

April 2026

COME SEE &

Discover what God is doing in and through
American Lutheran Church of Sun City.



Worship Times:

Saturdays 4pm

Sundays 8:30am & 10:30am

Come & See us at:

17200 N Del Webb Blvd

Sun City, AZ 85373

www.alcsuncity.org

Main Office

623-974-2512

Pastoral Emergency

480-544-6680

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BEST VERSION YET

By: Pastor Scott Klimke

At a recent Bible study, those present reviewed the divine promise of a "new" heaven, a "new" earth, and a "new" Jerusalem found in the opening verses of Revelation, Chapter 21. Perhaps worried we'll exclude ourselves from this picture of creation-wide change, the same chapter later finds God promising to make **"ALL THINGS NEW."** With all things — including us — now included, the question raised by God's promise of newness becomes even more evocative: **In what sense will we and the rest of creation be made "new?" Is it "new" as in "new model altogether," or "new" as in "best version of an old model yet?"**

As it raises and responds to this question, the language of the chapter isn't entirely clear or consistent. But quite often the answer seems to be "best version of an old model yet" rather than "new model altogether." If God were starting from scratch, we wouldn't have tears for God to wipe from our faces — as the chapter promises will happen — and we'd also have no history or experience that would lead us to appreciate the promise that one day death, crying, mourning, and pain will be no more. **Rather than out with the old and in with the new, it would seem God's general approach is to keep working and refining until creation can't get any better.** To put it in the words of the Creed, rather than throwing our bodies away like an old pair of shoes, God instead resurrects our bodies to enjoy their best existence yet.

If this is how it usually goes, then God does new things in the scriptural sense when we gradually grow and improve — when we learn from past mistakes so we can do better the next time. With our fourth year together now in full swing, I'd like to think we are an example of how the Holy Spirit is a tireless tinkerer. Early on, things felt fragmented and siloed, with a kind of tunnel vision too often present. Today, that is less frequently the case.

“

"I'd like to think we are an example of how the Holy Spirit is a tireless tinkerer."

Thanks to a lot of work examining our larger history, we now know that large jumps in attendance and/or giving from year to year have never been the norm at ALC. We may have had more people here in the past, but that simply meant more people needed to be replaced each year. Due to death, illness, relocation, or the end of seasonal stays in Phoenix, many people have always cycled in and out. This ongoing ebb and flow in participation and membership has long put real strain on retaining staff and sustaining programming — it's simply the nature of our congregation. What's new is that we have now developed two distinct opportunities designed to even out the valleys created by our unique congregational dynamics.

Earlier this year we introduced **Forward from Fifty**. Whether given at the end of life or as a supplement to regular giving, donations to this fund serve one purpose: to ensure ALC has resources on hand when years with higher-than-usual turnover leave dollars for people, programs, and facilities in short supply.

Also working against our built-in membership turbulence — but in a different way — is the more recently introduced effort to reduce our mortgage principal before the loan terms are reset in early June. Each year we currently send \$156,000 to our lender, and our outstanding principal stands at approximately \$1.1 million. Freeing up these dollars for mission and ministry would make a meaningful difference. That's why, through May 28th, a generous donor has agreed to match up to \$150,000 in additional gifts directed toward debt relief. **To date, \$25,000 in additional gifts for debt relief have been received.** If that number were to reach \$150,000, the congregation's yearly mortgage obligation would drop by \$32,400 — with approximately \$360 per active household getting us there.

Should you have the extra resources and feel moved by the Spirit to respond, please give to whichever effort speaks to you. **Either form of generosity will find you responding to old and ongoing dynamics at ALC in a new and meaningful way.**

Appreciatively,
Pastor Scott



A Joyful Celebration



The 2026 Stephen Ministry Banquet and Commissioning Service was indeed a joyful celebration. On March 28th, five members of ALC — having just completed fifty hours of training — were commissioned as new Stephen Ministers, joining 58 other currently active ALC members who have completed the same training here at ALC. Our new Stephen Ministers, **Amelia Clarke**, **Elaine Couture**, **Kay Peterson**, **Dwayne Nelson**, and **Karen Severson**, chose "Trust in the Lord" as their banquet theme, and are now prepared to do just that as they begin their caregiving responsibilities among us. While we welcomed them with food, song, and prayer, we invite you to congratulate and thank them for their commitment to the care ministry of ALC.

As one might imagine, many of the 58 previously commissioned Stephen Ministers are no longer able to remain active, which is why training new members each year is so important. Could this be your time to prayerfully consider whether the Lord might be calling you to this caregiving ministry? Please read this testimony written by one of our newly commissioned Stephen Ministers:

A Stephen Ministry **MOMENT**



I've been a member of American Lutheran Church for a couple of years now, but I never fully understood what a gem Stephen Ministry is until I began the training. **It's like living in a neighborhood for a decade and suddenly discovering a world-class resource tucked away on a street you drive past every day.** The training doesn't just prepare you to help others — it transforms how you listen and care in every relationship. Through the process of becoming a Stephen Minister, I found a level of support and companionship that was right here all along, waiting to be found. **And if you are navigating a difficult season and in need of a Stephen Minister, I encourage you to reach out. This hidden treasure is here for you too.**

Our next training class begins in January, but you can become involved much sooner — join us this month!
See below for details.

April Stephen Ministry Happenings

Our April meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 9th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Our continuing education program will build on last month's presentation: Sun Health Memory Navigator Michelle Bradley will return to demonstrate **Effective Techniques for Communicating with Someone with Dementia.** All ALC members are warmly invited to attend this presentation. At 10:15 a.m., Stephen Ministers will gather in their Peer Groups. Please note that this is a required meeting for all active Stephen Ministers.

Breaking the Silence on Dementia

In February, ALC hosted a Brain Health and Dementia event attended by more than 200 people. Expert keynote speakers covered topics including brain health, mild cognitive impairment (MCI), dementia, and clinical trial research opportunities — and attendees responded overwhelmingly, many calling it the best conference on dementia they had ever attended.

Maribeth Gallagher drew a powerful and hopeful parallel: cancer was once a diagnosis spoken of only in whispers. Over time, that changed — and with it came greater openness, community support, and access to help. She believes the same transformation is possible with dementia. Today, many people still hesitate to share an early dementia diagnosis — their own or a loved one's — and that silence, however understandable, can lead to painful isolation. Talking openly, on the other hand, opens doors: to community, to treatment options, and to opportunities that genuinely improve quality of life.

This is new territory for many of us. But it is territory worth entering together.

Plans are already underway for future events. If you would like to be part of the planning team, please speak with Terri Polk, Pat Forsythe, or Pastor Lisa Hackler.



Sometimes the most important new thing we can do is simply start talking.



COME SEE &

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL EVENTS:



Maundy Thursday
April 2 at 6:00 PM

Good Friday
April 3 at 12:00 & 6:00 PM

Holy Saturday
April 4 at 4:00 PM

Easter Sunday Services
April 5 at 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 AM




**Scan the QR
Code for More
Information**

Pastors' Meet & Greet

Wednesday,
April

8th


 1:00pm

 Conference Room

**Effective
Techniques for
Communicating
with Someone
with Dementia**

Thursday,
April

9th


 9:00am

 Fellowship
Hall

**2nd
Saturday
Fellowship**

Saturday,
April

11th


 After 4pm worship

 Education A/B

**Sun City
Handbell
Ringers
Concert**

Sunday,
April

12th


 3:00pm

 Sanctuary

**ProMusica
Concert**

Sunday,
April

19th


 3:30pm

 Sanctuary

**Orpheus Men's
Chorus Concert**

Sunday,
April

26th

 3:00pm

 Sanctuary


**Tickets for these concerts are not sold at ALC. They are available at the door or through the organization's website.*

Thursday Conversation and Prayer Group

Everyone's welcome to take part in a 4-week series based on the book "Holy Ground: An Alphabet of Prayer". Join the dialogue and explore topics such as Imagination, Nurturing, and Zeal. See Pastor Julia if you want to learn more.

Starting

Thursday,
April **9**th

 10:30am

 ALC Chapel

Something New Is Coming on Sunday Mornings

Starting Sunday, May 3rd, ALC will move to one Sunday morning service — at 9:30 a.m.

Each spring, as many in our congregation head north for the summer months, we make a familiar transition: from two Sunday morning services to one. Beginning May 3rd, that transition is here again.

One service. One congregation. One 9:30 a.m. gathering where the 8:30 crowd and the 10:30 crowd get to be in the same room at the same time — more voices, more faces, and a wonderful opportunity to worship together as one body through the summer season.

Saturday worship at 4:00 p.m. continues as usual throughout the summer, and we look forward to seeing you whenever and however you worship with us.

If you have any questions about the schedule change, please don't hesitate to speak with any member of our pastoral team.

**Beginning Sunday, May 3rd
One Sunday Service — 9:30 a.m.
Saturday worship continues at 4:00 p.m.**

Looking for a New Volunteer Opportunity?

AdvisaCare Hospice, is looking for compassionate volunteers to become companions and friends to seniors nearing the end of life. Many of the patients don't need grand gestures — they just need someone to sit with them, listen to their stories, hold their hand, read to them, or simply remind them they are not alone.

“This is a flexible opportunity, and we work around each volunteer’s availability. It’s especially meaningful for individuals, couples, retirees, young adults, or anyone with a heart to serve in a quiet but powerful way.”

**One hour of presence
can change someone’s entire week.**

Contact Ronni Black, Volunteer Coordinator
(480) 284-4600.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study - FH	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 10:00 MS Support Group - AB 10:30 Lenten Study: The 40 Days of Lent - Cp 5:30 Choir Rehearsal - ChR 6:00 Maundy Thursday Worship - S	3 GOOD FRIDAY 10:00 Women's Bible Study - AB 12:00 Good Friday Worship - S 6:00 Good Friday Worship - S	4 HOLY SATURDAY 8:30 Happy Hour Neighborhood Group - FH 9:00 Choir Easter Rehearsal - S & ChR 4:00 Service of Darkness and Light Worship - S
5 EASTER SUNDAY 7:00 Festival Worship - S 8:00 Choir Breakfast - FH 9:00 Festival Worship - S 10:00 Choir Break - FH 11:00 Festival Worship - S	6 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	7 9:00 Sun City Sings! Rehearsal - ChR 9:30 Memory Caregiver Support Group - AB 12:00 Cactus Conference. Mtg. - AB 1:30 Evangelism Committee Mtg. - AB 1:30 Grief Group - L 3:30 Christo Bell Choir Rehearsal - S	8 1:00 Pastors' Meet & Greet - CfR	9 8:30 Sun City Ringers Rehearsal - S 9:00 Stephen Ministry - FH* 10:30 Thursday Conversation & Prayer - Cp 2:30 Choir Rehearsal - ChR	10 8:30 Sun City Ringers - S 10:00 Women's Bible Study - AB 7:00 Sun City Sings! Concert - S	11 9:00 Neighborhood - 3 C's (Chat, Chatter & Comfort) - AB 4:00 Worship - S 5:00 2 nd Saturday Fellowship - AB
12 8:30 Worship - S 9:30 Coffee Fellowship - FH 9:30 Pastor's Meet & Greet - FH 10:30 Worship - S 3:00 Sun City Handbell Ringers Concert - S	13 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing & Crafts - MP 10:30 Good Book Group - AB 1:00 Adult Care Assistance Home Care: Dementia Care & Support Group - FH & AB 1:00 Social Ministry Committee Mtg. - L 1:30 Card Making Class - C	14 9:30 Memory Caregiver Support Group - AB 12:00 Cactus Conference. Mtg. - AB 1:00 Bandage Spinning Women's Ministry - FH 1:00 Trust Committee - CfR 1:30 Grief Group - L 3:30 Christo Bell Choir Rehearsal - S	15 8:00 Quail Run Neighborhood Group 9:00 Ikebana - AB 12:30 ALC Game Day - FH	16 9:00 Stephen Ministry Leadership - C 10:30 Thursday Conversation & Prayer - Cp 1:00 Executive Committee 2:30 Choir Rehearsal - ChR	17 10:00 Women's Bible Study - AB	18 4:00 Worship - S
19 8:30 Worship - S 9:30 Coffee Fellowship - FH 10:30 Worship - S 3:30 ProMusica Concert - S	20 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing & Crafts - MP 10:00 Ikebana: Cleaning their closet - AB 1:30 Card Making Class - C	21 9:30 Memory Caregiver Support Group - AB 12:00 Cactus Conference. Mtg. - AB 1:00 Finance & Personnel Committee Mtg. - CfR 1:30 Grief Group - L 3:30 Christo Bell Choir Rehearsal - S	22 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study - FH	23 10:30 Thursday Conversation & Prayer - Cp 1:00 Executive Committee 2:30 Choir Rehearsal - ChR	24 10:00 Women's Bible Study - AB	25 4:00 Worship - S
26 8:30 Worship - S 9:30 Coffee Fellowship - FH 10:30 Worship - S 3:00 Orpheus Men's Chorus Concert - S	27 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing & Crafts - MP 1:30 Card Making Class - C	28 9:30 Memory Caregiver Support Group - AB 12:00 Cactus Conference. Mtg. - AB 1:30 Council Mtg. - AB 1:30 Grief Group - L 3:30 Christo Bell Choir Rehearsal - S	29 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study - FH	30 10:30 Thursday Conversation & Prayer - Cp 2:30 Choir Rehearsal - ChR		

COME GIVE &

Making a Difference Together



COOKING OIL, VINEGAR, SALAD DRESSING



Just a BLUE BAG note: You can ALWAYS bring whatever you care to donate. As you are clearing out your pantry and preparing for summer travels, please feel free to add to our collection of dried and canned goods to be distributed through local food pantries.

Do you belong to THRIVENT?

If you are a member of Thrivent, please add your name and contact information to the sign-up sheet in the narthex. **We can use your help for upcoming social ministry projects.**

Hospitality in



Every
Cup

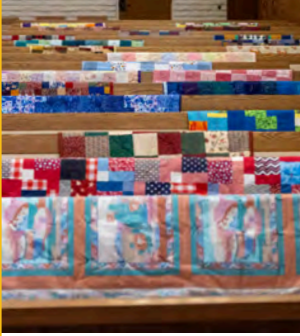
Coffee Hour is one of the simple joys of Sunday morning — a time for laughter, connection, and welcome. To help cover the rising cost of supplies, we invite you to consider contributing **\$1** as a free will offering. Small gifts, given together, make a big difference. Thank you for helping create the warmth we share each week.

Change for Change PIGGY BANKS

Return your piggy bank to the box in the narthex at Easter — or sooner if you're heading out of town. Your coins will change lives through the ELCA World Hunger Program.



ELCA
World Hunger



THANK YOU!

73 quilts have been donated to various local organizations to assist with their care for the needy including **Helping Hands Foster Care, Eve's Place, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and Olive Crest.**

& \$2,000 raised through quilt purchases will be used for additional outreach projects.



THANK YOU!



Annette DeJesus, our Resource Director at American Lutheran Church, is retiring at the end of March 2026. We are thankful for the hours she has spent connecting members of our church and community to resources and programming that have assisted us in so many ways. Always ready to try to help people, Annette's presence will be greatly missed but we wish her well in her retirement.

WHAT A LOVELY SPRING LOVE LUNCHEON!

Thank you all for attending, learning about the Lutheran Thrift Store, and supporting the Alleluia Better Chance Diaper Closet. And thank you to all who made it a delightful event!



THANK YOU!

FOR THE 2025-26 WNA SEASON!

The 2025-2026 WNA season just concluded, and it was truly great! We learned from our non-musical presenters, delighted in stirring music from our musical performers ...and enjoyed great tasting meals with new and old friends – meals that we didn't have to cook or clean up after! One of the things I especially appreciate about WNA is that we start at 4:00 pm and end at 7:00 pm...where else can you hear live music, have dinner, socialize and still get home this early? The joy we have in participating in WNA is a hallmark of American Lutheran – and to think WNA has been going on for over 30 years!

The success of WNA is thanks to your generous donations which fund WNA in its entirety. A big thank you to all who helped make this successful season, truly showing that American Lutheran is a congregation that cares for its community.

Bless!

Deb Hjortland on behalf of the WNA Committee

Stewardship Snapshot ---

Financial Summary as of March 25, 2026:

MEMBER COMMUNITY GENEROSITY:

CURRENT OFFERINGS & DONATIONS	\$231,692.70
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RESERVED OFFERINGS USED	\$35,954.29
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DONATIONS	\$3,288.38
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TOTAL MEMBER  COMMUNITY SUPPORT	\$270,935.37
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MEMBER & COMMUNITY CARE:

MINISTRIES OF CARE **-\$213,509.29**

HOSPITABLE FACILITIES **-\$42,124.87**

TOTAL MEMBER & COMMUNITY CARE **-\$255,634.16**

LEFT FOR MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL **\$15,301.21**

MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL PAID **-\$27,109.55**

LEFT FOR MINISTRY PARTNERS & FACILITY UPKEEP **-\$11,808.34**

Gifts & Memorials

Honoring Lives, Continuing Ministry

We are deeply grateful for the generous gifts and memorials that honor loved ones while blessing ALC's ministries. These heartfelt donations bring comfort to families and help our church community thrive. Your thoughtfulness and support truly make a difference in continuing God's work here at ALC.

We gratefully acknowledge:

JoAnn Knouse — Debt Reduction - In Memory of Jan Powell

**Judy Morrison — Debt Reduction - In Memory of Marjorie
Caufield**

**Ken & Sharon Friedrichsen — Debt Reduction - In Memory of Arlo Swayze
Ulrich Diaz - Grandson of the Ulrichs**

Altar Flower Gifts

Thank you for making our worship space beautiful.

APRIL ALTAR FLOWERS

For Services on April 5th - Phyllis Wimer

In Memory of Henry (Husband) & Cherie's Birthday (daughter)

For Services on April 12th - Dave Carlson

In Celebration of Paul Carlson's birthday

COME & BELONG



New Ventures Ahead?

For many in our congregation, spring and summer bring a change of scenery — whether that means heading back north for the season, visiting family, embarking on a long-awaited trip, or simply spending an extended stretch away from the Valley of the Sun.

Whatever new adventure awaits you, we want to stay connected. If you are a seasonal resident, please make sure we have your correct contact information for the months you'll be away. A current address, phone number, or email ensures you won't miss a newsletter, an important update, or a note of care from your ALC family.

If you are a year-round resident planning an extended absence, please take a moment to let a staff member know before you head out. We notice when familiar faces are missing — because you matter to us — and we'd rather know you're off on a grand adventure than wonder where you've gone!

However far the road takes you this season, know that your church home will be here, holding your place and keeping you in prayer. Safe travels!

New Things: In Their Own Words

This month, rather than sharing brief biographies, we asked a few members to respond to two simple questions: What's one new thing you are — or will be — doing in 2026? And why? Here are their responses.

Ennis and Rita McCaffrey It is our privilege to begin assisting with Communion distribution. We feel closer to our ALC family and are glad to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in this vital role. We hope to continue when asked.

Barb Berg In late April I will be having thumb surgery to correct wear-and-tear damage from years of playing my French horn. This forced hiatus from what brings me the greatest joy will give me the opportunity to balance my tendency to be more "filled" than "fulfilled." I hope to slow down — and discover new things that bring me joy along the way.

Rolfe Blaess I never expected to go to Disneyland. But thanks to two close friends who drove five hours to Anaheim, got me a scooter, and let me be a kid again — three roller coasters, water shows, an IMAX experience, and everything the park has to offer — I did! Thanks be to God for good friendships.

Steve Miedzybrocki After dealing with cancer and some physically disabling side effects, I have learned that something new comes along constantly. The beauty of this is that the Spirit guides you in how to cope — and how to open your heart to those around you in their own sufferings.

Buffy Vincent I am currently seeking new employment. But God will open a door — he always does. Every step leads further along my path and journey with the Lord. I feel so blessed to have ALC to come to every Sunday. The messages and worship help me stay strong in my faith, knowing I have a greater purpose on the horizon. Our God is an awesome God, and I know I am exactly where I need to be. He will provide.

Jeannine Daggett When a lawyer asked Jesus what more he must do, Jesus responded with the Parable of the Good Samaritan — a story about someone who not only noticed a vulnerable person others had ignored, but who provided for both his immediate needs and his long-term healing.

That story shapes my 2026 commitment: to multiply Lutheran voices to state and national lawmakers, advocating for justice and dignity for all people — especially the vulnerable — and for the care of God's created earth. My invitation to all ALC worshippers: join Jesus and the Good Samaritan. The need is now.

Some New Ways to be a Good Samaritan:

1. Join ELCA Advocacy for national and global issues

(See the 3-minute video to get started! ELCA Advocacy: Tips for your engagement | Videos & Movies on Vimeo)

2. Join Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Arizona for state issues (See <https://lamaz.org/mission>)

3. Because Styrofoam is not biodegradable and may take 500 to 1 million years to break down into smaller microplastics, might you consider **bringing your own coffee and mugs to church?** It is one small step for the earth.

Growing Together

Welcome our new members!

Received since our last newsletter:

Suzanne Kuhlin

Dwayne Nelson

Find Your People in Friendship Groups

New to ALC? Already a familiar face? Either way, Friendship Groups are a wonderful way to connect beyond Sunday mornings. Formerly known as Neighborhood Groups, these gatherings meet at local restaurants or over catered breakfasts and lunches — easy, informal, and always welcoming.

Check the table near the kitchen in Fellowship Hall for current dates, locations, and hosts. Your people are waiting!

Where New Things Spring Forth

In a world that can feel heavy and uncertain, I find myself returning to something simple: new things still happen. Every day, in ways large and small, they spring forth — often exactly where you'd least expect them.

This newsletter is full of them.

Five newly commissioned Stephen Ministers who chose "Trust in the Lord" as their theme — and then went out and proved they meant it. A woman discovering that a forced pause might be an invitation. A man who never expected to go to Disneyland riding three roller coasters. Two hundred people walking into a room willing to talk about something they'd been afraid to name.

This month I've also been thinking about Hat Yai, a city in southern Thailand where flooding devastated communities at the end of last year. Our Saan Jai Rak mission team is newly beginning work there — training community leaders to strengthen families so desperate that some see leaving their children at orphanages as their only hope.

God doesn't scrap what is broken and start over. God sends people in — neighbors, ministers, strangers who become friends — to tend what remains until something new can grow. That is happening in Hat Yai. It is happening right here in Sun City. And on the days when the world feels like too much, I think that is worth perceiving.

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Look around. It already is.

With gratitude, Kristen



Stay Connected

Main Office Phone

623-974-2512

Website

www.alcsuncity.org

Service Times

Saturdays 4pm

Sundays 8:30am

& 10:30am

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED