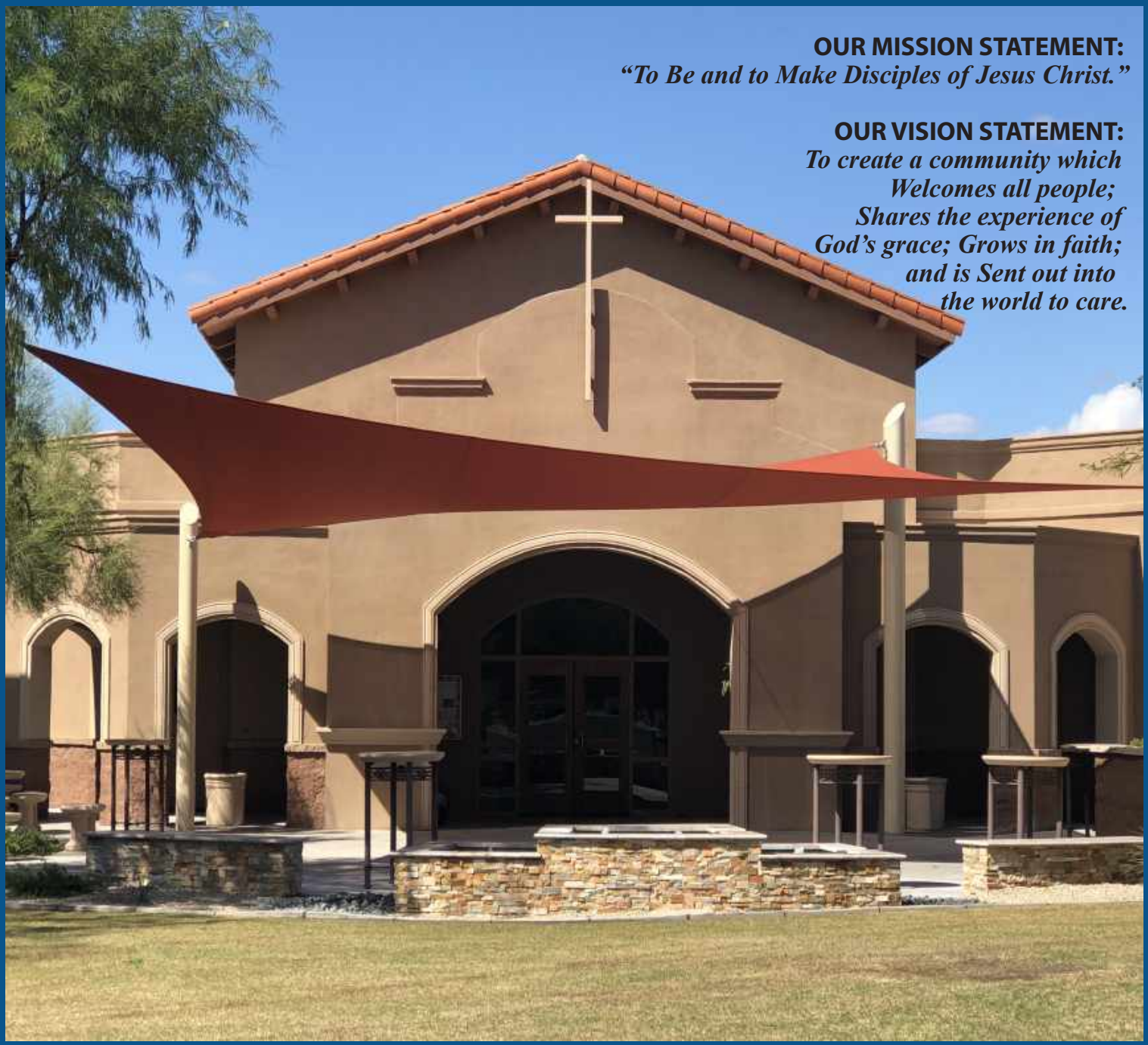
OUR FAITH IN ACTION

2019 Annual Report of the Congregation



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
"To Be and to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ."

OUR VISION STATEMENT:
To create a community which Welcomes all people; Shares the experience of God's grace; Grows in faith; and is Sent out into the world to care.

Living Water Lutheran Church

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LWLC Annual Meeting will be held on
February 14, 2021 @ 11:00 am

2020 STATISTICAL REPORT

2020 MEMBERSHIP	Baptized	Confirmed (15 yrs & older)
As of 1/1/2020	*310*	*292*
Members Received by New Member Class	*0*	*9*
Members Received by Transfer	*2*	*2*
Member Received by Baptism	*4*	*3*
Members Removed by Transfer	*0*	*0*
Members Removed by Death	*-6*	*-6*
Adjustment	*-2*	*-3*
Total Membership As of 12.31.2020	**308**	**298**

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

2000 - 98	*2006 - 223*	*2012 - 160*	*2018 - 179*
2001 - 111	*2007 - 219*	*2013 - 147*	*2019 - 190*
2002 - 125	*2008 - 230*	*2014 - 162*	**2020 - 235**
2003 - 181	*2009 - 208*	*2015 - 171*	
2004 - 207	*2010 - 201*	*2016 - 167*	
2005 - 208	*2011 - 177*	*2017 - 177*	

BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, WEDDINGS, AND DEATHS 2019

BAPTISMS – 3

Sara Luce	*2.16.2020*
Brett Scottlyn Luce	*2.16.2020*
Landrie Shae Lee Vaughn	*12.27.2020*

CONFIRMATIONS – 9

Vanessa Alberti	*11.8.2020*
Anna Bernau	*11.8.2020*
Amy Braks	*11.8.2020*
Hunter Brown	*11.8.2020*
Jillian Decker	*11.8.2020*
Theoran Sabato	*11.8.2020*
Annelise Sabato	*11.8.2020*
Kinsley Smith	*11.8.2020*
Peyton Wilde	*11.8.2020*

WEDDINGS – 1

Scott and Debbi Sims	*11.21.2020*

DEATHS – 6

Harold Keyser	*2.27.2020*
Celia Giontzeneli	*3.1.2020*
Rita Reamer	*9.21.2020*
Nancy Lee Blazer	*9.22.2020*
Bob Welnhofer	*10.11.2020*
Janet Beebe	*12.6.2020*

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED – 2

John Nerison	*12-21-2020*
Judy Nerison	*12-21-2020*

CHURCH STAFF 2020

- **Pastor:** *Mark Rossman*
- **Pastor:** *Shari Bernau*
- **Office Manager***: Jennifer Kelsh*
- **Finance & Building Manager***: Greysen West*
- **Sexton:** *NA*
- **Choir Director:** *Marcie Donavon*
- **Praise Band Director:** *Scott Sims*

CHURCH COUNCIL 2020

- **President:** *Don Pick*
- **Vice President:** *Phil Pounds*
- **Secretary:** *Michelle Brown*
- **Treasurer:** *Gerry Cales*
- **Members at Large:** *Debbie Anderson, Sheila Fankhauser, Sharon Westergreen*

PASTOR MARK ROSSMAN' S REPORT

Exhausting may be the best possible word to describe this year. We have been forced to question, rethink, and innovate just about every aspect of our lives. It is all just a tad different. The greatest part of this past year is that we have all increased the number of steps we walk because all of us have found ourselves at the doors of a building only to turn around and retrieve our facemask so we could gain entry into the building.

We have endured more change in this one year than we have experienced in our lifetime. And we all know how good Lutherans deal with change. And yet we have endured. More than merely enduring, we have learned, we have grown, we have learned new things technologically, we have thrived albeit less than willingly.

And yet in the midst of our frustration, our fear, our uncertainty, our boredom and our loneliness, God has remained a constant presence in our lives. In the phone call, the Facetime visit, the Zoom gathering, the smile behind the mask at the grocery story, the empathy at the doctor, the joy of an in-person conversation, the sanctity of online worship, the beauty of an outdoor worship, and in so much more, there is God. Present in our lives, present in our world, leading and guiding us, offering us reassurance we needed, comfort when sought, peace in times of trouble.
As these days of COVID-19 fade away we will find ourselves in a different world. Much will be

changed. Yet the one thing that will remain the same is the presence of God in Living Water. While we keep planning and wondering what the church may look like in the future, what we do know is that through your commitment to Living Water we will continue to continue to strive to "Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ". How that happens may be a little different than we have experienced in the past, but it is who we are and it is what we do and it is what we will continue to do.

God bless you all for your commitment, your generosity, but most of all for your love. That is what makes Living Water Lutheran Church such and amazingly special place.

Thank you for the privilege of serving here,
Pastor Mark Rossman

PASTOR SHARI BERNAU'S REPORT

Even though this was a challenging year, this congregation has persevered, and I feel blessed to be your pastor and work alongside Pastor Mark, our staff and all of you. We did not let the limitations of the pandemic-induced quarantine and social distancing necessities stop our ministries. In fact, I believe many relationships were strengthened as a result of many of you stepping out in faith and saying "yes" to our sometimes-unorthodox ideas of connecting to one another. The "Live from Home" Videos and "The Hope Project" could not have been possible without you!

One of the ways in which I have seen wonderful growth is in the intergenerational relationships that were made possible through the creative Virtual VBS and Sunday School programs. Thank you to each one of you who watched our videos, and supported this ministry in many different ways.

I continue to strive to connect with young families in our area and provide opportunities to grow in relationship with one another and with Christ. Here are some of the areas in which I continue to work:

Connecting with young families in the community:

MOPS/MOMSnext

This remains a valuable ministry to the group of people who participate, and we are open to new members.

Providing Faith Formation and Pastoral Leadership for Children, Youth and Families:

Nursery

If the need arises, we will respond faithfully.

Milestone events

These events help us to stay faithful to the baptismal promises we make as we walk alongside the children of our faith family and celebrate the milestones of their faith journey. The following milestones we have celebrated this year include: Baptism, Back to School Blessing, and Affirmation of Baptism.

Children's Ministry

It is such a blessing to work with all the volunteers who help to make an enriching experience for our children and young families. Virtual VBS was a huge hit (see Kris Crow's article) as well as Virtual Family Sunday School (see Heidi Ruff's article). Much to our surprise, our young families at Living Water have been more connected, engaged and participatory in 2020 than ever before.

Youth Ministry

We raised the funds, made the plans and gathered the leaders for a group of 20 people to make a trip to Montana through Youthworks Mission Trips in June, but it was cancelled due to the pandemic. An alternative was provided, and

all plans were set to go to Rapid City, South Dakota with a smaller group in July, but that was also cancelled due to the pandemic. It has definitely been a disappointing year for our youth. However, they continue to stay involved and connected to our faith community in a variety of ways:

Our youth were involved in helping with Vacation Bible School through assembling craft kits to be sent to the families, and also filmed segments that were aired on Youtube. They were also involved in Family Sunday School through creating title sequences for the Youtube videos. Lastly, our youth were invited to partner with a couple in our congregation to sponsor a child from Compassion International. Our youth chose the child and we look forward to building a relationship with Jesus David from Ecuador.

Provide an intentional approach to Intergenerational Ministry

Research has proven that kids who build relationships with other generations in their faith family are more likely to stay connected to the church into adulthood. In addition, when children have relationships with older generations, the child is reassured that someone (besides their family) cares about them, they are offered security, assurance that they are not alone facing day-to-day challenges; and they feel that they matter. Thank you, Living Water, for your openness and caring attitudes toward our young families.

Provide Ministry of Word and Sacrament, Pastoral Care, and support the ministries and volunteers in the congregation:

This year, I have learned so much regarding how many resources are at our fingertips that provide opportunities to stay connected. I am thankful for all that I have learned and for your patience through the growing pains.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Shari L. Bernau

COUNCIL PRESIDENT—Donald Pick

It is an understatement that 2020 has been a year like no other. Living Water has continued to do God's work during the Covid-19 pandemic. That is at the core of Living Water.

The Covid-19 pandemic team put together a comprehensive plan for how Living Water handles the Covid-19 pandemic. We should all give a huge thank you to Dr. Doug Yock, Jeri Pounds, RN, and Leon Igras for their hard work to keep everyone at Living Water safe.

I want to thank each one of you that continued to give to Living Water with not only financially, but with your time and talents. LWLC continued to support ministries locally, nationally, and worldwide.

During the pandemic we began our online service via YouTube. The online service has been a tremendous success. Look forward to the expansion on live streaming services hopefully in the not to distance future.

The new sanctuary audio/video system has been installed. This includes new large screen monitors and upgraded sound board. When we return to in-person worshiping in the sanctuary, we will be able to enjoy these upgrades.

Phil Pounds and Gerry Cales have been instrumental in developing security policy and procedures for the church campus. Part of that plan has been the installation of security cameras that cover the campus. Look forward to more information regarding church security.

I want to thank Pastor Rossman and Pastor Bernau for their leadership, compassion, and

vision during these difficult times. I want to thank the church council for their leadership, flexibility, and thinking outside the box over the past year.

It has been an honor to serve Living Water Lutheran Church as your council president.

Respectfully,
Donald D. Pick

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT—
Phil Pounds

None of us foresaw what a challenging year 2020 would be. The pandemic presents challenges that demand our time, thoughts and discipline to slow the spread of the disease and support one another. We are truly blessed with having Pastor Mark and Pastor Shari leading Living Water's worship programs. Everyone's efforts to continue our worship and outreach programs prove once again, that our Church is not simply a building, but a community of caring and hardworking Christians. Kudos to the LWLC Pandemic Committee for their advice and expertise to help us through these times. Finally, it has been a pleasure working with the Council and especially Don Pick as President.

God Bless,
Phil Pounds

MISSION GROUPS AND MINISTRY TEAMS

Caring – ***Mission Program Leader: Doris Yock***

- *Birthday/Anniversary Cards*
- *Eucharistic Ministers*
- *Note Writing*
- *Prayer Chain*
- *Prayer Shawl*

Service – ***Mission Program Leader: Doris Yock***

- *"A Better Chance" Diaper Closet at Alleluia Lutheran Church in Avondale*
- *Angel Tree*
- *Arizona Tax Credit – Habitat for Humanity*
- *Arizona Tax Credit – Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission School*
- *ELCA Disaster Relief*
- *ELCA Good Gifts*
- *ELCA World Hunger*
- *Grace Lutheran Church – Homeless Project*
- *Grace Lutheran Church – Pancake Breakfast*
- *Habitat for Humanity*
- *Hunger Jar*
- *La Sagrada Familia Lutheran Church – Food Shelf*
- *La Sagrada Familia Lutheran Church – Tamale Sale*
- *Lunches for Learning*
- *Lutheran Social Services*
- *SW Refugee Resettlement Program*
- *Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits*
- *Lutheran World Relief Piece-Makers Mission Quilting*
- *LWLC Book Drive*
- *Pocket Pal Quilt Ministry*
- *Thanksgiving Food Drive (Vista del Camino)*

Learning - ***Mission Program Leader: Myrna Wells-Ulland***

- *Sunday Morning Adult Forum*
- *Childrens' Faith Formation – Family Sunday School*
- *Club 5 and Up*
- *Confirmation*
- *Youth Ministry*
- *WAVE*
- *Tuesday Women's Study*
- *Men's Breakfast Bible Study*
- *Women of the ELCA*
- *Vacation Bible School*
- *Living Water Library*

Fellowship - ***Mission Program Leader: Joan Sprinkle***

- *Bridge*
- *Campus Crew*
- *Friday Morning Club*
- *Great Gatherings*
- *Living Art*
- *Saints and Sinners*
- *Splendid Table*
- *Sunday Morning Hospitality*

Witness - *Mission Program Leader: Pastor Mark Rossman*

- *New Member Class*
- *Website & Social Media*
- *Pro-active Community Engagement (PACE)*
- *Demographic Study*
- *Bike Riders Welcome*
- *MOPS/MOMSnext*

Worship and Music – *Mission Program Leader: Pastor Mark Rossman*

- *Altar Guild*
- *Choir*
- *Liturgical Arts*
- *Praise Band*
- *Servant Teams*
- *Special Services*
- *Technical Services*
- *Worship and Music*
- *Prayer Partners*

Giving - *Mission Program Leader*
Building Fund

- *Capital Campaign*
- *Endowment Giving*
- *General Fund*
- *Annual Stewardship Campaign*
- *Gifts of Appreciated Stock*
- *Special Gifts/Memorials*

CARING MISSION GROUP

The Caring Mission group provides spiritual, prayer, and emotional support to members of Living Water Lutheran Church and their families and friends during times of need and times of celebration. The leader of this ministry was Patty Sell.

- **NOTE WRITING MINISTRY – Patti Pick**

The note writing ministry mails cards of encouragement to people listed on the Prayer Request page in the weekly Connections insert at LWLC. The cards are signed "From your friends at Living Water Lutheran Church" and let the recipients know that the church congregation is praying for them. In 2020, 49 cards were written and mailed by Sally Harris, Pam Landon, Marge Miller, Nancy Payne, Patti Pick and Susan Purewal.

- **PRAYER CHAIN – Ministry Team**

In 2020, the Prayer Chain Ministry offered prayer support for members and friends of Living Water whose concerns were brought to our attention. Prayer requests may be made by calling the office (480-473-8400), completing a prayer request form in the narthex, or emailing prayer@lwlcaz.org.

- **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – Ministry Team**

In 2020, members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry knitted and presented shawls to members of the congregation on various occasions, including baptism.

SERVICE MISSION GROUP

The Service Mission group leads a variety of projects that provide gifts and support to people within Living Water, in our local communities, and throughout the world. The people who served as team leaders during 2020 include Eric and Sue Brash, Linda Coutts, Denny Dumler, Dave and Liz Gilkey, John and Marilyn Goesling, Ron and Cindy Ophaug, Don and Patti Pick, Patty Sell, Steve and Kristin Smith, Myrna Ulland, and Doug and Doris Yock. Sharon Westergreen has been the Council contact for the Service and Caring ministry teams.

In 2020, through Service Mission projects, members of Living Water provided generous support in the form of donated goods and financial resources outside of their annual giving. Details of these gifts are included in individual Ministry Team reports.

Funds received through the Hunger Jar, collections at Wednesday Soup Suppers during Lent, Lenten Services offerings, and Thanksgiving Eve Service offerings are outside the budget of the congregation and are disbursed each year by the Service and Caring Ministry teams.

This year, funds from these sources were lower than usual because of the suspension of in-person worship. A total of $1,098 was collected early in 2020 and distributed to local and global ministries, as follows: From the Hunger Jar ($227), $113.50 was given to ELCA World Hunger Fund and $113.50 was given to Interfaith Cooperative Ministries (ICM) Food Bank. From collections at the only Wednesday Soup Supper during Lent ($90), $45 was given to Vista Del Camino Food Bank (Scottsdale Community Partners) and $45 was given to LWLC Kitchen Fellowship Supplies. From the offerings received at the only Lenten service ($781), $390.50 was distributed to Lunches for Learning and $390.50 was distributed to Interfaith Cooperative Ministries (ICM) Food Bank.

In addition, funds in the amount of $596 collected on Super Bowl Sunday were distributed to St. Mary's Food Bank. Our youth, who determine how these funds are distributed, collect them as part of the national Souper Bowl of Caring campaign (https://souperbowl.org), which has the goal of alleviating hunger and poverty.

- **"A BETTER CHANCE" DIAPER CLOSET AT ALLELUIA LUTHERAN CHURCH – Myrna Ulland**

This ministry began in 2018, to support "A Better Chance" Diaper Closet at our sister ELCA congregation, Alleluia Lutheran, in Avondale, Arizona. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, our annual appeal to support this ministry around Mother's Day with diapers, diaper wipes and "dollars for diapers" did not occur in 2020. The Diaper Closet at Alleluia Lutheran has remained closed throughout the pandemic. We will re-evaluate this program's needs in 2021.

- **ANGEL TREE – Linda Coutts**

The Angel Tree has always been an inspirational part of Advent and 2020 was no exception. We slightly lowered our angel count to 95 due to the pandemic. We were blessed to have our original hand cut wooden Angel ornaments designed and decorated by Lois Lucas and Lynda Cales and patiently cut out by Jay Lucas and Gerry Cales. Thank You! The benefit of the "Angels" go to families with children whose ages run from 3 months to 12 years. ICM (Interfaith Cooperative Ministry) Food and Clothing Bank was very excited to work with us again this year. Living Water members were asked to spend around $40 on a toy, and/or clothing item, and an age-appropriate book for their "Angel". How simple! ICM picks up our bags and distributes the gifts to

the chosen families. This year, to make it easier on ICM, we organized the gifts in family units. Each family then received one wooden Angel and one LWLC blue bag as an extra gift. In addition, each LWLC family that took an Angel also received one decorated wooded Angel as a Thank You. Our valued contribution for 2020 was approximately $4500 to $5000. To all who participated, I would like to Thank You for being a blessing for a family this Christmas season.

- **ARIZONA TAX CREDITS**

Habitat for Humanity – John and Marilyn Goesling

Arizona permits taxpayers to claim multiple credits for contributions to charitable organizations and schools. Habitat for Humanity is one of these qualifying organizations. If donors designate their money to the NE Lutheran Coalition/Living Water Lutheran Church, this money is credited to our church and our build with Habitat. In this way, we pay our fair share for out-of-pocket costs that Habitat incurs to build the homes we help to build. In 2019, our congregation donated about $23,900 which would have gone toward our 2020 build. However, the build did not occur due to the Covid virus and the funds will be carried over for a future build.

Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission School in Rock Point – Denny Dumler

Living Water has supported the Mission School at the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, Arizona, for a number of years. We have continued that support by encouraging members to donate directly to the school and, through the Arizona tax credit program, claim a generous dollar-for-dollar credit against their Arizona income tax.
Donations to the school may be made through the Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization (ACSTO) by specifically designating the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission Christian School. The ACSTO website – http://acsto.org – provides instructions for making donations online or by mail or phone. It also includes tax reporting information. Donations made in 2021 may be claimed for the 2020 tax year if they are made before the April tax deadline and before the taxpayer files their 2020 tax return. For more information, visit https://azdor.gov/tax-credits.
For information about the Navajo Mission school see: https://www.nelm.org/school.html.

Multiple Credits

The Arizona tax credit program permits taxpayers to claim credits for contributions to more than one charitable organization or school. This means that in any given year, a taxpayer may claim separate credits for donations to a charitable organization (Habitat for Humanity, for example), to a public school, and to Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization, Inc. (ACSTO). For more information, visit https://azdor.gov/tax-credits.

- **ELCA GOOD GIFTS – Ron and Cindy Ophaug**

The ELCA Good Gifts program is a wonderful way to donate and share the gifts with people in need. LWLC had a banner year again in donations! They gave and received over $6200!! Great job donating LWLC!!!
The Good Gifts program encourages members and friends to give and receive gifts throughout the year. Gifts include goats, chickens, roosters, honeybees, fruit tree seedling, vaccinations for a child, school fees for a girl, school supplies for a child, water jugs and many other items. Check https://goodgifts.elca.org for more ideas.

Living Water has been very generous over the years with their gifts, and we hope that support lasts for the coming year. Thank you to all who donated and support this program.

- **ELCA WORLD HUNGER – Myrna Ulland**

Living Water's typical program support for ELCA World Hunger was generally thwarted by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. We were able to send ELCA World Hunger a total of $338.50, which included $225 from donations identified for World Hunger and $113.50 of Hunger Jar collections allocated for World Hunger. Thank you for your generosity in continuing to support this program of our national church. At this time, we are unsure about what the ELCA World Hunger emphasis might be in 2021.

- **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH HOMELESS PROJECT – Ministry Team**

We continue to regularly deliver clothing, hygiene products, shoes, and blankets to Grace Lutheran Church in support of their service to the homeless of central Phoenix. The Grace congregation and their clients are very appreciative of these donations.

- **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Don and Patti Pick**

Covid-19 prevented Grace Lutheran Church from providing the Sunday morning pancake breakfast for the Phoenix homeless. This has been one of the truly great outreach ministries that LWLC annually takes part in. If you have not had the opportunity to experience this event, I invite you to volunteer when we are once again able to partake.

Even though LWLC was not able to be a part of Grace's pancake breakfast in person, we still made a cash donation to Grace Lutheran Church. Grace continues to do Gods work with the less fortunate in Phoenix. Continue to keep their ministry not only in your prayers, but in giving clothing, water, and donations.

- **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – John and Marilyn Goesling**

Living Water Lutheran Church has completed 19 houses as part of Habitat for Humanity. This year, due to the Covid virus, we were not part of any build in the Phoenix area. Normally, Living Water is responsible for both the financial and worker support. John and Marilyn Goesling coordinate these projects for Living Water. About $23,900 was given by our congregation in 2019, by using the AZ tax credit program. This money was not used, but will be carried over for a future build. Many lives have been changed by our participation in this program.

- **HUNGER JAR – LWLC Congregation**

The Hunger Jar includes offerings of coins dropped into the Hunger Jar in the sanctuary during services, as well as collections during Sunday morning fellowship time. In a typical year, these offerings are a source of significant funds for gifts to local and international organizations. This year, collections were lower than usual because we were not able to worship in the sanctuary or gather in Fellowship Hall due to the pandemic. We were able to send funds that had been contributed by the end of the first quarter, amounting to $227, to the ELCA World Hunger Fund ($113.50) and to St. Mary's Food Bank ($113.50). We look forward to renewed giving to the Hunger Jar sometime in 2021.

- **LA SAGRADA FAMILIA LUTHERAN CHURCH FOOD SHELF– Ministry Team**

Members of Living Water continue to donate food items for the emergency food bank maintained by La Sagrada Familia for people in need among those it serves.

- **LA SAGRADA FAMILIA LUTHERAN CHURCH TAMALE SALE – Steve and Kristin Smith**

This year's tamale sale was another one for the books: Diana from La Sagrada Familia notified me they would do tamales as a Christmastime fundraiser on the Friday just one week and a day before their planned delivery. So, in a nutshell (or a cornhusk, as it were?): We requested the same number as last year, 48 dozen, and announced the sale in an email blast from the Living Water office. Around half of the tamales were reserved by members during the week prior to delivery day. We sold all but 4 dozen at a price of $20 each after the outdoor worship service on Sunday, December 6. The remaining 4 dozen were sold during the week. In addition to the sale proceeds, we received cash donations of $120, for a total of $1,080 for La Familia. Thanks to volunteers Myrna Ulland, Darrell Shipley, and Sally Harris, for their help to make tamale pick-up go smoothly on Sunday, and also to Myrna for meeting Padre Miguel at Living Water on Saturday afternoon, and organizing the tamales in the Fellowship Hall refrigerator. Also thanks to Pastor Mark for encouragement to proceed, and to Jennifer for email blasts, taking reservation orders, and helping to coordinate with me.

- **LUNCHES FOR LEARNING – Denny Dumler**

For the past eight years, LWLC has sponsored two schools in rural Honduras for children and their families in the elementary school years that will work to reverse the cycle of poverty that has existed for many years. With many of the families living on less than $2 per day, children have been forced to beg for food for their families, suffered with malnutrition with lack of food, and forced to drop out of school without a basic education. The program has been in existence since 2005 and now serves 46 schools in the Valle Region of Honduras. During this time, dropouts have been reduced to nearly zero and steps toward reversing the cycle of poverty have occurred.

However, 2020 impacted this area of the world in several significant ways. Like the rest of the world, COVID 19 has forced the schools and the food deliveries to be halted and the country has experienced two major hurricanes that have further had major negative impacts on the children of the region. The school year is from February thru November and we are planning to begin the program again as the school year begins in February. It will be a significant effort to regain the success we have experienced in the past but it is clear the need is greater than ever.

We have funded our support for the two schools with gifts from members and friends and thru a portion of the offerings during the Lenten season. With no services during Lent 2020, these funds have been significantly reduced and thru loss of several members, we are in need of additional support from members and friends. We are not requesting any funding from our normal congregational budget but hope to continue to support thru special gifts given specifically designated to L4L.

- **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES SW REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM – David and Liz Gilkey**

In August of 2019, with the help of a Lutheran Social Services moving truck, two excellent movers and some friends of ours, we resettled a family from Kenya into a nice duplex. The family is made up of a mother, two teenage sons and an eight year old daughter. All of the donated furniture and household items were utilized.

The LWLC storage unit is now filled to near capacity. We are so thankful for the caring and generosity of this congregation for all their donations of household items and furniture. While we did not set up a home for a refugee family in 2020, this year we look forward to making a family's transition to this country

much smoother with a fully furnished place of their own.

- **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) PERSONAL CARE KITS – Myrna Ulland**

Again, the coronavirus pandemic impacted our 2020 Personal Care Kit project collections. While we initiated the project at the beginning of Lent 2020, the pandemic interrupted our overall giving. We were able to use a $250 Thrivent Action Team gift card to supplement gifts from the congregation. A total of 86 Personal Care Kits were assembled by our confirmation youth in November. These kits were sent on to LWR and shared with people who have lost everything from a natural disaster or life-threatening violence. The kits give hope through two bars of hand soap, a small bath towel, a toothbrush, comb, and nail clippers. Toothpaste is added at the time the kits are shipped out from either St. Paul, MN or Baltimore, MD. We anticipate repeating this project during Lent 2021.

- **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) PIECE-MAKERS MISSION QUILTING – Myrna Ulland**

In 2020, we continued our mission quilting activity to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). In November, 140 quilts were blessed before delivery to a LWR in-gathering at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center in Carefree. Our group quilt tying was terminated when the pandemic closed everything down in March. However, quilting continued at home and we are grateful to the women who helped completed a record number of quilts this year! As this ministry continues, we welcome donations of dollars or appropriate 100% cotton fabric for the quilt tops or bottoms. Each quilt needs approximately 3.5 yards for the top and 4 yards for each bottom. The tops are pieced together by individuals and we hope to return tying them as a group in 2021. Another opportunity for support is to contribute to the LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry Fund to support the shipping costs for kits and quilts. Information on this ministry to support LWR is available from their website: https://lwr.org/quilts-and-kits.

- **LWLC BOOK DRIVE – Eric and Sue Brash**

Living Water conducts an ongoing collection of new and gently used books for babies through adults. These collections are then distributed throughout the Phoenix core area by Assistance League of Phoenix. Many of these books are chosen by Title I schools' K-8 students who are also being given much-needed school uniforms and shoes. ICM Food and Clothing Bank, UMOM new day centers which includes homeless young adults, N.O.A.H. Clinics' clients, and Furnishing Dignity which provides living spaces to homeless families and young adults aging out of foster care also receive appropriate children's and adult reading materials. Please remember we collect used magazines for adults which are appreciated by ICM Food and Clothing Bank clients. The UMOM interdenominational chapel gratefully distributes our donated religious titles to homeless families. In 2020, our congregation (with tremendous summer support by our Vacation Bible School participants) gathered 1,787 well-received books! Since starting this project, LWLC has provided 11,069 books. We encourage you to please continue to solicit book and magazine donations from family, friends and neighbors. You can contact Sue or Eric Brash with any questions or to arrange a large pick-up. suebrash7@gmail.com or 602-317-9444

- **POCKET PAL QUILT MINISTRY – Myrna Ulland**

In 2020, a new quilt ministry was begun through our PieceMakers Quilters, that of creating "pocket pal" quilts for the AZ Foster Children's Program. Pocket Pal quilts are smaller quilts, designed for children from infants through teens,

and each quilt includes a "pocket" attached to the back of the quilt, secured at the top with Velcro. Quilts also include a stitched-on blank nametag stating the quilt was "made with love." Children typically arrive at a foster children's shelter with no personal items. The child's name is written on the quilt nametag as they receive their quilt. Beyond the quilt being a symbol of caring, the pocket on the quilt allows the child to safely retain any personal care items. Quilters from Living Water joined up with quilters from a sister ELCA congregation, Ascension Lutheran in Paradise Valley. In 2020, 35 pocket pal quilts were contributed from Living Water.

- **THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE (Vista Del Camino) – Doris and Doug Yock**

Living Water's participation in the annual Thanksgiving Meal Program sponsored by the Vista del Camino Food Bank is one way we fight hunger on a local level. In 2020, to minimize person-to-person contact, we did not collect food items. Instead, we encouraged gifts in the form of checks and gift cards. Living Water gave generously, donating $1,925 that was used by the Vista Del Camino staff to purchase complete Thanksgiving meals for distribution to members of the Scottsdale community who are families or seniors in need, homeless, or otherwise experiencing crisis. Thank you for your generosity and kindness!

LEARNING MISSION GROUP

Learning Mission's purpose is to assist all ages, from three years to the third chapter of life, to grow in their faith and relationship with Christ and one another through the development and leading of learning opportunities and experiences. Our emphasis is to equip individuals to live out the mission of God in a changing world. Study of the scriptures is an important part of our faith formation as young people begin to learn who Jesus is, prepare for confirmation, and for adults as we continue our faith journey. 2020 brought us unique challenges in our Learning Ministry areas. We're grateful to all the leaders who have been so creative, adaptive and faithful in their dedication, passion for, and involvement with our unique learning opportunities at Living Water this past year.

- **SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM/ADULT EDUCATION**

We are grateful to the presenters and to all who attended and supported the Adult Forum hour between services on Sunday mornings from January until the pandemic shut everything down in mid-March!
During the first months of 2020, topics and presenters included the following:

1. *Several "ask a pastor" sessions, open forums with pastor panelists Gene Perry, Dennis Nelson, and Jim Hanson.*
2. *Gene Perry presented a report on Jan. 19 from our strategic planning discussion in late 2019.*
3. *Larry Carr presented a session on "Biblical Origins" on Jan. 26.*
4. *Bishop Deborah Hutterer moderated an "Ask the Bishop" session on Feb. 2.*
5. *Jim Hanson led discussion on Feb. 23, "Christianity as a Criminal Enterprise."*
6. *Larry Carr continued a second of his presentations on "Biblical Origins" on March 1.*
7. *Pr. Mark led discussion on "Word of God" on March 8.*

Then Covid-19 arrived and all future in-person presentations were, of course, cancelled. Myrna Ulland provided a virtual presentation on Women in Church Leadership on March 18th. Larry Carr followed with another virtual

presentation on Stewardship on March 25. And lastly, Rev. Bob Hutson presented virtually on the Lord's Prayer, titled "Our Father" in early April.

In addition to the Sunday Morning Adult Forum, Pr. Gene Perry led a six-week adult education study on "Genesis" on Monday mornings, using the theme of "unfolding the Biblical story." This study began on Feb. 3rd.
The pandemic created a new opportunity for adult education at Living Water in the form of weekly online Bible Studies presented by retired ELCA pastor, Dennis Nelson. Pr. Nelson continued his Lenten study series in a virtual format beginning on March 18, and has faithfully continued each week since then, bringing us an in-depth reflection of the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. Dennis' presentations are enhanced with a PowerPoint and graphics created by his wife, Terry, and have been a gift to many each week.

The 2020 Adult Forum/Adult Education ministry team included Ken Bash, Gene Perry, Rita Reamer, Larry Carr, Myrna Ulland, and Pr. Rossman. We were saddened to learn of Rita's death later in the year. Retired Pastor Steve Cornils assisted us in early 2020 for a short period of time. We're thankful for the involvement of both Rita and Pr. Steve.

- **FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL 2020**

From January through mid-March 2020, Family Sunday School continued in our traditional in-person mode. We continued to use "Whirl," a Bible-centric curriculum designed for kids ages 3 through 6th grade based on the revised common lectionary. Janice Moore taught the K-4 graders, Heidi Ruff taught the 5-6 graders, and Patty Hamm led music in a combined K-6 welcome session. While the kids seemed to enjoy the content, we struggled with low attendance on Sunday mornings. We began to wonder if the success seen in our high participation in our 2019 Christmas Pageant and our new Wave program might be difficult to translate into participation in the current Sunday School format. Did we need to change format/something? That discussion would have to wait as in mid-March, we ceased our Family Sunday School program due to Covid-19.

In September, a small leadership group of Pastor Shari, Kris Crow, and Heidi Ruff formed to create an online Family Sunday School experience. We released our first video on September 13. From Sept 13, 2020 through January 3, 2021, we have released a video/lesson every week with much positive support from our congregation and families. We are averaging 55 views per week. Our main goal in each video is to teach the children about Jesus and the Biblical witness and to also continue to build community and relationships even through the medium of video delivery. We've done this by trying to include in our videos different learning modes and, importantly, including submissions of videos and pictures from the children as well as LWLC adults. We believe that we create community when the children send in video and pictures of their experience of Sunday School at home and we use that in future videos. We are learning as we go! Thus far we have completed three series within the Family Sunday School video program: An 8-week series titled, "Who is Jesus" (Sept 13 – Nov 1), a 2-week series on Confirmation (Nov 8- Nov 15), and a 7-week series focused on Advent and Christmas (Nov 22 – Jan 3).

In the crazy year of 2020, delivering Family Sunday School via video with the help of so many in our congregation has been a joy. A HUGE thank you for the support and participation of so many people who have graciously helped us by recording videos of themselves to include as segments in our Sunday School lessons, including Julie Ann Walker, Denny Dumler, Myrna Ulland, Patty Hamm, Scott Sims, Michael Winter, Barbara Brooks, Joan Sprinkle, Marcy Donavon, Linda Coutts, Cindy Ophaug, John Goesling, Jill Wehr, Sam Winters,

Aubrey Coutts, Lily and Davis Shelmire, and Pastor Mark. We give thanks for the leadership and guidance provided by Pastor Shari and Kris Crow each week. We are so blessed that in this format we have a wonderful lesson introduction from Pastor Shari each week. And Kris Crow brings excitement and her vast talents to each and every lesson. Importantly, we are so very thankful for each child and family that watches the video lessons and sends in a Bible verse, prayer, or picture of his/her experience of God that week. Praise God!
Respectfully submitted, Heidi Ruff

- **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation is a two-year program that is geared for 7th and 8th grade students which provides an instruction/experience in the Christian faith in the Lutheran Church. Themes of the class include: Old Testament, New Testament, Lutheran History and Catechism, and Lutheran Living.
2017-2018: 3 students
2018-2019: 13 students
2019-2020: 14 students
2020-2021: 5 students
On November 8, 2020, nine students affirmed their baptism. Below are the names of the students and their favorite Bible verse.
Vanessa Alberti: *Philippians 4: 13*
"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."
Anna Bernau: *Philippians 4:13*
"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."
Amy Braks: *John 3:16*
"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
Hunter Brown: *Colossians 3:12*
"You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."
Jillian Decker: *Luke 6:31*
"Do to others as you would have them do to you."
Theoran Sabato: *Psalm 23:4*
"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."
Annelise Sabato: *Joshua 1:5*
"No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you."
Kinsley Smith: *Isaiah 41: 10*
"Don't be afraid, I am with you. Don't be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."
Peyton Wilde: *Matthew 19:26*
"With God all things are possible."

Pastor Shari

- **TUESDAY WOMEN'S STUDY**

The Tuesday Women's Study continues in a weekly morning meeting format, originating in the fall of 2011. We have a committed group of women attending, although impacted by the pandemic, which shut down our in-person meetings beginning in mid-March. Our study topics vary from video-based series to book study to the monthly Bible study from the Gather magazine. Tuesday Women's Study is open to all women, members and non, and prior experience with Bible study is not required. Come and learn with us!

We grow in our knowledge of scripture and in friendship and support with the depth of the prayers and conversation that occur each week. In Jan. and Feb. 2020, we completed an 8-session study from N.T. Wright and Michael Bird, "The New Testament You Never Knew." The 4-session Winter/Spring study from the Gather magazine on vocation, "We Are Called," written

by Rev. Dr. Kit Kleinhans, was interrupted a bit when the pandemic arrived, but we regrouped via Zoom to complete it! Zoom allowed women to participate from several states! From April through early June, we studied a book from Episcopal Priest Barbara Brown Taylor, "Holy Envy." In June, we used the 3-session summer study from the Gather magazine titled "Just Love," written by Rev. Christa Compton and Rev. Gladys Moore. This study examined the relationship between love and justice. Following a summer hiatus, September brought us to Max Lucado's 5-session study on "Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World" which seemed appropriate for our circumstances! Following that, the Fall Gather study on "Holy Time," written by Pr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, took us through 3 weeks together. Aelabouni is currently the Country Coordinator for YAGM in Jerusalem and the West Bank. We closed out the year with another Lucado study for 6 weeks, "You Are Never Alone." We concluded the year on Christmas week with a time for prayer and reading of the Nativity story from Luke.
In addition to studying together, we continue to reach out financially through our weekly offerings. In addition to gifts to support our Grand Canyon Synod Women's Organization, we've supported St. Mary's Food Bank, the Navajo Lutheran Mission, and Lutheran World Relief. In December, we again helped make Christmas special for six adult women from Scottdale's Via Linda Senior Center "adopt-a-senior" holiday program.

It's a joy to be among the Tuesday Women who so lovingly share their wisdom, their laughter, their tears, and their hearts with one another as we learn together.

I close with a phrase used by Muslims in greeting/asking how they're doing. It translates to "things are a little hard right now, but in all circumstances, praise belongs to God." This seems appropriate as we continue into this pandemic time, doing our best to continue to grow in faith and friendship on Tuesdays through technology!

Myrna Ulland

- **MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - Pastor Mark**

The Men's Breakfast Bible Study met at 7:30 AM on Thursday of each week at the Soul Café until the pandemic closed everything down in March. Each meeting averaged 15+ attendees focused on reflecting and studying the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. This gathering has been blessed with the presence of men from other congregations actively participating in the discussion and we look forward to safely resuming our time together in the future.

In December, the men again helped make Christmas special for seniors from Scottsdale's Via Linda Senior Center adopt-a-senior holiday program with a generous financial contribution.

- **WELCA – WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

WELCA is an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, but WELCA isn't the preferred term we will use beginning in 2021. Living Water Lutheran continues with an active Women of the ELCA unit and we represent the women's ministry arm of our ELCA under a broad umbrella. We commit to the purpose of Women of the ELCA: As a community of women, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

- *A leadership team has been formed under the Women of the ELCA umbrella. The first action we took was to rename*

our women's ministry "LWLCW" – indicating Living Water Lutheran Church Women. At Living Water, ministries involving women are found in many mission teams and projects and that is a good fit for our congregation, including Bible study, quilting ministry, fellowship teams, prayer shawls, writing ministry and liturgical arts. We gather to grow in faith and live our faith through ministry and action. There's a place for all women at Living Water in our mission and ministries.

- *In 2020, we continued to incorporate the Bible study from the Gather magazine into the Tuesday Women's Study weekly rotation. Now, women only need to remember that Tuesday is Women's Bible Study day! All offerings/gifts directed to WELCA have been forwarded on to our Grand Canyon Synod women's organization.*
- *The pandemic closed all in-person local and regional women's gatherings beginning in March, including a postponement, and now cancellation, of the national 11th Triennial Gathering of ELCA women planned for Phoenix in August.*

- *In November, women from Living Water again participated in our annual "Thankoffering," an offering to support ministries of Women of the ELCA across our entire church wide organization. Thank you!*

- *On behalf of LWLCW, we look forward to new opportunities to engage and support women of all ages in their faith journey.*

Myrna Ulland

- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)**

Our journey for 2020 VBS began in December by selecting our VBS curriculum focused on the theme "Wilderness Escape – Where God Guides and Provides." The first meeting of the VBS Leadership Team was held in February. We were oblivious to the impending pandemic and its impact on our ministries. Then in March, everything stopped as we began to shelter in place. In early April we faced a decision point - Should we cancel VBS and plan big for 2021? Should we delay it until the end of the year?

Pastor Mark suggested pursuing a "virtual" or "online" version of VBS. On April 28, the VBS Leadership Team regrouped via a Zoom meeting and we were off and running with unanimous support to move forward. Everyone on the team stepped up to take on a segment of the program and we strong armed Scott Sims to play the role of Moses and James Bernau to lead the Games segment. Finally, Erik Laudenschlager agreed to film and edit the 5 days of content.

The web site was changed to reflect our new approach, emails and postcards went out to previous attendees and the banner was put out in front of the church. Despite the fatigue from online school, 58 children from 36 families were registered for our VBS program by the time the registration process closed!
We dusted off the VBS set created in 2014 and started filming the five days of video content on May 21 while simultaneously creating a 29 page Parent Pack and gathering daily supplies needed for crafts, games and the Family Mission Project for each family. By June 10, boxes with supplies were shipped to 9 out of state families and the supplies for the remaining 27 local families were delivered to their doorsteps. On June 15, Day 1 of Virtual VBS premiered on our website and YouTube channel. The week concluded with a "Drive Thru" Ice Cream Social in the church parking lot. With the VBS songs blaring, we safely distributed sealed cups of ice cream,

spoons and napkins to carloads of our VBS families.
This year's VBS would not have happened without the contributions of time, creativity and talent shared by the following committed leaders:

Pastor Shari – *For providing constant support and lots of great ideas throughout the process and doing a wonderful job as our Celebration Opening and Closing host. Her enthusiasm and connection with children is evident throughout the videos.*

Julie Ann Walker – *our very own Kitchen Magician, for creating a fun and delicious Snack Shack experience for all of our families. Julie Ann also shared our videos and Parent Pack with families in Ireland and Poland. We truly had a global VBS!*

Scott Sims – *an amazing musician and actor. Moses came to life on our videos with such enthusiasm and authenticity.*

Myrna Ulland – *our Ima Bookworm who took our VBS Mission Project to new levels by illustrating the impact of the Book Drive on children in our own backyard, providing ideas for families out of state, teaching us how to say thank you in multiple languages and urging us to clean off our bookshelves for a great cause!*

James Bernau – *for stepping in to lead "Games with James". This segment provided lots of enjoyment for our families through a few simple supplies, a good dose of humor and a bit of Bible history thrown in.*

Heidi Ruff – *for creating the Family Mission Project. This was a new concept for all of us and incorporated a much needed and appreciated dose of gratitude and little acts of kindness. Her delivery of the daily projects was heartfelt and inspiring. In addition, Heidi took the information and instructions in our Parent Pack and turned it into a 29-page work of art and invaluable handbook for our parents.*

Denny Dumler - *for being our resident funny man. Denny is a long-time small group leader for our oldest VBS participants and always provides silly challenges throughout the week. No wonder these kids have always loved Denny as their tribe leader.*
Erik Laudenschlager – *for never losing his cool when we decided to do yet another take, suggested filming outside vs. in the sanctuary and worked through microphone issues. As Julie Ann said, he made us all look good!*

Zoey Crow – *for animating our opening countdown on the daily videos and creating a compilation of photos and videos sent in by our VBS families that was used in the VBS Celebration worship service. And pitching in wherever mom needed help collecting, counting, collating and packaging supplies.*

Youth – *who came to the church, donned masks and gloves to measure yarn, cut leather cord, package clay, cut circles and aluminum foil, sort beads and painted pasta, measure and cut washi tape and much more for our Supply bags.*

Set Design and Construction Crew from 2014 – *who created the beautiful VBS set 6 years ago and made it easy to get started! The 2014 crew included Janice Moore, Leila and Wayne Burris, Tracy Paul, Pastor John Cockram, Ron Roessler, Zoey Crow, Pastor Mark, Nancy Griffin, Sue Stenehjem, Stephen Page and Pam Landon.*

Marie Kelen – *for technical support and assuring that we could actually get our final VBS products "on air" for YouTube viewing.*

Pastor Mark – *for having the vision for a new form of VBS and the confidence that the team could pull it off.*

The VBS Book Drive (our annual mission project) resulted in the donation of **1787 new and gently used books** *breaking our previous record of 1,048. The books were distributed to families in need through the Phoenix Assistance League.*

A huge thank you to all of the people who donated money and shared their time and talents to make this VBS a huge success! A special thank you for the guidance of the VBS Leadership Team including Pastor Shari, Julie Ann Walker, Heidi Ruff, Kris Smith and Myrna Ulland.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Crow

- **LIVING WATER LIBRARY**

An opportunity exists for someone who has a love for library ministry and what it might look like in the future here at Living Water to step into this leadership role! It can be an individual or shared ministry. Please contact me or Pastor Mark if you have an interest.

Myrna Wells-Ulland

FELLOWSHIP MISSION GROUP

The Fellowship Program's objective is to strengthen fellowship among congregation members, spiritually and socially, and to integrate new members into the life of the congregation in order to build mutual cooperation, trust, and enjoyment. While ministry teams in general at Living Water offer fellowship benefits, Fellowship Program teams focus on providing a range of fellowship opportunities in the form of large-scale events and smaller groups of people with a common interest or purpose, by endeavoring to create a welcoming and hospitable atmosphere for visitors and members alike on Sunday mornings and other occasions

Members of the congregation are encouraged to become involved in ongoing efforts to expand Living Water's Fellowship Program. Since smaller scale fellowship groups, such as the Bridge Group, Living Arts and Lefse Making are generally oriented toward congregation members' interests. The line-up of these interest-based activities tends to shift. For example: currently dormant fellowship program small groups include Golf Outing, Happy Valley County Fair, Heavenly Hikers and Little Flock Fellowship. Reinstatement of these groups, or the creation of new endeavors, is always an option, if volunteers wish to step forward and organize activities that will enhance fellowship within the Living Water community. An array of hard-working ministry teams spearheaded efforts to offer a variety of fellowship opportunities in 2020. However, COVID-19 arrived at Living Water on March 15. Teams were active the first 3 months, and afterwards found their way to stay connected through the technical route, providing Zoom gatherings for the rest of the year. Descriptions of their activities in 2020 and looking into the future appear below:
Program Leader: Joan Sprinkle

- **BRIDGE GROUP**

Living Water's Bridge Group ordinarily meets in members' homes on the third Friday evening of each month (excluding December).
This year, however, the group only met twice: in January for a regular evening of party bridge; in February for our annual potluck and bridge evening to celebrate the group's 13th anniversary. Sadly, COVID-19 forced the cancellation of subsequent gatherings in 2020. As team leaders, we've truly missed the wonderful camaraderie

found in this monthly group. We look forward to resuming our regular schedule as soon as possible. We'll greatly miss the four long-term group members who moved to other states in 2020. Newcomers are always welcome, and bridge players of all levels from beginners to seasoned players, are encouraged to check out this enjoyable fellowship opportunity.
Team Leaders: Jill and Richard Wehr

- **CAMPUS CREW**

Campus Crew was started the fall of 2018. The purpose of this group is to take on small projects around the Living Water campus. The initial projects are painting in the Education Building. Light maintenance projects will be done, as needed. 2020 COVID-19 brought projects to a halt. We generally try to have one project a month and look forward to continuing once the pandemic is over.
We have 11 members signed up presently. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, if anyone is interested. We do not discriminate on age, gender or national origin. All are welcome!

Team Leader: Ron Ophaug

- **FRIDAY MORNING CLUB**

January, February and early March were the only months in 2020 that our team had the opportunity to perform their regular duties. Those duties included:

- *bulletin assembling*
- *keeping the Sanctuary supplied with necessary welcome pads, visitor cards and pens*
- *taking care of Fellowship Hall tablecloths and monthly table decorations*
- *keeping Kitchen organized and tidy*
- *assisting with special decorations, and helping with Christmas projects, (not done in 2020)*

Once the pandemic started, the team met virtually for conversation and devotions.

Team Leader: Julie Ann Walker

- **GREAT GATHERINGS**

The Great Gatherings Fellowship Team provides four separate events during the year to share different interests and opportunities for members and their guests.

The Great Gatherings Team was disappointed they had to cancel all events for 2020. However, because reservations were made at the Railroad Park for May 2020, this reservation was extended to May 2, 2021 for the Annual Church Picnic at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. The Venue has been booked and paid for. Hopefully, this year, we are able to follow through with these plans. The Team will have more details as time draws near.

At present, no other events have been scheduled. However, God willing, we hope to visit an Art Gallery or another special event later in the year.

Team Leader: Marcella Lindert

- **LIVING ART**

The Living Art Team is a small fellowship group open to all members, visitors and guests that have an interest in all forms of art. The purpose is to build and enhance Christian fellowship with art centered activities that participants can enjoy and build their skills.
Activities are scheduled when enough interest is expressed. Activities include painting landscapes in the desert, art focused field trips, learning and improving artistic skills.

The Living Art Team was unable to hold any events in 2020, due largely to COVID-19 pandemic.

Team Leader: Leila Burrus

- **SAINTS & SINNERS**

The purpose of the Saints and Sinners Team is to build closer social ties with new members, prospective members and existing members of Living Water Lutheran Church. We do this by forming a number of small fellowship groups, each of which is led by a "Captain."
We started our Kick-Off party on January 18, 2020. We had 19 singles and 52 couples participate. They were assigned to one of ten small groups in both February and March. The ten small group events were held in February, however, only eight groups met in early March. The other 2 groups scheduled for late March were cancelled due to COVID-19.
A virtual edition of Saints and Sinners ran for the last six months of the year via Zoom gatherings.

Team Leaders: Wayne & Leila Burrus, Lee & Sue Stenehjem

- **SPLENDID TABLE**

The Splendid Table Team had very little opportunity this year to share our Ministry. We are hopeful and looking forward to 2021 when we may be able to once again provide food and fellowship for our members.

Team Leaders: Ginny Alexander, Julie Ann Walker & Kristi Winter

- **SUNDAY MORNING HOSPITALITY**

The Sunday Morning Hospitality team coordinates refreshments on Sunday mornings to provide fellowship opportunities for members and visitors. Hospitality refreshments, consisting of donuts and other treats, plus coffee and juice, are served between services.

They also arrange for cakes and cookies to celebrate Confirmation, Graduation, and other special occasions. The core team in charge of hospitality welcomes volunteers from throughout the congregation who are willing to serve on a monthly, quarterly, or occasional basis.

Coffee and donuts were served at both services until mid-March, due to COVID-19. We look forward to when we can share our ministries once again.

Team Leaders: Carol Gasser and Pam Landon

WITNESS MISSION GROUP

Our witness team is comprised of the following functions: Evangelism, Marketing, Serving our Community, Outreach, Advertising and Sharing the Gospel are all descriptors that relate to supporting LWLC's Purpose Statement..."To Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ."

- **ONLINE PLATFORMS, WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA & MOBILE APP**

Living Water introduced new online platforms to help the congregation stay connected in 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic:

YouTube Channel

- *Launched in March 2020 to house all of our Worship, Bible Study, Live from Home, Family Sunday School, etc. videos.*
- *Our YouTube channel has been a great way to keep everyone connected in Arizona and across the country. As of the end of December 2020 we had:*
  - *143 Channel Subscribers*
  - *134 Videos Published*

- *16.5k Video Views*
- *2.6k Hours of Video Watched*

Mobile App

- *Launched in September 2020 – the Mobile App has allowed members easy access to Weekly Worship Videos, Bible Study, Sermons, and Connections/SPLASH newsletters.*
- *As of the end of December 2020 we had:*
  - *Over 100 app downloads between Apple iOS and Google Android*
  - *Over 400 sessions on Apple iOS*

Website, eBlasts, Social Media

- *Living Water continues to make enhancements to our website and utilize eBlasts and our Social Media Platforms to engage and notify members when new online content is available*

Marie Kelen

- **NEW MEMBER CLASS**

This past year there were no New Member Informational Sessions in 2020. These sessions intend to give the participants a chance to get to know one another a bit better, learn more about Living Water and its history, and to discover how each might fit into the ministry work which is done here. After taking the time to share with one another life and faith experiences, the groups took a look into gaining a greater understanding of what spiritual gifts each might hold within their lives. From there we discussed how those gifts might be used to best serve God as a member of Living Water. Each session would then closed with a wonderful meal, provided by the Splendid Table Team, with the leadership of the congregation, affording us the time to get to know one another on a deeper level. Lead by: Pastor Mark Rossman

- **Pro-Active Community Engagement**

Mission: *To promote awareness of LWLC as a community resource for information and programs, and as a welcoming center of Christian faith, fellowship, and service. Vision: PACE attracts new people to LWLC by planning activities and initiatives that engage our neighbors and enable our members to become ambassadors of outreach.*
Members of the team are Richard and Jill Wehr, Dave and Liz Gilkey, and Lee and Sue Stenehjem.

We have been greatly affected by Covid by not having the ability to gather in large groups. However, our speakers program is still working to find speakers pending the return from COVID.

- **MOPS/MOMSnext**

Our MOPS/MOMSnext group started on October 5, 2017 and we are growing. We now have seven moms. We also have six wonderful and dedicated volunteers that help to make this a very special and worthwhile time for our moms. We meet twice a month during the school year. Most recently our meetings have been conducted via zoom.
Lead by: Pastor Shari Bernau

- **PRAYER PARTNERS**

The purpose of a Prayer Partner Program is to set in motion faith mentor relationships between adults and kids. By matching a child/youth with an adult in the congregation, we are providing the child with another adult in their life who knows their name, cares about them, offers security, assures them they are not alone facing day-to-day challenges; and makes them feel that they matter.

WORSHIP & MUSIC MISSION GROUP

The Worship and Music Ministry Team meets as needed--in part or as a whole--to discuss and plan worship and music opportunities at Living Water and supports the Pastor however we can. Our team includes Pastor Mark Rossman, Marcie Donavon, Scott Sims, Sheila Fankhauser, Sue Stenehjem, Jan & DJ Johnson and Marilyn Nartaker.

- **ADULT CHOIR/PRAISE BAND**

The Adult Choir and Praise Band, under the direction of Marcie Donavon and Scott Sims, provide strong musical leadership for our worship services. This past year has provided an interesting challenge with our choir and congregation suddenly unable to safely sing together due to health risks surrounding the pandemic. But, rest assured, our Music Ministry's mission, "to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ through service in music ministry" is alive and well. Our choir continues to stay in touch via Zoom, and we are hopeful with technology and vaccinations, to be able to sing together again, in-person, very soon. Our Praise Band, music staff, and volunteer singers have faithfully continued to lead our outdoor and online worship services with vibrant enthusiasm. We are so grateful for the time, talent, and faithful dedication that our staff musicians and volunteers have demonstrated in leading worship each week. We are looking forward with hope to the time when we will all be singing together again!

- **ALTAR GUILD**

During inside, in-person worship, the Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the altar for all church services. This includes setting the table for Communion, for the two services and the clean-up. We are also responsible for the maintenance of the linens and candles as well as the purchasing of all supplies. The duties of setting up for communion and cleaning up are done by our members on a rotating basis. We have 1 or 2 people for each service on each Sunday of the month. We are also responsible for providing communion for weddings, funerals and other events as requested. The Sacristan for each service also serves as runner as communion is taking place. This includes offering communion to those in the congregation who are unable to come forward and helping to distribute the chalices and bread plates to the servers. If one of the pastors is not there, we also communion the Pastor and assist them in communing the other servers. Our current members are Deb Bash (who makes the flatbread), Sheila Fankhauser, Denny Dumler, Penny Kilburn, Patty Sell, Janis Fjeld, Ellen Schoenbeck, Sue Boyd, Donna Pettengill, Nancy Rogers, Sharon Westergren and Barb Bremer.

- **LITURGICAL ARTS**

Our mission statement is to enhance the environment of the church campus with the visual arts to help congregants glorify God through their worship experiences and to educate parishioners about the meanings of liturgical colors, symbols, and seasons.

The Liturgical Arts team was challenged in 2020 when the Covid pandemic took over the world and basically shut down LWLC's inside services. In keeping with our mission statement "to enhance the environment of the church campus", we have continued to coordinate the liturgical seasons of the church calendar but with a couple added segments. As of about mid-March, LWLC went to filming YouTube Sunday services, and mid-October having live outdoor drive-in services. This created three separate areas to liturgically coordinate. The LA team calls them the "indoor sanctuary, the outdoor sanctuary, and the piano area", where the music

is filmed for YouTube services.

We are blessed to have such a dedicated team of talented individuals that although we are having to do things differently, we feel we are still able to keep some normalcy in creating a liturgical worship experience for the "indoor sanctuary, the outdoor sanctuary, and the piano areas".

Our team of people has been reduced due to the social distancing protocol. We try to have about five to six people working. It typically takes that many people to make liturgical changeovers especially since we now have three areas to coordinate. The people serving on the 2020 Liturgical Arts team are Marty and Gordon Lindert, Lynda and Gerry Cales, Linda Hoenig, Sharon Westergreen, Leila and Wayne Burrus, Terry Nelson, Sue and Lee Stenehjem.

There is a bible verse that gives comfort to our changing world that I would like to share with you. It is Exodus 14:14 which reads "The Lord will Fight for you, you need only to be still".

Please contact Sue Stenehjem or Terry Nelson if you are interested in participating on our team.

Sue Hartmann

- **LWLC SAFETY AND SECRUITY COMMITTEE**

In prior years, based on local events, FBI alerts and common sense, the LWLC Council approved the establishment of a Safety and Security Committee, to determine risks to the Church and its Members and develop appropriate countermeasures.
We had a survey conducted by the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) Houses of Worship program, had two consultations with the Scottsdale Police Department and several estimates by companies providing Closed Circuit Television Security systems. We conferred with two Directors of Security of large Churches in Scottsdale to seek their advice and recommendations on establishing a program for LWLC. Additionally, two members of the Safety and Security Committee attended a Southwest Church Safety and Security Summit at a Scottsdale Church Campus to learn best practices for establishing a program for LWLC.

With the consent of the Church Council we have purchased additional first aid/trauma kits placed in the church campus, obtained training material and equipment to train members of the Safety and Security team, purchased and had installed a CCTV system to monitor events on the exterior of our church campus.
The COVID crisis and limitations on church campus activities has limited out ability to recruit and train a Safety and Security Team, but we are postured and ready to take common sense measures to protect our Church Staff, Members and Campus.
Phil Pounds

- **SERVANT TEAMS**

The SERVANT TEAM LEADERS fill a tremendous role at Living Water Church. They serve, lead, and oversee the many duties before, during and after our two worship services on Sunday. We try to involve as many of our year around worshipers, new members and snowbirds.

We also make every effort to include our younger people, Jr. and Sr. High youth, to participate in the variety of duties of servants. They are energetic and we are excited to have them serve. We have 8 Worship Leadership spots assigned to a Sunday of the month to lead.

Their leadership duties include overseeing and directing the servants for duties that day. The signup sheets are located on the circular kiosk in the Narthex for leaders to use for any given Sunday they are available. Any empty spots are up to the leaders to fill. If leaders are unable to

make their assigned Sunday, it is their responsibility to trade with another leader and inform Jennifer the Living Water Office Manager of the change.

The servants are listed each Sunday in the bulletin. Greeting, ushering, assisting with communion, are the mainstays of our Sunday worship services. Should there be a baptism, reception of new members, the celebrations of Thanksgiving, Christmas, Lent and Easter, leaders are asked to be prepared to serve.

Each Worship Leader is trained, insightful, and capable in assisting with emergencies, the elderly, babysitting needs, directions to the bathroom area, location of the educational building, and any other pertinent information. At the beginning of each service, a water bottle is given to first time visitors with our Living Water information tucked inside.

A beautiful bell was purchased for servant team members to ring in the courtyard five minutes before the 8:30 and 10:45 service. The bell has a wonderful welcoming sound to remind those in attendance that our worship service is about to begin.

All leaders are asked to mentor those that could possibly fill a leadership role and build potential leaders for the future. We have had one or two training sessions for new servants, but generally we train "on the job" when someone wants to serve in any of the capacities mentioned…we serve with them the first few services so they understand protocol.

Our Sunday Worship leaders for 2019/2020: Deb Bash / Debbie Anderson, Gene & Dee Eilers, (1st Sunday of the month). DJ and Jan Johnson, Don and Patti Pick, (2nd Sunday of the month). Lee and Sue Stenehjem, Darryl and Tana Harlan, (3rd Sunday of the month). Denny Dumler, Charles & Sue Boyd / Ed & Darryl Shipley (4th Sunday of the month).

Should there be a 5th Sunday in any month, we ask who is available on the team to step up and lead.

Around mid-May we ask all leaders to meet at the Johnson home to "review the year" with open discussion, make necessary changes to our structure if needed. It is also a time for fellowship and we enjoy supper together.

For summer worship (June, July & August) Living Water moves to one service at 9:30am. Leaders are asked to sign up for dates on a calendar of the Sundays they can lead.

March of 2020, Covid forced our worship location to the courtyard. The structure stayed the same but outside and inside cars because of Covid. The Christmas services for 2020 were handled in that manner.

Effective in December of 2020, Darnell and Donna Pettengill will lead the servant teams moving forward.
Respectfully Submitted, Jan and DJ Johnson

- **SPECIAL SERVICES**

The Special Services Ministry facilitates three Church Services: Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals/ Memorials.
Each child being baptized receives a hand-crafted Faith Chest with instructions for use as the child grows, a handmade baby blanket or cross (depending on the age of the child) a book, a candle and certificates for both the child and the sponsors. We are deeply grateful to Jay Lucas for the beautiful Faith Chests and to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the lovely baby blankets.
For weddings we help the family gain access to the church and make sure they adhere to regulations (like no confetti) set out in the Wedding Pamphlet prepared by Pastor Mark. Funerals are in many ways our most challenging and also rewarding mission.

The goal of the Special Services Ministry is to relieve the family of some of the planning burden while helping at the services and providing light refreshments afterward (if desired) to encourage the community that has gathered to engage in fellowship. We are blessed so many members of Living Water Lutheran Church contribute generously of
their time and talents to make these events a blessing to the families.
Marilyn Nartker and Judy Tornowske

GIVING MISSION GROUP

- **STEWARDSHIP – MARK ROSSMAN**

The Generosity Project has been a more holistic approach helping us to better understand the gifts, generosity and commitment that can be found in Living Water. While at this writing there is not a tally of out stewardship drive, in the weeks to come we will be able to explore a little bit more of the compassionate giving that takes place in and outside of Living Water. God has blessed us in a variety of ways and we in turn have taken those blessings to be part of a vivid and beautiful mosaic of active love. This new year will be a challenge for Living Water in a variety of ways. Please remain attuned to what those challenges might be and how it is you would be able to help. For us stewardship is merely caring for and sharing all that God has blessed us with in the very best manner we know how.

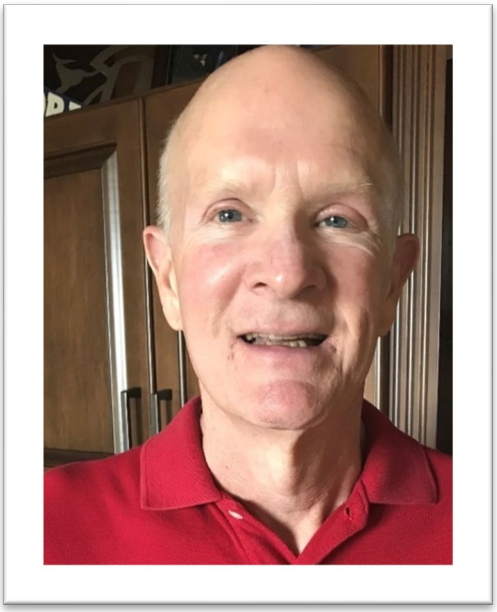
- **ENDOWMENT - ROBERT WINTER**

During 2018, the Endowment Committee was formally established and completed with the approval by the congregation of 5 members to the committee. During the year, the committee worked on revising and updating the Mission Endowment Fund which was initially established at LWLC a number of years ago. This revision process was completed in
November with the approval of the revisions by the Church

COUNCIL CANDIDATE BIOS:

- **DARNELL W. PETTINGILL**
  At Large Candidate for Council

Darnell was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Aurelia, Iowa. He lived in several towns in Iowa prior to attending Drake University in Des Moines. Subsequently, Darnell graduated from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, married his wife Donna, and practiced law in Jefferson City, MO. Darnell finished his career in Chicago working for American Agricultural Insurance Company until his recent retirement. Donna and he have two children, Laura and Michael and two grandchildren, Addison and Arden. Darnell has served in a number of roles and ministries in his prior ELCA congregations including many years of service on church councils. Darnell and Donna have been members of Living Water for several years and have enjoyed participating in a number of ministries and activities.



- **DAVID WILDER**
  At Large Candidate for Council

David was born in Chicago and lived in Dwight, IL for 16 years. There his family attended the Immanuel Lutheran Church. In 1965 the family moved to Arizona where David graduated from the University of Arizona. David then entered the Air Force and became a C-130 Aircraft Commander with the rank of Captain. After five years in the Air Force, he entered the insurance industry as a broker and worked for various agencies in this capacity. In 2019 the agency where he worked was sold and his retirement began. During his workforce years he held various positions. David was twice President of

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Chairman of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley and served on various boards. Currently he serves on the Spirit in the Desert board. David is married to Pam, with whom he will celebrate 50 years of marriage this year. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Pam and David are Charter Members of Living Water.

Living Water Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting February 10, 2019

Proceedings:
Meeting called to order at 10:04 am by Council Chair, Bob Ulland. A quorum was confirmed.
Opening Prayer by Pastor Shari Bernau
Minutes: *a MOTION was made, seconded and passed to accept the Annual Meeting minutes as written from February 11, 2018.*

Election of Council officers and Members*: Don Pick confirmed that 4 council member positions are open. Don Pick has agreed to continue another term at the VP. Michelle Brown has agreed to continue another term as secretary. Debbie Anderson and Gerry Cales are recommended as members at large. There were no nominations from the floor. A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to close the nominations.*

Pastor's Report:
Pastor Mark expressed his gratitude to the entire congregation of LWLC, and is extremely pleased with the congregation and staff. Details are in the printed Annual Report.

Pastor Shari said she is blessed to have the support of the congregation for all of the ministries. Details of the report at in the written Annual Report.

Council President's Report: *Bob Ulland thanked the numerus committees that support LWLC, including Pastor Mark's leadership, Pastor Shari's work with youth, the Mission Program members, and the council members. LaSagrada Familia has a dedication at 4 pm today, and they are grateful for the support from LWLC. Bob thanked the Audit Committee for their excellent work and recommendations, which have been implemented.*

Treasure's report: *Lee Stenehjem presented the recommend budget for 2019. Lee congratulated the internal audit committee for their excellent work. He thanked Grayson West and the Finance Committee. Of note, 2018 ended $32,000 over budget, due to a decrease pledges and unexpected high expenses. The budget for 2019 includes plans for several HVAC units that may need to be replaced as the building ages.*

A Motion was made, seconded and PASSED without opposition, to adopt the 2019 Plan for Ministry.

<u>Old Business:</u> None

<u>New Business:</u>
1. *A MOTION was made, seconded, and PASSED, to accept the following for the Grand Canyon Synodical Assembly Representative: Don Pick (chair), Patti Pick, Bob Ulland, and Myrna Ulland.*
2. *Robert Winter announced that Lance Jacobson has agreed to service another term as chair of the Mission Endowment Fund of LWLCA MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to elect and approve Lance for a second term. The committee will work on communication the purpose of the fund, and hope to encourage a legacy giving initiative. Currently, there is $28,000 in the fund.*

Installation of Officer and Council Members: *Pastor Mark perform the installation of the new officer and council members, Bob Ulland President, Donald Pick Vice President, Lee Stenehjem Treasurer, Michelle Brown Secretary, Phil Pounds, Gerry Cales and Michelle Brown as members at large.* **Pastor Mark offered a closing prayer. The Annual meeting was adjourned at 10:36 am**
Minutes submitted by Secretary, Deb Bash

Living Water Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting – 10:00 AM, February 9,2020

AGENDA

Call to order

Opening Prayer – Pastor Shari Bernau

Call for a Quorum

Approval of Minutes of February 10, 2019 Annual Meeting

Election of Council Members and Officers

Reports from: *Pastor Mark Rossman*
Pastor Shari Bernau
Council President
Treasurer – Lee Stenehjem

Consideration and Adoption of a 2020 Plan for Ministry

Old Business

New Business

Election of the Synodical Assembly Representatives

Election of Committee Members of the Mission Endowment Fund of LWLC

Approval of Recommended changes to Constitution and ByLaws

Recognize Outgoing Council Members

Installation of Officers and Council Members

Closing Prayer – Pastor Mark Rossman

Adjourn

Living Water Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting – 11:00 AM, February 14, 2021

AGENDA

Call to order

Opening Prayer – Pastor Shari Bernau

Call for a Quorum

Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2020 Annual Meeting

Election of Council Members and Officers

Reports from: Pastor Mark Rossman

Pastor Shari Bernau

Council President

Treasurer – Gerry Cales

Consideration and Adoption of a 2020 Plan for Ministry

Old Business

New Business
Election of the Synodical Assembly Representatives
Approval of Recommendation to Combine Constitution and Bylaws

Recognize Outgoing Council Members

Installation of Officers and Council Members

Closing Prayer – Pastor Mark Rossman

Adjourn

Dear Pastor Mark,

The LWLC Pandemic Team (Leon Igras, Jeri Pounds, Doug Yock) has reviewed the potential for resuming indoor worship at Living Water per your request.

We believe that indoor worship is currently not advisable. Arizona has the highest COVID-19 incidence in the United States. On national COVID data bases, Arizona is categorized as "extremely high risk." And a large proportion of our congregation is in an age range that is susceptible to severe morbidity and mortality from this illness.

Although the level of COVID-19 in Arizona has fallen slightly in recent weeks, it remains much higher than at the peak of the summer wave. The near term and intermediate term situations are likely to be further destabilized by the ongoing emergence of new strains of the virus and by the coming influx of visitors to Arizona for the Waste Management Open, the Arabian Horse Show, and Spring Training. As you are aware, the state has few controls in place to reduce social spread of the virus, and seasonal visitors will exacerbate this situation.

Vaccination is increasing, but it will likely be several months before most of our members have developed protective antibodies.

As circumstances return to more normal conditions later this year, the Pandemic Team proposes the following parameters, as reported by the Maricopa County Department of Health, to guide a return to (a) *precaution-modified* or (b) "**more normal**" indoor worship. The *italicized* numbers below correspond to national standards for "moderate" or "medium" community risk, while the **bold** numbers correspond to guidelines for "low" community risk.

1. The percent positivity for PCR (polymerase chain reaction) COVID-19 tests during each of the previous 2 weeks is less than *10%* (**5%**). [most recent 2 weeks = 22.3%, 19.5%]

2. The new case rate of COVID-19 per 100,000 population during each of the previous 2 weeks is less than *40* (**10**) cases. [most recent 2 weeks= 905, 689]

3. The COVID-like illness (CLI) rate as a percentage of emergency department visits during each of the previous 2 weeks is less than *10%* (**5%**). [most recent 2 weeks = 16.1%, 10.9%]

4. The percentage of ICU and hospital beds in use for COVID patients during each of the previous 2 weeks is less than *20%* (**10%**). [most recent 2 weeks = 61%, 57% for ICU; 55%, 49% for hospital beds]

In addition, the Pandemic Team recommends that indoor worship not resume until both pastors have been fully vaccinated and have reliable access to medical grade masks.

All of us on the Pandemic Team want to thank you for your service to the Church and its members in these difficult times.

Jesus says, "Whoever drinks the water I give them, will never thirst." - John 4:14

Living Water Lutheran Church is a warm, vibrant, energetic, welcoming, missional community of faith in the Pinnacle Peak area of north Scottsdale. Situated in the beautiful Sonoran Desert in the shadow of Pinnacle Peak, we are a gathered and sent people grateful for God's grace and excited about sharing the good news of Jesus Christ by our worship, words and deeds.

We are life-long Lutherans and people brand new to faith. We are children, youth, young adults, families, empty nesters, young retirees, seniors and saints of all age. We are native Arizonans and transplants from all across the country. We are those who prefer a more traditional but still creative form of worship featuring hymns and liturgy, and those who worship best in a more casual setting with praise music and a band. We serve our neighbors near and far in a variety of ways.

We love to get together and have fun. We are growing in our faith and in our knowledge of God's word. We are God's people in this place, joyfully worshiping, gratefully serving, generously sharing and warmly inviting our neighbors to join us.

Living Water is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

www.LWLCAZ.org