social security trust fund running out of money and the escalating cost of a college education, just to name a few. For many of us, this can be overwhelming.

If you're looking for some faith-based wisdom to help guide you in your financial decisions, the points (paraphrased) below by Jerry O'Neal, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Muncie, IN and stewardship director for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the ELCA, certainly provides that.

Keep a budget: To create margin in our finances, we need to first know what kind of margin we have. This means having a realistic view of our income and expenses on a regular basis. Typically that means establishing what many may consider a nasty word - BUDGET . A budget is simply a plan for our finances: as John Maxwell has famously said, budgeting is "telling your money where to go, rather than wondering where it went." Interestingly, when people begin using a budget, they often seem to "get a raise," because they become more intentional with their financial decisions. Today there are all kinds of software programs, periodicals, and apps which can help us develop a budget (they don't necessarily help us stick to the budget however!); but the budgeting process itself is important: it helps us be trustworthy managers of the financial resources God has entrusted to us (cf. 1 Cor. 4:2).

Spend simply and effectively: While we normally have some degree of control over our income, most of us have more control over our expenses. Do we purchase the expensive coffee at the coffee shop, or do we brew our own at home? Do we purchase a new or used car? Where do we go on vacation this year? Spending simply and effectively(value oriented) can help us create financial margin. A couple of thoughts ; We may want to purchase a slightly more expensive item that will last longer or that lines up more with our personal needs . Also, the largest purchases we make (homes, cars) give us the biggest opportunities to build margin (or reduce it).

Build emergency savings: Our lives are full of uncertainties, both financial and otherwise. We do not know when a car will break down, an unexpected medical need will arise, etc. Thus, we need some basic level of savings to provide margin against these emergencies. Most financial experts recommend saving enough to cover 3-6 months of expenses, but any amount saved will be a positive for us .

Get out of debt: Our American culture is the most debt-ridden culture in the history of humankind. (government as well as private). While we certainly want to pay our debts responsibly, one of the best ways to create long-term financial margin is to minimize our debt . This includes all kinds of debt: mortgages, car payments, student loans, etc., for as Paul says, we should "owe no one anything, except to love one another" (Romans 13:8). Also, if we have the capability to forgive others' debts (e.g. family members who owe us money), we should do so in fulfillment of the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matthew 6:12).

Pray: This last suggestion may not seem like it relates to finances, but in fact it does as Martin Luther reminds us in his *Small Catechism*. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to "give us this day our daily bread," acknowledging that God is the provider of all good gifts, including our finances. Likewise, when we consider financial decisions we should remember that the money isn't really ours at all -- it belongs to God (Psalm 24:1), and we are simply managing it for God's purposes.

Many of us feel like we're on a hamster wheel in our financial lives. By faithfully creating some margin in our finances, we can slow down that wheel and experience some of the Sabbath rest that God desires for us all.