



Outreach



May
2024

Twenty years ago, I was asked to consider a call to a Native Alaskan congregation in Shishmaref. Located on an island not far from the land bridge once joining present day Russia and Alaska. The community of about six hundred still practices a very ancient and traditional way of life, even as the place it's called home for thousands of years has been increasingly eroded by environmental changes related to global warming. Julia was ready to go and had her eye on a particular pair of mukluks—boots made out of seal or reindeer skin. But as it turned out, the Holy Spirit had other plans for us.



When this became clear, I figured I wouldn't hear much about Shishmaref again. I was wrong. Yesterday, I randomly learned the bishop-elect of the Greater Alaska Synod had served in Shishmaref up until the year before I was asked to do so. A few weeks prior I very unexpectedly found myself having lunch with Pastor Lisa Hackler. Recently relocated from Anchorage, she had served a Native Alaskan congregation which shared a facility with Central Lutheran where her husband Pastor

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.*

Jeff had served. At one point, Pastor Lisa was quickly able to correct a misunderstanding related to another unexpected contact with Shishmaref which over the years had surfaced for me. But even as Shishmaref came up, what Pastor Lisa and I talked about most was her interest in our associate pastor's position.

Pastor Lisa and I met just a day after the last edition of this newsletter featured words from me stating we had no prospects for our associate pastor position. This was true at the time I wrote it. But with the Holy Spirit blowing when and where the Spirit shall, a lot can change in a week and the Spirit sure does have a way of reminding us that none of our faith experiences are isolated events with no connection to a larger whole. In Pastor Lisa's case, the tapestry of experiences the Spirit regularly weaves into a larger whole shall be particularly useful to American Lutheran Church. Serving in Africa, Missouri, and Texas before Alaska, Pastor Lisa is a deeply experienced practitioner of congregational ministry who's done most of what there is to be done and who will therefore come ready to contribute to the health and vitality of our entire ministry. But above all, Pastor Lisa is invested in the furtherance of Jesus' new creation values and commitments—healthy people, healthy relationships, healthy communities, healthy whole. With building community and letting no one slip through the cracks so important for our future, this is just what we need and Pastor Lisa is very much touched and moved by our commitment to ministries of care and compassion. In her estimation, and I know exactly what she means, too few congregations are motivated by interpersonal care and love; instead unhelpfully looking for the nonexistent program or person who shall fix all that ails Lutherans these days. For Pastor Lisa and me, the basics of congregational ministry are as powerful and prolific as ever. Instead of trying to reinvent a wheel which has

been in existence for thousands of years, we just need to practice the basics of mission and ministry with passion and faith and interpersonal sensitivity.

In the coming days, you'll receive a letter inviting your presence at the special congregational meeting where extending a call to Pastor Lisa Hackler shall be considered. With the letter also furnishing basic information about who Pastor Lisa is as a person, the meeting itself will be held after the conclusion of the 9:30 service on Sunday, May 19th. During worship services on Saturday, May 11th and Sunday, May 12th, Pastor Lisa shall be present to give an in-person presentation about her pastoral identity and history much like the presentation I gave remotely during my call process. A meet and greet opportunity will follow the service and presentation on the 12th. Should the call vote be successful, and Call Committee, Congregational Council, and staff all very much look forward to working with Pastor Lisa, our prospective associate pastor would likely begin her responsibilities on Sunday, June 2nd.

Grateful for Life in the Spirit of Togetherness,

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 7 New Members in April:

Darla Sundae, Thomas & Sally Alef, Patty Mason, Jay & Brigitte Walsh, and John Worden

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

INTRODUCING REV. LISA HACKLER

On Thursday, April 25th, your ALC Call Committee submitted the name of Rev. Lisa Hackler to the ALC Council with the recommendation that Rev. Hackler be extended a call to become the Associate Pastor of American Lutheran Church of Sun City.

Rev. Hackler comes to us highly recommended from her most recent pastorate in the Alaska Synod. Pastor Lisa, as we will come to know her, was the pastor at the Alaska Native Lutheran Church in Anchorage, Alaska. Prior to her pastorate in Anchorage, Pastor Lisa served congregations in Texas and Missouri and as a missionary in Central Africa.

Pastor Lisa's warmth, openness, and enthusiasm for ministry in the Lutheran Church were immediately noticeable upon our first meeting. Even prior to that first meeting, the information we received from our Grand Canyon Synod introduced us to a pastor with extensive passion for and experience in visiting and engaging members in church and faith life. Her experiences working with Native Alaskans provided a whole new experience in social ministry and evangelism, experiences which will fuel her enthusiasm for our new Social Ministry and Evangelism Committees.

Pastor Lisa's compassion for and interest in working with seniors was highlighted in both the written introductory information we received and in the comments she made as she answered our many questions. Her enthusiasm for getting to know everyone and being certain that everyone feels that they are an important part of the congregation, regardless of their current stage in life, will be a major focus of her ministry, a goal that will most assuredly help ALC be a congregation where no one falls between the cracks.

Bible studies and other small group activities are also among Pastor Lisa's passions, and while she will not be able to be involved in all of these ministerial activities during her first year, she is excited about their potential for building and maintaining a loving and meaningful church.

Your ALC Call Committee believes that Rev. Lisa Hackler will compliment and complete our ALC ministerial team. The committee unanimously recommends a "Yes" vote to extend a call to Rev. Hackler to be the Associate Pastor at American Lutheran Church of Sun City.

Glen Schulz, Chair
ALC Call Committee

Meet The New Candidate

Reverend Lisa Hackler will be at ALC to give a presentation to the congregation. Please plan to attend.

Saturday May 11, 2024 at 4:00 pm

Sunday May 12, 2024 at 9:30 am

We will have a meet and greet in the fellowship hall on Sunday the 12th for all members to get to know Pastor Lisa.

Sunday May 19th after the 9:30 am service we will have a congregational meeting to take a vote. Please attend so that we can meet quorum.



From the 🎵 desk of 🎵 James Gerber

Dr. James Gerber
Organist/Worship Coordinator

The Dance of the Trinity

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity, one God existing as three, co-equal persons, is a theological concept that attempts to explain the nature of God. The three creeds of the Church, Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian, were all written to express our belief in God as a Trinity of persons. Throughout the history of Christian tradition, theologians have attempted to explain the doctrine of the Trinity, ranging from using simple imagery to extensive and elaborate narratives that delve into the depth of this fundamental, Christian doctrine. But the Trinity is a mystery of faith. And given the limitations of our human understanding, it does not matter how much we contemplate God as Trinity, or how extensively we attempt to thoroughly express the nature of a Trinitarian God. We can always explore this mystery further and deeper.

Over the centuries, the nature of the Trinity has been frequently described as a dance. The three persons of the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are engaged in a circle dance. The Trinity depicted in this way is a beautiful expression of the relationship between the three persons of the Trinity; a relationship that is not a top-down hierarchy, but a relationship of equals, bonded together in love, living and working together.

Our Christian worship tradition frequently invokes the Holy Trinity; from the first greeting at the beginning of our worship through the benediction at the conclusion. Our prayers are frequently written in a Trinitarian format, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Our prayer of Great Thanksgiving for communion contains Trinitarian elements. And the Trinity is frequently referenced in our many hymns.

This year, Trinity Sunday is celebrated on May 26. A hymn we will be singing that day is “Come, Join the Dance of Trinity.” This text beautifully expands upon the idea of the persons of the Trinity engaged in a holy dance and we are invited to join them.





From the desk of Janet MacDonald

Music And Worship – Choir

The merry month of May is also the magnificent month of many changes.

-Starting May 5th, Sunday worship changes to **one service at 9:30**. Saturday 4:00 service time remains the same.

-Seasonal residents are noticeably absent from our midst but remain in our hearts until they return once again, some in the fall and some in the New Year.

-Seasons of the church year change. The season of Easter concludes on May 12th followed by Pentecost on May 19. We celebrate Holy Trinity Sunday on May 26.

-Our choir finishes their 23-24 season on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

I want to express deep and heartfelt thanks to each of the musicians that continue to present their best in our sacred worship services. Thank you, singers, ringers, instrumentalists for your time spent in rehearsals and individual preparation for Christ

centered worship. Soloists, Cristo Handbell Choir, Ah-Men Singers, ALC Choir, and Dr. James Gerber, thank you. I am so blessed and appreciative to serve this congregation.

And thank you-the vibrant, singing congregation. We inspire each other to do our best and accept the great commission using the gifts so freely given to us.

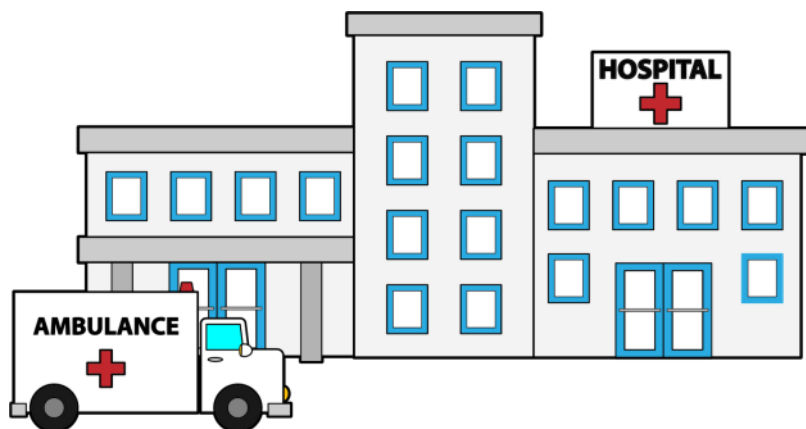
Proclaim, invite, be a blessing, and sing!

Soli deo Gloria,
Janet MacDonald.



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



President Notes: April 2024



The Steering Committee for the 50th Anniversary that I mentioned last month has now met three times, and plans are well underway for celebrating the formation of ALC in 1975. That was the year we were formally recognized and certified by the American Lutheran Church, a precursor to the ELCA. In other words, that's when we *officially* became a congregation, and thus it is viewed as the year of our founding. However as you can imagine, a lot of work was needed to create a new church, and much of that work was done in 1974. Accordingly, some of our observances will take place later this year, recognizing the work and dedication of those who worked hard to bring our church into being. We will have more to share about that very soon!

“The season,” as those of us who are snowbirds call it, is ending, and so many of us have and will head off to other parts of the country for the summer months. (As this issue of OUTREACH comes out my wife and I will be on the road driving back to Minnesota.) We may be scattered hither and yon, and we usually have churches where we attend in our other, “summer” communities. But even when we are far away we have many opportunities to stay connected with American Lutheran here in Sun City.

One way to stay connected is by accessing our excellent website, alcsuncity.org. There you will be able to watch the live broadcast of our Sunday morning service, which over the summer is at 9:30 AM (Pacific Time) – or you can watch the video recording of the service with the link that is available on the website. You can even download the service bulletin and follow along, if you so wish. There are other nice features on our website, such as the church calendar.

Though many of us are not physically present over the summer, the work of the Council and many of our committees continues as we meet via conference calls and “zoom” over the internet. To all who are traveling and those who are not, I pray for God's presence and peace be with you throughout the summer season.

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
5/4&5		
5/4&5		
5/11&12		
5/11&12		
5/18&19	Joyce Wickum	In memory of Lowell—Husband, Father, Grandfather & Great-Grandfather.
5/18&19		
5/25&26	Jane Jensen	In Thanksgiving to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the opportunity to travel to England.
5/25&26		

Bus Update

Greetings ALC Congregation,

Over the past several weeks, our bus has been out of service for repairs, which has prompted conversations about the future of the ALC bus ministry. Factors considered were operating costs, the unreliability of an aging vehicle, the increasing maintenance costs involved, the difficulty finding drivers due to new regulations to obtain a CDL license, and the five financial goals already set for 2024 which have not yet been achieved. After great thought and consideration, the church council has made the difficult decision to sell the bus.

With that decision comes the issue of how we will provide transportation for a handful of our members who need rides to services and WNA. We would like to reignite our “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” ministry.

If you have a reliable vehicle and would be willing to assist one or two of your fellow members by giving them a ride to weekend services, please let our Resource Minister - Annette DeJesus know. Most of the members who ride the bus are within 5 miles of ALC. If fuel expenses are an issue ALC is willing to compensate each driver for their time and expenses.

If a former user of the bus prefers to hire their own transportation, ALC is also willing to reimburse that

member for their expenses up to \$20 per round trip. Members must submit their receipts to DeNage in the office for reimbursement.

If anyone has any alternative ideas or solutions they would like to suggest and discuss we are open to other options.

To volunteer for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, or to request a ride please contact Annette DeJesus at A.DeJesus@alcsuncity.org 480-848-7045.

For reimbursement, please contact DeNage in the office at 623-974-2512 or email her at D.bautista@alcsuncity.org

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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



Sun City Posse Services Available for YOU.

The Sun City Posse offers a variety of services to the community. Two services of interest for members of our congregation are highlighted below. Both are offered at no charge to Sun City residents. The only requirement is a telephone.

R.U.O.K. For those who live alone . . .

This service provides a phone call to your home each and every day to ensure that you are not experiencing difficulties. If you answer and press a key on the phone, the system will assume you are OK. If you don't answer, the service calls again three times every 15 minutes. The Posse will then notify a public safety agency.

Funeral Watch Program

In order to provide peace of mind to the family, the Posse will provide a marked car and uniformed Posse member to protect the residence of the family while they are away for services. Once you contact the Posse, they will schedule a Posse member to be at your residence before you leave for the service.

To obtain more information or to sign up for either service, please contact the Sun City Posse at 623-972-2555.



Thanks

To the members of the ALC Social Ministry team,

I read that the Mission of the American Lutheran Church has a goal — “Invite-Welcome-Feed-Include.” A very specific example of that is the ongoing support your church has provided for once a month evening meals for the Monday night IHELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program) guests that The Church of the Palms hosts every week. It’s been a year long partnership. Thank you. In addition you are providing sack lunches for the same guests for the month of April and part of May. Thank you. Your generosity continues with the donation of a 100 hygiene kits that will be given out in Maricopa County as our Feet ‘n More shower trailer travels in its outreach to those in need. We welcome any member to see either program in action and to consider other ways we may collaborate.

Romans 12:13 “Share with the Lord’s people who are in need.”

With gratitude,

Nancy Mueller

The Church of the Palms

Social Justice Leadership Team - IHELP

Wednesday Night Alive

2023-2024

Season Ends Successfully!

Thank you all for supporting our Wednesday Night Alive series at American Lutheran. We had a great year! The programs were well attended, and we received lots of positive feedback on the diversity and quality of our performers and speakers. We continue to be pleased with the excellent meals catered by Jane Coughlin and served by a host of ALC volunteers!

Except during Lent and Advent, we have two programs, one at 4:00 p.m. and one at 6:00 p.m. This format allows those that don't drive after dark to enjoy an excellent program and offers something for those that need a later program due to work or other obligations. Or, like many of us, we just devote the entire Wednesday late afternoon/early evening to having fun and a meal at ALC!

The upcoming season will be especially noteworthy because ALC is celebrating its 50-year anniversary. Our kickoff Gala - November 6, 2024 – is 50 years to the day when a group of people in Sun City met for the first time to start planning a new church! We will have a special commemoration of this event as part of our Gala.

While we try to change our programs from year to year, there are some programs that we will repeat. We will keep the new format of our Veterans Day program that worked well: In the courtyard, surrounded by flags,

the Color Guard from Luke AFB presented the colors followed by speakers, music, and acknowledgements of our Veterans in attendance. Glenn Henricksen has promised that he will perform for us in the coming year. On Ash Wednesday, we will have a program at 4:00 pm followed by a free soup dinner. And James Gerber will again close out our season with a powerful and thunderous organ concert!

If you are interested in underwriting a program, please contact Deb Hjortland or Donna Borden. If you would like to help us plan programs, sell tickets to the dinner, greet program attendees, or serve meals, we would welcome your help!

The committee consists of:

Donna Borden, Co-Chair

Jane Coughlin, caterer

James Gerber

Mike Graham

Flash Helm, Council Liaison

Debra Hjortland, Co-Chair

Janet McDonald

Steve Miedzybrocki

Carol Torgerson

Phyllis Wimmer

Charlene Young

May,

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn
Social Ministry Reminders: Food: Tuna Activity: Collecting Diapers			1 9:00 Apprec 1:30 Grief S 1:30 Ushers Meeting
5 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Fellowship	6 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 1:30 Card Making 5:00 I-Help Serving Dinner	7 9:30 Memory Care Grp 10:00 Pastor's Bible Study 2:00 Evangelism Committee Mtg 3:30 Bell Choir	8 10:00 Ikebar 1:30 Grief S 1:30 50th Ar Committee M
12 MOTHERS DAY 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Fellowship	13 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 1:00 Social ministry 1:30 Card Making	14 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	15 8:00 Quail R Neighborhood 1:30 Grief S Group
19 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Fellowship	20 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 1:30 Card Making	21 9:30 Memory Care Group 10:00 Pastor's Bible Study 1:00 ALC Game Day 1:30 Finance Committee Mtg	22 9:00 Executi Committee M 1:30 Grief S
26 9:30 Worship (New Member Introductions) 10:30 Coffee Fellowship	27 Memorial Day OFFIC CLOSED	28 9:30 Memory Care Group 10:00 Pastor's Bible Study 1:30 Council Mtg	29 1:30 Grief S

2024

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Reunification Event Support & Greeters</p>	<p>2 10:00 MS Support Group 2:30 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3 7:00 AZ Girls Choir Concert</p>	<p>4 8:30 2H Neighborhood Grp. 8:30 Westers Neighborhood Group 1:00 Barbara Saboe Memorial 4:00 Worship</p>
<p>8 Anna Support Anniversary Mtg</p>	<p>9 9:00 Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9:00 3C Neighborhood Group 11:00 Mercedes Stevens Memorial 12:00 Mercedes Stephens reception 4:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>15 Sun and Grp Support</p>	<p>16 9:00 Stephen Ministry Leaders</p>	<p>17 11:00 John Riedel Memorial 12:00 Memorial Luncheon</p>	<p>18 10:30 Armon Helvig Memorial 4:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>22 Live Meeting Support</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 4:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>29 Support</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	





stephen
MINISTRY®

Christ caring for people through people

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

This has been another productive year for ALC's Stephen Ministry program. Most noticeably we were able to conduct our "annual" Stephen Ministry training once again after missing last year. And that training has provided four new Stephen Ministers for our ALC roster. We were especially pleased to congratulate and welcome this group at our annual Stephen Ministry Banquet on March 23rd and then to be present and support them as they were formally commissioned at the 10:30 worship service on April 7th.

Stephen Ministers complete 50 hours of training prior to being commissioned, but that is just the beginning. We meet monthly, November through May, for continuing education and refresher training to help us be as prepared and ready to help our Care Receivers as we can be. This year we began our programming by taking the opportunity to learn of all the resources which are available to members of ALC through Annette DeJesus our Lutheran Social Services representative who has office hours here at ALC.

Topics for the succeeding months included loneliness, depression, and suicide. These are all conditions which are prevalent in our population and learning to recognize the symptoms and means of

helping someone deal with them is essential to our mission.

Holy Communion and its role in Stephen Ministry provided another topic for in depth study this year, guiding us as we bring this means of grace to our Care Receivers.

As this year draws to a close, we are already planning next year's programming. Some of these topics will be of general interest and all topics will be announced in advance to the congregation. If you notice a topic which is of particular interest to you, we invite you to attend our presentations.

Stephen Ministry is a vital part of our Care Ministry at ALC. This ministry can only continue if new people join us on a regular basis. Please watch for information this Fall regarding how you might become part of our ministry outreach.

While we do not meet formally during the summer months, we continue to meet regularly with our Care Receivers because Stephen Ministry is "Christ Caring For People Through People".

For more information or general questions you are invited to contact Ann Skidmore, Leadership Chair at 623-606-7464 or Glen Schulz, Leadership Information Coordinator at 623-87511-1011.

Have a blessed summer wherever you choose to enjoy it.

Glen Schulz, Leadership Information Coordinator



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...

May 8 Diffusing Family Conflict 10:00-11:00 am

Presented by Terra Pointe - Toni Grimm
Registration deadline 5/1

Every Tuesday, Memory Care Caregiver Support Group 9:30-11:30 am

Presented by Gentle Hearts Living Solutions - Kari

Every 1st Thursday of the month, * Not meeting June—August MS Support Group 10:00-12:00 pm

Presented by Sun City MS Support Group—Kati Jimenez

Did you know that we have some talented artists here in our Congregation? You could be a talented artist too!

These members attended one of the Painting Tutorials that were offered here through Annette our resource minister.

Annette works hard to make sure we have educational and fun events for free here on our ALC campus. Please be sure to check out all of the “For the Health of It” events and opportunities. New events coming in October.

Please RSVP for them before their deadline so that she can continue to offer these free programs.

A lack of registration and attendance leads to cancellation and removal of these events. Please check them out and bring a friend so we can keep them on the calendar.



Card Shower

We have a special Birthday coming up on May 10th!!!

Ken Friedrichsen is turning 90!

Let's help him celebrate and show him how much he's loved by mailing him cards and sending him emails wishing him a Happy Birthday! You can find his contact information in your most recent directory or the digital Realm app directory.



Planning for our 50th!

The 50th Anniversary Steering Committee is working and planning events to celebrate American Lutheran Church's 50th Anniversary!

We'd like to ask:

- ◆ The church has archives we are exploring, but if anyone has any photos from the days of the church's initial gatherings or founding in 1974 or 1975, we'd like to see and perhaps copy them.
- ◆ Do you know of anyone who would be willing to video tape brief interviews with congregation members or others with experience early in our congregation's history? We hope to find someone with video experience.
- ◆ We haven't done a congregational photo directory for a number of years, and we'd like to arrange for a new one to be released in 2025. Is there anyone in our congregation who has some experience in photography that might be willing to donate their time to take photos for it? We can supply the backdrop and the camera and provide some support.

If you can help us out with any of the above, please send an email to our staff contact person for the Committee, DeNage Bautista, at d.bautista@alcsuncity.org.

Thank you.

50th Anniversary Steering Committee

Women's Ministry

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

•Distribution of Funds Raised for Our Projects:

During April we began making decisions about where to donate monies. So far we have recently given almost \$6,000.00 to our projects.

•Spinning Bandages:

Women's Ministry is so grateful to the generous drivers to the Twin Cities who are delivering our boxes of bandages to Lutheran Global Health. The bandages done before April and left ALC on April 8th. Bandages completed in April will journey with Deb and David Hjortland the first week of May.

Because of Memorial Day being the 4th Monday in May we will not spin bandages in May. Please be watching for spinning dates in the summer.

Connecting Threads:

Thank you for making the March Quilt Sale a huge success. Since the Holiday Bazaar in November, 80 quilts have been made. All of them were sold or donated with 52 quilts being delivered to the 4 charities:

- Children's Crisis Center
- Valley View Food Bank, Sun City
- St. John's Food Pantry
- Pastor David's Church

We are fortunate to have 16-17 quilters working on Monday's in the Winter months and 6-7 ladies in the Summer. Our Summer Project of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief began after the March Quilt Sale.

We had a SURPRISE donation in April of fabric! Everyone is enjoying going through to select pieces to make into squares and put in new quilts.

Thank you ALC for your support and encouragement of our Women's Ministry Projects.

Jan Powell
Women's Ministry



ALC Stickers

Summer is here! Do you have your ALC Stickers on your water bottles, laptops, phone cases, golf carts, and car windows?

We've seen some pretty creative spots for our stickers! Send us some pictures of where you've put yours. You can send them to Info@alcsuncity.org

DeNage Bautista,
Executive Assistant for Community Outreach



Serving at ALC isn't just to benefit the church and the community. It also benefits YOU too!

Serving helps you to meet new people, stimulates your mind, increases your activity levels and invigorates your blood flow. Not to mention, its serving Gods purpose and plan.

ALC is looking for NEW Volunteers to be: Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants, Altar Guild, and many other opportunities. Stop by the office and speak with DeNage to find the perfect place for you!

Social Ministry

A year of Giving

Blue Bag Food item of the month is Tuna

Snowbirds - remember the food shelf as you pack up. We accept all non-perishable items. Food shelf items go locally to Valley View Community Food Bank & West Valley Community Food Pantry.



Hunger is there everyday for some.

May's Social Ministry emphasis is Diapers supporting the Diaper Bank at St. Andrews Episcopal, Church Glendale.



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



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

So much going on - So little time!

Once a month, on the 3rd Thursday, all the thrifting establishments on the corner of 107th & Peoria in Sun City reopen at 5pm and stay open until 8pm with special deals. A good option for people who work (or golf) and cannot make it during our regular hours. This month, the 3rd Thursday experience is May 16th. We'd love to have you join us!

Did you know we pick up furniture donations? We send a truck and a few good men to come into your home and take out your donations which are too large for you to haul. Appointments are necessary for this service so call and get on our schedule. (On the 3rd Friday of each month we are exclusively in the Vistancia/Trilogy area) Items that fit in your car can be brought to the shop on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9-2pm. Come around back to the red door.

Have you heard about our ongoing Silent Auction? It's one of the shop's most popular draws and has attracted literally thousands of customers. Bidders have dozens of vintage, collectable and designer art, jewelry, handbags, furniture, clocks and clothing on which they can bid.

You can find out about our weekly sales, current raffles and special items for sale by following us on [Facebook.com/westvalleylutheranthriftshop/](https://www.facebook.com/westvalleylutheranthriftshop/)

We also have a website. www.lutheranthrift.com

So many ways to interact with us! Shop with us, donate your gently used goods or join us as a volunteer. Call us today to schedule a tour or adonation pick-up. 623.815.7061

THE CONFESSION OF A LISTMAKER

By Terri Polk

You might not know this about me....but I am a list maker and I expect that many of you are too. Now, I have been making lists for a long time....but, since I have been trying to appreciate every moment of every day, I am not as compelled to get through my daily list. In fact, now “that list” just flows into the next day, and, sometimes things on my list disappear, not because I finished them, but because they no longer feel important. Now, why am I telling you about this?

Today I woke up, ready to get going on my list....but my daughter called and we had a wonderful one hour conversation. What made this even more meaningful is that lately, more often than not, our conversations have not always ended in such a positive way. Well, now I am more than 1 hour behind according to my list and schedule and had to add another “stop” to my “to-do” list.

But I am smiling....what a wonderful outcome. Later that day, I was able to cross 2 more things off my list....but now I had to conquer “THE GYM”. Not a favorite spot of mine until I am finished with my workout. Today, on my way into the gym, I saw an older woman sitting outside on the bench. I said “Good afternoon” and she replied the same. She said something I didn’t quite catch, so I stopped and asked her how her day was going. Well, we got into quite a conversation. I heard about her family and her health. We continued talking until she got a phone call from her son (who was on the way to pick her up). She told me to have a “blessed” day and I replied the same. **I had to smile**. I am now further behind in my schedule....but so what? I had a great opportunity to visit with someone new, and even if I never see her again, what a positive impact she had on me.

You see, when I start my day in prayer, I am reminded every day to 1) don’t sweat the small stuff; 2) enjoy the “gift” of today; 3) take time for each other; 4) embrace and use the gifts God has given each of us; 5) try to view each day as an adventure and 6) a life lived with God in your constant presence is never dull or predictable.

Now, that doesn’t mean I will stop making my lists....But...**every** day and **every** relationship and **every** connection counts. I will try and get better at practicing that, and, I hope we all do...it will be a far better world we will live in.

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Worship & Music Ministry

Gift given by Evelyn Meyer

Gift given by Thomas & Cynthia Lerdahl

Gift given by Russell J. Flack & Karren N. Moran

In honor of Rutter Requiem by Douglas & Mary Bolster

In memory of William Dickinson by Ms. Karen Weamer

Debt Reduction

In memory of Wally Eklund by Violet Anderson

Undesignated

In memory of Gerald Amble by Marie B. Amble

In memory of Wally Eklund Martha Livingston

In memory of Wally Eklund by Violet Anderson

In memory of Ann Laubach by Melissa Laubach

In memory of William Dickinson by Ms. Jo Tower

In memory of William Dickinson by Colleen Gandrud

In memory of William Dickinson by Scott & Ali Fontaine

In memory of Wally Eklund by David & Debra Hjortland

In memory of William Dickinson by

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Engle

In memory of William Dickinson by

Ms. Bonnie J. Stratton

In memory of William Dickinson by

Darryl Lackey & Linda Pabst

Evangelism Goals Update through April 24, 2024

<i>Goal</i>	<i>YTD Progress</i>	<i>Prior Year Comparison</i>
1. Each One, Reach One for Christ and ALC	358 new visitors	Similar information not available
2. Keep the New Members Coming	31 new members have been received	23 new members received
3. Maintain Last Year's Attendance Gains	545 people per week on average	528 people per week

Stewardship Goals Update through March 20, 2024

<i>Goal</i>	<i>YTD Goal</i>	<i>YTD Progress</i>	<i>Action Required</i>
1. Match 2023 Giving	\$318,513.68	On Track	Maintain Current Trend
2. Pay All Bills in Full (Extra \$2.55/Wk. per Household)	\$18,360.00	On Track	Maintain Current Trend
3. Save for a Rainy Day (Extra \$2.22/Wk. per Household)	\$15,984.00	On Track	Maintain Current Trend
4. Debt Free in Seven Years (Extra \$1.95/Wk. per Household)	\$14,040.00	\$6,329.31 Behind	Extra \$.88/Wk per Household
5. Property Maintenance (Extra \$1.71/Wk. per Household)	\$12,312.00	\$12,312. Behind	Extra \$1.71/Wk per Household
6. Fund Unbudgeted Ministries (Extra \$1.57/Wk. per Household)	\$11,304.00	\$11,304. Behind	Extra \$1.57/Wk per Household
Total Gifts Required to Meet YTD Goals	\$390,513.68	29,945.31 Behind	Extra \$4.16/Wk per Household

Financial Update through March 20, 2024

<i>Category</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Offering Income	\$360,568.37	\$318,513.68	\$42,054.69
Ministry Expenses	\$279,643.20	\$308,869.06	(\$29,225.86)
Available for Additional Ministry	\$80,925.17	(\$9,644.62)	\$71,280.55

NOTE: With many members giving once a year, and the timing of their gift sometimes varying from year to year, measuring progress against prior year results will always be imprecise and potentially misleading for a time. Right now we are doing quite well and it's hoped that will continue without interruption, but next month could also be a different story. It's time to celebrate, but not rest on our laurels.

Debt Reduction Update through March 20,2024

Paid in February	Special Gift	Paid YTD	Balance Due
\$4,195.00		\$11,051.40	\$1,524,959.00



John Riedel 6/20/1933 - 4/15/2024

Armon Helvig 6/01/1932 - 4/13/2024

Connie Archer 9/10/1928 - 4/18/2024

Edward Konieczny 9/18/1632 - 4/1/2024

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

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, May 21st, 1-3 pm
Everyone's invited!**



The Good Book Club

Meetings will resume in the Fall

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

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



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Rev. Julia Sprenkle

Pastoral Associate
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Andy Le

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED