



# Outreach



October  
2024

In partnership with the Holy Spirit and sister ministries like the Grand Canyon Synod and Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, we've been building a tent. The seventh chapter of 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel suggests describing our shared endeavor by way of reference to a tent would meet with God's approval. When David once wanted to build God a palace, God preferred a tent and reminded David the divine interest is in people, not in pomp, pampering, or prestige. When Jesus endured the shame of the cross for you and me and described himself as an expert on fishing for people, the same divine interest and inclination were also brought to the fore.



As our various partnerships continue, the tent we're building together will hopefully turn out better than an army tent I once inhabited. A torrential rainstorm overwhelmed the trench we had built around that tent, swamped its interior, and compromised its poles. If you're looking for good and solid tent builders, Abaraham and Sarah in Genesis 18:1-8 are a better bet. When God paid an unexpected visit to the first family of

## 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.

faith, their tent proved to be quite accessible because Abraham stood ready to invite and welcome the Lord. A concerted and continuing emphasis upon inviting and welcoming is key as far as tent access is concerned. When you invite and welcome with passion, sincerity, and consistency, you can receive more new members than all but one sister congregation in the entirety of the Phoenix metroplex as we did in 2023 and we're presently on pace to do even better this year. Keep inviting and welcoming!

Of equal success has been keeping the business of having a tent door that remains open as simple as possible. Too often we turn basic dollars and cents into brain surgery or an enterprise requiring artificial intelligence. Perhaps this is one reason why God and God's word have long had to show us a more excellent way, (1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13)! In the past, as today, simplicity and common sense just don't have to work too hard to outperform approaches which have too much in common with brain surgery and artificial intelligence. When the return and reach of every existing dollar is maximized, givers are conscientiously and cheerfully generous, and a fair balance is struck between ministry and debt reduction, good things happen, as the financial reports in this newsletter continue to demonstrate.

But having a tent with an accessible and open door is only half the battle. The other is feeding and including those who enter your tent so they're more likely to stick around and become a positive part of things. Abraham and Sarah were able to pull this off during God's unexpected visit because they had adequate room and provision in their tent. The tent we're building with God and one another shall be positioned similarly when it's held up by as many ministry poles as possible. The greater the number of ministry poles, the roomier our tent will be for the wide variety of people who will visit us in a place as dense and diverse as Phoenix.

With much of that discussed in previous paragraphs well underway, we're now engaged with adding ministry poles to our tent. When we began our partnership, it seems to me we had three ministry poles. There was highly musical worship of a traditional character, fellowship featuring food and often music too (Sunday coffee hour and Wednesday Night Alive), and care for one another (Stephen Ministry). Through the presence and gifts of Pastor Lisa and our emphasis upon letting no one slip through the cracks, the care for one another pole has most definitely been reinforced and strengthened as needed to happen. With I-Help and its official arrival at ALC this month an example, there's also now a care and compassion for community ministry pole being raised up by the Social Ministry Committee with the support of Pastor Julia and Dr. James. What other poles do we need to be adding? Remember! When it comes to a tent roomy enough to feed and include as many as possible, the more ministry poles the better!

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**

**3 New Members in August:**

Steven Bartlett, Paul & Barbara Hickey

# Caring With Pastor Lisa

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.* -1 Thessalonians 5:11

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* -Hebrews 10:24-25

Thank you for caring for one another. Several times, members of our congregation have let me know that a person who usually sits near them in church hasn't been to worship for a couple of weeks. It is so good that we notice one another and miss each other when we aren't there. Sometimes the person is just traveling or busy, but other times someone is sick or something is wrong, and it is good for us to follow up.

In the church office, we are thankful for Glen Schulz, who diligently records attendance into our database every Monday. Lately, Nancy Long-Polnoff, Anne Miller, and I have been trying to contact people who normally attend church but have been absent for a few Sundays. Sometimes we email, call, or send a card, depending on the information we have. Not everyone signs the little black pew pad, so it is not a perfect system, but we are doing our best. Approximately 20 people per service don't or aren't able to sign the black pew pad, so we miss quite a few people.

Before this, we were calling many church members just to see how they were doing. Some had not attended for years. Many times, we learned their circumstances had changed, and we needed to bring communion to them. Occasionally, they had already found another

church home but hadn't informed us. Sometimes they weren't coming because they missed their friends who are no longer with us. While making these calls, we often found our contact information was no longer valid; people had moved or even passed away, and we were never informed. Thank you to Janet McDonald and Anne Miller for working on this. We are now better able to stay in contact with our members, and people have been reminded that we truly care about them.

In a million little ways, we can show one another in the body of Christ that we care. One of our members once told me that when she notices the man who sits in front of her at worship is not at church for a couple of weeks, she texts him to see if he is okay. Another member goes to visit a fellow member every Sunday, bringing her a bulletin and sometimes flowers. Several members have given me a heads-up when they notice someone who usually attends is missing. We also have a group that sends homemade cards to people who are sick or have lost a loved one.

We are the church, and thanks be to God, we don't have to 'do life' alone. If you have additional ideas about how we can better be there for one another, let me know. I'm thankful for Gail Wightman-Bouldin who gave me a number of ideas I plan to try in the future. If you are comfortable calling or emailing a few people each week, let me know that too. Doing these things are part of building up the body of Christ and encouraging one another. God has a purpose for the church, and we all have a part to play in communicating God's grace and care for others inside and outside our church.

God's Peace,  
Pastor Lisa





# From the 🎵 desk of 🎵 James Gerber

## **Dr. James Gerber** **Organist/Worship Coordinator**

My First Week in Seminary.

What an amazing experience I had during my first week at Luther Seminary! I was on campus from September 14 - 20 for Residential Focus Sessions (RFS). These classes begin with all-day, in-person classes with our professors and fellow classmates. I will be continuing these courses through the rest of the semester online via zoom meetings and posting reflections on the topic of the week. We were busy with classes, but we had opportunities to pray together in chapel services, enjoy lunch together, and many of us gathered to socialize afterward.

The courses I'm taking this semester are "Christian Public Leaders" and "Thinking Theologically and Confessing." The professors for these classes are energetic and engaging and facilitated our classes with dynamic discussions. Many of my own Christian convictions were confirmed and I was often challenged to think about God in a variety of new and different perspectives.

As wonderful as the classes themselves are, probably the best part for me was meeting all the new seminarians who are excited about their faith and eager to enter into a formation process to become the future leaders in the Church. There are students at Luther from a whole range of denominational backgrounds; each person brings to the table their own unique personalities and experiences that enriched our discussions. I really enjoyed meeting and interacting with each person I met and am already excited to connect with all the new friends and ministry partners I met during RFS. There is a bright future for the Church as these new leaders step up to serve Christ and the Church.

Thank you for all your words of support and your continual prayers. I'd like to especially thank Dave and Deb Hjortland who generously hosted my stay in the Twin Cities during my RFS session. They certainly helped me feel at home at the end of a long day of study. This is an exciting new chapter!



*Dr. James and Alison Roberts, Philanthropic Adviser for Luther Seminary pose in front of the Luther Seminary sign.*



# *From the desk of Janet MacDonald*

## Music And Worship – Choir

### Join Us for a New Choir Season

We are excited to announce the return of our choir! Starting October 6th, we will resume our musical journey with an uplifting performance of John Rutter's energetic setting of "For the Beauty of the Earth" as our first anthem of the season.

Rehearsals have already begun on September 26, and we welcome singers of all experience levels to join us! Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or a beginner looking to explore the joy of choral music, there's a place for you in our choir family.

#### **Rehearsal Details:**

**When:** Thursdays from 2:30 PM to 4:25 PM

**Where:** ALC Choir Room

Come be part of a vibrant community where you can express your love for music, grow in your skills, and contribute to the worship experience. Let's make beautiful music together!

For more information, feel free to reach out to me via email, phone or in person at worship. We look forward to seeing you!

Soli deo Gloria!

Janet MacDonald, Director

[j.macdonald@alcsuncity.org](mailto:j.macdonald@alcsuncity.org)





# October, 2024



As we come into the fall season many of us who are snowbirds are returning to Sun City, and activities are picking up at American Lutheran. I hope many of us will be able to participate in the Sanctuary Cleaning Day (October 24th) and the Fall Reunion Dinner with Elvis (Oct. 30th). And there are many more plans for November and December events!

In my space here this month I thought I'd share a bit about something that is much on my mind of late: the Constitution and Bylaws of our church. (Exciting topics, I know...) Our present Constitution was adopted by ALC from a format and wording provided by the ELCA in 1988, which was the year the ELCA was officially established. The Bylaws are guidelines formulated by the congregation, describing how it wishes to operate and setting forth instructions governing a wide range of different aspects of church work.

Over the years since 1988 the ELCA has updated its recommended Constitution a number of times, evolving it to respond to changes in the Lutheran Church and in the legal environment. ALC has not updated ours. Why not? Because we have always been informed that if we made **any** changes at all in our Constitution, the whole thing would need to be updated to conform to the current ELCA Model. That Model requires the church to disallow Associate Members from voting or holding office in our church! This has always been a non-starter for us, because it has always been basic to our structure that snowbirds – many of whom are Associate Members here and regular members at a “home” church – are strong participants in the life of ALC.

Now, after so many years, Pastor Scott has managed to obtain preliminary approval from the Grand Canyon Synod of which we are a part to proceed with an updating of our Constitution, while retaining full rights for Associate Members. This is truly an exciting development. I will be working with a group formed through the Council to study the ELCA model and work toward that end. It may be a lengthy process, but there is no doubt that it will be worthwhile.

Over the years we have revised our Bylaws somewhat to reflect changes in ALC operations, and we had started working on a new set of recommendations earlier this year when this possibility came up. I cannot say at the time I write this whether we will review the Bylaws in conjunction with a study of a Constitution update, or after that work has been accomplished. We will have to see when we dig in to the specifics of the study. For now, I will conclude by mentioning that any change to our Constitution and/or our Bylaws must be approved by vote of the congregation. It would be great if we could have this prepared in time for a vote at the Annual Meeting in January, but I wouldn't bet the farm on that. Stay tuned.

I hope you and yours have had a worthwhile summer, and I look forward to seeing you in church.

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.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Given by</b>	<b>In thanksgiving, memory or celebration</b>
10/5&6	Phyllis Wimer	In memory of a blessed day
10/5&6		
10/12&13	Bryan & Drinda Cooper-Keeble	In celebration of 31st wedding anniversary
10/12&13		
10/19&20		
10/19&20		
10/26&27	Tom & LeAnn Husnik	In celebration of the return of the choir.
10/26&27		

# Women's Ministry



- **Connecting Threads**

Every Monday, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon Multi-Purpose Room. The Women's Ministry summer project of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief resulted in 28 quilts displayed and blessed during the God's Work Our Hands service. That's 11 more quilts than we sent to LWR last fall.

- **Spinning Bandages**

October 28, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., NW corner of Fellowship Hall. These bandages go to Lutheran Global Health. Come enjoy conversation and fellowship as you spin bandages.

- **Operation Christmas Child**

Boxes and shopping lists are available in the Fellowship Hall for you to take and fill. Please return completed boxes by November 10.

- **Women's Ministry Annual Holiday Bazaar and Lefse Sale**

Saturday, November 23rd 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon Fellowship Hall The Lefse has been ordered and people are working on making items for the Bazaar. Later in October Kathy Ulrich will be having sign-ups for the Baked Goods Sale.

- **Save The Date!!!** December 5th Women's Ministry's December Luncheon will be a 'Thank You' for your wonderful support of our projects. No purchase of tickets. This is our gift to you...but we will be taking reservations in November. Our special guests will be Pastor Lisa and Pastor Julia who will share about themselves so we can know them better. Please plan to attend.

The ALC Women's Ministry is so appreciative of your support of our projects. You make it possible for us to share God's love in our world. Bless you all!

Jan Powell



## Did you know:

Annette is your in-house Resource Minister, and she is here 40 hours per month to assist you with connecting to resources for a variety of reasons and situations and she would love to meet you, your neighbor, friend, and any stranger on the street. This is a free service that the American Lutheran Church provides for the congregation and the community.

Here is a glimpse of what services have been provided for the months of June, July, and August:

**July** -We had 40 encounters for services for caregiver assistance, respite services for caregiver relief, attending networking events to obtain more resources, housing, assisting with social security filing paperwork, employment, rental assistance, nutrition assistance, obtaining Medicaid approval for an individual, utility assistance, gas gift card and food gift card assistance.

**Success Story:** ALC was able to assist an elderly individual with completing Department of Economic Security application for nutrition assistance and was also able to get her approved for Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) insurance (Medicaid).

**August**-We had 42 encounters for services i.e. clothing and food assistance, domestic violence shelter assistance, transportation, water bill assistance, hoarding assistance, rental assistance, lodging assistance, caregiving assistance, housing, and employment.

**Success story:** We were able to assist an individual with getting help for \$1000 toward their electric bill and enrolled them in a 60% discount program for their electric bill. The individual was so grateful for the assistance.

# For the Health of It!



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

## **Advanced Directives October 9th, 10-11 AM** ***Registration deadline 10/7***

Advance care planning is a facilitated process of planning for future health and personal care. Advance care planning conversations help to ensure that a person's beliefs, values, and preferences are understood, and then documented, so that they are in place to guide future decision-making at a time when a person is unable to make their wishes known to their healthcare team. Carla Sutter, MSW, of the Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry will help you design a plan that honors your end-of-life healthcare wishes.

## **Love the Skin You're in! November 13th, 10-11 AM** ***Registration deadline 11/11***

Are annual skin cancer screenings important? What is the best sunscreen? Do I really need to moisturize? Anna Gould, PA-C from the Skin and Cancer Institute will talk about everything you should be doing to make sure your skin is the best it can be no matter what your age.

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



## Come and See

### “The Chosen” Season 1

Mondays at 10:30 am in the  
Choir Room.

## Haven't seen The Chosen yet?

### Now is the perfect time to join us!

We will be starting with Season 1, Episode 1 on Monday October 14th at 10:30 am. 'Come and See' and discover a deeper understanding of Jesus and his disciples.

## NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

As part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of ALC we are doing a pictorial directory. It has been several years since we have attempted a task like this but feel it will be an asset for years to come. We have contracted with a company that only does church directories and we approve of their product.

We are scheduled for mid January to include all our winter members. We need to have our schedule of appointments to them by early Dec. so we will start making appointments in November. There is no obligation to purchase photos so we want 100% participation. If you have photos taken and attend the review of photos you will be given an 8x10 photo and a directory for FREE!

To make sure we have the most updated information we will be sending out an email opting all members into the digital directory. Expect this email in the next 1-2 weeks. Anyone who does not want their info in the directory can let DeNage in the office know and you will be removed. [d.bautista@alcsuncity.org](mailto:d.bautista@alcsuncity.org)

We will need assistance with scheduling appointments in November at church services and with make phone calls to our out of town members! Please consider assisting us with scheduling. Contact Donna Borden at 623-523-3382 or [dbordenpt@msn.com](mailto:dbordenpt@msn.com)

Thank you!

# Donations for Women's Ministries

**Women's Ministries sincerely appreciates** the many items members of the congregation have donated to our charities.

**Unfortunately**, for various reasons, **we no longer collect many of the items** we once did. However there are **two items we still accept**.

**Please help us help these charities.**



If you have **old eyeglasses or hearing aids** you will never use again, **donate them to Women's Ministries**. Simply place them in the **wicker basket** on the **"Food Gathering Table"**. We will see that the **Lion's Club** receives them. They **will repair/refurbish** the items and **distribute them to the needy** at little or no cost.

How about **helping families of seriously ill or injured children?** And it **doesn't cost "Just \$19.00 a month"**. Simply save the **pull tabs from canned beverages**. Place them in that **same wicker basket**. We will deliver them to **Ronald McDonald House**. They **recycle the pull tabs** and the **money raised helps to fund the services of Ronald McDonald Charities**.

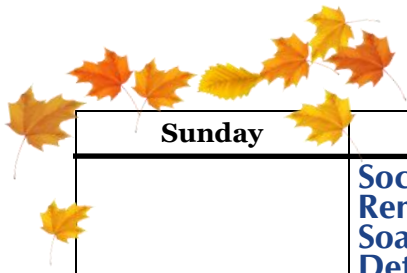
**Families of seriously ill or injured children** being treated at **Phoenix Children's Hospital** can **stay at Ronald McDonald House** for **no more than \$25.00 a night for lodging and meals**. **Some families pay nothing**.

**Ronald McDonald charities help families of ill and injured children around the world. All it takes is your pull tabs to make life better for medically fragile children and their families.**

**PLEASE DON'T THROW OUT EYEGASSES, HEARING AIDS OR PULL TABS WHEN THESE ITEMS CAN HELP OTHERS.**




# October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	<b>Social Ministry Reminders: Dish Soap &amp; Laundry Detergent</b> <b>Activity: Turkey Time...Cash &amp; Grocery Cards</b>	<b>1</b> 9:30 Memory Care 10:00 Civic Life & Faith Bible Study 1:30 Grief Support 2:00 Evangelism Committee Mtg. 3:30 Bell Choir	<b>2</b> 10:30 Pastor Study 3:00 I-Help
<b>6</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Fellowship	<b>7</b> 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 1:30 Card Making	<b>8</b> 9:30 Memory Care 10:00 Civic Life & Faith Bible Study 1:00 Personnel Committee 1:30 Grief Support 1:30 Trust Committee 3:30 Bell Choir	<b>9</b> 10:00 Advan Directives 10:30 Pastor Study 1:30 50th Ar Committee
<b>13</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:45 New Member Orientation	<b>14</b> 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 10:30 Good Book Club 10:30 The Chosen 1 1:00 Social Ministry 1:30 Card Making	<b>15</b> 9:30 Memory Care 10:00 Civic Life & Faith Bible Study 1:30 Grief Support 3:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 8:00 Ikebana 8:00 Quail R Neighborhood 10:30 Pastor Study 11:00 Charle Memorial 12:30 ALC C 3:00 I-Help
<b>20</b> 9:30 Worship (New Member Introductions) 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 3:30 ProMusica Concert	<b>21</b> 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 10:30 The Chosen 1 1:30 Card Making	<b>22</b> 9:30 Memory Care Group 1:30 Council Meeting 1:30 Grief Support 3:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 10:30 Pastor Study 1:00 I-Help Meeting
<b>27</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 3:00 Sounds of the Southwest Concert	<b>28</b> 9:00 Connecting Threads Sewing 10:30 The Chosen 1 1:00 Bandage Spinning 1:30 Card Making	<b>29</b> 9:30 Memory Care Group 1:30 Grief Support 3:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 10:30 Pastor Study 4:00 Fall Re Dinner wit 3:00 I-Help
	16		



# ber, 2024

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>'s Bible</p>	<p>3 10:00 MS Support Group 2:30 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 8:30 Happy Hour Neighborhood Group 8:30 Westers Neighborhood Group 4:00 Worship</p>
<p>ced 's Bible nniversary</p>	<p>10 1:00 Finance Committee Meeting 2:30 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 9:30 CCC Neighborhood Group 4:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>a un od Group 's Bible ene Young &amp; Reception ame Day</p>	<p>17 9:00 Stephen Ministry Leadership 1:00 Executive Committee Meeting 2:30 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 4:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>'s Bible Volunteer</p>	<p>24 9:00 Sanctuary Spruce Up Day 1:00 Cleaning Volunteers Luncheon 2:30 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 4:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>'s Bible union &amp; h Elvis</p>	<p>31 2:30 Choir Rehearsal</p> 		
		<p>17</p>	

# Social Ministry

A year of Giving

**Blue Bag Item of the Month**  
**Dish Soap and**  
**Laundry Detergent**  
*(BUT we'll gladly accept*  
*anything you have to offer :>)*

**In November we'll be collecting**  
**stuffing mix and boxed**  
**potatoes.**



## It's Turkey Time!

Throughout the month of October we will be accepting donations of grocery gift cards (Fry's, Walmart, Safeway) and gifts of cash to support local food pantries with their purchasing. Place your donations in the baskets in the narthex or the locked box on the social ministry table. Holiday meals can be very special. Let's help those in need have a special meal too!

Want to learn more being an I-HELP volunteer at ALC?  
(Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program)

**Wednesday October 23rd, 1:00pm**

We'll begin with a review of the ALC program before breaking into small groups (Meals, Monitoring, Hospitality, Laundry).

See Pastor Julia if you have any questions.



**Thanks to your hands** doing God's Work on 9/8/24 we packed 42 personal care kits for LWR and 101 shower kits and 100 lunches for I-HELP. We tied 5 I-HELP blankets, blessed 28 quilts for LDR, and rolled yards and yards of bandages for Global Ministries. You make a difference!

## **Election Time is Fast Approaching. How Does Your Faith Affect Your Civic Life?**

**10:00 am Tuesday Mornings in October**  
Fellowship hall.

Join the conversation as we explore our individual and corporate calls to discipleship in our complicated and often too-divided world.



10615 W. Peoria Ave  
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623-815-7061  
wvlts@qwestoffice.net

## Summer's over - we made it!

According to the weather man, summer's not quite over but at the Lutheran Thrift Shop it's "stick a fork in us – we're done!" We made it through another long summer! Our snowbirds are returning – it's probably already snowing in Minnesota - and we're so happy to have them back.

Now is a great time to join the LTS volunteer nation! We are currently seeking people in all areas. Whatever your interest or talent we have a place for you! There are twelve 3-hour shifts available each week from which to choose. Call for a tour today!

Right now, you'll be blown away by our Halloween, fall and Thanksgiving section in the Holiday House and our halls are always decked for Christmas! Yes, it will be here before you know it!

Is it time to do some fall cleaning and get rid of stuff you don't use anymore? Bring it to the LTS - on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9-2 at our back door - and help us help others. Our staff of friendly truckers will gladly pick up furniture that's too big for you to handle - no need to get it outside as we still come in to make pick ups. Clean/gently used furniture from your smoke-free, pet-free home can be picked up by appointment. We also pick up in the Trilogy/Vistancia area on the 3rd Friday of each month. Give us a call to schedule a pick up 623.815.7061.

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

# GROWING IN CHRIST

By Terri Polk

Every day present us with something new. Let's face it, change is not easy and it is often abrupt. New ideas are often considered uncomfortable and frightening. And, sometimes it is just easier to push those new ideas to the sideline.

New ideas often challenge our own assumptions about others and about our beliefs. But new ideas can also be a "Renewal" for us. God has asked us to continue to "Grow in Christ". In the last quarter of 2024 and in 2025 (our 50th Anniversary), let's accept this challenge to Grow in Christ. How can we do this?

We can support our new endeavor, I-HELP, through prayer, volunteerism, and monetary support.

We can continue to "Cut across Differences" in 2025 by learning and reaching out more to define and begin to meet the needs at our community, local, state, national and global levels.

We can learn more about the Grand Canyon Synod activities and become more involved with them. To quote the September 17 entry in The Word in Season: "Gaining in the knowledge of what it means to see ourselves and others as Christ sees us can be done through knowledge, community, and acts of service."

Let's ask ourselves, in 2025 where can we go from here—cutting across differences and spreading God's words of love and acceptance? The ideas you bring forward can help us move toward a pillar of ALC...Inclusion . These ideas can begin to answer the question Pastor Scott asked earlier: What ministry poles do we need to add so that we can make ALC a roomier tent?



stephen  
MINISTRY®

Christ caring for people through people

## STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ALC FALL IS IN THE AIR

Each year here in the desert we look forward to fall. Yes, cooler temperatures are something to look forward to; but here at American Lutheran there is so much more. We look forward to many of our winter residents returning, and each Sunday throughout September we welcome more and more early returnees back. We see committees preparing to meet and our many ministries which are 'hibernating' during the long, hot summer, beginning to stir. And Stephen Ministry is most certainly among them.

Stephen Ministry summer peer support groups which meet June through September are now completed and we are looking forward to our regular season schedule. Stephen Ministers meet on the second Thursday of each month, November through May. Each meeting has two components, a continuing education program which helps us keep abreast of developments and new techniques for helping our care receivers and a meeting of our peer support groups where we help each other meet the needs of those we visit.

The formal season starts with a welcome back breakfast at the November meeting, followed by Stephen Ministry Weekend in December, and then our annual New Stephen Minister training begins in January, in March we conclude the annual training and celebrate the newly commissioned ALC Stephen Ministers at our annual banquet. Each of these occasions will be highlighted and details will be provided in future OUTREACH articles.

The Stephen Ministry Leadership Team would like to encourage **YOU** to consider becoming a Stephen Minister this year. Please watch for more information about this in the November OUTREACH.

In Christ's Love,

Glen Schulz, Leadership Information Coordinator

# Sanctuary Spruce-Up Day

Thursday October 24<sup>th</sup> 9am

Help us prepare the Sanctuary for the  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year!



Please sign up in the office or narthex

As ALC prepares for its **50th Anniversary year** we would like to invite everyone to participate in our “**Sanctuary Spruce-Up Day**” on Thursday October 24th. We will begin at 9 am and end once we are finished. A lunch will be provided in the Fellowship Hall for everyone who participates.

We will dust, wash, and protect all the woodwork in the sanctuary and the narthex. ALC will provide the cleaning products necessary. **We do ask that you bring some dusting rags from home.** We will provide sponges for washing and lint free rags for the polishing.

This will be a fun time spent working together to prepare our beloved ALC sanctuary & narthex for all the special events and visitors that will be on our campus this next year!

Please sign up in the office or narthex on the sign-up sheets.

**Many hands make light work!**

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE!

It's Wednesday Night Alive! time again and we have some very exciting programs in store for our 2024-2025 season. This season will be quite special as ALC is also celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Gala on November 6th kicks off with an ALC Anniversary program at 4:00 pm, a roast beef dinner at 5:00 pm, and the Orpheus Male Chorus at 6:00 pm. Programs continue each Wednesday night at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm until Holy Week (except for Advent and Lent when the 6:00 pm program is replaced by a church service). We are delighted that Jane Coughlin will continue to cater our 5:00 pm dinner at the same price as last year (\$15 for the Gala, \$12 for all other meals)! Of course, the programs are always free, and you don't need reservations for our programs. BUT you do need to purchase meal tickets ahead of time. Check out our brochure or the church website for more information on how to purchase meal tickets ahead of time.

## **A little about how Wednesday Night Alive! is funded**

While WNA doesn't charge you for attending a program performance, we do have to pay our performers. At each event, we ask for a free will offering. The money collected from what you donate enables WNA to pay our performers and not ask for or receive money from the church. We are very thankful for our generous donors – you – and the quality of our performers reflect your generosity.



# Wednesday Night Alive! is looking for volunteers

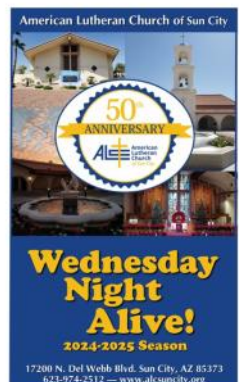
The WNA committee needs your help to:

- Sell tickets on Sunday mornings before and between services, before the Saturday service, and after the dinner on Wednesday nights.
- Sit at the Will Call desk on Wednesdays before the 4:00 pm program to distribute tickets to those who previously bought tickets online.
- Help collect meal tickets at the two serving stations for the 5:00 pm dinner.
- Greet attendees as they enter the sanctuary before the Wednesday 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm programs.

Are any of these things that you could help with, whether every week or occasionally? If so, contact Donna Borden at 623-523-3382 or [dbordenpt@msn.com](mailto:dbordenpt@msn.com) or Debra Hjortland at 612-790- 9217 or [deb.hjortland@gmail.com](mailto:deb.hjortland@gmail.com)

We need you and thank you for your response!!!

Donna Borden and Deb Hjortland  
Co-chairs of WNA



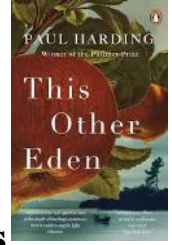


# The Good Book Club

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

## Upcoming Books

- ♦ **October 14,**  
**“This Other Eden” by Paul Harding**
- ♦ **November 11,**  
**“American Dirt” by Jeanine Cummins**
- ♦ **December 9,**  
**“The Woman” by Kristin Hannah**
- ♦ **January 13,**  
**“Allie and Bea” by Catherine Ryan Hyde**



Contact Tom Haugsby for more information  
[thaugsby@gmail.com](mailto:thaugsby@gmail.com)



## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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



## Game Day Fun!

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



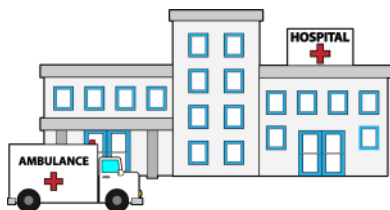
**Our next Game Day  
Wednesday, October 16th,  
12:30-3 pm  
Everyone's invited!**



Flower Delivery

## Be a Cheer Giver!

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



## Hospitalized?

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

**Evangelism Goals Update through September 22, 2024**

<i>Goal</i>	<i>YTD Progress</i>	<i>Prior Year Comparison</i>
1. Each One, Reach One for Christ and ALC	464 new visitors	Similar information not available
2. Keep the New Members Coming	45 new members have been received	38 new members received
3. Maintain Last Year's Attendance Gains	397 people per week on average	390 people per week

**Stewardship Goals Update through September 26, 2024**

<i>Goal</i>	<i>May-September 2023 Withdrawal</i>	<i>May-September 2024 Withdrawals</i>
1. Avoid, as much as possible, the need to make withdrawals from reserve funds during the summer months.	\$103,000	\$0

**Financial Update through September 26, 2024**

<i>Category</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Offering Income	\$711,401.79	\$653,163.26	\$58,238.53
Ministry Expenses	\$665,495.44	\$680,979.76	(\$15,484.32)
Available for Additional Ministry	\$45,906.35	(\$27,816.50)	\$73,722.85

**Debt Reduction Update through August 30, 2024**

<b>Paid in August</b>	<b>Special Gift</b>	<b>Paid YTD</b>	<b>Balance Due</b>
\$2,201.00		\$24,111.40	\$1,476,895.00

**NOTE:** We started 2024 with six goals. The first was to match, and hopefully exceed, 2023 giving. We're on track! The second was for current year offerings to pay all bills, including the mortgage principal payments which for accounting reasons are not factored into the ministry expenses detailed above. We're on track! The third was to pay back the funds which had to be used to supplement offerings during the summer months of 2023. We're on track! The fourth was to be debt free in seven years. We're on track! The fifth was to fund overdue property projects estimated to cost \$40,000 and the sixth was to add funds to the budget for unfunded ministries like evangelism and social ministry. It's hardest to say where we stand at present with these final two goals and the uncertainty will likely remain until everything is totaled at the end of the year. But with three months to go, it can be said that we've done very well thus far. If we continue to run a strong race, we'll have much to celebrate and then it will very quickly be time to start all over again in 2025. I guess Jesus knew what he was talking about when he suggested there wouldn't be time for his disciples to pause or to turn back once they put their hand to the plough, (Luke 9:62)

## IN LOVING *Memory*

Charlene Young 10/16/1937 - 9/3/2024

Susan Brandt 10/08/1945 - 9/11/2024

Harold Peterson 10/03/1930 - 9/14/2024

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

# MEMORIALS & GIFTS

## Debt Reduction

In memory of Vern Bacon by Teresa Polk

In memory of Judy Goblirsch by Teresa Polk

In memory of Judy Goblirsch by Glen Schulz

In memory of Keith Bangs by Judith Morrison

In memory of Robert J Tepley by Helen Tepley

In memory of Karrie Burt's Brother & Sister by Terri Polk

## Undesignated Gifts

In memory of Judy Goblirsch by Charlotte Riebe

In memory of Judy Goblirsch by Kay & Arvid Peterson

In memory of Judy Goblirsch by

Ronald & Lynne Cassidy



# Staff Directory



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

## MUSIC MINISTRY

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

## STAFF

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



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623.974.2512

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**