

AUGUST 2018



# Splash!

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

## Upcoming Back to School Events

### Back to School Blessing Aug 5 @ 9:30 am

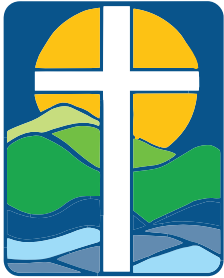
All Students, Teachers and Staff who are soon going back to school are invited to bring their backpacks, briefcases, tote bags, or tool belts to worship for a special blessing to begin the new school year surrounded in prayer.

### Rally Sunday Festivities Sept 2 @ 10:30 am

A celebration to kick off our Sunday School year! Worship service is at 9:30am, followed by a BBQ lunch at 10:30am. Join us with your family for some fun in the sun with our giant water inflatables.



*Living Water*  
Lutheran Church



PASTOR  
Mark Rossman

PASTOR  
Shari Bernau

FINANCE/BUILDING MANAGER  
Greysen West

OFFICE MANAGER  
Marie Kelen

CHOIR DIRECTOR  
Marcie Donavon

ACCOMPANIST  
Scott Sims

SEXTON  
Jakab Peter

[www.LWLCAZ.org](http://www.LWLCAZ.org)



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# 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
- Michael Steele (Friend of the Coutts) – Battling cancer
- Maren McKay (Daughter of Lance & Carol Jacobson) - Health Concerns
- Family & Friends of Craig Mueller (Brother of Cindy Ophaug) – Mourning his death
- Anthony Ferrari (Cousin of Greysen West) – Health concerns
- Timmy Moore (Son of Janice Moore) – Health concerns
- Larry Coutts – Health concerns
- Jon Manalli – Health concerns
- Family & Friends of Linda Timmons (Sister of Patty Sell) – Mourning her death



Send your prayer requests to [prayer@lwlcza.org](mailto:prayer@lwlcza.org) or fill one out at [lwlcza.org](http://lwlcza.org)

# Happy Birthday!

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

Sabia, Turid	8/4
Decker, Andrea	8/5
Moehn, Lisa	8/5
Donavon, Marcie	8/6
Sauer, Konner William	8/7
Roessler, Karen	8/8
Smith, Grant	8/9
Sauer, Kevin	8/9
Olson, Annabelle Georgia	8/11
Syversen, Kjirsten	8/13
Horrocks, Nancy	8/15
Jacobson, Carol	8/19
Ruff, Caroline	8/20



Handley, Ryan	8/21
Denekamp, Jeff	8/21
Schindler, Emma Jean	8/22
Sleeper, Adena	8/22
Winter, Kristi	8/23
Gunderson, Barbara	8/23
Ulland, Myrna	8/24
Freesh, Melissa	8/25
Mathews, Chase Robert	8/29
Pick, Patricia	8/31
Pendergraft, Dave	8/31
Handley, Mike	8/31

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 Shari

You probably already know this, but we have amazing youth who represented Living Water at the ELCA Youth Gathering. They are smart, talented, responsible, open-minded, compassionate, and fun. And I cannot fail to mention, they are great travel companions. I really enjoyed our week together, and I know they did too.

The Gathering is an expensive endeavor, no doubt, but it is worth every single penny. The planning that goes into this event years in advance is unbelievable. As a Gathering Synod Coordinator, I had the opportunity to see a little more of it from behind the scenes, and I am very impressed. It was clear to me that the goal of offering an opportunity for 'faith formation in teens' was always on the forefront of the minds of all of the staff and volunteers planning and leading the Gathering. There is always something we could complain about (such as the lengthy wait in a mass of people as we attempted to enter the stadium on the first night when it was 90 degrees with 90 percent humidity), but we endured and eventually got in without missing the start of the main program. Of course, there are always hiccups when endeavoring to do this in a new city with new venues every three years. And, just in case you were wondering...on the second night of the gathering, things improved greatly!

I don't want to share too much about our experience, because I want to give the youth an opportunity to share *their* stories with you. Our worship on August 19 will be focused on sharing our faith and experiences at the ELCA Youth Gathering. We hope you will join us. May it be an opportunity to learn from each other, and in turn, grow in faith. And, may it also be a chance for our youth to show their appreciation for the support and love they receive from this awesome faith family called Living Water Lutheran Church.

A huge thank you to everyone!

**Pastor Shari**





# Ask Zeke

**Living Water's 24/7 office fish explains why the bishop-elect's name sounds soooooo familiar**

## **Q. What can you tell me about the Grand Canyon Synod's incoming bishop?**

A. The Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer of Phoenix was elected June 16 to a six-year term as bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA. Her selection as our synod's sixth bishop – and first female – occurred during the synod's 31st annual assembly in Oro Valley.

The Rev. Hutterer, one of 48 names submitted, was elected on the fifth ballot by a vote of 145 to 135 for the Rev. Peter Perry. (The second ballot pared the field to 7 candidates; subsequent rounds winnowed it further.) Her election as our synod's first female bishop comes 26 years after the Rev. April Ulring Larson of the Lacrosse Area Synod became the first-ever woman selected as a synod bishop within the ELCA. Female bishops currently oversee 12 of the ELCA's 65 synods (as of last March).

Our incoming bishop earned degrees from two Lutheran schools in the Twin Cities: a B.A. in communication studies from Augsburg University (1999) and her M.Div. from Luther Seminary (2004). Her post-ordination ministry path brought her to Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest in Phoenix in November 2012. LSS-SW's development budget has grown by 260% since 2013 under her leadership as its chief development officer. Collaboration among thousands of congregational partners, volunteers, donors, and staff continues to generate life-changing results.

Ah, you're thinking, *that's* why her name rings a bell. Yep, earlier this year she spoke about LSS-SW Refugee Resettlement during Adult Forum. Some folks may also remember the Sunday she was a guest pastor here in August 2013.

Bishop-elect Hutterer, 63, will preside over our synod's 89 congregations (44,000 members) in Arizona, southern Nevada, and St. George, Utah. While she'll take office Sept. 1, her installation is scheduled for the following Sunday morning, Sept. 8, at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Phoenix.

*Do you have a question for Zeke? E-mail it to him at [AskZeke@cox.net](mailto: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

## 2018 Vacation Bible School Recap

Another week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Living Water is in the history books! With the help of over 50 adult and youth volunteers and 44 children, we explored the life and adventures of Daniel through music, games, crafts, snacks, small group discussions and drama. The week culminated with a Celebration Worship Service on June 24.

A huge thank you to all of the amazing volunteers. VBS would not be possible without your tireless hours of work and dedication. Thank you to all of you that generously donated food items, supplies and money to support our preparations and program.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's VBS Mission Project, by helping us collect new and gently used books for children. The books will be distributed by the Assistance League of Phoenix through Title 1 schools, Interfaith Cooperative Ministries Food and Clothing Bank and the UMOM New Day Center. Donations from the VBS families and members of Living Water combined with the books purchased through a grant from Thrivent resulted in a total of **917 books**. Wow! This total broke last year's record of 784 books.

Planting and growing the seeds of faith with young children is the mission of our VBS program. Mission accomplished!!

*Kris Crow & Janice Moore*



# Thank You to All Our VBS Volunteers

## VBS Leadership

Kris Crow  
Janice Moore  
Pastor Shari Bernau  
Myrna Ulland  
Julie Ann Walker

## Tribe Leaders

Myrna Ulland  
Denny Dumler  
Dave & Liz Gilkey  
Pam Landon

## Assistant Tribe Leaders

Amya Anderson  
Ashley Chmielewski  
Jordan Kennedy  
Joan Sprinkle  
Lily Shelmire  
Flynn Shelmire  
Kinsley Smith  
Dean Samartzis  
Marianne Schmitt  
Michael Winter

## Tribe Time Leader

Pastor Shari Bernau

## Celebration Opening & Closing

Pastor Shari Bernau  
Rebekah Kontz

## Drama

Richard Wehr  
Wayne Burrus  
Jill Wehr

## Crafts

Linda Hoenig – *Leader*  
Jay Hoenig  
Lou Handley  
Naj Stuck  
Karen Roessler  
Nancy Rogers

## Snack

Carol Jacobson & Julie Ann  
Walker *Co-Leaders*  
Marilyn Nartker  
Rita Reamer  
Bonnie Moore  
Barb Bremer  
Frank Stock

## Games

Jordan Fordiani - *Leader*  
Gage Knorra  
Mason Rossman  
Davis Shelmire  
Colby Branum

## Driver

Ron Roessler

## Registration

Jill Wehr  
Julie Ann Walker  
Patti Pick

## VBS Festival

Larry & Linda Coutts

## Chief Operating Officer

Janice Moore

## Set Designs & Construction

Barry Burrus  
Leila & Wayne Burrus  
Lynda & Gerry Cales  
Mike Fresh  
Janice Moore  
Timmy Moore  
Sue & Lee Stenehjem  
Zoey Crow

## Mission Project

Myrna Ulland



# SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK SEPTEMBER 9th!

**KIDS 3 YEARS THROUGH 12TH GRADE ARE INVITED TO JOIN!**

*A playful Sunday School experience, rooted in church life.  
Designed to teach kids how the Bible is relevant to their lives.  
Led by faithful and caring adults.*

**When:** Sundays - Starting September 9 between services from 9:45-10:45am

**Where:** Educational Building

**Who:** All are welcome! Please see age groups and meeting rooms below.

## **Kids Sunday School (Weekly) —3 years through 7th grade**

At 9:45 AM

- Kids (3 years old through 7th grade) meet together for the Opening of Sunday School at 9:45am in the Matthew/Mark rooms on the first floor of the Educational Building.

At 10:15 AM

- Kids (3 years old through 4th grade) stay in the Matthew/Mark rooms for age appropriate video lessons, discussions, crafts and games that are designed to connect kids with the Bible texts used in worship.
- Club 567 (grades 5, 6 and 7) moves to the Esther room (the second floor of the Education Building) for age-appropriate video lessons, discussions, crafts and games.

*Occasionally, kids stay together in one large group for seasonal fairs, which are a big hit!*

## **Youth Sunday School (Monthly)- 8th through 12th grade**

- 8th – 12th graders are invited to the Youth Room for Monthly Bible Studies on Sundays at 9:45am to discuss how we can live out our faith
- Fall Dates: September 16, October 21, November 11, and December 9





# ♥♦BRIDGE♣♠

## Why not try your hand at bridge on August 10!

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, Aug. 10 (a week earlier than our usual third-Friday gathering), 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 fun monthly fellowship group, please contact Richard or Jill (480-515-4813).



## Contact Information Updates

Have you recently moved? Changed phone numbers? Updated your email address?  
We want to stay in touch!

If you have any updates to your contact information please contact the church office  
at [office@lwlcaz.org](mailto:office@lwlcaz.org)



# Dates to Remember

- AUG 5 BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING @ 9:30 am (Sanctuary)  
AUG 10 BRIDGE GROUP (Wehr's House)  
AUG 15 SPLASH! DEADLINE  
AUG 19 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING FOCUSED WORSHIP (Sanctuary)  
AUG 20 COUNCIL MEETING (Esther)  
SEPT 2 LAST SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE @ 9:30 am (Sanctuary)  
SEPT 2 RALLY SUNDAY FESTIVITIES @ 10:30 am  
SEPT 3 LABOR DAY - OFFICE CLOSED  
SEPT 9 LITURGICAL WORSHIP @ 8:30 am (Sanctuary)  
SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULT FORUM @ 9:45 am (Ed Building)  
PRAISE WORSHIP @ 11 am (Sanctuary)



## Weekly Events

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE  
Sunday 9:30 am

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

## Charitable Giving Planning for 2018

As we enter the 2nd half of 2018, it is a good practice to sit down and assess our progress in satisfying the goals we have established for the full year. These goals obviously include categories such as health, professional, family time, volunteer time, as well as our financial goals and commitments including charitable giving.

With respect to our charitable giving for 2018, there are a number of reasons why addressing this prior to the end of the year may be beneficial — one of which is that 50% of charitable donations made to organizations are typically made rather hastily in November and December every year. Other reasons follows:

\* With the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) for 2018, various gifting strategies that worked in 2017 may not be as beneficial in 2018. Under the new law, itemized deductions are essentially limited to mortgage deduction, state and local taxes, and charitable gifts. However, since the standard deduction has been increased to \$12,000 for individuals and \$24,000 for married couples, it is projected that the new standard deduction will exceed the itemized deductions for many. The Tax Policy Center estimates that the number of tax returns claiming tax deductions for charitable gifts will drop by more than half. Although the “giving” is of prime importance in satisfying our stewardship goals, receiving a tax benefit may also allow us to give more. There are some new strategies which one can still discuss with their tax or financial advisor to plan for these new rules in 2018.

\* Many donors like to include family in their charitable decision-making. If so, trying to accomplish this during the busy holiday season can be difficult to complete. Addressing this during the summer so that it can be accomplished during the Fall can make it more effective.

\* For those individuals taking “Required Minimum Distributions”, from their IRA (over age 70 1/2), be sure to take advantage of the “Qualified Charitable Deduction” which allows these distributions to be given to the church without being included as income on your tax return (with certain limitations).