

# COME SEE &

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

**SUMMER EDITION**





**Worship Times:**  
Saturdays 4pm &  
Sundays 9:30am

**Come & See us at:**  
17200 N Del Webb Blvd  
Sun City, AZ 85373

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

**Main Office**  
623-974-2512

**Pastoral Emergency**  
480-544-6680

# Contents

Monthly Focus 4

---

Faith in Action 9

---

Monthly Calendar 16

---

Stewardship Snapshots 23

---

Community Updates 27

---

Contact Information 35

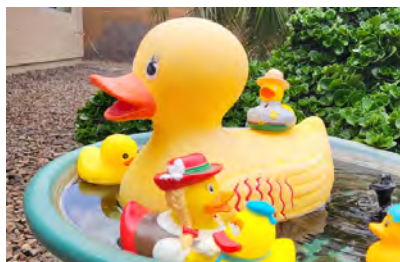


# COME PLAY &

## A Double Edition for Summer

Welcome to a double edition of Come and See, with the theme of "Godly Play." We're covering the months of June and July and, depending on your feedback, may do the same with August and September. If newsworthy events and ministry matters occur before the next Come and See is produced, we will use the various media resources we employ to keep you informed.

The phrase "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" first appeared in a collection of proverbs compiled by James Howell in 1659.



In the pages ahead, you will read about the work of ministry we celebrate and continue to engage in as our faith and God's Spirit guide us in our mission to make the love of Christ known. You will also read about some of the more playful aspects of our life as God's people — in community with one another and bound by grace to the One who forms us.

Whether you're visiting a park, cruising the ocean, or lounging at home, may the days ahead offer you opportunities both to labor in the love of God and to take your leisure in the gift of new life. As that 17th-century proverb reminds us: people who never take a break from work become bored — and boring.



# Holy Play & Summertime Blues

*By: Pastor Lisa Hackler*

Eddie Cochran had a point back in 1958 when he sang that there “ain't no cure for the summertime blues.” Summer in Arizona can feel less like a season and more like something to survive. By August, even the cactus looks tired. We move from one air-conditioned room to another. The heat settles not only onto the sidewalks, but sometimes into the soul. And yet, right in the middle of Scripture, God offers us something surprising: joy woven into creation itself.

In Job, after pages of suffering and questions, God finally speaks — not with a lecture, but with poetry:

*"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth... when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?" —Job 38:4,7*

The universe does not begin in grim necessity. It begins in delight. Before deadlines and grief and endless summer heat, there was song. The stars themselves rejoiced as creation unfolded. God delights in beauty, surprise, and joy.

And perhaps that matters more than we realize. Because many of us know what it feels like to lose touch with joy for a while. The summertime blues are real. The heat keeps us indoors. Energy dips. Days blur together. People can begin to languish a little. Which makes Jeremiah's words sound almost like cool water in the desert. The prophet Jeremiah gives weary people one of the loveliest images in all of Scripture:

*"They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion... their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again." —Jeremiah 31:12 (NRSV)*

A watered garden. In Arizona, that image feels holy all by itself. Then Jeremiah continues:

*"Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow." —Jeremiah 31:13*

Notice what God promises. Not merely survival. Not grim endurance. Dancing. Laughter. Joy shared across generations.



“  
**God delights in beauty,  
surprise,  
& joy.**  
6

Perhaps that is part of what we need this time of year: permission for holy play. Holy play is not frivolous. It is not a denial of life's hardships. Neither Job nor Jeremiah speaks from easy circumstances. Their joy is not shallow optimism. It is the stubborn conviction that delight still belongs to God's world.

Holy play might be lingering over coffee while a funny story turns into helpless laughter. It might be the sudden delight of a quail family parading across the road, or desert flowers bursting into color where you least expected them. It might be grandchildren splashing in a pool while the adults nearby find themselves smiling — not at anything in particular, just at the sound of joy itself.

**Holy play is not frivolous.  
It is not a denial of life's hardships...**

**...It is the stubborn conviction that  
delight still belongs to God's world.**

Again and again, Scripture reminds us that God delights in the unexpected. God chooses the youngest shepherd boy to become king. And then there is this moment: Jesus is surrounded by his disciples — serious men, debating serious things — and he reaches for a small child, places that child right in the center of them all, and says:

*"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." —Matthew 18:5 (NRSV)*

Not a scholar. Not a religious leader. A child. The kingdom of God, Jesus seems to be saying, arrives in ways we are not looking for — in smallness, in play, in the ones we might overlook entirely. God overturns expectations and brings joy from unexpected places.

So perhaps faithfulness this summer is not only found in seriousness and duty. Perhaps part of faith is recovering wonder. Recovering delight. Recovering the ability to notice beauty and laugh with gratitude.

Because if the morning stars could sing at creation, perhaps they are still singing.

**And perhaps, even in the Arizona heat,  
God is teaching weary people how to  
sing along.**



# Stephen Ministry: A Change of Pace

Many activities at ALC experience a change of pace during the summer months, and Stephen Ministry is no exception. During the summer months we do not meet for Continuing Education or traditional Peer Support Groups, but we do continue meeting with our Care Receivers, albeit on some occasions in different ways. Some will continue in-person visits while those who travel might visit via email, phone calls, or perhaps postal mail. Some might even use Skype or Zoom or facetime for a more personal experience while distance separates us. Whatever our circumstances, the needs of those who receive our care do not take a summer vacation, and neither do our Stephen Ministers.

Summer Peer Support Groups also follow a different format. **During the summer months we meet as one large group on the last Sunday of each month, June through October, during the coffee fellowship hour; we will meet in the Multi-purpose Room at 10:45.** We invite all Stephen Ministers who are here in the Valley to enjoy a beverage and a treat and meet with your fellow Stephen Ministers for a brief time of support and renewal. **These meetings will begin on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.** There will be no formal programs, just a time of catching up and providing support to one another. **Stephen Ministers, please put the following dates on your calendar: June 28, July 26, Aug 30, Sept 27, & Oct 25.** We look forward to seeing you then.

Thank you and have a blessed summer.

# COME SEE &

**THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Stephen  
Ministry Peer  
Groups**

Last Sunday of the Month  
**June** **July**

**28<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**


 After worship

 Multi-Purpose  
Room

**The  
Ragamuffin  
Gospel**  
A Special  
Summer  
Reading  
Group

Weekly meetings starting  
Thursday,  
**June**

**4<sup>th</sup>**


 10:30am

 Fellowship Hall

**Pastor's  
Meet &  
Greet**

Wednesday,  
**June** **July**

**10<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**

 1:00pm

 ALC Office

**Grand  
Canyon  
Synod Annual  
Assembly**

June  
**11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>**

 Love of Christ  
Lutheran, Mesa

**Rooted in God's Story** is the theme of the 2026 gathering. Voting members who will represent American Lutheran Church of Sun City include Pat Bangart, Jim Meadows, Amelia Clarke, Terri Polk, Dr. James Gerber, Pr. Julia Sprenkle, Pr. Lisa Hackler, and Pr. Scott Klimke.

**Painting by  
Julie**

*\*Free tutorial.  
Pre-registration  
required. Sign up in  
the narthex  
or ALC office  
before June 24.*

Wednesday,  
July  
**1<sup>st</sup>**



10:30am



Education A/B



This step-by-step acrylic painting class on an 8x10 canvas board covers color mixing, brush technique, light and shadow, perspective, and composition. Working from background to foreground, the instructor guides students toward creative confidence — whether you've never picked up a brush or are looking to sharpen your skills.

Class size is limited to 16. Cost is \$0. All materials provided. Bring an apron or oversized shirt to protect your clothing.

**At Play in  
God's Creation** ▶  
Sunday  
Church  
School  
for the Young  
and Young at  
Heart

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sundays  
of the  
month

Starting  
July  
**12<sup>th</sup>**

 After worship

 Vicinity of  
Fellowship Hall

In 2009, Jerome Berryman, an Episcopal priest, developed a Montessori teaching method focusing on the spiritual and Christian education of children. Called “Godly Play”, the goal was to engage the imagination and inspire the exploration of religious and holy living. During the summer months, ALC will be offering “Godly Play” after worship with the belief that no matter how old one gets, we can always imagine, be inspired, and explore life as God’s beloved children.

ALC’s **At Play in God’s Creation** will explore creation, what it means to be one of God’s creatures, and how we have been created as a community with the purpose of sharing the joyous blessing of God’s love. No matter your age, you are cordially invited to participate at any time in the stories, crafts, music, games, and other offerings as the Holy Spirit guides. See Pr. Julia if you want more information. And if you’d like to lend a hand, let her know.

**ALC IS  
CLOSED**

July  
**3<sup>rd</sup>**

In Observance of  
Independence  
Day

ALC has a number of programs and activities which are not on hiatus during the summer. If you are in the area and if you've ever wondered about participating in one of the ministries, now might be the time to try something new. Whether it's helping with worship, hospitality, or fellowship, participating in an educational offering or focused small group, or helping with a creative service project, these more leisurely summer months may provide a delightful new experience for you.

# COME GIVE &

Making a Difference Together

## SUMMER SNACKS



Everything will be helpful as we support our neighbors in need. **There is a special need for hygiene items, toothbrushes, toothpaste.**

## Bucks for Bottles Campaign

**BUCKS for BOTTLES**



Drop some spare cash in the baskets in the narthex or write a check to ALC designated to "Bucks for Bottles" and help us support St. Mary's Food Bank purchase water for distribution to our neighbors in need of our assistance.



# June, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	<b>1</b> 9:00A: Connecting Threads-MP 1:30P: Card Making Class-C	<b>2</b> 9:00A: Memory Caregiver Support Grp-A&B 1:30P: Evangelism Committee-A&B
<b>7</b> 9:30A: Worship-S 10:30A: Coffee Hr-FH 4:30P: Student Piano Recital-S	<b>8</b> 9:00A: Connecting Threads-MP 1:30P: Card Making Class-C	<b>9</b> 9:00A: Memory Caregiver Support Grp-A&B 1:00P: Bandage Spinning-FH 1:00P: Trust Committee-CfRm
<b>14</b> <i>Flag Day</i> 9:30A: Worship-S 10:30A: Coffee Hr-FH	<b>15</b> 9:00A: Connecting Threads-MP 1:30P: Card Making Class-C	<b>16</b> 9:00A: Memory Caregiver Support Grp-A&B 1:00P: Finance and Personnel Cmte-CfRm
<b>21</b> <i>Father's Day</i> 9:30A: Worship-S 10:30A: Coffee Hr-FH	<b>22</b> 9:00A: Connecting Threads-MP 1:30P: Card Making Class-C	<b>23</b> 9:00A: Memory Caregiver Support Grp-A&B 1:30P: Council Mtg-A&B
<b>28</b> 9:30A: Worship-S 10:30A: Coffee Hr-FH 10:30A: Stephen Min. Peer Grp.-MP	<b>29</b> 9:00A: Connecting Threads-MP 1:30P: Card Making Class-C	<b>30</b> 9:00A: Memory Caregiver Support Grp-A&B

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 10:30A: Pastor's Bible Study-FH	<b>4</b> 10:30A: The Ragamuffin Gospel-FH	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 4:00P: Worship-S
<b>10</b> 10:30A: Pastor's Bible Study-FH 1:00P: Pastors' Meet & Greet-CfRm	<b>11</b> 10:30A: The Ragamuffin Gospel-FH	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 4:00P: Worship-S 5:00P: Second Sat. Fellowship-A&B
<b>17</b> 8:00A: Quail Run: Mercer's 10:30A: Pastor's Bible Study-FH 12:30P: Game Day-FH	<b>18</b> 10:30A: The Ragamuffin Gospel-FH 1:00P: Executive Cmte-CfRm	<b>19</b> <i>Juneteenth</i>	<b>20</b> 11:00A: Memorial Service: Chuck Curry-S 12:00P: Reception-FH 4:00P: Worship-S
<b>24</b> 10:30A: Pastor's Bible Study-FH	<b>25</b> 10:30A: The Ragamuffin Gospel-FH	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 4:00P: Worship-S



# July, 2026

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<b>5</b> 9:30A: Worship-S 10:30A: Coffee Hr-FH	<b>6</b> 9:00A: Connecting Threads-MP 1:30P: Card Making Class-C	<b>7</b> 9:00A: Memory Caregiver Support Grp-A&B 1:30P: Evangelism Committee-A&B
<b>12</b> 9:30A: Worship-S 10:30A: Coffee Hr-FH 10:30A: At Play in God's Creation—FH	<b>13</b> 9:00A: Connecting Threads-MP 1:00: Social Min-L 1:30P: Card Making	<b>14</b> 9:00A: Memory Caregiver Support Grp-A&B 1:00P: Bandage Spinning- FH 1:00P: Trust Committee- CfRm
<b>19</b> 9:30A: Worship-S 10:30A: Coffee Hr-FH	<b>20</b> 9:00A: Connecting Threads-MP 1:30P: Card Making Class-C	<b>21</b> 9:00A: Memory Caregiver Support Grp-A&B 1:00P: Personnel & Fi- nance Cmte-CfRm
<b>26</b> 9:30A: Worship-S 10:30A: Coffee Hr-FH 10:30A: At Play in God's Creation—FH 10:30A: Stephen Min. Peer Grp.-MP	<b>27</b> 9:00A: Connecting Threads-MP 1:30P: Card Making Class-C	<b>28</b> 9:00A: Memory Caregiver Support Grp-A&B 1:30P: Council Mtg-A&B

<b>1</b> 10:30A: Pastor's Bible Study-FH 10:30A: Painting by Julie-A&B	<b>2</b> 10:30A: The Ragamuffin Gospel-FH	<b>3</b> <b>ALC Office Closed</b> <i>(Independence Day Observed)</i>	<b>4</b> <b>Independence Day</b> 4:00P: Worship-S
<b>8</b> 10:30A: Pastor's Bible Study-FH 1:00P: Pastors' Meet & Greet- CfRm	<b>9</b> 10:30A: The Ragamuffin Gospel-FH	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 4:00P: Worship-S 5:00P: Second Sat. Fellowship-A&B
<b>15</b> 8:00A: Quail Run: Mercer's 10:30A: Pastor's Bible Study-FH 12:30P: Game Day-FH	<b>16</b> 10:30A: The Ragamuffin Gospel-FHB	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b> 4:00P: Worship-S
<b>22</b> 10:30A: Pastor's Bible Study-FH	<b>23</b> 10:30A: The Ragamuffin Gospel-FH 1:00P: Executive Cmte-CfRm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 4:00P: Worship-S
<b>29</b> 10:30A: Pastor's Bible Study-FH	<b>30</b> 10:30A: The Ragamuffin Gospel-FH	<b>31</b>	

# Looks Like We Made It!

## A Word from Pastor Scott

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

I'm not a big Barry Manilow fan, but the words from one of his biggest hits feel entirely fitting right now: *"Looks like we made it!"*

With more than twenty-four hours still remaining in our debt reduction effort, it already looks as though we have reached — and surpassed — our goal. As of this writing, members, former members, and non-members together have contributed close to **\$185,000** toward debt reduction ahead of the imminent resetting of our loan terms. Combined with matching funds made available through the estate of a beloved former member who is very much missed, a total of **\$335,000** will be applied to reduce our principal with the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Congregational Treasurer Sharon Grambow and Executive Assistant for Administration Amelia Clarke will ensure the transfer is complete by Tuesday, June 2nd — well ahead of the Friday, June 5th deadline.

**\$335,000**  
contributed from **200**  
20 households

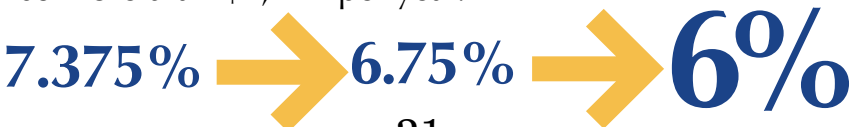
What a testament to the health and vitality of this congregation! As of this writing, **nearly 200 households — 28 of them non-members — have made contributions.** The Congregational Council, Budget and Finance Committee, and Stewardship Committee were all involved in planning and execution, and staff members contributed on a weekly, sometimes daily, basis. If anyone needs assurance that Jesus is still risen and the Holy Spirit is still on the loose, look no further than what we have accomplished together by the grace of God. It's Church at its finest. "To each one has been given the manifestation of the Holy Spirit for the common good" (1 Cor. 12:7). Go Jesus! Go Spirit! Go ALC!

*"To each one has been given the manifestation of the Holy Spirit for the common good"*  
(1 Cor. 12:7)



**GO JESUS!  
GO SPIRIT!  
GO ALC!**

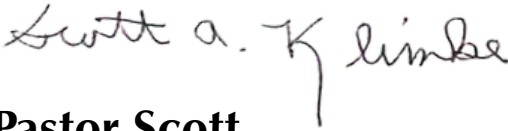
We also secured a reduction in our new interest rate — itself a months-long team effort. At one point we expected a rate of 7.375%, nearly four points higher than before. That came down to 6.75%, and on the day I returned from vacation, we landed at 6% — our rate for the next five years, barring an opportunity to refinance sooner. Even before accounting for the reduced principal, that interest rate drop alone saves us more than \$9,000 per year.



Once all funds are submitted and the lender confirms our new monthly payment, we will share the final details. Because contributions are still arriving and interest rates continue to shift, exact figures aren't available quite yet — but the impact is real and significant.

Other financial pressures remain, of course — summer giving tends to soften, and our contingency fund is not yet where we would like it to be. We don't get perfection on this side of eternity, and challenges will come. But we do get moments like this one: clear sightings of the grace of God moving through the people of God. I am deeply grateful, and more confident than ever that we can rise to meet whatever lies ahead.

Your Highly Appreciative Brother in  
Christ and Partner in Mission and  
Ministry,



**Pastor Scott**

# Stewardship Snapshot ---

Financial Summary as of May 29, 2026:

## MEMBER & COMMUNITY GENEROSITY:

CURRENT OFFERINGS & DONATIONS	\$386,732.11
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RESERVED OFFERINGS USED	\$39,019.25
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DONATIONS	\$9,690.90
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TOTAL MEMBER & COMMUNITY SUPPORT	\$435,442.26
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# MEMBER & COMMUNITY CARE:

MINISTRIES OF CARE **-\$422,604.07**

HOSPITABLE FACILITIES **-\$73,797.94**

TOTAL MEMBER & COMMUNITY CARE **-\$496,402.01**

LEFT FOR MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL **-\$60,959.75**

MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL PAID **-\$45,338.12**

LEFT FOR MINISTRY PARTNERS & FACILITY UPKEEP **-\$106,297.87**

# 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:

- Dana Oravec** — Music & Worship - In Memory of Sheila Harmell
- Jeanette Danielson** — Debt Reduction - In Memory of Ruth Recker
- Glen Schulz** — Debt Reduction - In Memory of Sheila Harmell
- Glen Schulz** — Debt Reduction - In Memory of Marlene Hoffenbrodel
- Madeline Niccore** — Property & Grounds - Shelving
- Char Riebe** — In Memory of Marlene Hoffenbrodel
- Karen Bergfeld** — Debt Reduction - Honoring Rich Bergfeld's Birthday
- Annette Garm** — Debt - Reduction - In Memory of Corrine Crooker
- Denise Louderback** — Property & Grounds - In Memory of My Mother
- Helen Teply** — Debt Reduction - In Memory of Husband Robert and Daughter Trish
- Anonymous** — In Thanksgiving for Char Riebe
- Connie Carey** — Debt Reduction - In Memory of my Daughter, Kellie Lynn Carey
- Connie Carey** — Debt Reduction - In Memory of my Parents Carl & Hjordis Peterson
- Connie Carey** — Stephen Ministries - In Memory of Marlene Hoffenbrodel & Sheila Harmell

# Altar Flower Gifts

*Thank you for making our worship space beautiful.*

## JUNE & JULY ALTAR FLOWERS

**For Services on June 7<sup>th</sup> - Dave & Janet MacDonald**

*In Celebration of 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary*

**For Services on June 7<sup>th</sup> - Ron & Lynne Cassidy**

*In Celebration of 64<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary*

**For Services on June 14<sup>th</sup> - Claudia & Mike Richards**

*In Celebration of our 52<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary*

**For Services on July 5<sup>th</sup> - Anne Miller**

*In Memory of Beloved Husband, Jim*

**For Services on July 12<sup>th</sup> - Joan Bartlett**

*In Memory of Steve*

# COME & BELONG

Play is one of the first languages we share. Before we have words for theology or tradition, we have mud and cornfields, roller rinks and organist lofts, golf courses and black patent slippers. This month, members of our congregation were asked to reflect on the playful moments that shaped them — and what they offered is a reminder that God has been present in our joy and our imagination all along, from childhood to this very day. Here, in their own words...

# In Their Own Words...

## On Godly Play: Reflections From Our Congregation



*Who doesn't remember playing tag outdoors until well past dark? Running barefoot through rain puddles and mud? Playing a game of "Annie Annie Over"? Those were the days, yes? But my fondest childhood memories were of roller skating. My parents operated a roller rink for ten years, beginning when I was nine years old. My siblings and I spent several nights a week honing our skating skills while Mom and Dad hosted private parties and open skating for the public. We had so much fun!*

*Fast forward 60+ years, I find rest and rejuvenation in many ways: Quilting – for family, friends and charity; Reading – my favorite genre is historical fiction; Water walking and line dancing – for fitness and fellowship; Daily Crossword puzzles, Words with Friends and Wordle – to stay connected with my sister and friends in the Midwest. And of course, there's the music – playing the piano at home for my own enjoyment and at Piano Club, accompanying Sun City Sings! and playing ALC's magnificent organ. "Godly Play" indeed!*

**– Linda Shirck**



*I was the youngest of 3. I was born 4 years after my sister, so I got to play by myself a bit longer than usual. My parents were sextons at a church in East Greenville Pa. I was often playing with the toys in the lower grades of Sunday school. I loved Harvest Home Sunday. They built a big platform to put the display of food on. I got to play under that. The organist area was another one of my favorite spots. It was also where I was supposed to be lending a hand by putting all the hymn books in their proper slots and checking for dirt. The prep-school boys used to sit there. At the organist's spot she always had a small box of lozenges that tasted like Fishermen's Friends. Sometimes I'd take a broken piece. Yuk.*

*Outside of church I played around on the farm. Tractors, wagons, hay lofts and ladders were my playground equipment. I guess that's where I developed no fear of heights. I liked to mess with the bag of calf mash. It came with a free plastic cup and smelled great. One of my favorite spots on the farm was the corn crib until I lost the rubber from one of my shoes while walking on top of the cobs. I couldn't find it and I was no longer allowed in there.*

*We moved from that job and area, and my dad had a job at a casket factory. Our house had a multi-car shed, and part of the floor was dirt. That's where I played in the dirt; carving out fields, roads, and making buildings from cardboard. I had my own Lehigh Valley Farms sign indicating I was shipping milk. I made it from a small ice cream container.*

*They were great times to be a kid. I watched TV cartoons on Saturday morning and when Superman time came, I had to turn the antenna towards New York on Channel 5. I learned to use my dad's big pipe wrench to change the channel. There were no kids my age or close to it, so I had to find ways to play on my own. Seems soon after that I was two digits old and soon to lose my mother to brain cancer. For some reason I began to grow up a lot faster after that. No more playing in the dirt. But I did take apart the engine of an old '49 Chevy and put it back together for the demo derby. Lots of stuff back then to learn.*

**– Charlie Ackerman**



*As a young boy, I was introduced to golf by a good friend. I started playing golf at the age of 10 and have been hooked on the game ever since. In high school, I was on our golf team that went to state. Now, fast forward to retirement. Six years ago, my wife, Cozette, and I made the decision to move to Sun City. We moved mainly because of the nasty weather in Iowa, but I looked forward to playing golf all year round and I love Arizona golf. I love all different sports, but golf is a game you can play late in life. It keeps me active and healthy being outdoors. Many people reading this can relate as it probably sounds like what they like to do also.*

**- Steve Alexandres**



*As a child, I always loved shoes. We had one pair of sturdy shoes to wear, and they had to last the whole school year. I longed for a pair of black patent slippers. When I was chosen to be in a class play the thought of wearing my school shoes made me sad. But, on the morning of the play, at the end of my bed was a pair of black patent slippers! They said I did a good job in the play – happiness all around!*

**- Helen Teply**

*Correction. The May edition of “Come and See” omitted these words from Rolfe Blaess. While the theme was the magnificence of God’s creation, Rolfe’s words also express the joy of life in God’s presence.*



*From high mountains to the deep oceans, from outer space to earth's beauty, I appreciate what the Lord has given to his people. The ability to explore many countries, from driving to flying to instant communication. The friendships HE has given us. We are blessed with our homes and modern conveniences. A bountiful world for which I am thankful.*

**– Rolfe Blaess**

# The JOY of Belonging



# In Loving Memory

*We honor our beloved church members who passed away since our last newsletter. Each person leaves a legacy of faith that continues to inspire our congregation. We extend heartfelt prayers to their families and give thanks for the blessing of sharing in their lives.*

**Corrine Crooker**

90 years old

Date Of Death: May 12, 2026

**Ellen Pearson**

92 years old

Date Of Death: May 17, 2026

**Stanley Boertje**

95 years old

Date Of Death: May 27, 2026

# The View from Here

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*By: Kristen Chuenchum*

I did not want to get on the plane. Twenty-four hours of travel, layovers, a three-year-old. I braced myself for the ordeal.

My son had other plans.

He ran through the airport terminal like he was winning a race, then dropped to the floor and swam like a fish while strangers cheered him on. He called the security agents in their blue plastic gloves the "blue hands," as though they were the most wonderful thing he'd ever seen. He slept sprawled between his father and me, arms wide, wrung out with joy. When we landed, he burst into tears. He wanted five more planes.

I had been enduring the very thing he was savoring. Same journey. Entirely different experiences.

This issue has been full of people who know something about that. Charlie, playing in the dirt of a casket factory yard. Linda, lacing up her skates. Helen, finding black patent slippers at the end of her bed. Steve, still chasing a golf ball across the Arizona sun. And a congregation that turned a debt reduction campaign into a Spirit-filled, Go ALC moment.

Maybe that is what Godly Play really is. The same world, the same journey — but with eyes wide open to the blue hands, and the airport floor as the perfect place to swim.

The morning stars sang at creation. Perhaps they are still singing. Perhaps, if we are willing, we might hear them too.

Thanks be to God — for play, for summer, and for all five planes.



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# Stay Connected

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