



Outreach



December
2024

Last month I encouraged all of us to speak with staff or elected leaders before making decisions about how to use our time, talent, and treasure at church. The encouragement seems to have been received and embraced. Since last month's newsletter, a family that contributes semiannually made no assumptions. Instead, they asked our accounting coordinator Ron Helton where their latest gift was most needed. The result was that the donation went to undesignated contributions since we had not yet met our basic obligations for the current budget year which total about \$930,000 at this point. This was teamwork in action! This was faith in the Bible's promise that the common good is served best when we recognize that we each have gifts and information that others need to be at their best!



Unfortunately, 2024 will be Ron Helton's last year with us, as he leaves at the end of this month. Ron has been a tremendous asset to you and to me and he will tell you that ALC was just what the doctor ordered for him too. But unlike in the past Ron and his family no longer have a pressing reason to stay in the area. With the reason for their initial move now gone, it is time to move to Georgia and to be closer to family. God speed to Ron and Susie Helton!

MISSION STATEMENT

*To **proclaim** the love of Jesus Christ, **invite** others to participate in our faith community, and **be a blessing** to all in word and deed.*

Looking back on what we have been able to accomplish with Ron on staff, he was most definitely with us at the right time. In May of 2023, we had just \$8000 in the checking account for a church with monthly expenses of \$75,000 or more. There also were inadequate financial reserves, vital ministries without funds, investments which were unsound or underwhelming, and a need to withdraw \$103,000 from our already inadequate reserves just to make it through our first summer and fall together. To say this required all kinds of financial acrobatics and gymnastics on the part of Ron, the Finance Committee, the Congregational Council, and yours truly is an understatement. But today things could not be more different and positive, and Ron merits praise for the intuitive flexibility and adaptiveness that he modeled for the entire staff as he helped us travel towards a new and better future. I like and love intuitive and enterprising coworkers! They are priceless and Ron has been both priceless and enterprising!

Now should you wish to make things less turbulent for Ron's replacement who is in the process of background and reference checks, two things come immediately to mind. When feasible, the first is to submit your gifts, or the lion's share of them, when ALC's offerings are typically at their lowest. Most years, this period stretches from June through October and in 2024 more than one of our siblings in Christ did change their prior giving pattern so that funds might be available at just the right time. It is one big reason we had to make no emergency withdrawals this year after having to withdraw \$103,000 to make ends meet just one year ago. What a testimony to how simple and often very doable things make an enormous difference!

When it does not endanger you and your wellbeing, the other thing you can do is to be conscientious about increasing your giving from year to year. During our first year together, this happened with no prodding and this year it has happened even more with just a little bit of prodding. Without a doubt, being in ministry with you is to know that

Jesus' tomb is still empty and that the Holy Spirit has not gone back to heaven after first descending upon the Church at Pentecost! Thank you! Now let us keep it up in, by, and through the Holy Spirit!

Next month when the budget for 2025 is much more complete than it is as of this writing, I'll have a few final things to share about how we can answer Advent's call to stay awake in our faith and discipleship as we await the glorious day when Christ shall come again to make all things so much better that they'll feel and seem like a new heaven and a new earth.

Your Servant and Sibling in Christ,

Pastor Scott

New members are received on the 4th Sunday of the month. If you know of anyone interested in ALC membership, please see Pastor Scott.

ALC Welcomed

**13 New Members in November:
John Naughton, Richard Schultz,
Darrel & Carol Bihr, Ed Swanson,
Dorothy Hogg, Thomas Young, David
Holman, David & Jeannine Daggett,
Tom Read, and Roy & Connie Wasche.**

Remembering with Pastor Lisa

As we enter the Advent and Christmas seasons, memories often fill our hearts and minds.

We find ourselves remembering Christmases past with our families, along with the joys, laughter, and, at times, the bittersweet disappointments that accompany those memories.

I recall one particular Christmas when I was a young mother. Our large Christmas tree stood proudly decorated in the living room—until our adventurous cat decided to climb it. To my dismay, the cat toppled the entire tree, shattering the beautiful star that graced its top.

I entrusted my husband and 7-year-old daughter with the important mission of replacing the star. They returned home triumphantly, holding what was, in my eyes, the most garish multicolored plastic star I had ever seen. Despite my initial dismay, we kept that star for many years because my husband and daughter were so proud of their choice. Over time, that star became a fixture of our Christmas memories, until one day, it mysteriously disappeared, and I finally got to choose a new one!

The Christmas season has a way of bringing back a flood of memories—some joyful, some silly, some bittersweet.

Christmas after the loss of a loved one can bring emotions that feel overwhelming, sneaking up on us when we least expect it. As relational beings, we hold our loved ones close to our hearts, and the incarnation of Christ reminds us that God fully understands the depth of those connections. In wisdom and love, God walks with us through the joys and sorrows of this holy season, offering guidance, peace, and hope.

Advent and Christmas are about God coming to us—in the flesh—to save us. They are about anticipation and arrival, mystery and wonder. May the music, liturgy, and Word of God in worship this season renew your faith and reaffirm your trust in the Prince of Peace and Lord of Lords.

In this spirit of reflection and hope, I share an acrostic written by American Lutheran Church member David Kallenbach. David wrote this not long after the passing of his beloved wife, Kay, in November 2020. He asked if I could share it with the members of our church, and it is my joy to do so now.

Merry Christmas **By David Kallenbach**

M is for MERRY and that I do wish
The merriest Christmas to those on my list.

E is for EACH time that you may fall
May God lift you up and help you stand tall.

R is for RIGHT WAY, there is only one
That's believing in God and praising his son.

R is for RELIGIOUS and faithful to him
Will keep your cup running over the brim.

Y is for YOU and may God's blessing flow
As your love for Him continues to grow.

C is for CHRIST CHILD in heaven above
Who taught us the real meaning of love.

H is for HIM, he taught us to be
Helpful to others with sweet charity.

R is for RIGHTEOUS and Realization
that loving the Lord is a real sensation.

I is for INCEPTION and beginning anew
With God's helping hand all our life through.

S is for SUNDAY to worship and praise
Being blest in return the rest of our days.

T is for the TIME that I have to wait
to be called up to the heavenly gate,

M is for MARY, mother of Jesus
Sent down from God to please us.

A is for ANGELS that God sent to guide
And help me to follow his Son that had died.

S is for STOPPING and ending this STORY
By praising my God in all of his glory.
Amen.

God's Peace,
Pastor Lisa





From the 🎵 desk of 🎵 James Gerber

Dr. James Gerber Organist/Worship Coordinator

As we enter the month of December, the celebration of Christmas is underway with the sights, sounds, scents, and flavors associated with the season are all around us. However, in the life of the Church, we hold off for just a few weeks to celebrate the season of Advent, a time to joyfully prepare our hearts and minds for the incarnation of Christ. I love all the Advent hymns we have the opportunity to sing during this season. I would like to share some information about one of my favorite Advent hymns that we will be singing as we mark each Sunday of Advent, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (“Veni, veni Emmanuel” in Latin) is a metrical paraphrase of the “O Antiphons,” which were originally written in Latin. The origins of this paraphrase may be as early as the 12th century, but the earliest known surviving version was published in Cologne in 1710. Since that time, the text has been expanded, including the refrain, “Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel” as an Advent-oriented response. The Anglican priest and hymnwriter, John Mason Neale, wrote the English translation of this hymn that

is the basis for the text found in most English-language hymnals. Neale's final version was published in 1861 based on the "O Antiphons."

The "O" Antiphons are the series of Latin chant antiphons sung as part of the Magnificat during Vespers (evening prayer) services for the last seven days of Advent beginning on December 17. The origins of the "O antiphons" are not clear; slight references to them date as far back as the sixth century and prevalent use of them in monasteries is recorded in the eighth century. Each antiphon has a twofold purpose, first to reference a title or attribute of Christ as mentioned in Scripture, then to reference the prophet Isaiah's prophecy of the Messiah's coming: Sapientia (Wisdom), Adonai (God), Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse), Clavis David (Key of David), Oriens (Morning Star), Rex Gentium (King of Nations), and Emmanuel (God with us). Fr. William Saunders presents the theory, although it may simply be a coincidence, that the medieval Benedictine monks arranged the antiphons in a manner so that if you take first letter of each one (in reverse order), the Latin words ERO CRAS are formed, which means "tomorrow, I will come," or "tomorrow I will be." The origins of the melody, "Veni Emmanuel," we now associate with this hymn can be traced back to a processional melody, "Bone Jesu dulcis cunctis," (Good, sweet Jesus to all) used during the 15th century in France. Thomas Helmore first linked this melody with the hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" when he published it with an early version of Neale's text in 1851.

I pray that you have a blessed Advent and Christmas.





From the desk of Janet MacDonald

Music And Worship – Choir

The new church year begins with the Advent Season focusing on preparations and waiting.

Sundays fall on December 1,8,15,22, & 29.

Christmas Eve Services begin at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Arrive early to enjoy a musical prelude from the choir, bells, and other special music.

There will be one service on Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day at 9:30.

For those who miss our Advent and Christmas season or just enjoy hearing the music again we have our annual “Echoes of Advent and Christmas” concert on Sunday, January 5, 2025, scheduled for 3:00 p.m. Please save and share the date.

Blessings and Peace,
Janet MacDonald, Choir Director



December, 2024



I am back in Minnesota as I write this column this month, questioning the wisdom of that as I look at the weather forecasts for the coming few weeks.

There was more of that white stuff on the ground when I got up this morning... But we have family here that make it worthwhile to be up here for the holidays. That said, I do regret missing the Christmas Market on December 7th! (I just have to figure out how I'm going to get a couple of the 50th Anniversary ornaments that are going on sale at the Market...)

Speaking of the 50th Anniversary, we don't have any specific Anniversary events scheduled for December, though there is certainly no lack of things happening at ALC! I hope you will keep up with them via the weekly *What's Happening* emails and – of course – announcements in church. Going into 2025, the 50th Anniversary Committee is seeking to arrange at least one commemorative event almost every month.

I have previously mentioned in this space that the ALC Council was working on updating our church Constitution, the first update since it was originally adopted in 1988. I am pleased to share with you that the Council has now approved an updated version, based on the current ELCA Model. This update allows our Associate Members to continue to have full voting rights and hold office in our congregation, provisions which we needed special dispensation from the Grand Canyon ELCA Synod to retain. We are very pleased about successfully going forward with this much-needed update! This updated Constitution is now ready to be presented to the congregation for its approval at our Annual Meeting in January. I intend to make information about the update changes available to interested congregation members before January's meeting.

As some of you will know, the Bylaws of the church are interspersed into the printed copies of the Constitution, with each Bylaw placed next to articles in the Constitution that it relates to. Some work updating the Bylaws has been done, but much more work will be needed before they are ready to be inserted into the new Constitution. A committee of the Council will be working on that in 2025, and when they are done the new Bylaws will need to be approved by the Congregation as well.

We at American Lutheran have much to be thankful for, and as we celebrate the coming of Jesus into this world this holiday season let us be mindful of what our church means to us. And "Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"

My very best wishes for a very *blessed* Christmas to you and yours.

In His Service,

Dave Hjortland

Altar Flowers



American Lutheran Church invites you to celebrate a special occasion or remember loved ones by providing flowers for worship on a particular weekend. The contracted florist delivers two bouquets each week that enhance our beautiful sanctuary as we gather to praise God together. Contact the church office for more information or to sign up.

Many 2024 dates are still available.

Date	Given by	In thanksgiving, memory or celebration
12/01	Tuck Nolop & Donna Borden	In celebration of our 1st wedding anniversary
12/01		
12/7&8	Pete & Carie Oppedahl	In memory of Oscar & Frances Oppedahl, Olvin & Marilyn Haug and Matthew Oppedahl
12/7&8		
12/14&15	Tom Read	In memory of my father
12/14&15		
12/21&22	Carolyn Brink	In memory of my late husband Ken Raak
12/21&22		
12/28&29		
12/28&29		

Women's Ministry



You are invited!!!

Please join us for our Women's Ministry Luncheon on December 5th, at 10:30 a.m. This event will honor Pastor Lisa and Pastor Julia, as well as show our appreciation to the women of ALC for your continued support of our projects. No cost to you for a ticket to this luncheon, but you need to RSVP by December 2nd.

Sign-up before services on Nov. 23, 24, 30 & December 1st. Or in the church office during the week.

- **Connecting Threads**

Every Monday, 9:00 a.m.- 12 noon
Multipurpose Room

- **Spinning Bandages**

No spinning this December!

A special and huge 'thank you' to our ALC members for your mission hearts in filling 192 boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. Marty Livingston made and generously gifted us with over 65 pillowcase dresses for our OCC boxes. These are highly important because wearing a dress in sex-trafficking locales can make a girl off-limits to sex traffickers. We are also grateful for your support of our Women's Ministry's Annual Holiday Bazaar and Lefse Sale. You make our work to make God's world a better place possible. Because of your support ALC Women's Ministry was able to distribute \$1,000.00 in early November to each of our Food Banks for holiday meals.

Thank you!

Jan Powell

Women's Ministry



Did you know:

Annette is here to help! I am in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am-2:00pm or you can call me Monday through Friday at 480.848.7045.

Refer your friends, neighbors, or anyone who needs to be connected to resources; I am available to assist.

Here is a glimpse of services and success stories that have happened at American Lutheran Church for the month of October:

October-52 encounters for services: prepared meal request, transportation, networking event participation, housing resources, rental assistance, counseling resources, gas assistance, food assistance, gift cards disbursed, social security assistance, emotional support assistance, group home locator, utility assistance, caregiver respite assistance, blanket drive donation discussion for the unhoused, home repair/improvement, debt consolidation, advance directive information, mortgage assistance, and employment assistance. An article was published in the Sun City West Independent Newspaper about the free community services offered at American Lutheran Church featuring Annette L. DeJesus and Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest. Annette gave a presentation at Royal Oaks Assisted Living Facility and received \$460 in monetary donations and an abundance of hygiene items.

Success Story: Denny is a 67 year old male who came into the office in a distraught state. He was struggling with paying his bills and in need of home repairs that he did not have the funds to pay for the service, he stated that 'he felt hopeless.' We were able to get him connected with community resources that can assist him with home repairs/improvements and debt consolidation services that can assist him with budgeting and getting his financial situation into a manageable state. He left the office in a good mood and was smiling. The gentleman that transported him to the appointment met with me afterward and thanked me for the resources provided and said that this was the happiest that he has seen this gentleman in a long time.

Summary of Monetary Assistance in October

QT Gas cards \$100

Electric bill assistance \$253.32

Safeway cards \$100

Water bill assistance \$312.90

Total Monetary Assistance \$766.22

For the Health of It!



Invite your friends and neighbors to our FREE monthly community education programs. Please call to register (623-974-2512).

Take a Step Forward in Diabetic Foot Pain Relief

December 11, 2024 10-11 AM

Registration deadline 12/09

Diabetic peripheral neuropathy is a condition that causes pain and numbness in the legs and feet. Please join Dr. Omar Syed from Canyon Pain and Spine as he discusses how to manage diabetes and new treatment options that can relieve symptoms of diabetic peripheral neuropathy.

Banner Olive Branch Senior Center Tour

January 25th, 2025 9-10 AM

This is just a glimpse of the variety of resources and activities that are available; please feel free to give Annette a call at 480.848.7045 or come by and see her on Wednesdays and Thursdays in the office.

Social Ministry

Blue Bag

Food of the Month for December

Buy One, Get One

and then...

GIVE ONE AWAY!

Thank you!

Nearly \$600 was collected to help our local food pantries purchase holiday meal ingredients.

You make a difference!



A Giving Idea for December

How many of you remember the original glittery Advent calendars that were popular in the '50s and 60s? Each day a small square was opened. Inside was a Bible verse. Today there are many different Advent calendars. Here is a "Reverse" Advent Calendar which has the potential to provide nutritious food supplies to many, many people. Please participate in this worthy Advent activity!

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM



ELCA Good Gifts Opportunity

Look for the Good Gifts Christmas Tree in the Narthex.

On it you will find many ornaments which represent ways to help Grow the Church in the world.

Take any ornament off the Tree (various choices and amounts) and submit a **CHECK** made out to American Lutheran Church.

Important: Use the Memo Line of your check to indicate what the ornament is and also note that it is for GOOD GIFTS.

You can keep the ornament to put on your tree or give it to someone and let them know you made a donation in their name.

There is a paper on the tree that shows other options for your giving.

Holiday Gifts given to the ELCA Good Gifts program go to support people in 86 countries!

Thank you for your giving!



WNA December Highlights

The 2024-2025 season is well underway! I hope you enjoyed watching the “skit” on the formation of American Lutheran as much as we actors enjoyed performing it! The Orpheus Male Chorus was phenomenal! Were you able to take in the “Veterans Day” program on Wednesday November 13? A very meaningful 4:00 program recognizing our Veterans followed by a rousing concert by the Sun City All Star Band. We greatly appreciated that Ellie Chaffee was able to step in when our November 20 6:00 PM performer cancelled. Last minute cancellations are always a challenge, but we are grateful that so many talented musicians live in the West Valley!

Advent begins December 1, so there are no 6:00 PM WNA programs during the month of December. But we do have some great 4:00 PM programs planned! On December 4 at 4:00 PM, we have the Sun City Handbell Ringers performing a concert entitled “The 12 Days of Christmas.” This will be followed at 5:00 PM with a Lasagna dinner in the Fellowship Hall. The concert is free, but there is a \$12 cost for the dinner and tickets must be purchased by noon Monday, December 2.

On December 11 at 4:00 PM, we have the Desert Brass Band performing their Christmas concert. This excellent band was recently featured in a documentary, “Jewel of the Desert.” There is no catered dinner this night, but the Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a Christmas potluck at 5:00 PM.

On December 18, there will be a Christmas Sing-Along in the Fellowship Hall, led by our Choir Director, Janet MacDonald. There will be Cider and Donuts following the Sing-Along!

Stay tuned for our January programs, described in next month’s Outreach! We would like to see you at ALL our WNA events!

Deb Hjortland
Co-chair of WNA

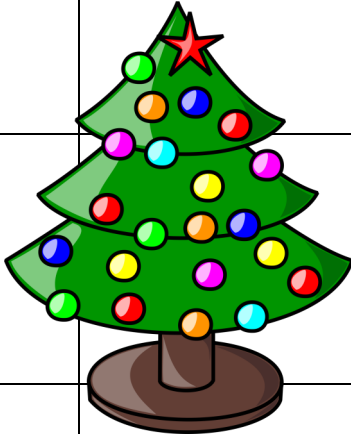




December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>1 8:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>2 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 10:00 Prayer Ventures 1:30 Card Making</p>	<p>3 9:30 Memory Care 1:30 Grief Support 2:00 Evangelism Committee / Volunteer Meeting 3:30 Bell Choir 7pm West Valley Chorale Concert</p>	<p>4 10:30 Pastor Study 3:00 I-Help 4:00 WNA</p>
<p>8 8:30 Worship 8:30 Stephen Ministry Weekend 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship 3:00 Handbell Ringers of SC Concert</p>	<p>9 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 10:00 Prayer Ventures 10:30 Good Book Club 1:00 Social Ministry Committee Meeting 1:30 Card Making 7:00 Swing Time Concert</p>	<p>10 9:30 Memory Care 1:00 Personnel Meeting 1:30 Grief Support 2:00 Trust Committee 3:30 Bell Choir</p>	<p>11 9:30 Ikebana 10:00 Diabetes Pain 10:30 Pastor Study 1:30 50th Anniversary 4:00 WNA</p>
<p>15 8:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>16 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 10:00 Prayer Ventures 1:30 Card Making 7:00 ProMusica Concert</p>	<p>17 9:30 Memory Care 1:30 Grief Support 1:30 Council Meeting 3:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 8:00 Quail Ridge Neighborhood 10:30 Pastor Study 12:30 ALC Christmas 3:00 I-Help 4:00 WNA</p>
<p>22 8:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>23 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 10:00 Prayer Ventures 1:30 Card Making</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve 9:30 Memory Care Group 1:30 Grief Support 3:00 Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>25 Christmas Eve 9:30 Christmas Eve Worship</p>
<p>29 8:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>30 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 10:00 Prayer Ventures 1:30 Card Making</p>	<p>31 9:30 Memory Care Group 1:30 Grief Support</p>	

ber, 2024

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Men's Bible Ministry</p>	<p>5 10:00 MS Support Grp 10:30 women's Ministry Luncheon 1:30 Ah-Men Singers 2:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 GCC Choirs Concert</p>	<p>6 3:00 Christmas Market Set Up</p>	<p>7 8:00 Christmas market 4:00 Worship 4:00 Stephen Ministry Weekend</p>
<p>Men's Bible Anniversary</p>	<p>12 9:00 Stephen Ministry 1:00 Finance Committee 1:30 Ah-Men Singers 2:30 Choir Rehearsal 3:00 Executive Committee 7:00 Sounds of the Southwest Chorale Concert</p>	<p>13 7:00 Sun City Sings Christmas Concert</p>	<p>14 8:30 Happy Hour Neighborhood Group 8:30 Westers Neighborhood group 9:30 CCC Neighborhood Group 4:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>Men's Bible Same Day Ministry</p>	<p>19 9:00 Stephen Ministry Leadership 1:30 Ah-Men Singers 2:30 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 4:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>Men's Bible Christmas Day</p>	<p>26 Office Closed</p>	<p>27 Office Closed</p>	<p>28 4:00 pm Worship</p>
	<p>Social Ministry Reminders: BOGO Give One Activity: Reverse Advent & Good Gifts</p>		



10615 W. Peoria Ave
Sun City, AZ 85351
623-815-7061
wvlts@qwestoffice.net

Time to Deck the Halls!

Andy Williams tells us '***It's the most wonderful time of the year!***' *We love Christmas at the LTS!!*

Our Holiday Shop is all dressed up for Christmas. Exquisite holiday ornaments and dishes, twinkling colored lights, pre-lit Christmas trees, unique Nativity sets, themed wreaths, table linens and every imaginable decoration in red, green, silver and gold to fill your walls and deck your halls. You'll also find collectable Christmas towns, outdoor lighted yard figures, books, music, movies and more. And, for the person who has everything - Gift Certificates! ***The gift that always fits!***

Awesome decorations and inflation-busting prices so you don't have to give up on decorating your home & yard. At these prices, you can recycle your decorations and have something different every year. Don't store them - donate them and let someone else use them!

Spend the whole day thrifting at the Sun Bowl Plazas on both sides of 107th Ave and Peoria here in Sun City and visit all the many thrift shops located here. And don't forget 3rd Thursday Thrifting when we're all open at night for folks who can't make it here during our regular hours.

Everyone at the LTS wishes you and yours a blessed Christmas and a safe New Year!. See you in 2025!

Check out our website www.lutheranthrift.com for more shop info, pictures & videos and follow us on [Facebook.com/westvalleylutheranthriftshop](https://www.facebook.com/westvalleylutheranthriftshop) for weekly sales and special events.



Thank you to all who took part in our Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Ministry. This year there were 102 children served by members selecting an Angel to buy a gift for. Your generosity fulfilled the wishes of all the children for their parent who is incarcerated. It is a blessing for both child and parent.

Thank you for returning your gifts on time. After we have the gifts, our committee must make sure the gifts are appropriate and then pack them in Family Bags (48 families this year) to be picked up for a Christmas party at Iglesia Bautista Central Church. The children receive the gifts and a message about the meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ.

A huge thank you to staff who helped make this happen. Dr James and Dave Tigges for adjusting the time schedule, DeNage for the announcements in the Outreach and the support of our Pastoral Staff. Thank you to Brigitte and Steve Miedzybrocki, Glen Schulz, Char Riebe, Joyce Wikum and Ann Jones for all your help. You are all awesome.

The Family gift bags were picked up Dec 3 for the party on Dec 7. A beautiful way to start the children's Christmas season.

Well done American Lutheran!

Blessings to all and Merry Christmas.

Ann Skidmore



stephen
MINISTRY®

Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY at ALC ***QUESTIONS and ANSWERS***

Have you ever thought about becoming a Stephen Minister? Have you ever wondered just what Stephen Ministry is really all about? Have you wondered how one becomes a Stephen Minister? Would you like to help someone who is lonely or hurting or grieving, but are just not quite sure how to go about it? Have you ever wished that you felt more comfortable when confronted with a situation that required a caring response? Do you know someone who is wondering these very things?

You will find answers to these and similar questions at ALC's annual **STEPHEN MINISTRY WEEKEND** on December 7th and 8th. On that weekend you will hear a special message and Temple Talk during the services and there will be a table in the courtyard where ALC Stephen Ministers will be available to answer many of your questions. For further answers to your questions, we invite you to participate in the Stephen Ministry training sessions where all of your questions will be answered and where you will learn how to feel comfortable relating to someone who is hurting or grieving or lonely, in a Christ centered caring way.

The Stephen Ministry Training Sessions for 2025 will begin Jan 10th. The classes will meet from 9-12 each Friday for 11 weeks. The Stephen Ministers at the tables on December 7th & 8th will be able to answer any questions you might have regarding the training sessions and to help you sign up for the training if you are interested.

We invite and encourage you to consider getting all of your questions answered and becoming a part of Stephen Ministry here at ALC.

For further information please call: Terri Polk @ 317-258-7590 or Ann Skidmore @ 623-606-7464.

Glen Schulz, Leadership Information Coordinator

Prayer Ventures

Starting Monday December 2, 10:00am in the Chapel

Why do we pray? How do we pray? What happens when we pray? Along with time spent in corporate prayer we will experience different methods of prayer, explore biblical texts featuring conversation with the divine, and consider how our lives are impacted in and through prayer. If you have any questions, see Pastor Julia. All are welcome!

Prayers of Gratitude

A recent addition to the congregation's weekly prayer booklet is "Prayers of Gratitude." We will soon incorporate these prayers into our weekly intercessions. If you have experienced something special for which you are grateful pass the good news along to Pastor Julia, Pastor Lisa, or Pastor Scott. We will do our best to share the good news.

1st Annual Christmas Market

In celebration of ALC's 50th Anniversary we will be having a special **Christmas Market** in the ALC courtyard on **Saturday December 7th from 8am - 2pm**. We will have 57 different vendors selling hand made, and small business items. There will be musical performances at the top of every hour. Everyone who pre-ordered a wreath, or tree will be able to pick up their orders at that time. We have vendors providing free treats and refreshments. ALC's very own Mr. & Mrs. Clause will be handing out special goodies, and there will be amazing raffle baskets up for grabs!!

Every guest will receive a special treat at the gates (while supplies last.) Any guest who makes a purchase from any of our Christmas Cheer Vendors will receive 1 free raffle ticket for every \$10 they spend. Raffle tickets will also be available to purchase. 100% of the proceeds from this event go to the Evangelism Committee to help cover their event, and advertising expenses throughout the year.

If you have Christmas Cheer and would like to volunteer we are looking for volunteers to greet guests at the gates, work the raffle basket and 50th Ornament tables. Volunteer times are 7:30 am - 11:30 am OR 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. There will be a volunteer meeting 12/3 at 2pm. Please contact DeNage in the office to sign-up to serve. 623-974-2512 D.Bautista@alcsuncity.org

**SAVE THE DATE, INVITE FRIENDS,
AND BE READY TO HAVE
A GREAT TIME!**



**Annual
CHRISTMAS
MARKET**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
8 AM – 2 PM**

- Vendors
- Food
- Musical Performances
- Raffles
- Fresh Wreath &
Christmas Tree Pick Up



Please pre-order your wreaths and trees from American Lutheran Church by November 12th
<https://fundraiser4us.com/shop/ALC>

Location

**American Lutheran Church of Sun City
17200 N Del Webb Blvd. Sun City, AZ 85373**



Friday Morning Bible Study

9:30 am in Education A and B

We will be studying Paul's Second Journey
with Author Ray Vander Laan.

How do you live in a culture where the worldview conflicts with Christianity? Learn from Paul as he presents his beliefs to the most powerful court in Athens and settles among the Greco-Romans of Corinth, who valued wealth and class, worship of multiple gods, and decadent pleasure seeking above all else. In this sixteenth volume of *That The World May Know*®, discover how to live in your own Athens or Corinth—an increasingly secular Western world—in a way that glorifies God. Experience the Bible in historical context as you walk in the footsteps of the second missionary tour of the Apostle Paul in Greece.

All are welcome.

Contact Diane Garvey with questions.
digagarvey@gmail.com 575-551-4207

Special Commemorative 50th Anniversary Ornaments

The 50th Anniversary Committee will be selling special 50th Anniversary Ornaments for \$10 each on Saturday December 7th from 8 am—2 pm at the Christmas Market.

Don't miss out!

When they are gone, they are gone.



Fellowship at ALC

Now is the time to sign up to help with funeral receptions and the WNA meal service for December through April. Sign up sheets are in FELLOWSHIP HALL and the NARTHEX. Both activities require very little of your time and they are a great help to our church family!

Thank you!

Fellowship Committee



Please accept my heartfelt thank you to the many who participated in making my installation on November 7, 2024. Thank you to everyone who attended, to Janet McDonald and our amazing choir who does so much more than we realize and makes it look effortless, to James Gerber for playing the organ (following the service I was asked if anyone taped his postlude) and coordinating the entire service, to DeNage for being willing to design and send out invitations and track pastor RSVPs, to the pastors and laity that were able to participate, to Pastor Scott and Pastor Julia who are incredible to work with, to the Bishop for installing me and preaching, and to Madeline and the fellowship group who organized and worked the reception. Most of all, thank you to all of the members of American Lutheran Church. You have proven to be an energetic, fun, thoughtful, faithful and compassionate group of people and are such a blessing to me.

**Thank
You**

God's Peace,
Lisa Hackler, Associate Pastor

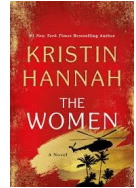


The Good Book Club

The Good Book Club is open to all and meets the second Monday of the month October-April. Meetings are in Education A&B and start at 10:30 am and run about an hour.

Upcoming Books

- ◆ **December 9,**
“The Women” by Kristin Hannah
- ◆ **January 13,**
“Allie and Bea” by Catherine Ryan Hyde
- ◆ **February 10,**
“Beneath A Scarlet Sky” by Mark T Sullivan



Contact Tom Haugsby for more information
thaugsby@gmail.com



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

**Volunteer Drivers needed
to help our neighbors get
around town.
Call Annette DeJesus at
623-974-2512.**



Game Day Fun!

Join us for Game Day at ALC! Bring your favorite game to play with the group and join in this fun opportunity to get to know your ALC family.



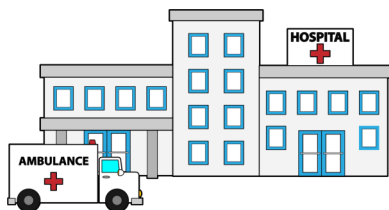
**Our next Game Day
Wednesday, December 18th,
12:30-2 pm
Everyone's invited!**



Flower Delivery

Be a Cheer Giver!

Flower delivery drivers needed on Sunday's after service. Drop off locations are 15 minutes or less from ALC.



Hospitalized?

Please contact the church office or one of the pastors in the event of a planned or emergency hospitalization. We would like to visit you! 623-974-2512

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Debt Reduction

In memory of Jerry Hayes by Colleen Gandrud

In memory of Charlene Young by Joyce Wikum

In memory of Rich Bergfeld by Karen Bergfeld

In memory of Linda Schwartz by Judith Morrison

In memory of Cousin Celest Flanagan by Judith Morrison

Undesignated Gifts

In memory of Charlene Young by Jill Galyon

In memory of Pat Parcher by Sharon Hartshorn

In memory of Charlene Young by Nancy Clauser

In memory of Judy Goblirsch by Marty Livingston

In memory of Charlene Young by Michele Burnett

In memory of Harold Peterson by Claudia Bachtel

In memory of Harold Peterson by Carolyn Kobler

In memory of Jeannie Markow by Karen Henderson

In memory of Charlene Young by Barbara Bloomquist

In memory of Harold Peterson by The Peterson Family

In memory of Harold Peterson by James & Anne Miller

In memory of Jean Leonhardi by Dennis & Elanine Nolan

Music Ministry

A gift from Martha Corse

In memory of Linda Schwartz by Helen Teply

In memory of Bill Gill by Denice Louderback

In memory of Becky Jo Greenhalgh by Don & Barb Thompson

from Jeanette Danielson & Donna Betcher

Social Ministry/I-Help

In memory of Frank Loudon by Denice Louderback

Stephen Ministry

Gift by Beryl Hiller

In memory of Marjorie Sherbocker by Margaret Nicholls

In memory of Pat Parcher by Glen Schulz

In memory of Becky Jo Greenhalgh by

Charles & Denice Louderback

Dr. Gerber Education Fund

Gift to Dr. Gerber Education Fund by Martha Livingston

Memorial Gifts envelopes should be put in the offering plate or turned into the church office. Please make a note on the memo line.

*IN LOVING
Memory*

Rosalie Bornzin 02/27/1928 - 11/06/2024

Peg Gittus 02/14/1928 - 11/07/2024

Mary Mohr 09/09/1929 - 11/15/2024

Linda Schmidt 11/13/1947 - 11/05/2024

*Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light
perpetual shine upon them.*

Evangelism Goals Update through November 24, 2024

<i>Goal</i>	<i>YTD Progress</i>	<i>Prior Year Comparison</i>
1. Each One, Reach One for Christ and ALC	487 new visitors	Similar information not available
2. Keep the New Members Coming	60 new members have been received	47 new members received
3. Maintain Last Year's Attendance Gains	377 people per week on average	376 people per week

Financial Update through November 14, 2024

<i>Category</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Offering Income	\$854,458.39	\$764,013.26	\$90,445.13
Ministry Expenses	\$820,151.66	\$790,996.11	\$29,155.55
Available for Additional Ministry	\$34,306.73	(\$26,982.85)	\$61,289.58

Debt Reduction Update through September 30, 2024

Paid in	Special Gift	Paid YTD	Balance Due
\$7,304.25		\$46,782.00	\$1,438,137.00

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

For your prayers, your interest, and your insight regarding my upcoming hip replacement. Surgery will be delayed until the new year. In the meantime you can expect to see me limping around with a pain level ranging between 4 and 8 on the pain management scale.



Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Julia

Staff Directory



Rev. Scott Klimke	Senior Pastor s.klimke@alcsuncity.org
Rev. Lisa Hackler	Associate Pastor l.hackler@alcsuncity.org
Rev. Julia Sprenkle	Pastoral Associate j.sprenkle@alcsuncity.org

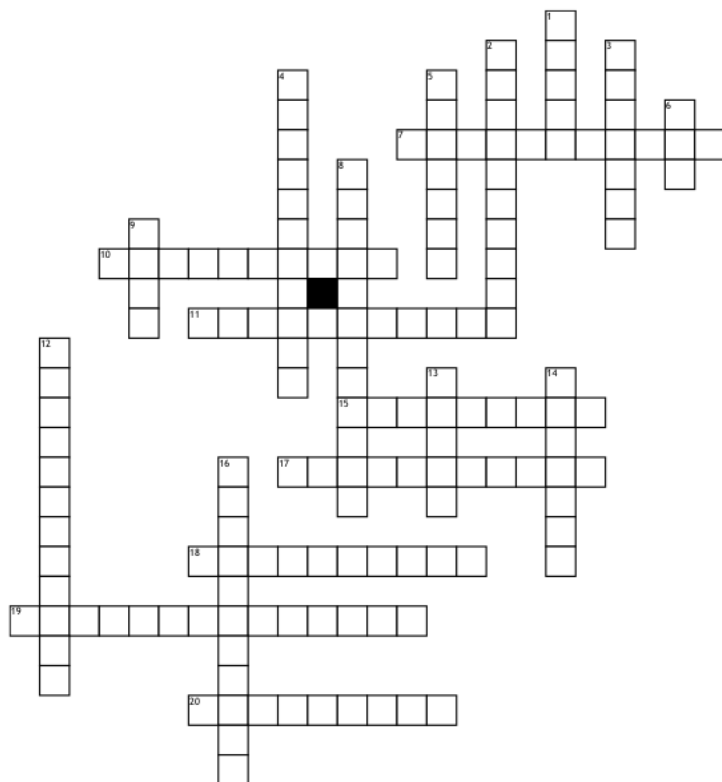
MUSIC MINISTRY

Dr. James Gerber	Organist/Worship Coordinator j.gerber@alcsuncity.org
Janet MacDonald	Choir Director/Worship Planning j.macdonald@alcsuncity.org
George Zoske	Director of Christo Bells gzoske@mac.com

STAFF

Ron Helton	Accounting Coordinator r.helton@alcsuncity.org
DeNage Bautista	Executive Assistant-Community Outreach d.bautista@alcsuncity.org
Annette DeJesus	Resource Minister a.dejesus@alcsuncity.org
Dave Tigges	Property/Grounds d.tigges@alcsuncity.org
Joe DeLuca	Property/Grounds Assistant
Rolfe Blaess	Soundt8rolfe3@earthlink.net
Ilya Tate	Worship Technology Assistant
Andy Le	Worship Technology Assistant

Advent Crossword



Across

7. What is the name of Jesus's first coming?
10. What is Jesus actually called?
11. What is another word for Messiah?
15. Where was Jesus born?
17. Christmas originates from the phrase _____
18. Advent is a time to prepare for the celebration of _____
19. What time of year is Advent?
20. What does the Christmas season begin with?

Down

1. In the Incarnation God the son is becoming what?
2. What does the church look forward to Jesus's second coming with?
3. On what day in December do we start focusing on the preparation of the second coming of God's kingdom?
4. The Advent wreath is a symbol of what?
5. The Christmas season Begins on December 25 and ends in what month?

6. What does the color of Christmas mean?
8. What is the real meaning behind Christmas?
9. How many Sundays are there in Advent?
12. Advent is also to reflect on Jesus what?
13. What is the color for Christmas?
14. What is another name for Jesus?
16. Threw the Eucharist we receive what?

Advent Word Search

F C W P I W B Y T M H P X W J J W O D P A U Y G
 X F Y R R T L J E T G L Q E X W O S H T C D A I
 C V D W E F D A P D G D K T L H X A B E S W X E
 A L Y K J J N Y W P L C S N S D S G Z A I H T J
 K H F M O P F U N T H O N C E S N Z K M C S Y Y
 P S H Z I N V C E B V C G O I W T A E N A S C E
 O T C B C O J I V L A D B M E R C X C V I W Z L
 X K S L E E A B L Y C O R S L C N N S J V P H J
 M G W E V Z I R F R Y D W P D M E X D F N G P R
 H T U X G G G Y J N F J C V H M A T H E M X M M
 C A D V E N T K I O L M W I E W F C F Q G Y U D
 J E U A F I N X L Y I A S S P T S Z Y C T Z S M
 X D N E Z K B F A W N A I T S I R H C I Z Q P O
 O D L B X G B M V S U W S Z O A F J V X O F E N
 X S H E N H J E J G E D F S J A E I U G Z Y R V
 D E A T T P N C Y E Q I Q U M S T J N F J E L X
 I U Q H E K N G R K R H Z G U A T I G N D P B T
 O Y T L I D X H W G M J O S N T T G N B I S O J
 K X H E W D T X J X K D Y U J C I N H T A E R W
 E N Y H W T U W V I R G I N E G Y I Y T I M O O
 Z C K E G X W H S G H N L P Z H K T E D P E V M
 T C J M O F Y G M Z L F X J K F O I A K O D A H
 J P F V P Q P U R P L E Y F G N T A E F R R P E
 D S H K B R F C U E N N F P Q E Q W X O Y E R S

threewisemen
 Nativity
 Missah
 Purple
 Gold

Christian
 rejoice
 Josph
 Candle
 Mary

Bethlehem
 Waiting
 Virgin
 Jesus
 Pink

Expecting
 Advent
 Wreath
 King



17200 N. Del Webb Boulevard

Sun City, Arizona 85373

www.alesuncity.org info@alesuncity.org

623.974.2512

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED