



Outreach



March
2024

As a preacher, my ears are always open for a good turn of a phrase. When I am taken by what I hear, I will invariably make use of it myself at some point in the future. For instance, on the day of my father's funeral, the pastor said, "See you later, Al. We Christians don't say, 'Goodbye.' We say, 'See you later.'" I can't tell you how many times I've said something similar for nearly twenty-two years now. First hearing it from another preacher, I've also recycled "unwelcome fraternity" as I've interacted with those who have buried a member of their family at a younger than usual age. Even so, this newsletter article will be the first time I've recycled something I first heard in church in the mid-90's before I was even thinking about going to seminary.



The remark was made in Oshkosh, Wisconsin where my mother Janice was born and raised. My mother's father Orville was a sickly man I never knew. While alive, he would take the family to religious revivals held in various locales as he sought a cure for his diseased kidneys. Far removed from what my mother would become when she married my very German and very Lutheran father, the family was Pentecostal. When my grandfather died in his forties, my

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.*

grandmother Beulah eventually remarried, and she and her second husband became active members at Wesley United Methodist Church. For much of my childhood, that congregation worshipped in a multipurpose room where fellowship meals and other events were held when the space wasn't being used for worship. Eventually, enough money was raised to build a sanctuary. It was in the new sanctuary where I preached my first "sermon" in 1998 when I was one of the speakers who gave thanks for the life of my grandmother's second husband, and the only "grandfather" I ever knew, a man by the name of Adolph Binder. But on another occasion, not long after the new sanctuary had come into use, I was present when the pastor serving the congregation at the time began his sermon by speaking of someone who had died and then later identifying the person who had died as "somebody else." Once the cat was out of the bag, he repeatedly called the congregation to greater commitment and participation by again and again saying, "Somebody else has died at Wesley United Methodist Church."

Having recently remembered this sermon, it has occurred to me that we find ourselves in a place like the one where Wesley United Methodist Church once found itself. Though not featuring a new sanctuary, a new phase of congregational history is underway, and it's been going well. In fact, it's been going well enough for there to be the time and the inclination to think about what's next for us. Throughout the fall and early winter, time and consideration were given to what we would be looking for in a called associate pastor. We now know we're looking for a people person who knows how to work as a member of a team, will be able to contribute to existing worship, education, and pastoral care ministries, and who shall be able to take our efforts related to social ministry and small groups to another level. Our local bishop has been made aware of our desires and a Call Committee is now waiting to interview candidates. But as this has been happening, we've also formulated other goals which will not reach the finish line unless we proceed as

if somebody else is dead.

At a place like ALC, this can be hard to do. Some of us are only here for part of the year and there may be a strong temptation to treat the time away from home as a vacation. Additionally, most members have retired from their former career, and they may now be tempted to retire from active, committed congregational membership as well. Beyond this, there's always the continuing temptation to think someone else can do this or that better than I ever could. But I'm afraid none of this is consistent with the faith handed down to us.

No matter the time or season of life, Christians don't retire or coast. They "press on to the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus," (Philippians 3:14). While humble, Christians also don't sell themselves short. Instead, they humbly, but also confidently say to themselves, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me," (Philippians 4:13). So that the goals for 2024 listed later in this newsletter might be accomplished, I hope the ongoing, committed, never pass the buck faith handed down to us through Scripture and Christian tradition begins to take hold more and more at ALC. The goals we've set for 2024 are more than doable, but only if enough of us proceed as if "somebody else is dead."

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 6 New Members in February:
Pastor Bud & Helen Eskritt, John Pipis, Evelyn Meyer, and Dick & Nancy Kurbat.



INTRODUCING YOUR CALL COMMITTEE

The ALC Church Council met in a special session on Sunday, February 4th to approve the Ministry Site Profile for the position of Associate Pastor and appoint a Call Committee as outlined in our constitution. (As you will recall, Pastor David had been filling this position on an interim basis until he accepted a call to be the Senior Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church; and now in the meantime several former and area pastors have been scheduled to preach once each month and/or assist with the visitation of our shut-ins during the remainder of this vacancy.)

Karrie Burt, Flash Helm, Janet Keck, Steve Miedzybrocki, Alan Olson, Patti Phillips, Terri Polk, Glen Schulz, and Chip Skaug have been appointed by the council to serve on the Call Committee.

The Call Committee met immediately following the Council Meeting on the 4th to elect a chair and receive introductory information regarding this process. Glen Schulz was elected chair; and the committee learned that we would be guided through this entire process of searching for an Associate Pastor by a Transition Team

from the Grand Canyon Synod. Pastor Phil Gustafson has been appointed by our Bishop to serve as our Transition Coach.

The Call Committee met again on February 6th for an initial meeting with our Transition Coach. Pastor Phil outlined the entire process and our responsibilities going forward. He indicated that our search would be posted by the synod office and would be distributed throughout the Grand Canyon Synod and nationally throughout the ELCA.

The search process has begun. Now, the Call Committee asks for your prayers and invites you to chat with any committee member regarding any questions or concerns you might have. We will keep you informed of progress as it occurs. We also invite you to share the name of a pastor whom you would like us to consider for this position. You may give this information to any committee member. While we cannot act on such a suggestion directly, we will forward the suggestion to our Transition Coach who will send it on to the office of our Bishop.

Thank you for your support of our committee and of the call process.

Glen Schulz, Call Committee Chair

In Our Prayers

Scripture instructs us about the power and purpose of prayer. The apostle Paul tells us to “*rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*” Through the prophet Jeremiah, God proclaims, “*you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.*” By the grace of God, we can offer petitions of praise, of confession, and of lament. We are also blessed in that we can place before God our petitions concerning the needs of others as well as our own desires.

Our individual prayer lists may include many, many people. And we, at American Lutheran Church, wholeheartedly support all prayer ventures. Yet so that we can maintain an accurate and manageable prayer list for corporate worship and community life, the following ‘prayer protocols’ have been put into place.

A **prayer list ‘booklet’** will be updated regularly and can be picked up in the narthex. This list includes those in hospice care or facing long-term challenges. Their names will remain on our prayer list until their personal circumstances change. The grieving and those who have died since the last All Saints Day will also remain on the list until we celebrate all the saints again in the fall. Members in need of healing, and family and friends for whom prayer requests have been made, will remain on the list for 3 weeks unless we are notified otherwise. These individuals will be contacted before their name is removed. For reasons of confidentiality, details of an individual’s struggles can not be disclosed. During corporate worship, which is accessible to all through the world wide web, those individuals in hospice care and

those on our 3-week cycle of prayer updates will be included in our intercessions.

We thank you for your patient understanding as we make the adjustments and adaptations called for in this day and age. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Pastor Julia.

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!

You are a blessing to us!

In an effort to stay connected with you, we have created magnets that will help remind you to let us know when life events happen.

We will be distributing one magnet per household starting 3/9 & 3/10. Please take one and put it on your refrigerator where it will be a reminder to contact us when you have something to celebrate and when you have a need. We love to serve you.

We are here for you!

Be sure to let your friends and family know they can call us with updates too.



You are a blessing to us!

Let us know how you're doing.

Are you sick, having surgery, are you moving, do you have something to celebrate, would you like some company?



**Your ALC Church Family
is here for you!**
623-974-2512



From the 🎵 desk of 🎵 James Gerber

Dr. James Gerber
Organist/Worship Coordinator

Each year, our Lenten journey concludes with the observance of Holy Week. Holy Week is the center of the liturgical year; the Church's liturgies during this week commemorate the Paschal mystery. We observe with specificity the events in Jesus' life that led up to His death and resurrection. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday; we hear how the crowds of people shouted with joy "Hosanna!" and acclaimed Jesus as king as he entered Jerusalem ahead of Passover. Then on Maundy Thursday, we remember how Jesus established a new covenant with the salvation of humanity in mind during the Last Supper, giving us the sacrament of the Eucharist and his final command to his disciples: "to love one another as I have loved you." On Good Friday, we walk with Jesus as he suffered during his final hours; remembering how he was betrayed, was tortured, crucified, and ultimately died. On Holy Saturday during the Easter Vigil,

we transition from sorrow to joy, from darkness to light, as we announce once again that Christ is risen.

I look forward to these services each year; I hope you do as well. Each service is unique, unlike any of the services we experience throughout the rest of the year. The scripture lessons appointed for the Holy Week services speak to the core of our Christian beliefs. I especially love the music during Holy Week, beautiful hymns, choral music, and organ works that are only appropriate during this week of the church year. It should not be a surprise to you that for me, the music of Holy Week expresses the drama and emotions of the events that we commemorate.

Holy Week is a rollercoaster of emotions. This week reminds us that Jesus fully shared in our humanity, the good aspects as well as the bad. Whatever we may be going through, whatever we may have experienced, Jesus is with us. And just as Jesus rose from the dead, we can be assured of His promise to us that we too will share in His resurrection. I encourage you to attend as many of our Holy Week services as you can. They are beautiful. Your faith will be enriched. You will celebrate with great joy the feast of Easter.





From the desk of Janet MacDonald

Music And Worship – Choir

Do you know someone who has experienced the loss of a loved one? Or someone who is in distress? Or someone who loves heavenly, beautiful, healing music?

If so, invite them along with yourself to experience comfort and peace in our stunningly beautiful sanctuary on Sunday, March 10 at 3:00 p.m. when the ALC West Valley Community Choir along with an ensemble of top flight professional musicians will present the “too beautiful for words” Rutter Requiem. John Rutter wrote this gem in response to the painful loss of his father. He wanted all listeners regardless of musical acumen to experience a transformative journey from darkness and deep despair into the eternal light of God’s love. Most of this concert is sung in English with a few movements in familiar Latin.

In addition to Dr. James Gerber on organ the ensemble consists of harp, cello, oboe, flute, percussion and vocal soloists.

This is a golden opportunity for “each one to reach one.”
This concert is free and open to the public. Join me and
invite others to this *not to be missed* free concert and
experience the journey from darkness to eternal light.

The singers and I hope to see you there.

Blessings and peace,

Janet MacDonald, ALC Choir Director



Upcoming Music Concert

“Requiem” by John Rutter

Sunday March 10th @ 3:00 pm

In the ALC Sanctuary - Free Event

A concert poster with a background image of a sunset over mountains. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says "American Lutheran Church of Sun City — Music Ministry". Below that, on the left, "Rest IN THE Peace OF THE Lord" in a mix of script and serif fonts. On the right, "featuring 'Requiem' by John Rutter". Below that, "presented by ALC West Valley Community Choir & Orchestra". At the bottom right, "Janet MacDonald, director" and "James Gerber, organist". At the bottom left is the ALC logo. At the bottom center, "Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 3:00 PM". At the bottom, "Free admission" and "17200 N Del Webb Blvd — Sun City, AZ".

American Lutheran Church of Sun City — Music Ministry

Rest
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featuring
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ALC

Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Free admission 17200 N Del Webb Blvd — Sun City, AZ

President Notes: March 2024



It is the season of Lent, not Thanksgiving, but in my reflections of late I have been considering how much that we of American Lutheran are blessed. As a snowbird – as so many of us are – I enjoy the warmer weather of Arizona and appreciate not being in Minnesota. But our church is an important part of our lives, and I am so thankful that ALC is a strong and vibrant church community with many blessings and much to offer its people.

“The snowbird season” is in full swing at ALC, with events and activities and groups meeting almost daily. Opportunities are available not only for worship, but for involvement in the life of the church. I would especially note that Wednesday Night Alive programs continue through the month, with the 4:00 PM programs, followed by a meal and Lenten services to follow. But there are also Bible studies, Stephen Ministry, and a number of special groups. I hope many of our congregation will be able to attend the concert performance of the Rutter Requiem on the afternoon of March 10th, presented by our music department together with guest singers and musicians. Our church is truly alive and well, and I hope that we all, perhaps in different ways, can feel a part of it, and part of the greater body of the Christian faith.

As Pastor Scott has shared in services, we are in the process of seeking a new Associate Pastor. (See the article elsewhere in this issue by Glen Schulz, the Call Committee chair.) American Lutheran has not *called* an Associate Pastor since 1992. Since then we have relied on *contracted* Associate Pastors, that is, pastors who have been hired by the church on a contract basis, usually retired or semi-retired pastors. But there are fewer pastors available now – retired or otherwise – and the Church Council has decided that the call process offers a more promising way to attract a good candidate. That process is dictated by our Grand Canyon Synod, which mandates that we develop the Ministry Site Profile, appoint a call committee, and receive applications forwarded to us through the Synod. Once the call committee arrives at a recommended candidate, there will need to be a congregational vote on approving that candidate. At this time we don’t know how long the process will take.

The time of Lent is a special time in the church year – I suppose you could say that all times of the church year are special. But it is a time of reflection and prayer, as we prepare for the awe-inspiring celebration of our Lord’s resurrection that is Easter. I encourage everyone to attend services and to pray for our church, for its future and its leadership. And surely our future will continue to be blessed.

Dave Hjortland, President ALC Council

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
3/2&3	Sun City Ikebana Chapter	Donated following their exhibit.
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2/9&10	Greg & Emily Leggett	In memory of John Brown
3/9&10	Martin & Mai Iszler	In memory of our dear friend Dang Truong
3/16&17	Chuck Curry	Happy Birthday Nancy!
3/16&17		
3/23&24	Tom Read	In memory of parent's anniversary on 3/29/42
3/23&24		
3/30&31		
3/30&31		



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Christ caring for people through people

HOLY COMMUNION

A Stephen Ministry Continuing Education Topic AND YOU ARE INVITED

Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, the Sacrament of the Altar, which is it? And why do we say we celebrate Holy Communion? The Sacrament of the Altar, why is it called a sacrament? What is a sacrament? Why do we celebrate Holy Communion so often? And who is the Celebrant, or for that matter, what is a celebrant? Who can give us communion? The other day I went up to the altar for communion and my neighbor was giving the wine. She said it was the blood of Christ. Which is it, wine or the blood of Christ?

Pastor Julia Sprenkle, ALC's new Pastoral Associate will be presenting the March Stephen Ministry continuing education program titled HOLY

COMMUNION on Thursday, March 14th at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. ALL MEMBERS OF ALC ARE INVITED TO THIS INFORMATIVE HOUR. Pastor Julia will be answering the above questions and many more about this most basic aspect of our faith. Please join our Stephen Ministers and learn more about the importance of Holy Communion to Christianity in general and our Lutheran heritage and tradition specifically.

The meeting will begin at 9 am and will last approximately 45 minutes with time for questions and answers. At the conclusion of the program Stephen Ministers will meet in their Peer Support Groups. Please remember, this is a required meeting for Stephen Ministers.

Welcome all.

Glen Schulz - Stephen Ministry Leadership Team



For the Health of It!

Invite your friends and neighbors to our monthly community education programs. All sessions will be held in Education A&B and are free and open to the public. Please call the church and **register** (623-974-2512).



Planned for the months ahead...

March 13 Humor for Health 10:00-11:00 am

Presented by Hospice of the West. It has been said: Laughter is strong medicine. It can draw people together in ways that trigger healthy physical and emotional changes in the body. So come out and laugh with us.

Registration deadline: 3/5

March 20 Fraud Awareness 10:00-11:30 am

Presented by Resources and Outreach to Safeguard seniors through delivering effective, concise, and face-to-face fraud awareness and prevention programs.

Registration deadline 3/11

March 21 Painting Tutorial 10:00-11:30 am

by Julie at American Lutheran Church. This is limited to the first 20 people that sign up. All painting supplies are provided free of charge. Participants will be tutored on how to paint so it will be an interactive session.

Registration deadline 3/12



We will be coming to your community again!

Monday, March 11, 2024

American Lutheran Church

17200 N Del Webb Blvd.

Sun City, AZ 85373

Visit:

<https://january242024.youcanbook.me>

And schedule your screening today!

Our comprehensive screening is \$200
(Schedule your appointment online and save \$10)
If you can't book online call 602-254-7130

**Our Comprehensive Screening consists of 11
cardiovascular and abdominal ultrasound
screenings, BP, Pulse & O2 level checks.**

(Heart ultrasound, Atrial Fibrillation, Carotid Artery, Thyroid
ultrasound, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Abdominal Aorta, Liver,
Kidney, Gallbladder, Pancreas and Spleen screenings)

A large heart shape filled with numerous small words in various colors and fonts. The most prominent word in the center is "Thanks" in a large, bold, pink font. Other visible words include "Grateful", "Appreciate", "Life", "Love", "Care", "Opportunity", "Partner", "Access", "Day", "Run", "Food", "Body", "Mind", "Learn", "Good", "Morning", "Tend", "Calm", "Work", "Relax", "Sleep", "Happy", "Healthy", "Peace", "Joy", "Kindness", "Growth", "Strength", "Resilience", "Patience", "Compassion", "Forgiveness", "Humility", "Generosity", "Courage", "Faith", "Hope", "Dreams", "Goals", "Challenges", "Adversity", "Triumph", "Victory", "Defeat", "Failure", "Success", "Achievement", "Recognition", "Praise", "Encouragement", "Support", "Help", "Assistance", "Guidance", "Advice", "Insight", "Wisdom", "Knowledge", "Understanding", "Awareness", "Consciousness", "Intuition", "Instincts", "Emotions", "Feelings", "Thoughts", "Beliefs", "Attitudes", "Values", "Principles", "Ethics", "Morals", "Character", "Personality", "Identity", "Self", "Soul", "Spirit", "Energy", "Vibrations", "Frequencies", "Wavelengths", "Colors", "Sounds", "Smells", "Tastes", "Textures", "Weights", "Dimensions", "Shapes", "Forms", "Patterns", "Rhythms", "Beats", "Pulses", "Breaths", "Steps", "Movements", "Actions", "Reactions", "Responses", "Interactions", "Connections", "Relationships", "Networks", "Systems", "Structures", "Frameworks", "Models", "Theories", "Concepts", "Ideas", "Innovations", "Creations", "Discoveries", "Experiences", "Memories", "Milestones", "Moments", "Times", "Places", "People", "Things", "Events", "Occasions", "Seasons", "Years", "Decades", "Centuries", "Millennia", "Eons", "Forever", "Always", "Never", "Sometimes", "Often", "Rarely", "Usually", "Normally", "Typically", "Generally", "Specifically", "Especially", "Primarily", "Mainly", "Basically", "Fundamentally", "Essentially", "Inherently", "Innately", "Naturally", "Organically", "Spontaneously", "Unprompted", "Unbidden", "Unexpectedly", "Surprisingly", "Amazingly", "Remarkably", "Extraordinarily", "Exceptionally", "Outstandingly", "Impeccably", "Flawlessly", "Perfectly", "Ideally", "Optimally", "Maximally", "Superlatively", "Ultimately", "Ultimately", "Finally", "Eventually", "Sooner or later", "One day", "Sometime", "Somehow", "Whatever it takes", "No matter what", "Against all odds", "Through thick and thin", "In the face of adversity", "With grace and dignity", "With courage and conviction", "With faith and hope", "With love and compassion", "With kindness and generosity", "With humility and patience", "With forgiveness and understanding", "With wisdom and insight", "With knowledge and awareness", "With consciousness and intuition", "With emotions and feelings", "With thoughts and beliefs", "With attitudes and values", "With principles and ethics", "With character and personality", "With identity and soul", "With energy and vibrations", "With frequencies and wavelengths", "With colors and sounds", "With smells and tastes", "With textures and weights", "With dimensions and shapes", "With forms and patterns", "With rhythms and beats", "With pulses and breaths", "With steps and movements", "With actions and reactions", "With responses and interactions", "With connections and relationships", "With networks and systems", "With structures and frameworks", "With models and theories", "With concepts and ideas", "With innovations and creations", "With discoveries and experiences", "With memories and milestones", "With moments and times", "With places and people", "With things and events", "With occasions and seasons", "With years and decades", "With centuries and millennia", "With eons and forever", "With always and never", "With sometimes and often", "With rarely and usually", "With generally and specifically", "With especially and primarily", "With mainly and basically", "With fundamentally and essentially", "With inherently and innately", "With naturally and organically", "With spontaneously and unprompted", "With unbidden and unexpected", "With surprising and amazing", "With remarkable and extraordinary", "With exceptional and outstanding", "With impeccable and flawless", "With perfect and ideal", "With optimal and maximal", "With superlative and ultimate", "With finally and eventually", "With sooner or later and one day", "With somehow and whatever it takes", "With no matter what and against all odds", "With through thick and thin and in the face of adversity", "With with grace and dignity and with courage and conviction", "With with faith and hope and with love and compassion", "With with kindness and generosity and with humility and patience", "With with forgiveness and understanding and with wisdom and insight", "With with knowledge and awareness and with consciousness and intuition", "With with emotions and feelings and with thoughts and beliefs", "With with attitudes and values and with principles and ethics", "With with character and personality and with identity and soul", "With with energy and vibrations and with frequencies and wavelengths", "With with colors and sounds and with smells and tastes", "With with 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with with with with unbidden and unexpected and with surprising and amazing and with remarkable and extraordinary and with exceptional and outstanding and with impeccable and flawless", "With with with with with perfect and ideal and with optimal and maximal and with superlative and ultimate and with finally and eventually and with sooner or later and one day and with somehow and whatever it takes", "With with with with with no matter what and against all odds and with through thick and thin and in the face of adversity and with with grace and dignity and with courage and conviction and with faith and hope", "With with with with with love and compassion and with with kindness and generosity and with humility and patience and with forgiveness and understanding and with wisdom and insight and with knowledge and awareness", "With with with with with consciousness and intuition and with emotions and feelings and with thoughts and beliefs and with attitudes and values and with principles and ethics and with character and personality", "With with with with with identity and soul and with energy and vibrations and with frequencies and wavelengths and with colors and sounds and with smells and tastes and with textures and weights", "With with with with with dimensions and shapes and with forms and patterns and with rhythms and beats and with pulses and breaths and with steps and movements and with actions and reactions", "With with with with with responses and interactions and with connections and relationships and with networks and systems and with structures and frameworks and with models and theories and with concepts and ideas", "With with with with with innovations and creations and with discoveries and experiences and with memories and milestones and with moments and times and with places and people and with things and events", "With with with with with occasions and seasons and with years and decades and with centuries and millennia and with eons and forever and with always and never and with sometimes and often", "With with with with with rarely and usually and with generally and specifically and with especially and primarily and with mainly and basically and with fundamentally and essentially and with inherently and innately", "With with with with with naturally and organically and with spontaneously and unprompted and with unbidden and unexpected and with surprising and amazing and with remarkable and extraordinary and with exceptional and outstanding", "With with with with with impeccable and flawless and with perfect and ideal and with optimal and maximal and with superlative and ultimate and with finally and eventually and with sooner or later", "With with with with with one day and with somehow and whatever it takes and with no matter what and against all odds and with through thick and thin and in the face of adversity and with with grace and dignity", "With with with with with courage and conviction and with faith and hope and with love and compassion and with with kindness and generosity and with humility and patience and with forgiveness and understanding", "With with with with with wisdom and insight and with knowledge and awareness and with consciousness and intuition and with emotions and feelings and with thoughts and beliefs and with attitudes and values", "With with with with with principles and ethics and with character and personality and with identity and soul and with energy and vibrations and with frequencies and wavelengths and with colors and sounds", "With with with with with smells and tastes and with textures and weights and with dimensions and shapes and with forms and patterns and with rhythms and beats and with pulses and breaths", "With with with with with steps and movements and with actions and reactions and with responses and interactions and with connections and relationships and with networks and systems and with structures and frameworks", "With with with with with models and theories 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with dimensions and shapes and with forms and patterns and with rhythms and beats and with pulses and breaths and with steps and movements", "With with with with with actions and reactions and with responses and interactions and with connections and relationships and with networks and systems and with structures and frameworks and with models and theories", "With with with with with concepts and ideas and with innovations and creations and with discoveries and experiences and with memories and milestones and with moments and times and with places and people", "With with with with with things and events and with occasions and seasons and with years and decades and with centuries and millennia and with eons and forever and with always and never", "With with with with with sometimes and often and with rarely and usually and with generally and specifically and with especially and primarily and with mainly and basically and with fundamentally and essentially", "With with with with with inherently and innately and with naturally and organically and with spontaneously and unprompted and with unbidden and unexpected and with surprising and amazing and with remarkable and extraordinary", "With with with with with exceptional and outstanding and with impeccable and flawless and with perfect and ideal and with optimal and maximal and with superlative and ultimate and with finally and eventually", "With with with with with sooner or later and one day and with somehow and whatever it takes and with no matter what and against all odds and with through thick and thin and in the face of adversity", "With with with with with with grace and dignity and with courage and conviction and with faith and hope and with love and compassion and with with kindness and generosity and with humility and patience",

By Terri Polk

Our ALC community encourages you to seek out and participate in any one (or more) of our monthly neighborhood group meetings. These groups do not need to be defined by geographic location but by the day and time that is most convenient to you.

A Special Thanks to all of Our Neighborhood Group Leaders: Myril Schultz, Bryan and Drinda Cooper-Keeble, Gary and Karrie Burt, Olga Redstrom, Terri Polk and Lari Schweig and Terri Polk and Sheila Harmell. **Come check us out!**

Neighborhood Groups

The Westers: 1st Saturday of Every Month at 9 a.m. in Education A & B at ALC; \$8.00 Catered Breakfast
Myril Schultz 206-718-0599; ivyandmyril@aol.com

Quail Run: 3rd Wednesday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Mercers restaurant.
Contact Terri Polk 317-258-7590; tpolk127@gmail.com or
Lari Schweig laris@cox.net

Kindred Spirits: 3rd Friday of every month, 4:00 p.m. at 9915 Mescalero Ct.
Contact Karrie Burt 623-209-4033; kbmabear@hotmail.com
or Gary Burt 623-209-4036; garyburt10124@gmail.com.

Happy Hour: 1st Saturday of every month at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall at ALC; \$8.00 Catered Breakfast
Contact Terri Polk 317-258-7590;
tpolk127@gmail.com or
Sheila Harmell 623-9103697; sharmell_2000@yahoo.com

Care Chat Comfort: 2nd Saturday of every month Sept.-May; 9:30 a.m. Education A & B at ALC
Contact Bryan Cooper-Keeble 602-881-4197;
banddck@aol.com or Drinda Cooper Keeble 602-881-4201; 623-376-6666

Early Birds: 1st Thursday of every month; 9:00 a.m. at Denny's - 87th & Grand
Contact Olga Redstrom 602-228-2480;
olgaredstrom2480@gmail.com



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		Social Ministry Reminder: Food: White or Brown Rice Activity: God's Work Our Hands	
3 8:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:45 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 3:00 West Valley Youth Orchestra	4 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 1:30 Card Making 5:00 I-Help Serving Dinner	5 9:30 Memory Care Group 10:00 Pastor's Bible Study 12:30 Personnel Committee Mtg 2:00 Evangelism Committee Mtg	6 9:30 Grief Support Group 4:00 Wednesday Alive
10 8:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:45 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 3:00 ALC Choir Concert Rutter Requiem	11 8:30 Right Path Screening 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 10:30 Good Book Group 1:00 Social Ministry 1:30 Card Making	12 9:00 Gifts & Memorials 9:30 Memory Care Group 10:00 Pastor's Bible Study 12:30 Personnel Committee Mtg 1:30 Trust Committee Mtg 3:30 pm Bell Choir	13 9:30 Grief Support Group 10:00 Humor 4:00 Wednesday Alive
17 St. Patrick's Day 8:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:45 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	18 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 1:30 Card Making	19 9:30 Memory Care Group 10:00 Pastor's Bible Study 1:30 Finance Committee Mtg 3:30 Bell Choir	20 8:00 Quail 9:00 Executive Committee 9:15 Ikebana 9:30 Grief Support Group 10:00 Fraud 4:00 Wednesday Alive
24 PALM SUNDAY 8:30 Worship (New Member Introductions) 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:45 God's Work 10:30 Worship	25 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 1:00 Bandage Spinning 1:30 Card Making	26 9:30 Memory Care Group 10:00 Pastor's Bible Study 1:30 Council Mtg 3:30 Bell Choir	27 9:30 Grief Support Group
31 EASTER DAY 7, 9, 11 Easter Worship 8 & 10 Choir Breakfast	HE IS RISEN!		

, 2024

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00 Stephen Ministry Training 9:30 Bible Study	2 8:00 Ikebana Exhibit 8:30 2H Neighborhood Grp. 8:30 Westers Neighborhood Group 9:00 Choir Rehearsal: Rutter Requiem 4:00 Worship
Support Wednesday Night	7 10:00 MS Support Group 1:15 Ah-Men Singers 2:30 Choir Rehearsal	8 9:00 Stephen Ministry Training 9:30 Bible Study	9 9:00 Choir Rehearsal: Rutter Requiem 9:00 3C Neighborhood Group 4:00 pm Worship
Support for Health Wednesday Night	14 9:00 Stephen Ministry 1:15 Ah-Men Singers 2:30 Choir Rehearsal	15 9:00 Stephen Ministry Training 9:30 Bible Study	16 4:00 pm Worship
Run Grp Mt. ve e a Support Awareness Wednesday Night	21 9:00 Stephen Ministry Leadership 10:00 Painting Tutorial 1:15 Ah-Men Singers 2:30 Choir Rehearsal	22 9:00 Stephen Ministry Training 9:30 Bible Study	23 4:00 pm Worship 5:00 Stephen Ministry Commissioning
Support	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 5:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Maundy Thursday Worship Service	29 GOOD FRIDAY 12:00 Good Friday Worship Service 6:00 Good Friday Worship Service	30 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4:00 pm Worship Easter Vigil

Gratitude Moments



BEHIND THE SCENES

By Terri Polk

Our Hearts Go Out to You!! Thank you to all of our office “front desk” volunteers! They were celebrated at a Volunteer Luncheon in December.



Working at the front desk can be an opportunity...you get to meet many people and find out even more about what is going on at the church. It can also be a challenge because there is so much going on at the church and you need to know who to ask if you have questions. Sometimes the volunteers get special projects to work on, depending on the needs of the staff. They may also sell WNA tickets, or other tickets to events, sign people up for events, take altar flower donations, and much more.

Thank you for all you do!

ALC Hosts Free Flower Show March 2nd

The courtyard of American Lutheran Church will be the location for a free flower show on Saturday, March 2 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Hosted by the Sun City chapter of Ikebana International, the flower arrangements on display will showcase the art of Japanese flower arranging. There is also a demonstration on the art of Ikebana at 12:00 noon in Room A/B. The public is invited to come by the Courtyard to see these beautiful arrangements and to attend the demonstration to learn how these artistic arrangements are formed. There is no cost to attend.

The motto of Ikebana International is “Friendship through Flowers.” Ikebana International provides training in the art of flower arranging and supports Ikebana chapters throughout the world. The Sun City chapter of this group was formed over 50 years ago, and two years ago began renting space at ALC to hold their monthly meetings.

Ikebana began in ancient Japan when flowers were placed on religious altars. Through the centuries, Ikebana evolved into the art form it is today, with stems, leaves, blossoms, and branches – living material – forming the media of artistic expression. There are no competitions in Ikebana, but each arrangement is intended to be enjoyed for its own unique characteristics. Unlike “western” flower arranging, where multiple flowers are placed in a vase, in Ikebana there is an emphasis on form, line, color, and empty space to evoke an emotional response, sometimes through a single flower or branch.

The arrangements on display will showcase the range of Ikebana floral art by chapter members. After the exhibition, a few of the arrangements will be used to decorate the church’s altar. Pat Forsythe, a member of American Lutheran, is coordinating the March 2 exhibition for the chapter. If you are interested in learning more about Ikebana, stop by the flower show, or contact Pat Forsythe or Deb Hjortland.



Women's Ministry

Your ALC Women's Ministry Groups continue to work toward making the world a better place.

•LOVE OFFERING

We continue to collect your donations in the small envelopes that say "Love Offering" which was sent to you in the mail with our Love Letter for this once a year collection to support our projects locally, nationally and internationally. If you need another small envelope please check in the ALC office. Donations may be put in the offering or given to the ALC office.

•MARCH QUILT SALE

Our Connecting Threads will have their March Quilt Sale on Sunday, March 24th in the ALC Courtyard. Be watching for more information.

Ongoing Work:

•CONNECTING THREADS

Meet in the Multipurpose Room Mondays, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon. They plan and make quilts, make Prayer Shawls, and work on sewing projects.

•SPINNING BANDAGES

Meet in the Fellowship Hall the 4th Mondays, 1:00 -3:00 p.m. to spin bandages for Global Health Ministry hospitals in the developing world. We hope to see you March 25. We are seeking 'rides' for boxes of bandages to the Twin Cities. Please contact Janice New if you can help with this: Janice New (623) 876-0083

We are blessed to have opportunities to serve and we are grateful for your support.

Thank you!

Jan Powell and the Women's Ministry Board



ALC Stickers

We're "Stickering the town!" Thank you to everyone that has taken an ALC Sticker and placed it on their vehicles. THANK YOU to those that have sent pictures of their cars, and golf carts representing their ALC stickers!

They all look GREAT!!! Keep those pictures coming!
You can send them to Info@alcsuncity.org

DeNage Bautista,
Executive Assistant for Community Outreach



Social Ministry

A year of Giving

Month	Blue Bag Food Item	Monthly Activity
March	White or Brown Rice	God's Work Our Hands
April	Shortening / Cooking Oils	Donations of New Socks, & Underwear
May	Tuna	Diaper Drive
June	Boxed Cereals	Bottled Water Drive
July	Sugar & Flour	School Supplies
August	Boxed Milk	Heat Respite Supplies
September	Soup & Crackers	God's Work Our Hands & Operation Christmas Child
October	Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Tissue, Kleenex	Turkeys & Angel Tree
November	Stove Top Stuffing & Instant Potatoes	Soap & Toilet Tissue Drive
December	BOGO'S	ELCA Good Gifts



God's work.
Our hands.

Come to our first God's Work Our Hands Sunday in 2024!

It will take place after the first service on Palm Sunday, March 24th. Please come to the Fellowship Hall at 9:30, grab a cup of coffee and take part in a variety of activities organized by our Social Ministry Committee. Activities will include packing personal care kits and school kits for Lutheran World Relief, tying fleece blankets for local distribution, and packing lunches for the I-Help ministry. What a great way to follow in the path of Jesus on Palm Sunday!



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

Spring is in the air!

We know when everything is blooming and beautifully green – and our allergies are out of control - that spring is here! Easter is right around the corner and soon many of our winter friends will be leaving for cooler summer climates.

The show must go on though and we need you to help us keep things rolling this summer! Most of our volunteers work a 3-hour shift but some work more than one shift or more than one day a week.

The jobs from which a volunteer may choose are as varied as the volunteers themselves. Some choose to hang, steam and price clothing. Others work with dishes and housewares or tools and appliances; pricing and putting them out on the shelves. We have an art department full of pictures and frames and we need people who like that kind of work. Our holiday department is a fun place to work & the craft department needs workers in the shop and working from home. Maybe a job with more “action” is more to your taste. How about being a trucker? We run the truck 3 days a week doing pick-ups and deliveries. **No** special driver’s license required - and you get to meet a lot of interesting folks from all over. Are you a “people person”? Cashiers are the face of the shop having first-line contact with our customers.

Our “benefits package” includes fellowship, that *‘great feeling you get when you do a good thing’*, a 20% discount on Thrift Shop purchases and yummy snacks at break time! Sorry, no dental plan.

Join us, won’t you? Shop with us, donate your gently used goods or come be a volunteer.

Call us today to schedule a tour or a donation pick-up. 623.815.7061

2024 Goals Update Through February 18th

Each One Reach One: In 2024, it's hoped at least 750 new visitors will come to ALC through each one reaching one. Thus far, new visitors have totaled 166.

Member Gifts Cover Ministry Costs in Full: Estimated average weekly increase per member household is \$2.55 and we are on track.

ALC Stickers Everywhere: Available in the narthex and with sightings sent to d.bautista@alcsuncity.org, total sightings of ALC stickers now totals 10.

Attend Weekly Worship Often: January attendance was up slightly, February attendance was down slightly. The difference between last year and this year has so far been just 20 people. With ten months or so to go yet, we're at least holding steady.

Save More For A Rainy Day: Estimated average weekly increase per household is \$2.22 and we are on track.

Advertise in Every Issue of the Independent in Peoria, Sun City, Sun City Grand, Sun City West, and Peoria: Now happening.

Be Debt Free in Seven Years: Estimated average weekly increase per household is \$1.95 and we are on track.

Keep the New Members Coming: 52 received in 2023. 11 received in 2024.

Catch Up on Facility Upgrades: Estimated average weekly increase per household is \$1.71 and we are \$.66 per week short.

Be Frugal and Faithful: Ministry expenditures \$12,072 lower than a year ago, but no new monies yet for evangelism, social ministry, and wider Church support, with the weekly goal for those monies \$1.57.

NOTE: The various weekly giving increases provided above do add up to the \$10 extra dollars per week requested by the congregational council which itself pledged to increase giving by an average of \$25 per week in 2024. The overall request has been split into categories to encourage participation on the part of those who might find a weekly increase of \$10 a week to be too much. No matter their size, gifts should not be designated by category, but instead forwarded as a regular contribution.

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
Tuesday, March 19th, 1-3 pm
Everyone's invited!**



The Good Book Club

Monday, March 11th at 10:30 am in C

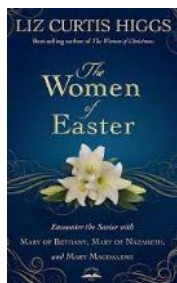
March: "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society"
by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows.

April: "The Library Book" by Susan Orleans.

The Good Book Club is open to all and meets the second Monday of the month through May. Meetings are in Education room C and start at 10:30 am and run about an hour.

Eleanor Dickinson 623-972-2689 or
billandeleleanor@gmail.com





FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

**Friday mornings at 9:30 in A & B
Beginning March 1st**

“The Women of Easter” By Liz Curtis Higgs.

**This Season of Grace, deepen your faith in a
God who so loved the world that He gave us His Son.**

You're about to meet three women named Mary, each of whom has a life-changing encounter with Jesus. **Mary of Bethany** prepares the way for the Lord's burial when she anoints His feet and fills the air with her perfume. His mother, **Mary of Nazareth**, remains by His side from His first breath to His last, her loyalty unwavering. **Mary Magdalene**, delivered of seven demons, bravely supports her Teacher through His darkest hours, then proclaims the glorious news of His resurrection.

What a trio. What a Savior! Your mind and emotions will be engaged and your faith strengthened as each scene unfolds, preparing your heart for a richer, deeper Easter experience.

Liz Curtis Higgs, a seasoned Bible teacher and award-winning novelist, combines her storytelling skills with a thorough verse-by-verse study of Scripture as together you explore the remarkable lives of *The Women of Easter*.

Questions please call Dianne Garvey 575-551-4207.

Big Things are Happening at ALC!

Our newest update has taken place in the pews. You may have noticed already that there are new giving envelopes and information cards in the back of the pews.



The envelopes are the same ones we introduced at the end of last year as part of our “Sparked by the Spirit” stewardship campaign. We want to make giving more uniform and simpler so having 1 envelope that can be used for ALL giving opportunities just made more sense. Please be sure to ALWAYS put your **name, giving number** and **giving designation** on the **envelope & checks**. Please also **write a check for EACH giving designation**. EX: Tithe, Memorial, Debt Reduction etc. This saves a lot of time for the counters and the financial office.

In addition to the envelopes we have created and added 4 new streamlined info brochures that are color coordinated to match our branding and to grab your attention. The front of the “**Connect**” card features all of the sources of communication that we have available online and in printed format. The back features most of the activities, events and opportunities available at ALC. The “**Prayer**” card is there for you to record your prayer requests. Simply fill it out, fold it in half and place it in the offering plate. You can also turn them in at the visitors desk, or the office. The “**Visitors**” card is a special card that has a place for visitor’s contact information, an offer for a free gift, an invitation to “Coffee Hour” and a place on the back for a prayer request. Visitors should take these cards to the visitors desk where they will be connected with a volunteer, given a welcome gift, and then escorted to the fellowship hall. Lastly we have added a new “**Stephen Ministry**” info card.

We hope that you will joyfully embrace these new tools and encourage any visitors you see to complete a card and help them find the visitors desk to get their free gift bag. You could also wait for them and invite them to sit with you at Coffee Hour or the Psalm of the Day Bible Study!

Invite~Welcome~Feed~Include



OUR MISSION SUBTITLE:

INVITE~WELCOME~FEED~ INCLUDE

BY TERRI POLK

Since Pastor Scott joined ALC a little over a year ago, these four words have been engrained/embedded/emblazoned (pick any or all) in my heart and on my mind: **INVITE, WELCOME, FEED, INCLUDE**. I believe that at ALC we thought we were pretty good at doing these, but let's face it...we have a long way to go.....BUT...we are beginning to do better. I think we are getting better at Inviting and Welcoming. We are seeing an increase in church attendance and a rise in new members. I believe we are Feeding our congregation and visitors through our WNA and Bible Studies, our wonderful church music and choir, the outside events that we offer/sponsor....the activities of Women's Ministry and Stephen Ministry, our Grief Group, outside speakers and presentations that Annette DeJesus arranges, the card-making and Good Book Club, and don't forget the monthly Tuesday afternoon of Games,... but there is more we can do to grow. So, what other

meaningful ways can we invite, welcome and feed our congregation and our community? Think about this, talk about your ideas in coffee hour and share your ideas with our Pastors and Staff. They really want to hear from you!

AND NOW.... Perhaps we can address the term “INCLUDE”.

When Marty Livingston and I began to talk about Stewardship, we talked about “Include” and asked ourselves “what does that mean...concretely”. We came up with the acronym for Include...which gives us the simple answers to “How We can Include”.

“I” = Involve yourself in new Church Opportunities

“N” = Notice New Faces

“C” = Call and Connect just to say “hello”

“L” = Listen to New Stories (or Old stories)

“U” = Understand (and accept) Differences

“D” = Decide to Broaden your Horizons

“E” = Extend a Handshake or Fist bump

It can be that Simple and we can all do this. It takes a TEAM and we can all do our part. Let’s KEEP GOING and GROWING. By the way, our stewardship pledges keep coming in. Thank you all for your contributions to the campaign and to the Mission of ALC “to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ, to invite others to participate in our faith community and to be a blessing to all in word and deed.”

YEAR ROUND OPPORTUNITIES

STEWARDSHIP AND MORE

Pastor Scott reminded us in his sermon on February 10 & 11 that “This is the day the Lord Has Made“, and that “Every day is a Gift from God.” When I first awake in the morning, before even opening my eyes or taking that “big” morning stretch, I remind myself of these 2 messages. I thank God for the 5 senses that I have: sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell. I like to imagine the wind blowing through my hair (what is left of it), the colors I can see, the songs of the birds that I hear, the smell of that first cup of coffee, the taste of my favorite foods. Oh, the gifts God has given me. Perhaps my senses are not as “alert” as they had once been, but I consider it a blessing that I still have them. This is a year round opportunity/gift that I have received and can give thanks for. ~ Terri Polk

ALC IN ACTION!

Our ALC group had a great time doing some of God’s work helping at the Feed My Starving Children event Saturday the 17th.



Thanks!

- ♦ Thank you for all of the prayers. ~ Olga Redstrom
- ♦ Thank you ALC for the blessing of the \$650.00 donation. ~ Navajo Lutheran Mission
- ♦ Thank you for your generous gift of \$720.00 through Good Gifts. ~ (ELCA) Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Property & Grounds

Gift given by Frank Schander

Worship & Music Ministry

Gift Given by LeRoy & Joy Cook

Gift given by Thomas & Martha Corse

Women's Ministry

Gift given by Adolph & Willetta Andersen

Debt Reduction

In memory of Kay by Helen Teply

In Memory of Rich Bergfeld by Judy Jensen

In Memory of Pastor Chuck Paulson by Judy Jensen

In Memory of Pastor Chuck Paulson by Joyce Wikum

Undesignated

In Memory of Rich Bergfeld by

MSGT (Ret) Richard & Judith Laur

Gift in honor of Fred & Uta Anderson wedding

by Patricia A Herrmann

In Memory of Florence Johnson by Terrance Johnson

C & S Paulson Evangelism Fund

In memory of Pastor Paulson by

Janice New,
Glen Schulz,
Helen Teply,
Sheila Worley,
V.M. Anderson,
Sheila Harmell,
Percy Peckham,
Annette L Garm,
Bob & Judie Tosh,
Cynthia Jaranson,
Jeanette Danielson,
Patricia A Herrmann,
George & Joyce Zoske,
Owen & Dorothy Viker,
Thomas & Susan Reeb,
Ted & Roselyn Guenther,
Ronald & Marie Pearson,
Thomas & Sally Hickerson,
Bryan & Drinda Cooper-Keeble,
Larry Stage & Judie VanDevere-Stage,

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 12/31/23

Year-To-Date	Actual	Budget	Variance
Offering	\$93,423.00	\$133,897.00	\$(40,474.00)
Ministry Costs	\$82,507.00	\$91,300.00	\$(8,793.00)
Remaining For Ministry	\$10,916.00	\$42,597.00	\$(31,681.00)

DEBT REDUCTION

As of 2/22/24

Paid in January	Special Gift	Paid YTD	Balance Due
\$2,045.00		\$3,445.00	\$1,540,358.00

IN LOVING
Memory

Bill Dickinson 10/05/1935 - 02/11/2024

Andy Andersen 10/23/1928 - 01/22/2024

Rodger Fincher 08/02/1935 - 02/10/2024

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

Rev. Scott Klimke

Senior Pastor
s.klimke@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
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George Zoske

Director of Christo Bells
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Annette DeJesus

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Dave Tigges

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Rory Valesquez

Property/Grounds Assistant
r.valesquez @ alcsuncity.org

Joe DeLuca

Property/Grounds Assistant

Rolfe Blaess

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