

December 22, 2019

CONNECTIONS

SUNDAY – DECEMBER 22

- 8:30 am Christmas Cantata (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 am Cantata Brunch (FH)
- 11:00 am Christmas Cantata (Sanctuary)

MONDAY - DECEMBER 23

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve

- 5:00 pm Christmas Service Kid Friendly (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 pm AA (Mark/Matthew)
- 7:00 pm Christmas Service Family Focused (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 pm Christmas Worship Service (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 25 Christmas

OFFICE CLOSED

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 26

OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 27

- 10:00 am Friday Morning Club (FH)

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 28

- 8:30 am AA (Matthew/Mark)

SUNDAY – DECEMBER 29

We Remember in our Prayers

- Judi Bechhoefer (Friend of Michelle Brown) – Battling cancer
- Becky Bliedernich (Niece of Barbara Brooks)– Battling cancer
- Nancy Blazer – Health concerns
- Doug Burnett (Friend of Phil & Nancy Rogers) – Battling Cancer
- Collin Cassem - Active Military Member
- Vicki Dugas (Friend of Barbara & John Hannan) – Battling Cancer
- Bernie Eccles (Friend of Linda & Larry Coutts) – In gratitude for healing
- Jinhong Fan (Sister-in-law of Kristin Smith) – Battling Cancer
- David Fernandez - Active Military Member
- Mary Anne Fisher (Tracy Paul's Aunt) – Heart issues
- Jeanne Folmer (Niece of Sue & Lee Stenehjem) – Battling cancer
- Joy Gallimore – Health Concerns
- Matt and Kristen Garrett (husband and wife) – Active Military Members
- Celia Giontzeneli – Health concerns
- Ron Hileman (Friend of Pastor Mark) – Hospice Care
- Sharon Holland (Friend of Barbara & John Hannan) – Battling cancer
- Al Hopkins (cousin-in-law of Lee and Sue Stenehjem) - Battling cancer
- Scott Johnson (Son of Steve & Susan Johnson) – Health concerns
- Tom Kelland – Health concerns
- Mike Knytch – Battling cancer
- Hannah Lehrke (Granddaughter of Lois and Jay Lucas) – Health concerns
- Maren McKay (Daughter of Lance & Carol Jacobson) – Health Concerns
- Lynne Mohr (Stepdaughter of Carol Gasser) – Battling cancer
- Elsa Nelson (Daughter of Celia Giontzeneli) – Health concerns
- Jeff Novak (Son-in-law of Mike & Lou Handley) - Health concerns
- Richard Reeder Sr. (Friend of Michelle Brown) - Health concerns
- Karlene Wenz (Wife of Mike Kieffer) - Health concerns
- Michael Steele (Friend of the Coutts) – Battling cancer
- Lew Wilson (friend of Lee and Sue Stenehjem) - Battling cancer
- Chuck Woods (Friend of Beth & Steve McCarthy) - Health concerns
- Friends and Family of Tom Lund (Mike & Lou Handley's brother-in-law)



Altar flowers are given by Frances DeBruyn



News & Events

TUESDAY WOMEN'S STUDY

We're on a holiday break for 2 weeks,
and will resume a new study series on January 6, 2020.

We meet at 10 am every Tuesday morning for approximately 90 minutes, in the Fellowship Hall. The coffee and hot water for tea/hot chocolate is always on. Tuesday Women's Bible Study is open to all women. Bring your favorite Bible translation (electronic or paper) and bring a friend. Questions? Contact Myrna Ulland myrna.ulland@gmail.com

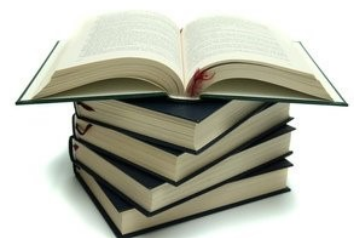
Living Water Scholarship Proposal

A member of our congregation has proposed creating a **Living Water college scholarship program** for the youth of our church. The program would have a Matching Financial Gift Component and be funded entirely by donations, not from the church budget.

The purpose of the Living Water scholarship program is to share the love of Christ by making a difference in the lives of young people in our congregation who are pursuing further education after high school. We believe that hope, confidence, opportunities, the ability to dream and succeed are the blessings that can come from an education. The benefits of such a program would be very rewarding to everyone involved.

Financial scholarships would be awarded to deserving first year students attending a college or trade school. Scholarship requests would go through an application process and be reviewed by the pastors and members of a Scholarship Team.

All members of Living Water will be receiving a **survey in mid-January** to gather your input on this proposal. Please take the time to complete the survey. In the interim, please feel free to provide any feedback, ideas or address your questions to Pastor Shari at the church office 480-473-8400 or at pastorshari@lwlc.org.



MOPS & MOMSnext Group

Next meeting January 9 @ 9:30 am

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. A MOPS & MOMSnext group is an open, accepting place for all mothers to experience authentic community, personal growth, practical help, and spiritual hope.

We meet from 9:30-11:30 am on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month.

Childcare is Free!



Consider joining us and/or inviting your friends and neighbors!

For more information visit: www.lwlcaz.org/mops or

Contact Pastor Shari for more details: pastorshari@lwlcaz.org

TODAY, the Living Water Choir will be presenting our annual Christmas cantata. This year's cantata "*Were You There on That Christmas Night?*" will be presented at both the 8:30am and 11am worship services.



Bridge Group

Why not give bridge a whirl in 2020?

Are you an ex-bridge player? A newbie? A bridge buff who can help others improve their skills? Players of all levels are invited to participate in an enjoyable evening of casual party bridge at the home of Richard and Jill Wehr on Friday, Jan. 17, starting at 7:00 pm. Please add your name to the signup sheet on the kiosk in the Narthex. The hosts will email you directions to their home. For more information on this monthly fellowship opportunity, please contact Richard or Jill (480-515-4813 or jillajw@cox.net).

AZ TAX CREDITS

Arizona permits taxpayers to claim multiple credits for contributions to charitable organizations and schools. This means that you can claim credits for donations to Habitat for Humanity (a charitable organization), and to a public school and to ACSTO (a private school tuition organization). For more information, visit <https://azdor.gov/tax-credits>.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Preparations are now underway to build another Habitat home with Lutheran churches starting in 2020 in the Greater Phoenix area. We need to raise our fair share to pay for the out-of-pocket costs that Habitat incurs to build these homes. Our goal is to raise \$4000.

AZ law provides a tax credit for contributions made to qualifying charitable organizations. Habitat is one of the qualifying organizations. So, if you are going to be paying income taxes to the State of Arizona, you can claim a credit on your income tax return. Taxpayers filing as "single" and "head of household" and "married filing separate" may claim a maximum credit of \$400. Taxpayers that file as "married filing joint" may claim a maximum credit of \$800. You may do this even if you don't itemize deductions.

You can either send your check directly to Habitat of Central AZ or hand your check to Greysen West, Financial Manager or to Marilyn or John Goesling. If you send your check directly, please note on your check that it applies to the **Northeast Lutheran Coalition-Living Water Church**. If you need additional information, contact Marilyn or John Goesling. And, if you are interested in working on the build next spring, a sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex once details are confirmed.

Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission Christian School

Here is another AZ Tax credit opportunity. This is through the Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization (ACSTO). One of the schools helped by this tax credit is the **Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission Christian** school in Rock Point. This school needs financial help. We currently help the school with the collection of box top labels. We have found this brings in very little income for the school. This would be more helpful to the school. With this one, you donate right to ACSTO and specifically designate the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission Christian school. Donors can give up to \$1138/\$569 (married/single) towards the original tax credit. Any donation above this amount will then go towards the Overflow Tax Credit, up to a maximum of an additional \$1131/\$566. It is clearly explained at the ACSTO website which is <http://acsto.org>. They walk you through the donation process right there on the website. The website also provides the tax reporting instructions and documents needed if you participate in this unique tax credit opportunity. Also, note that donations can be made in early 2020 if it is before the April tax deadline.

Vacation Bible School 2020



Mark your calendars now for our 2020 edition of Vacation Bible School at Living Water Lutheran Church on **June 15-19**. Our theme will be **“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.

All children ages 4 through 6th grade are invited to participate in our **free** Vacation Bible School program. Each child will receive a “Wilderness Escape” t-shirt and 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 the children leading our worship service on Sunday, June 22.

If you are interested in joining us for our VBS program as a youth or adult volunteer, please contact Kris Crow at kcrow737@gmail.com or Janice Moore at jlmoore@yahoo.com. We hope to see you this summer!

Adult Forum for December

- **TODAY** – Christmas Cantata Brunch – no Adult Forum
- **December 29** – One service only at 9:30 am – no Adult Forum



Studies



MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY 2020

Join us Thursday **January 9** at 7:30am at Soul Café
(7615 E Pinnacle Peak Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255)



YOU ARE INVITED TO FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAYS AT 9:45-10:45 AM
STARTING AGAIN ON JANUARY 26
KIDS AND ADULTS ARE WELCOME!

At 9:45 am

- Adults and Kids (3 years old and up) meet together for the opening of Sunday School in the **Matthew/Mark** rooms

At 10:15 am

- Club 5 & UP (Adults and Kids in 5th grade and up) in **Ruth** room

8:30 AM SERVANT TEAM

- **Leaders:** Denny Dumler
- **Usher/Greeter:** Gerry Cales & Denny Dumler
- **Communion Servers:** Eric & Sue Brash
- **Lector:** Denny Dumler
- **Altar Guild:** Penny Kilburn & Barb
- **Sound Desk:** Stephen Page
- **Hospitality:** Pam Landon
- **Servant Team Leaders for December 29:**
Lee & Sue Stenehjem

11 AM SERVANT TEAM

- **Leaders:** Sue Boyd
- **Usher/Greeter:** Lee and Sue Stenehjem
- **Communion Servers:** Lee Stenehjem
- **Lector:** Patti Plck
- **Altar Guild:** Patti Plck
- **Sound Desk:** Stephen Page
- **Servant Team Leaders for November 24:** Sue Boyd

**Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline—
Tuesdays at Noon**

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.



Last Week's Attendance:

137 (8:30 am) 116 (11 am)

General Fund: \$12,635

Building Fund: \$1,175

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)

Living Water Lutheran Church

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