

COME SEE &

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



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

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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A photograph of the Artemis II mission in space. The Orion service module is visible on the left, with the NASA logo and 'V520' clearly marked. The lunar module is on the right, and the Earth's surface is visible in the background. The title 'Launched Together One Body in Christ' is overlaid in large, bold, yellow text.

Launched Together

One Body in Christ

By: Pastor Julia Sprenkle

The Artemis II mission captivated my attention. Maybe yours too. I was enthralled by the feats of engineering, science, and mathematics beyond my grasp. The world witnessed what can happen when intricate pieces of material, data, and procedure work together. From the tiniest screw to the massive amounts of energy needed to propel the rocket into space, every component worked to achieve a common goal. I was mesmerized and astounded by the precision of each part, the number of steps involved in firing a booster, and, certainly, the teamwork involved in hurling four human beings into the cosmos and returning them to earth.

Several weeks ago, I stayed up later than usual so that I could try to see a shooting star. It was a few days after the Artemis II mission had made a safe splashdown in the waters of the Pacific. The shooting stars I hoped to see originated from the Lyrid meteor shower — particles of dust shed by the comet C/1861 G1 (Thatcher). The moon had a delightful smile that night, but I didn't catch sight of any shooting stars. I did see tiny specks of light moving slowly across the sky as satellites continued their orbits of the earth. It reminded me of what the world had just witnessed. Even satellites had a role to play in transmitting data, guiding the spacecraft, and relaying fantastic images back to earth. And I, like many others, found those images mesmerizing.



The astronauts' comments during and after the mission included words about humility and teamwork. They referred to humanity as The Crew that inhabits planet earth, which brings me to one of my all-time favorite Bible readings. From the twelfth chapter of 1st Corinthians: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 1 Corinthians 12:12-14. **The Artemis II mission reminds me of how we are all part of something life-changing, inspiring, and remarkable.**





Through our baptism into the body of Christ, we all are members of The Crew of American Lutheran Church. **We all have a part to play. We are all needed. Bathed in grace and love, we attempt to send to our community and our world an image of what God's love looks like.** Certainly, our efforts at discipleship lack the precision required for space travel. Like the branches of science, physics, and astronomy working as one for Artemis, our individual specialties, callings, and passions are equally varied. Like the space mission, we combine our gifts, strengths, and wisdom to achieve the glorious end of making God's Word visible. The body of Christ shines forth through our acts of devotion and dedication to the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

Will we always be precise, perfectly coordinated, and absolutely on-target? Heavens no. We're broken human beings, not computers filled with finite data. Luckily for us, our splashdown is always and forever in the renewing, healing, and mercy-filled waters of heavenly love. So let us all play our part in our Lord's mission to love creation and all the creatures within it, forever and ever, amen.

***Luckily for us,
our 'splash down'
is always and
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heavenly love.***





Stephen Ministry: End of Season Update

Our continuing education series for 2025–2026 wrapped up on Thursday, April 9, with Edward Givens of the Desert Southwest Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association presenting skills for communicating effectively with someone in various stages of dementia. Our 2026–2027 series will begin Thursday, November 12 — look for details in Come & See, What's Happening @ ALC, and your email.

Our final Stephen Ministry meeting of the year is Thursday, May 14. Terri will lead a large group discussion on "Personal Growth from Stephen Ministry Experiences," and Peer Support Groups will convene immediately after the refreshment break. **All Stephen Ministers should attend** — the Leadership Team will use your input to shape next year's programming. We can't do this effectively without you.

Our Summer Peer Support Group meets the last Sunday of each month, June through October, during the coffee/fellowship hour at 10:45 in the multi-purpose room. Voluntary, of course — for those of us enjoying the beautiful Sonoran Desert all summer long. Remember, it's a dry heat!

Have a blessed summer.

A Blessing for Travelers

O God, whose glory fills the whole creation,
and whose presence we find wherever we go:
Preserve those who travel:
surround them with your loving care;
protect them from every danger;
and bring them in safety to their journey's end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

One Spirit, one joy, one risen Lord —
thank you for celebrating **Easter** together
as the body of Christ.



COME SEE &

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL EVENTS:



SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

Begins Sunday, May 3

**Saturday Worship Service
4:00 PM**

**Sunday Worship Service
9:30 AM**

**Coffee Fellowship
10:30 AM**

Coming to ALC this Summer

Be on the lookout for a special opportunity to learn, have fun, and make new friends during Summer Sunday School! Plans are in the works for 'classes' after worship two Sundays a month. Bible stories, unique activities, and a few surprises are what await everyone! Look for details to come. If you're curious enough to lend a hand, see Pastor Julia.

Sounds of the Southwest Concert

Sunday,
May

17th



3:00pm



Sanctuary

Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesdays
May

20th & 27th



10:30am



Fellowship Hall

Pastor's Meet & Greet

Wednesday,
May

20th



1:00pm



ALC Office


The Ragamuffin Gospel

A Special Summer Reading Group

Weekly meetings starting

Thursday,
June

4th

 10:30am

 ALC Chapel

*One reviewer says *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, “continues to have a polluting effect upon individuals and churches.” Another noted, “I am comforted (and, I suppose, a little convicted) by his insistence that God’s grace for salvation is not earned but bequeathed...” Brennan Manning, the author, with the parable of the Prodigal Son as a source of inspiration, “lends both his education as a priest and his experiences with very real people and his own sinful self to give a human dimension to his message of divine love.”*

Our reading and weekly discussions may help you come to your own conclusions and review. Manning says it is “a book I wrote for myself and anyone who has grown weary and discouraged along the Way”. If that’s you, you’re more than welcome to gather in the chapel. If you’re planning to attend and need to order a copy of the book, sign up in the narthex or ALC office. Pastor Julia will be using the 1999 edition.

COME GIVE &

Making a Difference Together



SUMMER SNACKS



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.

Grounds for Stewardship

Here's a question worth sitting with over your morning cup: *what happens to that cup after you toss it?*

Styrofoam is made from polystyrene, a petroleum-based plastic that takes 500 to 1 million years to decompose — all while releasing methane and damaging the ozone layer. Biodegradable cups are a far better choice for God's creation, but they cost about \$125 per thousand compared to just \$22 for Styrofoam. That's a real difference for a volunteer-run fellowship ministry.

As good stewards of all God has made, here's how each of us can play our part:

- **Bring your reusable cup from home**
- **Make a special offering for coffee supplies**
- **Be an advocate for biodegradable products**

Every cup is a small choice — and small choices, made together, add up to something beautiful for the community and creation we all share.



MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 8:30 Happy Hour Friendship Group - FH 4:00 Worship - S
3 9:30 Worship - S 10:30 Coffee Fellowship - FH	4 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing and Crafts - MP 10:00 Stephen Ministry Cont. Ed - C 1:30 Card Making Class - C	5 9:00 Memory Caregiver Support - AB 1:30 Evangelism Cmte - AB 3:30 Christo Bell Choir - S	6	7 10:00 MS Support Group - AB 2:00 Choir Rehearsal -CHR	8	9 9:00 3Cs Friendship Group - AB 11:00 Memorial Service Marlene Hoffenbrodel - S 4:00 Worship - S 5:00 Second Saturday Fellowship - AB
10 MOTHER'S DAY 9:30 Worship - S 10:30 Coffee Fellowship - FH	11 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing and Crafts - MP 10:30 Good Book Group - AB 1:00 Social Ministry - L 1:30 Card Making Class - C	12 9:00 Memory Caregiver Support - AB 1:00 Bandage Spinning -FH 1:00 Trust Cmte - CfR	13	14 9:00 Stephen Ministry	15	16 4:00 Worship - S
17 9:30 Worship - S 10:30 Coffee Fellowship - FH 3:00 Sounds of the Southwest Concert - S	18 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing and Crafts - MP 1:30 Card Making Class - C	19 9:00 Memory Caregiver Support - AB 12:00 Cactus Conf. - AB 1:00 Finance and Personnel Cmte - CfR	20 8:00 Quail Run Friendship Group - Mercers 9:00 Ikebana - AB 10:30 - Pastor's Bible St. - FH 12:30 Game Day -FH 1:00 Pastor's Meet and Greet - CfR	21 9:00 Stephen Minstry Leadership - C 1:00 Executive Cmte - CfR	22	23 4:00 Worship - S
24 9:30 Worship - S 10:30 Coffee Fellowship - FH	25 MEMORIAL DAY Church Campus is Closed	26 9:00 Memory Caregiver Support - AB 12:00 Cactus Conf. - AB 1:30 Council Meeting - AB	27 10:30 - Pastor's Bible Study - FH	28	29	30 4:00 Worship - S
31 9:30 Worship - S 10:30 Coffee Fellowship - FH						

A Ministry of Presence: Funeral Reception Volunteers Needed

When a family loses a loved one, one of the most meaningful things a community can do is simply show up — with food, a warm space, and a caring presence. Our funeral reception volunteers do exactly that, offering a tangible expression of God's love during one of life's most difficult moments.

If you would like to be part of this quiet but powerful ministry for the next six months (May through October), please sign up on one of the clipboards in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, or the church office. It requires only a few hours of your time — but for a grieving family, it means the world.

THANK YOU!



For supporting ELCA World Hunger!

ELCA
World Hunger

Your piggy banks of change, cash, and checks really added up! Thanks to you,

\$2058.77

will be used to feed the hungry in this country and throughout the world.

Your change given in service of God's love for all people, will change someone's life!

A Note of Thanks...

Dear Friends,

Kathy and I want to thank you for the prayers, cards, memorials, hugs, visits, and beautiful words of love and support that were given to us. This was a most difficult and heartbreaking time in the loss of our grandson, Arlo. We are deeply thankful for our ALC family as you shared your love with us. We received all in the "Blessed Assurance" of God's love and mercy. The strength of the witness of your words are a great comfort to us. May the Lord continue to bless each and every one of you.

Gary and Kathy Ulrich

Stewardship Snapshot ---

Financial Summary as of April 27, 2026:

MEMBER COMMUNITY GENEROSITY:

CURRENT OFFERINGS & DONATIONS	\$320,933.11
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RESERVED OFFERINGS USED	\$35,954.29
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DONATIONS	\$5,595.06
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TOTAL MEMBER  COMMUNITY SUPPORT	\$362,482.46
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MEMBER & COMMUNITY CARE:

MINISTRIES OF CARE **-\$305,446.66**

HOSPITABLE FACILITIES **-\$52,858.97**

TOTAL MEMBER & COMMUNITY CARE **-\$358,305.63**

LEFT FOR MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL **\$4,176.83**

MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL PAID **-\$36,145.97**

LEFT FOR MINISTRY PARTNERS & FACILITY UPKEEP **-\$31,969.14**

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:

- Judy Morrison — Debt - Reduction - In Memory of Sheila Harmell**
- Judy Morrison — Debt Reduction - In Memory of Ruth Recker**
- Karen Bergfeld — Debt Reduction - In Memory of Rich Bergfeld**
- Joyce Wikum**
- Madeline Niccore — Music & Worship - Choir Breakfast**
- Terri Polk — In Memory of Ruth Recker & Sheila Harmell**
- Marie Amble — In Memory of Gerald Amble**
- Mitzi Nau — In Memory of John**
- Joyce Wikum — Debt - Reduction - In Memory of Sheila Harmell**
- Judy Morrison — Debt Reduction - In Memory of Sharon Albert**
- Judy Morrison — Debt Reduction - In Memory of Veto Vollero**
- Lollie Stevens — Memorial Service - In Memory of Sheila Harmell**
- Judy Folven — In Memory of Marge Caufield**
- Judy Folven — In Memory of Vito Vollero**

Gifts & Memorials Continued...

- Joyce Wikum — Debt Reduction - In Memory of Shelia Harmell
- Chuck & Denice Louderback — Property & Grounds
- Jean English — Music & Worship - In Memory of Sheila Harmell
- Lowanne Brokaw — Music & Worship - In Memory of Sheila Harmell
- Stephany Takla — In Memory of Sheila Harmell
- Joan Jones — In Memory of John Jones
- Anna Spradlin — Stephens Ministry

Altar Flower Gifts

Thank you for making our worship space beautiful.

MAY ALTAR FLOWERS

For Services on May 11^h - Joyce Wikum

In Memory of Lowell-Father, Grandfather & Great Grandfather

For Services on May 17th - Tom & Sally Alef

In Celebration of 45th Wedding Anniversary

For Services on May 24th - Nancy & Chuck Curry

In Celebration of Chuck's Birthday

Share in the beauty of worship by providing altar flowers to celebrate special occasions or remember loved ones.

To reserve a date, please contact the church office at 623-974-2512.

Altar Flower Gifts

EASTER SERVICE LILIES

John & Carol Vekich - In Thanksgiving

Suzanne Shotts - In Memory of Parents Agnes & Albert Shotts

Suzanne Shotts - In Memory of My Godparents Marge &
Paul Berdis

Pamela Geiger - In Memory of Bob Geiger, Husband, Dad
and Papa

Donna Raus - In Memory of David Raus

Steve & Ruth Grant - In Memory of Don & Donna Rustad,
Hugh & Lenore Kaste

Tammy Gilford - In Memory of Kenny Johnson

Colleen Gandrud - In Memory of Husband - Don Gandrud

Judith Morrison - In Memory of Percy R. Morrison

Joyce Wikum

Janice New

Rolfe Blaess - Easter Blessings for Paul & Sharon Blaess,
and friends Jared & Ron Kellam-Phillips



Vicki & Dennis Stonewall - In Memory of Melbourne & Ruth
Stonewall

Helen Teply - In Memory of Robert Teply
& Trish Teply-Markoski

Sheila Worley - In Memory of Loved Ones

Donna Borden/Tuck Nolop - In Memory of Our Mothers

Kathy Skelding - In Thanksgiving

Paul Carlson - In Memory of Mary Louise Carlson

Bev Flatland

Joe & Sue Flores - In Memory of Our Parents

Barb & Rick Berg - In Memory of Loved Ones

Tom & Cindy Lerdahl

Steve & Brigitte Miedzybrocki - In Celebration

Carmen Smith - In Memory of Jim O'Hanen,
Ted & Margaret West

Priscilla Johnston - In Memory of BJ Johnston,
Bernice Lovelace & Molly Johnston

Pastor Julia Sprenkle & Pastor Scott Klimke - The Glory of
God

Jeanette Danielson - In Memory of Loved Ones

Ron & Lynne Cassidy - In Thanksgiving

COME & BELONG

One of the quiet gifts of belonging to ALC is discovering the stories people carry. This month, we asked members of our congregation to share a moment when God's creation left them speechless — and what they offered reminds us just how rich and varied the family we belong to truly is. Here, in their own words:

In Their Own Words...

Experiencing the Majesty of God's Creation



One afternoon while at a retreat in Estes Park, Colorado, I watched gray/black fluffy clouds tumble over the peaks of the Rocky Mountains. They sounded as if they crashed on my side as I witnessed an amazing thunderstorm with all the special effects. My response was to watch, listen and enjoy, as well as sing a praise song to my Great God. What a humbling experience.

-Mary Hirt



The most recent way God's majestic creation was revealed to me was during my serious health episode. I was overwhelmingly inspired by the outpouring of love, gifts of food, books and flowers, visits and calls from people I know and love, including family, friends and ALC members, cards of cheer, help with shopping and getting to appointments, and prayers for healing, all of which comforted me so very much. God is love, indeed, and he gave me that profound love in the beautiful people he created in his image, and the angels he directed to be present for me during this time of trial and recovery. (my husband Tom is the greatest Angel gift of all)

-Linda Hall



The NE corner of Oregon where Washington and Idaho all join hosts the Wallowa mountains, Seven Devils' Mountains, the Snake River below Hell's Canyon, and the many canyons of the Imnaha River Drainage. This is stunning country that Mary Lou and I watched over from the Forest Service Buckhorn Lookout on our Honeymoon. Our 5,000 ft front yard presented us with dramatic views every day, especially morning sunrise and evening sunset. Each day was quietly majestic. Each day presented us with the responsibility of watching for forest fire smoke, plotting the location on our map, and notifying the USFS headquarters in Enterprise, OR. Daily we felt blessed to be entrusted with "looking over" this corner of God's creation.

- Paul Carlson (the tall guy in the back row of the choir)



I have always been inspired by God's creation everywhere, especially Alaska. In 1970 we landed in Anchorage on the way West. God's majesty of the place was overwhelming. That moment established a plan to return. In 1982 we moved into the Chugach Foothills of Anchorage where Missionary Son Luke was born. The Garvey's have truly been Blessed by God's creation.

-Lady Di n' Pr Gary Garvey



It was in the darkness of night on a sailboat anchored in a cove on Lake Superior. I glanced at the expanse of the sky filled with stars and felt like a speck in all of God's creation. I experienced being overwhelmed that in this vast expanse, that as insignificant as I seemed to be a part of it, I was blessed by God who cared for and loved even me.

-Ellis Eskritt



In awe, I watched the beautiful pictures of the earth sent by the Artemis II space flight recently. One of our readings for ALC's Friday Bible Study the following week just happened to be Job 38. My eyes filled with tears as I read the words the Lord spoke to Job, "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set or who laid its cornerstone while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?" Deeply moved, my soul agreed with astronaut Christine Koch who gave one word to describe their remarkable, history-making flight: "Humility." Praise be to God.

- Anna Spradlin



It would be easier to state when I haven't found inspiration in the majesty of God's creation! I'm overwhelmed with instances where creation has inspired me. Whether I'm standing on a mountaintop, enjoying an ocean sunset, smelling a beautiful flower, or holding a baby in my arms, the awe-inspiring works of His hands surround me daily. I am blessed to be able to experience it in both the large and small moments of life, and I'm thankful to know (and give credit) to our Creator.

-Sally Alef

Growing Together

Welcome our new members!

Received since our last newsletter:

Carmaletia Brooks

Diane Encarnacao

Mark McGehee

Lisa McGehee

Gordon Ross

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.

Ruth Recker

91 years old

Date Of Death: March 25, 2026

Shelia Harmell

72 years old

Date Of Death: March 30, 2026

Marlene Hoffenbrodel

91 years old

Date Of Death: April 7, 2026

Charles Curry

85 years old

Date Of Death: April 28, 2026

The View from Here

There is a photograph taken from space — earth rising over the lunar surface, small and luminous against the dark — that makes you catch your breath every time you see it. Not because it is beautiful, though it is. But because of what it reminds you. That we are here. That we are together. That from far enough away, all the things that divide us disappear, and what remains is simply this: one world, one light, one fragile and astonishing home.

The astronauts called us The Crew.

This month, our congregation answered that name beautifully. From mountain peaks and midnight sailboats to a hospital room overflowing with grace, member after member bore witness to the same quiet truth — that God's creation speaks, and those who belong to this body have learned to listen.

We are not all the same. We never were. We are the stargazers and the grief-bearers, the coffee pourers and the choir singers, the honeymoon lookout keepers and the ones who simply show up. Many members. One body. Launched together into something we did not design and cannot fully comprehend — only receive, with gratitude, and tend with care.

The summer ahead will scatter us a little. The sanctuary will breathe differently. But the body does not dissolve when it disperses. It carries the mission outward — into the Sonoran Desert heat, into the mountains, into wherever wonder finds us next.

Go gently. Look up often.

We'll see you when you return.



Stay Connected

Main Office Phone

623-974-2512

Website

www.alcsuncity.org

Service Times

Saturdays 4pm &
Sundays 9:30am

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED