

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

2021 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 13, 2022 @ 11:00 am**

2021 STATISTICAL REPORT

2021 MEMBERSHIP	Baptized	Confirmed <small>(15 yrs & older)</small>
As of 1/1/2021	308	298
Members Received by New Member Class	7	7
Members Received by Transfer	2	2
Member Received by Baptism	4	0
Members Removed by Transfer	0	0
Members Removed by Death	-3	-3
Adjustment	+12	+6
Total Membership as of 12.31.2021	320	310

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

2001 - 111	2007 - 219	2013 - 147	2019 - 190
2002 - 125	2008 - 230	2014 - 162	2020 - 235
2003 - 181	2009 - 208	2015 - 171	2021 - N/A
2004 - 207	2010 - 201	2016 - 167	Due to Covid
2005 - 208	2011 - 177	2017 - 177	
2006 - 223	2012 - 160	2018 - 179	

BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, WEDDINGS, AND DEATHS 2021

BAPTISMS – 5

Reese Sturek	3.21.2021
Landon Wanek	9.19.2021
Hudson Wanek	9.19.2021
Renner Lack	10.26.2021
Ruthie Johnson	12.26.2021

CONFIRMATIONS – 4

Ryan Handley	11.14.2021
Jennifer Weisman	11.14.2021
Presley Wilde	11.14.2021
Lisa Braks	11.14.2021

WEDDINGS – 0

DEATHS – 3

Bonnie Lahr	1.1.2021
Jakab Peter	4.1.2021
Gary Quast	10.23.2021

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED – 14

Vince & Sharon Augenstein	7.18.2021
Rich Cote	7.18.2021
Virginia Conrad	10.10.2021
Steve & Nancy Lowe	10.10.2021
Steve & Sue Umland	10.10.2021

Matt & Kristin, Madison, Grayson, Hudson, and Landon Wanek	10.10.2021
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CHURCH STAFF 2021

- **Pastor:** Mark Rossman
- **Pastor:** Shari Bernau
- **Office/Communications Manager:** Jennifer Kelsh
- **Finance & Building Manager:** Greysen West
- **Choir Director:** Marcie Donavon
- **Praise Band Director:** Scott Sims
- **Sunday School:** Kris Crow (January to May), Heidi Ruff (June to December)
- **VBS Leader:** Kris Crow

CHURCH COUNCIL 2021

- **President:** Phil Pounds
- **Vice President:** Dave Wilder
- **Secretary:** Debbie Anderson
- **Treasurer:** Gerry Cales
- **Members at Large:** Sheila Fankhauser, Darnell Pettengill, and Sharon Westergreen

PASTOR MARK ROSSMAN'S REPORT

And just when we thought it was safe to . . . well, we certainly are not out of the Covid woods yet. For all of us, 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. We may not all agree as to when to wear a mask or on the correct medical protocols, but we have all been part of a very similar struggle over the past two years.

We have endured more change in these two years than we have experienced in our lifetime. And we all know how well 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 continued to thrive. We have opened our ministry to folks throughout the world through our on-line options, but more than that, we have allowed all to share in our worship ministry, both in-person and on-line. It may be different than the experiences of the past, but we still celebrate the ability we have to gather together to give thanks to God for all of God's gifts to us.

But it is not just there where we can find God. Amid 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, the empathy at the doctor, the joy of an in-person conversation, the sanctity of online or in-person worship, the beauty of the outdoors, 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 an amazingly special place.

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



PASTOR SHARI BERNAU'S REPORT

It was another challenging year, but we walked in faith and learned to roll with a lifestyle that is less predictable than it used

to be. We also learned some new things, such as how to bring the Good News into people's homes through the means of "live-stream" technology. And, through this, three young families have found us, and have truly become part of our faith family. Just when we were starting to witness many of our kids grow out of Sunday School age, God broke down the walls of Covid to bless us with these precious families with little kids. Some of the things we have been working on this last year include:

- **Connecting with young families in the community**

MOPS/MOMSnexT

Our MOPS/MOMSnexT group started on October 5, 2017, and we are still active, and are always open to new moms joining us. Ellen Schoenbeck, Nancy Rogers, Marilyn Nartker, Kris Crow, Karen Roessler, and Sue Brash are the best mentor moms we could ever ask for!

- **Providing Faith Formation and Pastoral Leadership for Children, Youth, and Families**

Nursery

If the need arises, we will respond faithfully. However, statistics show that children who attend worship with regularity are more likely to stay connected to a faith community in their adulthood. With that being said, we remain open to providing a safe, caring place for kids who have a difficult time in worship.

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 Graduation, Baptism, Back-to-school blessing, and Affirmation of Baptism for four students.

Children's Ministry

It is such a blessing to work with two amazing volunteers who help to make an enriching experience for our Family Sunday School: Kris Crow and Heidi Ruff. This year we have been able to provide virtual Sunday School and outside Sunday School, a Lenten Fair, and Advent Fair. Also, VBS was an amazing feat considering we provided a virtual and "in-person" option. Our volunteers were also so happy this year with some of the adjustments we made to the schedule. As always, Kris Crow led us with courage, and equipped and empowered us to provide a wonderful experience for all.

Youth Ministry

In July, we had eight youth and two adults participate in the Mission Trip to Benton Harbor, Michigan. On August 1, the youth provided the sermon in worship and shared their stories and pictures with the congregation. Everyone had a great experience, and thanks to the fundraising efforts in 2019 and early 2020, we had enough funds to make this happen.

Table Talks

Since we have a group of eight kids in grades 5-7, I decided to provide a class (with the help of Intern Pastor Jen Smith) called Table Talks, which provides an opportunity for this group of kids to get more comfortable with scripture, connect to

their faith and God, and get to know each other better. Next year, this group will be eligible to start Confirmation classes.

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

I have the opportunity to lead worship every Sunday and either preside at communion or preach. I also have the pleasure of making visits and phone calls and attending the Tuesday Women's Study to learn and connect with the women in the congregation, as well as attending many of our fellowship events throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Shari L. Bernau



COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At Living Water we continued to be blessed with tremendous Pastors and a great congregation. The past few years have been challenging, but we have risen to those challenges and continue to be a welcoming and vibrant church family.

The Church Council is in transition, with some members leaving (thanks for all your service) and other church members standing for election to the Council, I'm sure all will be well. We are facing some financial challenges but have great

confidence that we will rise to those challenges and continue to service Living Water and our community of faith.

Our campus is holding up, thanks to hard work by many and good luck with our air conditioners. The plantings and upkeep to the Columbarium are over the top: I suggest you take a look. The new plantings are a mix of those mentioned in the Bible (with a reference on each one) as well as the plants that the Spanish required to be taken to the new world. A few changes to the décor help make it very pleasant.

It's a privilege to serve as your Council President, to support the work of the Church and to work with great partners like the Council Members and Pastors Mark and Shari.

Phil Pounds
Council President



**MISSION GROUPS AND
MINISTRY TEAMS**



**Caring – Mission Program Leader:
Myrna Ulland**

- Eucharistic Ministers
- Letter Writing Ministry
- Prayer Shawl
- Prayer Team



**Service – Mission Program Leader: Myrna
Ulland**

- “A Better Chance” Diaper Closet at Alleluia Lutheran Church in Avondale
- Angel Tree (NourishPhx)
- Arizona Tax Credit – Habitat for Humanity
- Arizona Tax Credit – Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission School
- Asylum-Seekers Needs (LSS-SW)
- ELCA Good Gifts
- ELCA World Hunger
- Grace Lutheran Church – Homeless Project/Grace Room
- Grace Lutheran Church – Pancake Breakfast
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hunger Jar
- La Sagrada Familia Lutheran Church – Food Pantry

- La Sagrada Familia Lutheran Church – Tamale Sale
- Lunches for Learning
- Lutheran Disaster Response (ELCA)
- Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Quilt and Kit Ministry
- LWLC Book Drive (Assistance League Phx)
- NE Valley Consortium Afghan Resettlement
- Piecemakers Quilting
- Pocket Pal Quilt Ministry (AZ Foster Children)
- Refugee Resettlement Program (LSS-SW)
- Thanksgiving Food Drive (Vista del Camino)



**Learning - Mission Program Leader:
Pastor Mark Rossman**

- Children's Faith Formation – Family Sunday School
- Confirmation
- Living Water Library
- LWLCW – Living Water Lutheran Church Women
- Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- Sunday Morning Adult Forum
- Table Talks
- Tuesday Women’s Study
- WAVE
- Vacation Bible School
- Youth Ministry



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

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



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

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



**Witness - Mission Program Leader:
Pastor Mark Rossman**

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



**Giving - Mission Program Leader:
Pastor Mark Rossman**

- Annual Stewardship Campaign
- Building Fund
- Capital Campaign
- Endowment Giving
- General Fund
- 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 former leader of this ministry was Patty Sell. Leadership is now shared among the team. Eucharistic Ministers is currently an inactive group.

LETTER WRITING MINISTRY – Patti Pick

The note/letter 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 2021, 94 cards were written and mailed by Sally Harris, Pam Landon, Marge Miller, Nancy Payne, Donna Pettengill, Patti Pick and Susan Purewal.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

In 2021, the Prayer Shawl Ministry continued to solicit knitted or crocheted shawls that are given to members of the congregation on various occasions, including five baptism shawls this year

PRAYER TEAM – Tuesday Women's Study

In 2021, the Prayer Chain Ministry converted to a Prayer Team and incorporated the prayer ministry of the Tuesday Women’s Study. Prayers are offered in 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.



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. These projects allow involvement from across the congregation in hands-on as well as financial support, including inter-generational projects. We are grateful for the passion and service of those who served as team leaders during 2021, including Sue and Eric Brash, Denny Dumler, Dave and Liz Gilkey, John and Marilyn Goesling, Jay Lucas, Steve and Beth McCarthy, Ron and Cindy Ophaug, Don and Patti Pick, Susan Purewal, Steve and Kristin Smith, and Myrna Ulland. Darnell Pettengill has been our Council contact for the Service and Caring ministry teams. A transition of leadership for this Mission Team occurred in 2021. Doris Yock stepped away and Denny Dumler chaired our teams until October. In late 2021, Myrna Ulland agreed to assume the role as Chair. Our Angel Tree project also transitioned leadership from Linda Coutts to Jay Lucas in 2021. We thank former leaders for their dedication. With the formation of the Northeast Valley Consortium of four neighboring ELCA churches in 2021, Susan Purewal coordinated Living Water’s participation in a short-term ministry project, Afghan Refugee

Resettlement, in partnership with Lutheran Social Services SW (LSS-SW). This was in addition to the ongoing Refugee Resettlement activities led by Dave and Liz Gilkey and is included here as an “ad hoc” report. The Gilkeys also stepped in to lead Living Water’s support for needs of Asylum-Seekers traveling through the Phoenix area. Our partnership with LSS-SW remains strong. In 2021, through our mission projects, members of Living Water provided generous support in the form of donated goods and financial resources outside of their annual support to the church. You can find additional details of our many service ministry projects in the reports that follow.

“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, AZ. 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 2021. The Diaper Closet at Alleluia Lutheran has recently re-opened and we will re-evaluate this program’s needs in 2022.

ANGEL TREE – Jay Lucas

For many years the Angel Tree has been an inspirational part of the Christmas season. This year, despite COVID complications, our congregation *LEAPED!* on this opportunity to live the life of a Christian. We were able to make 99 *inner-city children* (ages 3-13) happier at Christmas via the wonderful gifts our congregation purchased for them. The 99 children were from 22 different families,

and this year each family hung a special original hand-cut wooden Angel ornament on their tree. The angels were designed and decorated by Lynda and Gerry Cales. Ron Ophaug, Bob Ulland and I freed the angels from a Lowes 2x4. For the first time ever, we offered our congregation the opportunity to also donate gift cards and cash. *Amazing!* You, the LWLC congregation, also gave \$200 in gift cards and \$616 in cash. NourishPHX, the coordinating agency (Food/Clothing Bank and job/personal counseling) was overwhelmed at LWLC’s generosity. So, we not only made over 100 of their clients very happy, but we brought excitement and encouragement to NourishPHX staff.

Wayne and Leila Burrus hung the angels on the tree with care. Janis Fjeld solved the complicated logistics of matching gifts with kids, and Doug and Doris Yock put it all in the bag.

In addition, we were able to donate \$202 to LWLC’s Piecemakers (quilting). We did this by gifting old angels to congregation members who made cash donations.

Thank you all for being an Angel!

ARIZONA TAX CREDIT – John and Marilyn Goesling

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 2022 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 \$4,000. 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. The AZ tax credit 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 \$1,221/\$611 (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 \$1,214/\$608. 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 2022 if it is before the April tax deadline.

ASYLUM-SEEKERS NEEDS – Dave and Liz Gilkey

We coordinate the Asylum-Seekers program and continue to accept new clothing and snacks for those seeking permanent residency in the U.S. and who are traveling through the Phoenix area. Thank you for all the donations to our box located in the entry narthex.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS – Ron and Cindy Ophaug

The ELCA Good Gifts program is a wonderful way to donate and share gifts with people in need. LWLC had a banner year again in donations! They gave and received over \$7,000.00. 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 seedlings, vaccinations for a child, school fees for a girl, school supplies for a child, water jugs and many other items. For more ideas, check <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>. 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 during the 40 days of Lent was again thwarted by the continuation of the 2021 coronavirus pandemic. Thanks to a generous offering of \$734 on Super Bowl Sunday for the "Souper Bowl of Caring" (designated by our youth for ELCA World Hunger) and other individual offerings, we were able to send ELCA World Hunger a total of \$1,194 in August of 2021. Thank you for your generosity in continuing to support this program of our national church.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH HOMELESS PROJECT/GRACE ROOM – Steve and Beth McCarthy

Dave and Liz Gilkey made many trips to Grace Lutheran in downtown Phoenix with used clothing donated by this wonderful congregation. These donations help supply the Grace Room at Grace Lutheran. This responsibility has since been taken over by Steve and Beth McCarthy.

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 in 2021. 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. We are planning to resume volunteering at Grace Lutheran Church in 2022. Our goal is to return in mid-2022. Look for more information in the near future.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – John and Marilyn Goesling

Living Water Lutheran Church has completed 19 houses as part of Habitat for Humanity. The past two years, 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. About \$23,900 was given by our congregation in 2019, and an unknown amount in 2020 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, bills, and checks dropped into the Hunger Jar in the sanctuary during services (or through online donations!). 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 for several months due to the pandemic. No Hunger Jar distributions were made in 2021, and the

balance of \$539 was deferred for distribution in early 2022. We look forward to renewed giving to the Hunger Jar in 2022.

LA SAGRADA FAMILIA LUTHERAN CHURCH FOOD PANTRY – Ministry Team

Members of Living Water continue to donate non-perishable food items for the food pantry maintained by La Sagrada Familia for people in need among those it serves. Living Water individuals have volunteered to begin making regular deliveries of food items collected weekly in our grocery cart. Items especially in need at La Sagrada can be found in the folder in the grocery cart.

LA SAGRADA FAMILIA LUTHERAN CHURCH TAMALES SALE – Kristin Smith

Our tamale sale would not have happened this year if not for Carol Jacobson and the helpers she recruited: Bonnie Moore and Judy Tornowske. So first and foremost, thanks and kudos to these three ladies for jumping in and taking over – as well as to Myrna Ulland for her recruitment help via our Tuesday morning Bible study group. Credit for this report also goes to Carol. As in recent years, we had a short time frame for publicizing, organizing with La Sagrada, and actual sales because of La Sagrada's time restrictions, but once the contact was made and we determined the number of tamales Living Water wished to order, it went pretty well.

We ordered 38 dozen tamales - 25 dozen chicken, 13 dozen pork, based on the approximately 30 people who signed up on the sheet that was made available. About 16 of those orders were for half a dozen - 6

chicken and/or 6 pork, indicating that this was a popular option.

Total funds raised for La Sagrada: \$940 (sales: \$720; leftover tamales given to staff: \$30; outright gifts: \$190). Living Water rounded that number up to \$1,000 and sent a check to them.

With basically one Sunday service time to take orders or call into the Church Office, and the Pastors making an announcement for the three services in December, plus setting up the TAMALE Table on the patio each Sunday, the result was successful. There was a little confusion over half-dozen vs. full dozen orders, necessitating dividing some of the full dozens received into half dozens.

When Bonnie and Carol picked up the tamales, they found a very interesting process going on of making dozens and dozens of tamales for us and for the community. It was worth learning about the process and becoming more aware of how special these tamales are for us to enjoy, plus our chance to get acquainted with the church community. This led Carol to the thought that, now with our TV screens up front, perhaps we might create a short video story about our relationship with La Sagrada and to show the tradition of making tamales at Christmas.

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, 2021 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 through 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 through a portion of the offerings during the Lenten season. With no Lenten services during 2021, these funds have been significantly reduced, and through loss of several members, our 2021 contribution was reduced to \$2,800. 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 support through special gifts given specifically designated to L4L.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE (ELCA) – Ministry Team

Periodically, Lutheran Disaster Response, a ministry of the ELCA, is lifted up when

tornadoes, fires, floods, hurricanes, and the like occur in the U.S. Church members may support through designated gifts to Living Water or give directly through online giving. In 2021, Living Water sent \$200 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) QUILT AND KIT MINISTRY – Myrna Ulland

We initiated this annual project at the beginning of Lent 2021 and the pandemic did not interrupt our overall giving. We were able to use a \$250 Thrivent Action Team gift card to supplement in-kind gifts from the congregation as well as \$125 in direct cash gifts. A total of 122 Personal Care Kits were assembled by our confirmation youth in May. These kits are being held until the Spring 2022 LWR AZ Ingathering of kits and quilts. The kits give hope to those who have lost everything 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 once again repeating this project during Lent 2022.

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 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. NourishPhx, UMOM New Day Centers' chapel, and N.O.A.H. Clinics' clients also receive appropriate children's and adult reading materials. Another community

partner is Furnishing Dignity, which provides living spaces to homeless families and young adults aging out of foster care. Please remember we collect used magazines, which are appreciated by adults striving to become bilingual. The UMOM interdenominational chapel gratefully distributes our donated religious titles to homeless families. In 2021, our congregation (with tremendous summer support by our Vacation Bible School attendees) gathered 2,510 well-received books! Since starting this project, LWLC has provided 13,579 books. We encourage you to please continue to solicit book and magazine donations from family, friends, and neighbors. A collection basket is always available in the narthex. You can contact Sue or Eric Brash with any questions or to arrange a large pick-up. suebrash7@gmail.com or 602-317-9444



**NE VALLEY CONSORTIUM
AFGHAN RESETTLEMENT –
Susan Purewal**

In October 2021, the NE Valley Consortium of ELCA

Lutheran churches which includes Christ the Lord (Carefree), Living Water, New Covenant (Scottsdale), and New Journey (Fountain Hills) partnered with LSS-SW to resettle Afghan refugees. The goal was to move the evacuees from the US military bases by December 31, 2021, into permanent housing.

The first phase of the consortium's mission was to raise funds so that LSS-SW could hire needed case managers and other staff to process the evacuees. Through an appeal to Living Water's Women's Bible

Study group, Living Water was able to contribute \$3,800.

The second phase of the NEVC's mission was to collect donated furniture and furnishings for the apartments/houses contracted by LSS-SW for these Afghan families. Another appeal to the Women's Bible Study group brought an estimated donation of \$700.00 of new home furnishings. Through Dec. 31, the consortium set up five complete homes, which included one week of Halal groceries and a hot meal for the night of the family's arrival. The consortium also provided furniture for 12 additional apartments.

In December 2021, a donation of \$1,000 was made to Living Water designated to be used for expenses incurred by NEVC for Resettlement needs and activities. Each church in the consortium is responsible for one-fourth of expenses. On Dec. 28, a request for payment of \$284.12 for such needs was issued, leaving a balance of \$715.88.

PIECEMAKERS QUILTING – Myrna Ulland

In 2021, we continued our quilting activity to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and for high school graduates from Living Water. While our group quilt tying was impacted by the pandemic, we continued to quilt at home and are grateful to the women who continued to sew! Tying resumed in September as we prepare for a Spring 2022 AZ Ingathering of LWR quilts and kits. We are grateful for designated quilt and fabric storage space in the Education Building (in the "Martha" classroom) and for the wire shelving that was installed. We are also grateful to the

Living Water Angel Tree team for financial support for quilting through their angel sales. Another opportunity for broader support is contributions to the LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry Fund to support the shipping costs for kits and quilts. Information on this ministry is available from their website: <https://lwr.org/quilts-and-kits>.

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 2021, 32 pocket pal quilts were contributed by Living Water.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM LSS-SW) – Dave and Liz Gilkey

Thanks again for the caring and generosity of this congregation and their friends. Through your donations of furniture and other household items, we were able to set up four apartments this year for Afghan families. In June we welcomed a family of

five. In early November, came a family of seven followed by two smaller families a few weeks later. The storage unit is almost completely filled again, so we will be welcoming another family in the near future.

This December, we adopted an Afghan family of five for Christmas. Along with donations from three other friends, we presented the father with all of our gifts.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE (Vista del Camino) – Ministry Team

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 2021, we did not collect food items but rather encouraged gifts in the form of checks and gift cards for holiday meal support. Living Water gave generously, donating \$2,720 that will be used by the Vista Del Camino staff to purchase 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! We are grateful that Susan Purewal will head up this ministry team to resume the collection of food items in 2022.



LEARNING MISSION GROUP

Because there was no Adult Forum or other adult educational offerings, the Learning

Mission Group did not formally meet in 2021.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION: FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL – Pastor Shari Bernau, Heidi Ruff, and Kris Crow

In the fall of 2020, Family Sunday school ended a full school year of providing original and customized filmed content and returned to in-person learning. Given the ongoing challenges of the Covid Pandemic, the team decided to create an outdoor classroom on the patio near the Education Building. Our families really enjoyed the opportunity to finally be together outside but socially distanced.

We switched to a new curriculum offered by Group Publishing entitled "Simply Loved - Where Kids Experience God's Greatest Gift." The curriculum focuses on helping kids discover the joy of a friendship with Jesus. The content includes a focus on the Bible story combined with great music videos and activities. In the fall, we started with a Unit called "In the Beginning" and explored the Creation Story. We were reminded each time we met that "God Always Loves Us." After a short unit on the Christmas Story, we concluded the semester with our annual Advent Fair.

CONFIRMATION – Pastor Shari Bernau

Confirmation is a two-year program geared for 7th and 8th grade students (which goes above and beyond Sunday School) and provides an instruction/ experience in the Christian faith in the Lutheran Church. This serves as part of the fulfillment of the promises made by parents and sponsors on the day of baptism.

During the 2020-21 school year, we had four confirmation students. On November 14, four students affirmed their baptism: Ryan Hanley, Jennifer Weisman, Presley Wilde, and Lisa Braks.

LIVING WATER LIBRARY – Myrna Ulland

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 Myrna Wells-Ulland or Pastor Mark if you have an interest.

LWLCW – LIVING WATER LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (formerly WELCA) – Myrna Ulland

WELCA is an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, but WELCA isn't the preferred term we are using, beginning in 2021. We are now known as LWLCW – Living Water Lutheran Church Women. We continue to be 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.*

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, liturgical arts, and even advocacy. While we have a rather informal organizational structure, 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 2021, we continued to incorporate the Bible study from *Gather* magazine into the Tuesday Women's Study weekly rotation. Now, women only need to remember that Tuesday is Women's Bible Study day! A 25% portion of our LWLCW offerings is routinely directed on to our Grand Canyon Synod women's organization to support the work of our broader women's organization.

The pandemic closed all in-person local and regional women's gatherings beginning in March 2020 and that, unfortunately, continues. We did participate in virtual events from both our Grand Canyon women as well as our churchwide women in 2021. The national gathering of Women of the ELCA has been rescheduled to occur in Phoenix in September 2023.

In November, women from Living Water again supported 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.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY – Pastor Mark Rossman

The Men's Breakfast Bible Study meets at 8:30 AM on Thursday of each week at Spirit in the Desert. Each meeting averages 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.

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.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM

Due to Covid precautions, unfortunately the Adult Forum did not meet in 2021.

TUESDAY WOMEN'S STUDY – Myrna Wells-Ulland

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, with participation varying from 8-15 each week. The study topics vary, from video-based series to book study to the monthly Bible study from *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 2021, we started the year on Zoom by completing a 12-session study from Joanna Weaver, "Having a Mary Spirit." In the spring, we followed with the four-session winter *Gather* magazine study, "Journey with angels," written by ELCA pastor Rev. Dr. Christa von Zychlin. In April

through June, we tackled a six-session video study from Margaret Feinberg titled "Revelation: Extravagant Hope." This study was based on the hope found in the book of Revelation. Resuming in October, we did two *Gather* magazine studies: "The gift of the Spirit: a divine wild goose chase" written by ELCA pastor Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. This study focused on the action/verbs of the Holy Spirit: revealer and resource, reviver and reformer, refiner and rerouter. Following that, we picked up the summer *Gather* study on "Just L.I.F.E (Liberation is for everyone!)", a three-session study written by ELCA pastor Rev. Angela T. !Khabeb. This study had a justice focus, with sessions on Just Wisdom, Just Truth, and Just Hope. Starting in November, we dove into an in-depth study of the Gospel of Mark, written by New Testament Professor N.T. Wright. This lengthy study has an accompanying weekly video lecture from Wright and will take us to the end of this study year in spring 2022. The material is from Udemy.

In addition to studying together, we continue to encourage support of various local and global ministries through financial support. Through generous weekly offerings, we were able to send \$250 to St. Mary's Food Bank, \$250 to Grace Lutheran for their homeless program, \$250 to Feed My Starving Children, and \$250 to Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Rock Point. We also supported the NE Valley Consortium's work to resettle Afghan refugees with personal financial gifts of \$3,800 as well donations estimated at \$700 for new bath and bedding items. In December, we again helped make Christmas special for six adult women from

Scottsdale'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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) – Kris Crow

For our 2021 VBS program we journeyed down the "River of Life" to learn about God's gracious gift of water. For people of faith, water is a powerful symbol of God's providence and protection. From the waters of baptism to the waters that sustain farms and gardens, water is life. "Everything will live where the river goes!"

This year was very unique, once again. Early in the year, the VBS Leadership Team – made up of Pastor Shari, Kris Crow, Heidi Ruff, Kris Smith, Myrna Ulland, and Julie Ann Walker – decided to offer the parents the option of participating in Virtual VBS or In-Person VBS. Little did we know, this was double the work. Everything was possible because of the hard work and dedication of over 35 volunteers as they designed and built a wonderful set, organized all of the supplies needed for crafts and games, prepared Bible Stories and Story Time focused on the ELCA World Hunger programs featured in the curriculum, practiced skits, created mission project messages, and created amazing snacks. Many of the volunteers appeared in our online videos and led the various segments during in-person VBS the week of June 21.

Our in-person session was shortened to 2 hours each morning, masks were required,

and the children took home their snack each day. After an opening celebration in the sanctuary, each of the small groups of children, accompanied by adult and youth leaders, moved to a classroom in the Education Building. The Game, Craft, Bible Exploration, and Story Time leaders rotated through the classrooms. The week concluded with a Celebration Worship Service led by the children and volunteers on Sunday, June 27. In the final tally, we had 20 kids registered for in-person VBS and 18 children participating virtually.

Once again, the Mission Project for VBS was collecting new and gently used books for The Assistance League of Phoenix (ALP), a nonprofit that addresses local community needs. Through the VBS book drive, 1,545 books (1,220 donated books and 325 books purchased with a grant from Thrivent) were delivered to ALP.

The support provided by the congregation of Living Water through donations (dollars and supplies), encouragement, and enthusiasm was awesome as usual!



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 fellowship events and smaller groups of people with a common interest or purpose who meet on a regular basis – and 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 Art, and Lefse Making are generally oriented toward congregation members' interests, the line-up of these interest-based activities tends to shift. Current dormant Fellowship Program groups include Golf Outing, Happy Valley County Fair, Heavenly Hikers, and Little Flock Fellowship. Anyone interested in reactivating a group should contact the Program Leader.

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 2021. Descriptions of their activities appear below.

BRIDGE GROUP – Richard and Jill Wehr
Living Water's Bridge Group ordinarily meets in members' homes on the third Friday evening of each month (excluding December). Sadly, due to COVID-19, the

group did not meet at all in 2021. This included missing our annual potluck and bridge evening in February to celebrate the group's 14th anniversary. 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. Newcomers are always welcome, and bridge players of all levels, from beginners to seasoned players, are encouraged to check out this enjoyable fellowship opportunity.

CAMPUS CREW – Ron Ophaug

Campus Crew was started in 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.

COVID-19 brought projects to a halt. However, a few small projects were completed by individuals, but because of the pandemic, no large projects were initiated. We generally try to have one project a month and look forward to continuing once the pandemic is over. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, and we welcome anyone who is interested in helping out.

FRIDAY MORNING CLUB – Julie Ann Walker

The Friday Morning Club's responsibility is to be helping hands to the Living Water Office Staff. Since the bulletin is now on the "screens," there is no longer a need to collate a bulletin for the Sunday Service. Therefore, FMC meets only the first Friday of each month at 10:00am. This year, the team's responsibilities were as follows:

- take care of changing the monthly table décor in the Fellowship Hall
- make sure the Sanctuary and Narthex are kept tidy
- responsible for the candles on Christmas Eve
- other duties as needed

GREAT GATHERINGS – Marty and Gordon Lindert

The purpose of Great Gatherings is to gather our congregation into a venue for fellowship and social discourse through large group settings. Due to COVID-19, we reduced the number of events to the two fall and winter events. This last year it was the Annual Picnic, which had been cancelled in May of 2020 and 2021. It was then rescheduled for October of 2021. The Advent Dinner was cancelled in 2020 and returned in December 2021.

Due to this Pandemic, we were able to do a "reset" on our priorities. We have temporarily reduced the number of events during the year to two. This allowed us to share the time with Saints and Sinners and cut down on time conflicts during the first three months of the year. In 2022, our events will be as follows:

- Oct. 9 (tentative date): Church Picnic at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park, Rotary Pavilion at 5:00 pm
- Dec. 4: Annual Advent Dinner at McDowell Mountain Community Center, 5:00-8:00pm. It will be a potluck.

LEFSE MAKING – Bob and Myrna Ulland

Lefse is often called a Norwegian tortilla, and this holiday tradition was enjoyed by all who participated. We meet early in December and offer several sessions to give the opportunity to those interested in working in the kitchen and sharing a fun time together. *No experience required!*

In December, our annual Lefse making created a new tradition, occurring at Joan Sprinkle's brand-new kitchen in her new home with the Ullands coordinating two afternoon sessions. A perfect time to start the holiday season.

LIVING ART – Leila Burrus

Develop our love of art from a Christian perspective. Art that gives glory to God; that praises God; that gives us the time to relate personally to God through crafts, painting, drawing, sculpting, making banners, and other art such as poetry, writing, photography, and drama arts. By working together, we gain inspiration and build a caring community of artistic believers. Beginning artists welcomed.

Living Art was not active in 2021 due to Covid concerns. Hopefully, events will be scheduled in 2022; however, none are planned at present.

SAINTS & SINNERS – Lee and Sue Stenehjem and Wayne and Leila Burrus

Build a stronger and more vital church body by establishing and nurturing camaraderie among church members, visitors and interested adults. Foster a feeling of inclusion for new people coming to LWLC by socially integrating them with existing

members via a more personal small group experience.

- Saints and Sinners was inactive in 2021 due to Covid concerns. However, some "virtual" gatherings were held using Zoom.
- The 2022 program is going forward as in prior years (except for the January Kick-Off Party) unless Covid causes us to cancel in-person get-togethers.

Our future goal, as always, is to maximize participation and operate a well-run program to build a stronger church body.

SPLENDID TABLE – Ginny Alexander, Julie Ann Walker, and Kristi Winter

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, Splendid Table was not able to host many events in 2021. Our team usually has a very busy year coordinating meals for fellowship that include the Youth Auction Dinner, Lenten Soup Suppers, Easter Brunch, Spring and Fall Leadership Retreats, Consecration Sunday meal, Thanksgiving Eve Pie Service, and the Christmas Cantata Brunch. We were able to host a few New Member Dinners this past year and are hopeful that we will be able to provide more of our regular events again soon as they provide the opportunity for wonderful fellowship among our members and guests.

SUNDAY MORNING HOSPITALITY – Carol Gasser and Pam Landon

This ministry 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

after the Sunday morning service(s). This team also arranges for cakes and cookies to celebrate Confirmation, Graduation, and other special occasions. This team welcomes volunteers from the congregation who are willing to serve on a monthly, quarterly, or occasional basis.

The past year has been a challenge due to the Covid pandemic; however, refreshments were provided during the last half of 2021.



WITNESS MISSION GROUP

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

NEW MEMBER CLASS – Pastor Mark Rossman

This past year there were two New Member Informational Sessions. These sessions gave the participants a chance to get to know one another a bit better, learn more about Living Water and its history, and discover how each might fit into the ministry work which is done here. After taking the time to share life and faith experiences with one another, 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 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.

PRO-ACTIVE COMMUNITY

ENGAGEMENT (PACE) – Lee Stenehjem

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. Because of Covid 19, planned events were postponed. We look forward to a better environment for events in 2022.

WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA – Jennifer Kelsh

With pandemic concerns still lingering through 2021, online ministry and group meetings were still invaluable in ensuring we stay connected and involved as a congregation. Our weekly newsletter *Connections* and monthly newsletter *Splash!* were always available online for those who could not pick one up on Sunday as well as for anyone who wished to quickly reference upcoming events and encouragement. Blast emails notified members of Bible study recordings.



WORSHIP AND 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, Darnell and Donna Pettengill, and Marilyn Nartaker.

ADULT CHOIR/PRAISE BAND

We are so grateful for the time, talent and dedication of our Choir and Praise band members – especially as we continue to endure this time of pandemic. Living Water is blessed to have such a vibrant music ministry! The Adult Choir (under the direction of Marcie Donavon) and Praise Band (under the direction of Scott Sims) continue to provide strong musical leadership for weekly worship and special events. And our Music Ministry's mission, "to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ through service in music ministry" is alive and well. God is good! Our hope for 2022 is to continue rebuilding participation within our choir, and to move forward in faith – praying that God will continue to bless this community and our service in His name.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild serving LWLC has seen many changes in the past two years due to COVID. This committee continues to set the altar for Communion by lighting the

candles and preparing the bread and the wine for the Pastors. Our duties also include cleaning up the altar after church, taking the offerings and donations from the Hunger Jar to the safe in the office, maintaining the care of the linens, and ordering supplies as needed.

Our current members are Deb Bash (who makes the flatbread), Sheila Fankhauser, Janis Fjeld, Ellen Schoenbeck, Sue Boyd, Donna Pettengill, and Sharon Westergren.

LITURGICAL ARTS – Sue Stenehjem and Terry Nelson

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

Until I became involved in the Liturgical Arts Committee I did not know how the seasons or colors were established. The official *Church Calendar* has a three-year rotation that is identified as years A, B, and C. We are currently in year C. The liturgical seasons and the exact dates are identified by this *Church Calendar*.

The church year begins with Advent, which is typically soon after Thanksgiving, and goes for 12 months until the next Advent. There are six liturgical seasons or festivals throughout the year.

The order in which the seasons occur and the assigned liturgical colors for each are as follows:

1. Advent - blue
2. Christmas - white and gold

3. Epiphany - green
4. Lent - purple
5. Easter - white and gold
6. Pentecost – green

In addition to the six seasons there are five separate Sundays where white drapes and banners are used for just that one Sunday.

1. Baptism of our Lord
2. Transfiguration of Our Lord
3. The Holy Trinity
4. All Saints Sunday
5. Christ the King

The Day of Pentecost and Reformation Sunday are the only two Sundays where the liturgical color is red.

The assignment of the Liturgical Arts Committee is to use the liturgical color of drapes, banners, and other visual symbols that correspond to the season.

Our committee is blessed to have such a dedicated, creative team of people who truly enjoy making our sanctuary a beautiful place to worship. This year's team included the following people: Sharon Westergreen, Diane Klumpp, Linda Hoenig, Terry Nelson, Lynda Cales, Marty and Gordon Lindert, Leila and Wayne Burrus, Ron and Cindy Ophaug, and Lee and Sue Stenehjem.

As we say at our Liturgical Arts meetings, "It takes a village"!!! Our sincere THANKS for your time and talents.

If you are interested in participating on our team, please contact Sue Stenehjem or Terry Nelson.

SERVANT TEAMS

SERVANT TEAM LEADERS fill a valuable role at Living Water. They serve, lead, and oversee the many duties before, during, and after our Sunday and special worship services. We seek to involve our year-round worshipers, new members and snowbirds.

We have 4-6 servant team leaders assigned to a Sunday of the month. Greeting, ushering, and assisting with communion are the principal responsibilities of our servant teams. Added responsibilities occur for baptisms, reception of new members, and the celebrations of Thanksgiving, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Each servant team leader is trained, insightful, and capable in assisting with emergencies as well as routine functions.

Our servant team leaders for 2021-2022 are: Debbie Anderson, Mark Anderson, Roz Anderson, Deb Bash, Charlie Boyd, Sue Boyd, Rich Cote, Erika Diaz, Denny Dumler, Jim King, Diane Klumpp, Gordon Lindert, Marty Lindert, Lisa Moehn, John Nerison, Judy Nerison, Cindy Ophaug, Ron Ophaug, Jeri Pounds, Phil Pounds, Sarge Purewal, Darrell Shipley, Ed Shipley, Lee Stenehjem, Sue Stenehjem, Steve Umland, Sue Umland and Sharon Westergreen.

Thanks to all for their service!

SPECIAL SERVICES – Marilyn Nartker, Julie Ann Walker, Susan Purewal

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 making the beautiful Faith Chests, to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for their lovely baby blankets, and to Barbara Brooks for making crosses.

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.



GIVING MISSION GROUP

STEWARDSHIP – PASTOR MARK ROSSMAN

Results of the Stewardship Drive for the 2022 pledges indicated about an 8.5% increase over the 2021 commitments. In addition, approximately 60% of the congregation membership did complete pledges for 2022 which represented an increase over the past year. The pledge amount, which exceeded \$500,000, is being incorporated into the LWLC budgeting process for 2022.

ENDOWMENT – ROBERT WINTER

During 2018, the Endowment Committee was formally established and completed with the approval by the congregation of five 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.

2020 Meeting Minutes

Living Water Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting February 14, 2021

Call to order by council chair Don Pick @ 11:01am

Call for Quorum: Quorum reached? Yes

Approval of Minutes from 2/9/2020 Meeting: Moved, seconded, Approved

Election of New Council Members:

Phil Pounds President: 1 year term

Dave Wilder VP: 2 year term

Debbie Anderson Secretary: 2 year term

Darnell Pettengill Member at large: 2 year term

Motion to accept Ballot as cast: Seconded and Passed

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark

- Thank you! This has been quite the challenging year and yet you have not only helped this ministry survive, but you have helped it THRIVE!
 - In the end there is no better congregation to serve
 - Amazed that in 2 weeks it will be 7 years serving here and with the praise of God another 7

Pastor's Report: Pastor Shari

- Children's and Family ministries have been thriving! Even though we don't see the kids weekly, we are more connected than ever!
- Virtual VBS was able to impact lives not only locally but internationally as well
- Keep an eye for the photos and videos posted from the youth ministry on Facebook and our website
- Compassion International

President's report: Don Pick

- Thank the Pastors
- Thank the Council
- Most importantly, Thank you to the congregation for everything you have done to support our mission and ministry throughout this year

Treasurer's report: Gerry Cales

- To say that last year was financially difficult was would be an understatement.
- With expenses being lower than anticipated, we were still able to stay solvent.
- Going into 2021, we are keeping all expenses as is from 2020. As it shows in the packet, we are roughly 100k shy against the income. We call this a "challenge budget"
 - We can also look at this as an "opportunity budget"

- 22 people/families that normally pledge, have not yet pledged for 2021
- Motion to pass budget as written. Seconded and passed

Old Business:

N/a

New Business:

- Election of Synod Convention Assembly representatives:
 - Bob and Myrna Ulland and Don and Patti Pick have volunteered to represent LWLC
 - Motion to approve representatives: Seconded and approved
- Approval of Recommendation to combine Constitution and Bylaws
 - Governing Docs of Living water that are currently 2 separate documents that cover the same things.
 - Combining the document would place each bylaw immediately after the Constitutional section it supports. Integrating both documents into one.
 - Motion that the Living Water Lutheran Church constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions be contained in a single document, with provisions relation to the same subject placed together for ease of reference, as endorsed by the Congregation Council. Seconded and approved

Recognizing outgoing Council Members:

Don Pick as President

Michelle Brown as Member at Large and Secretary

Installation of Officers and Council Members: Pastor Mark and Congregation

Closing Prayer - Pastor Shari Bernau

Adjourned: 11:29am by newly installed President Phil Pounds

2021 Meeting Agenda

Living Water Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting – 10:00 AM, February 9, 2020
2021 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

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



Living Water Lutheran Church is a warm, vibrant, young, 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 fellowship 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).

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