



LifeLINES

Lord of Life Lutheran Church



INSIDE THE ISSUE

- A WORD FROM PASTOR PAM ▶ Page 1
- COUNCIL CORNER ▶ Page 2
- FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN ▶ Page 2
- ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ▶ Page 3
- HOSTING OPPORTUNITY ▶ Page 4
- CART DONATION ▶ Page 6
- SNAPSHOTS ▶ Pages 7
- AS THE TAIL WAGS ▶ Page 8
- LOL UNIVERSITY ▶ Page 8
- FEBRUARY SNL ▶ Pages 9
- CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE ▶ Page 10
- JANUARY BIRTHDAYS ▶ Page 11
- TOUR RECAP ▶ Page 12
- SLIP, TRIP AND LAUGH ▶ Page 13
- MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ▶ Page 14



Monthly Newsletter
January 2026



A WORD FROM PASTOR PAM

Christmas Season

I have a neighbor who sticks to a rigid schedule when decorating for yearly holidays. At Christmas time, decorations go up promptly on December 1 and they are completely down on December 26. There is not even one random section of garland that escapes the takedown! There is absolutely no evidence of a celebration when just 24 hours earlier, all was shiny and bright. Sometimes, I get the urge to engage with my neighbor and ask if they realize that Christmas doesn't end on December 26. In fact, the Christmas season just begins on December 25. I know that we have been taught that everything culminates on this one day, and then the rush and crush, are over. Well, from a pastor's perspective, the rush and crush of the shopping season is over, but not the gift of the newborn boy child, Jesus. Christmas is a season in the church, not just a day. The season lasts for twelve days, beginning on December 25 and ending on January 5. Epiphany (Jesus revealed) begins January 6. I hope that the wonder, joy, and hope of Christmas isn't packed away with the decorations at your house!

These days, I talk with many people who are looking for a sign of hope. As our world continues to shift, the reality that God, our creator, come to us as an infant, is the source of real hope and joy. I am reminded daily, that God's love is what truly sustains us, each and every day, even if we may not feel it. There is no way to know what tomorrow will bring, but when we are grounded in the sure and certain hope of the one God who loves us enough to die for us, we know that we can face tomorrow without fear.

As we say goodbye to 2025 and welcome 2026, I am encouraged and filled with curiosity to witness how the Holy Spirit will work among us here at Lord of Life. Yes, we are in a time of transition in leadership, but God is right here moving among us and inspiring us to live the gospel boldly even now. There is opportunity to serve the neighbor, friendships being forged with our inter-faith partners, and such a sense of welcome in this community. We have met visitors during this holiday time who have marveled at our welcome and straightforward relevant gospel sharing. They have felt the Word come alive for them in ways that have not happened in years. What a privilege to bring the good news alive for others. I look forward to the days ahead and serving God in this place.

May you all be richly blessed and feel the Spirit working in wonderful ways in the coming year.

Happy 2026 Lord of Life,

Pastor Pam

COUNCIL CORNER

On Thursday, December 18 we had a forum where we discussed some exciting changes that are going to happen with our Pastoral staff this January.

Not everyone could join us so I will summarize the changes here.

The need for Pastoral visits is increasing as we get older. When Pastor Kim and Pastor Steve retired, the number of Pastors went from three to two. It has been a struggle to meet the need for visits. This has been stressful for the Pastors and those in need.

One of our members has given us a generous gift to be used where our need is greatest, and it was decided that visitation was that need. We learned that we have a retired Pastor living in Sun City West who enjoys connecting with people and had asked God where he could be of help. He is Pastor Lowell Nelson who last served as the senior pastor at American Lutheran in Sun City. He will be joining us this January half-time with visitation as his primary duties.

Pastor Jeff Hackler has been with us almost two years as a bridge pastor until a new senior pastor is found. We all thought that it would only be a few months. Pastor Jeff is of retirement age and deserves more personal time. He has asked to be half time beginning this January. He will continue his preaching and teaching schedule. We are working with another retired pastor to further enhance visitation with Pastor Jeff going half-time.

We now will have one full time Pastor and three part time Pastors. There is a need to coordinate their duties. The Congregational Council and staff need to have a Pastor that can decide when the need arises. A Lead Pastor would fill these situations. The Council has added these duties to Pastor Pam Reynolds. She will be our Lead Pastor until our new Senior Pastor arrives.

These changes will not affect our process of calling a new Senior Pastor. The Call Committee is continuing their duties. The changes will be budget neutral.

Our God meets our needs in mysterious ways and not according to our timetable. Praise our Lord and Savior.

Jerry Soma
Congregational Council President

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN CHILI FEED AND PACKING EVENT

IMPORTANT DATES TO PUT ON
YOUR CALENDAR



You are invited to a Chili Feed and Saturday Nite Life on **Saturday, January 17 at 6 PM** to kick off another great "Feed My Starving Children" packing event. There will be entertainment and a chance to connect with friends. No reservations or advance tickets required. There will be a voluntary offering to fund the meals we will pack. Our goal is to raise \$50,000. Registration for packing will be open during the event. Come help celebrate the start of another successful event.

February 20 & 21, 2026 is the packing event! We're excited that we will be working on packing our second million meals this year. What a triumph! We plan to pack 171,000 meals in two days. We will need about 850 volunteers this year and hope you'll be part of the fun. Registration begins on **January 17, 2026**, at the Chili Feed. You can also call the FMSC team at 503-720-7896 or email janicapps@comcast.net. To register online, go to the Lord of Life Volunteer Page on the FMSC.org website.

Help Needed Beyond Packing: set-up & take-down for packing event. Helpers are needed on **February 19, 2026 (set-up) & February 21, (take-down)** to move tables and arrange the social hall. Strong mobile helpers are needed to lift and carry dining tables. If you can help, please email dcmoh1@gmail.com.

— Thank You —

Words of gratitude from organizations that have written to thank Lord of Life for our support over the past month:

- California Lutheran University
- Central Arizona Habitat for Humanity
- ELCA Disaster Response
- Hospice of the Valley
- Valley View Food Bank
- West Valley Lutheran Thrift Store

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On **Monday, January 26**, we will come together for an evening of fellowship and conversation, beginning with an appetizer potluck at 6 PM. This time will offer a relaxed opportunity to connect and enjoy a variety of shared dishes before the meeting begins at 6:30 PM.

Guests are encouraged to bring an appetizer to share with the group. Plates, flatware, and beverages, including coffee and water, will be provided for everyone's convenience.

January Bible Readings

JANUARY 4 Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:[1-9] 10-18	JANUARY 11 Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17
JANUARY 18 Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	JANUARY 25 Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23

NADABURG SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED



The Nadaburg Unified School District #81 is a K-12 school district in the town of Wittman, AZ. It operates two elementary schools: Nadaburg Elementary (the historical school in the town) as well as Desert Oasis Elementary in the Surprise city limits; eight miles from LOL. Nadaburg also operates Mountainside High School. Lord of Life has a long history of providing volunteers who tutor students and gather school supplies for the classroom teachers to aid in their teaching.

More than 75% of the students in this district receive free or reduced lunches daily, which is an indication of the poverty level in the district. If you have any questions and/or would like to volunteer in this elementary school district, please contact me via the church directory or call the church office for my contact information.

Jack Sellers

LIBRARY LINES



A big thank-you for the book and puzzle donations for 2025! May your pages be exciting and your puzzle pieces always fit. Happy reading!

THURSDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP



The Thursday morning prayer group meets at 9 AM in the chapel. We pray for the congregation, staff, and ministries of Lord of Life, and we welcome anyone who would like to join us or receive prayer.

LOL EXERCISE SCHEDULE



MOVE AND GROOVE

MONDAY 9 - 9:45 AM
 TUESDAY: 9 - 9:30 AM
 WEDNESDAY: 9 - 9:45 AM
 THURSDAY: 9 - 9:45 AM

CARDIO DRUMMING

THURSDAY: 10 - 11 AM
 SATURDAY: 10 - 11 AM



NO EXERCISE JANUARY 1 & 3

HELLO FROM THE LOL BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

All are welcome to attend the next book group meeting on **Monday, January 26 at 1 PM** at the church. This month the book selection is *James* by Percival Everett. This novel is an action packed reimagining of Huckleberry Finn told from enslaved Jim's point of view.

The book may be found at the local libraries. Also two copies are held in the church office and are available to be checked out. If using books from the office, please read in a timely fashion and return so other members may also enjoy the books. Thank you.

Blessings,

Gail Muehling



HAVE NEW CONTACT INFORMATION?

Have you moved recently and have a new address? Or do you have a new phone number or email address?

Be sure to let the church office know at info@lolaz.org or by calling (623) 584-2000.



Save the Date

SOS (Survived our Spouses)
Potluck Social
Sunday, January 25
4 PM – 6 PM
LOL Social Hall



JANUARY GRATITUDE GIFT



JANUARY GRATITUDE GIFT: FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN (FMSC)

FMSC provides specially enriched food packs Manna packs to children throughout the world. LOL has sponsored mobile packs for 7 years. **We will again host a mobile pack in February 2026. We plan to pack 171,000 meals over the course of 2 days, February 20 & 21.** You can feed a child for a year for only \$106 or a family for a year for \$424. Please give generously to keep at least one child from going to bed hungry. Every dollar contributed goes directly to FMSC.

FMSC is a highly efficient and effective charity, earning 4 stars from Charity Navigator for 19 years running. They get remarkable results by providing a scientifically designed food formula, enriched with vitamins and minerals, packaged in easy-to-ship plastic bags. Costs are kept low by using volunteers to pack the bags and the shipping boxes and by partnering with hundreds of food distribution groups to get the packs into the hands of the needy in over 70 countries. 99.8% of all meals shipped arrived at their destination. More than 90% of funds raised are spent directly on meal production. In 2023/2024 FMSC provided 448 million meals that fed 1,227,478 children. 1,162,560 people volunteered in the US.

WE NEED YOUR SPARE BEDROOM!!

We have agreed to provide overnight housing for students following the Wartburg College Concert on Thursday, March 5, 2026. What does this entail?

- Provide housing for two students (they understand that they may have to share a bed)
- Meet them in the social hall following the concert (signs for hosts will be provided)
- Take them to your home
- Provide a light snack when you get them to your home
- Provide a light breakfast for them the morning following the concert
- Return them to the church at the designated time

Without fail, those of us who have hosted these young people in the past have very much enjoyed doing so. You will find them to be delightful guests. It is so nice to visit with them, and they are so appreciative of our hosting them. Please consider volunteering to host two students.

(Most of us have one guest bedroom, but if you have room to house three or four students, please let us know.)

If you are willing to host students, please contact Sherry Hoel, sehoel@yahoo.com, or 623-640-5459.

LOL Music Programs

Haven't joined one of our choirs/orchestra/bells/sing-along groups? We still have room for you. Call Dave Lien or Gloria Lien for specifics: 602-321-3457 (Dave's Cell) or 602-418-2989 (Gloria's Cell). See below for choir schedule.

Group	Leader	Rehearsal Day(s)	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Location	Performs on	Rehearsal Start Date
Worship Choir	Dave Lien	Wednesday & Thursday	1:30 PM	Sanctuary	Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 & 10:30 AM	Ongoing
Chamber Singers	Dave Lien	Thursday	10:30 AM	Chapel	Various Dates	Ongoing
WINK <u>W</u> orship in a <u>N</u> ew <u>K</u> ey)	Gloria Lien	Thursday	2:30 PM	Sanctuary	Saturday Worship Service at 5:00 PM	Ongoing
Sing-Along Choir	Gloria Lien & Barb Chase	N/A	N/A	N/A	1st & 3rd Thursdays	N/A
JuBELLation Handbell Choir	Gloria Lien	Tuesday	Set up at 10:10 AM; rehearse at 10:30 AM	Sanctuary	4th Sunday	Ongoing
Lord of Life Big Band	Bill Fox, Jay Boekhoff, Marsha Kletz	Friday	9:30 AM	Social Hall	Various Dates	Ongoing



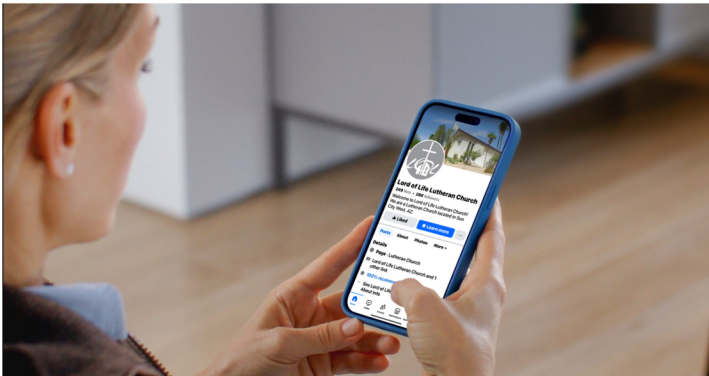
Want to learn how to use the online SignUpGenius tool to sign up for various Lord of Life activities?

We have easy step-by-step instructions available – just send an email to info@lolaz.org and we'll be happy to send you the instructions via email! Or you can pick them up at the church office.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

www.facebook.com/LordofLifeAZ



ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

MENS CARING AND SHARING

Monday from 9 - 11:30 AM

LOL UNIVERSITY: THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Monday at 2 PM

ZOOM AT NOON

Wednesday at 12 PM

QUILTING TEAM

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 8:30 AM

EYE OPENER BIBLE STUDY

Thursday at 7:30 AM

THURSDAY PRAYER GROUP

Thursday at 9 AM

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday at 1:30 PM

CENTERING PRAYER

Friday at 9 AM

MAHJONG GAME GROUP

Friday at 11:45 PM



THE WHEELBARROW HAS LEFT THE BUILDING



January 2026, the wheelbarrow has been returned to its' original job of helping the Buildings and Grounds committee. It has served us well with the bi-monthly single food collection since 2018!

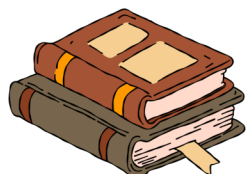
There is a new collection cart taking the place of the wheelbarrow and will be in the same area as in the past. CART is an acronym for:

Caring **A**bundantly, **R**eceived **T**hankfully

This really expresses the generosity of the people of Lord of Life and the gratitude of those who benefit from the donations.

Let's start the new year with a good way to start the day by collecting boxes of cereal, granola, or oatmeal for the month of January. The CART awaits your donations!

MEN'S BOOK CLUB



Join the Men's Book Group **Tuesday, January 13 at 10 AM** for our discussion of the book *"1929: Inside the Greatest Crash in Wall Street History - and How It Shattered a Nation"* by Andrew Ross Sorkin.

This is not just a story about money. "1929" is a tale of power, psychology and the seductive illusion that this time is different. It is about disregarded alarm bells, financiers who fell from grace and skeptics who saw the crash coming - only to be dismissed until it was too late. Some reviews I have read have drawn parallels between current financial markets and those in 1929.

Andrew Ross Sorkin is a financial reporter for the New York Times and a commentator the TV business channel CNBC. His writing style is engaging and he brings his investigative journalism talents to bear with thorough research regarding the people and times that lead up to the 1929 stock market crash and it's subsequent impact on all Americans.

Thanks,

Randy Farwell

2025 CONCERT SERIES UPCOMING



Dan Reed and Nicole Pesce

Sunday, February 1 at 3 PM

- Dan Reed playing the trumpet
- Nicole Pesce playing the piano
- Variety of music, all played by memory

Come enjoy! Freewill offering, suggested Donation \$10 per person

Desert Winds Steel Orchestra

Sunday, February 22 at 3 PM

- Steel drums and the Sounds of the Caribbean Islands
- Freewill Offering

Wartburg College Castle Singers and Kammerstreicher (Choir and Orchestra)

Thursday, March 5 at 7 PM

- From Waverly, Iowa. Known for its strong musical heritage and is one of our ELCA Colleges.
- Tickets will be \$20.

We'll need housing for about 45 students; Sherry Hoel will coordinate. Please contact her if you are interested in being a host.

Lord of Life Big Band

Sunday, April 12 - Time TBA

- Freewill Offering

WOMEN OF LOL

We contribute to the community and LOL in many ways, but your involvement is essential! We invite you to share your ideas and feedback to help shape our plans for the upcoming year.

Join us for an afternoon of connection and planning for 2026 activities on **January 25 at 1 PM** in the Social Hall. We'll provide coffee and light snacks—after all, what's a gathering without some treats and coffee?

Snapshots of fellowship, fun, and faith from recent months.



As the Tail Wags

MR. BANKS ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS



Hello again, friends! Mr. Banks here — your favorite 94-pound registered therapy and service dog, working two jobs and still finding time to wag my tail at life. I've sniffed through your latest questions, and I'm ready to share some answers straight from my dog's-eye view.

1. What was your favorite part of the Holidays?

The holidays are full of great moments, but my favorite part had to be all the wonderful smells — even here in Arizona! From desert breezes mixed with fresh cookies to pine-scented wreaths and peppermint treats, my nose was very busy. Cooler mornings made it the perfect time for extra walks and lots of sniffing, which is always at the top of my list.

2. How should people approach you at church?

A calm and gentle approach is always best. Please speak softly, move slowly, and ask before petting me. I enjoy meeting new friends, but I also take my work seriously. After all, I'm not just a friendly face — I'm on duty and doing my best to serve with focus and grace.

3. You went through a lot of training to become a service and therapy dog. What's been the most difficult thing?

My training taught me many important skills, but the hardest part was learning when to stay completely focused — especially in a place full of interesting distractions. In Arizona, that can include birds, lizards, and the occasional squirrel darting across the path. Patience was another big lesson, especially when people move slowly or children get excited.

4. Do you get along well with little dogs?

Of course! I'm a gentle giant with a big heart. I'm careful and respectful around smaller dogs, and I believe good manners matter more than size. Whether you're tall, tiny, or somewhere in between, I'm always happy to make new friends — and yes, you can have the first sniff.

Thanks for your questions! I love hearing from all of you, and I can't wait to sniff out more answers for next time. **Please submit questions to info@lolaz.org.** Keep questions coming — who knows, yours might be featured in the next edition of As the Tail Wags!

Mr. Banks 

LOL UNIVERSITY



THE MAGI



Have you ever wondered who these men were? Come and find out what the Bible says, what scholars think, and what tradition tells us. No reading, no homework, just a lively discussion.

WHAT: Who were the Magi?

WHEN: Wednesday, January 7

TIME: 2:30 PM

WHERE: Conference Room

THE COLORS OF PRAYER



Many of us believe in prayer, want to pray, but feel that we just don't do it right and often fumble for words that express what we want to tell God. Praying in Color is a visual, active, meditative, and playful way to pray. Join Janet Horst as she demonstrates how using colors is an innovative and creative way to speak with God.

WHEN: Fridays, January 30, February 6 & 13

TIME: 2 PM

WHERE: Conference Room

HOW: Bring paper, crayons or markers

AGING WITH DIGNITY



In our Golden Years, the third chapter of our lives, most of want to live as fully as possible. To do that, we have to plan it to ensure a favorable outcome. Five Wishes is an advanced directive created by the non-profit organization Aging with Dignity. It has been described as the "living will with a heart and soul".

Join Glenn Austad as he walks you through the simply formatted document.

WHAT: Advanced Directive

WHEN: Wednesday, February 4

TIME: 2:30 PM

WHERE: Conference Room

Please bring a writing instrument, everything else will be provided.

MAKE A RESOLUTION TO VOLUNTEER



As we prepare to welcome a new year, many of us are thinking about resolutions—opportunities to reset, reconnect, and renew our sense of purpose. This year, we invite you to consider a resolution that blesses both our community and your own spirit: becoming a volunteer at the Lutheran Thrift Shop in 2026.

For over 30 years, the Thrift Shop has been a ministry of compassion, stewardship, and service. Every donated item, every hour volunteered, and every dollar earned helps support missions, ministries, and neighbors in need throughout the West Valley. Yet this vital work depends on the hands and hearts of people like you.

Why volunteer? Volunteering strengthens our shared ministry; income from the Thrift Shop supports programs and outreach efforts across our member churches. Volunteering builds community; we work alongside friendly people, form new friendships, and share in meaningful fellowship. Volunteering fits your availability; Whether you can help once a week, once a month, or during special events, there's a role that fits your gifts. Most importantly, It keeps our 35,000-square-foot ministry thriving; As longtime volunteers retire, we rely on new energy to carry the mission forward.

Ways you can serve? Glad you asked! Sorting and pricing donations, assisting customers on the sales floor, testing and preparing household items and organizing books, clothing, or specialty departments. And the best part, no experience is required. Just a willingness to help and a heart for serving others. Let's step into 2026 with a resolution that brings joy, strengthens our churches, and blesses the community we serve. We hope to see many new faces joining our mission in the year ahead!

We welcome individuals, couples, small groups, youth, retirees—anyone who wants to make a difference. Call the shop for a tour and see where you can help! 623-815-7061

Keep up with the LTS by following us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/westvalleylutheranthriftshop/

Or at our website:
www.lutheranthrift.com

📍 10615 W Peoria Ave, Sun City, AZ 85351
☎ (623) 815-7061

GLEANING



Yes, it is that time of year again, time to sign up to have your citrus picked. Your Lord of Life gleaners will again be working with St. Mary's Food Bank to provide the service to West and Grand home owners of picking their citrus trees. The fruit, if this is what the home owner decides, will be distributed to those individuals seeking food from St. Mary's.

We will be picking once a week starting in mid-January through March but I recommend you call now to get your wishes known. You can request when you'd like your fruit picked and we will attempt to honor that although it is not possible to pick everyone the third week in March.

The number to call to get on the list to have fruit picked is 608 225-8882. It is also the number to call if you would like to join the fun crew who are doing the picking, getting exercise and enjoying the camaraderie.

FEBRUARY SATURDAY NITE LIFE



Pasta, music, and a night to remember!

Step into the Social Hall and enjoy an Italian-inspired dinner featuring classic spaghetti, crisp green salad, warm bread, and a delicious dessert. While you dine, be entertained by the smooth sounds of our own LOL Big Band! Made up of talented musicians from Lord of Life and the community, this lively group brings the spirit of the Big Band era to life—with some members who actually played in the famous bands of the 1940s and '50s. Expect swing, smiles, and plenty of toe-tapping tunes.

Tickets are \$15 and will be sold January 17–February 1 in the Church Office and around weekend worship services.

Great food, great music, great company—don't miss out on this special evening!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE 2025

What a wonderful and loving response to LOL's Giving Tree Project this past November and December! Many hearts were touched thanks to the generous giving from our church family! We gave gifts to 410 children as well as food vouchers for 485 family members. The gifts were for Thompson Ranch Elementary, Nadaburg Elementary, Desert Oasis Elementary, Pan de Vida Lutheran Church, and Midtown Primary. Midtown Primary School consists of a population of many homeless students and all of them experiencing poverty.

We also want to thank Sally Jo Brown, Alice Maul, and their incredibly talented quilters who gave forty-four quilts as part of this project. Thank you to Thrivent Action Grants, totaling \$750 in financial gifts to help offset the costs of this project. Thank you, Deb Dorough, for your time in designing and printing all the tags, envelopes, and purchasing other items that a project of this size requires. Also, thank you to our volunteers: Warren and Nancy Carson, Carolyn Wiles, Lynda Strobel, Rogene Clark, Carol Clausen, Bill and Cathy Melville, Scott and Kathy Ginsbach, Lou and Karen Eppelsheimer, Glenice Gibson, Glenn and Karen Austad, Vicki Repsholdt, and Frank Petrella.

An incredibly special thank you to our co-coordinators, Gene and Linda Robertson for their time, their energy, and their dedication to making the Giving Tree program special for every person it touches.

We received many thanks from the recipients for Lord of Life's generosity. Again, thank you everyone for your caring and heartfelt giving.

(2 Corinthians 9:7 "... for God loves a cheerful giver.")

Blessings to all,

John and Lisa Harris

THRIVENT RECRUITEMENT

Thrivent members are needed to exercise their "live generously" motto by organizing and writing Action Grant requests to help fund local and other organizational and individual needs or for the designating their "Thrivent Choice Dollars" by the end of March each year.

Here at Lord of Life, there are about 100 or more Thrivent Benefit Members. Many have been sponsoring action grants to help operate Feed My Starving Children packing event; the quilting group which creates and sews quilts for many needing individuals; the Giving Tree program each holiday season; and needy students at many local schools with school and health supplies. There are many others also.

We are fortunate to have experienced Thrivent members who can help assist and tutor Thrivent members who would like to learn how to access the Action Grant program. How do the programs work and what do we do? Are you one?

If you need assistance with the distribution of Choice Dollars, please contact your Thrivent Representative.

If you have any questions, please contact Glenn Austad at carverglenn@outlook.com to schedule time with one of the volunteers!

MEMBER ONLY

Want to access the Lord of Life Online Directory?

We have easy step-by-step instructions available – just send an email to info@lolaz.org and we'll be happy to send you the instructions via email. Or you can pick them up at the church office.

WELCA SCHEDULE JANUARY 2026

Hannah Circle	Katherine Circle	Rachel Circle	Ruth Circle	Esther Circle
Monday, January 5 10 AM	Monday, January 12 9:30 AM	Monday, January 12 1:30 PM	Thursday, January 8 10 AM	Wednesday, January 7
Conference Room	Conference Room	Offsite	Room 2	Family Room



JANUARY Birthday's

01 Wanda Schnabel
Sheila Wright
Carl Ramsey
02 Joyce Hagberg
Karen Terrill
03 Everett Dorsey
04 Barbara Berglund
David Davidson
Jim Young
05 Martha Bleyl
Luther Tolo
Donna Hensch
Warren Grathwohl
06 Joanne Miner
07 Kathy Stromer
Katie Switaj
08 Edwin Williamson
Bob Wuethrich
09 John Hedrick
Gloria Melby
Ken Aydelotte

10 Joan Hawkings
Maxine Nibbe
Christine Lucas
11 Becky Robson
12 Bob Muehling
Jim Hensch
13 Marsha Oksol
14 Stu McFadden
Paul Curtis
15 Jo Diasparra
Betty Rossum
Miriam Kroschel
17 Cathy Price
Sharon Taylor
18 Wilma Pastilla
Russ Redenz
Char Kozlowski
19 Cherie
Daugherty
Rita Enge
20 Jan Leraaen
Jodi Anderson
Judy Stuckey

21 Shirley Miller
John Trower
22 Kay Turner
Bonnie Hein
23 Theresa Summers
24 Terri Stauffer-Schmidt
25 Maxine Hegg
Lisa Harris
26 Bev Sorensen
27 Fran Kempf
Bernie Schultz
28 Terry Adams
Gloria Anderson
Dean Matthews
Marilyn Abel
Ann McEwen
31 Steve Beyer
Chet Boike
Robin Miller
Beth Weinsheimer



THINKING ABOUT JOINING LORD OF LIFE?

Do you know we have TWO types of membership?

Full members hold membership exclusively at Lord of Life so that they may participate in the life and mission of this congregation. They have all the privileges and duties of membership **including** voting rights and eligibility for elected offices and membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation, **as well as** voting delegates to Assemblies and Conferences in which the congregation is entitled to representation.

Associate members hold membership in other Christian congregations and wish to retain such membership, but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. Or, they may wish to retain a relationship with this congregation while being members of other congregations. They have many of the privileges and duties of membership **including** voting rights, but they are **not eligible** for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation, **nor can they serve** as voting delegates to Assemblies and Conferences in which the congregation is entitled to representation.

To learn more about membership, or to attend New Member Orientation this month, please contact the Church Office at 623-584-2000.

UPDATED PHOTOS FOR LOL ONLINE DIRECTORY

Have you taken a look at the Lord of Life Online Directory lately and thought it might be time for an updated photo? Whether your hairstyle has changed, you've added a new smile, or it's simply been a while, we'd love to help you refresh your directory picture.

The friendly staff in the church office are happy to take a new photo for you at your convenience. Just give us a call at (623) 584-2000 to schedule an appointment, and we'll be ready to welcome you when you arrive. Thank you for helping us keep our directory current and connected!



TOUR RECAP

Dear Church Members and Friends,

Well, what a good time we had at our retirement community tour! I just wanted to express my heartfelt thanks (and share a few chuckles) with all of you who joined me on this exhilarating expedition. A total of 17 people attended!

The day was filled with laughter and camaraderie as we explored every nook and cranny of your future playground. We checked out the fun and exercise programs! We were catered to with refreshments and great hors d'oeuvres. Such beautiful properties and building areas.

Your curiosity and enthusiasm made this tour a truly unforgettable experience. You asked the important questions that were answered by the staff panel.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all for taking the time to join our retirement community adventure. Your support means the world to me.

As you move forward with your newfound understanding, remember that the wisdom you've gained is not just for your own benefit. You now possess the ability to empower others by sharing this knowledge, fostering growth within your community, and inspiring a shared sense of enlightenment. By educating and guiding others, you create a ripple effect of positive change and contribute to the collective wisdom of those around you. No matter which direction you ultimately take, embrace the opportunities that lie ahead and continue to grow, learn, and evolve as an individual.

Parish Nurse Leoma



SLIP, TRIP, AND LAUGH: FUNNY WAYS TO STAY ON YOUR FEET



Older adults fall for a variety of reasons, and while it's serious, we can still crack a smile:

Gravity's Got Game: It pulls harder as we age, making

us more prone to slips.

Medication Mishaps: Some meds can cause dizziness, turning your living room into a spinning carnival ride.

Foot Fumbles: Poor footwear or foot problems can lead to waltz with the floor.

Household Hazards: Clutter, rugs, and uneven floors are like landmines waiting to trip you up.

Weak Muscles: Aging muscles lose strength, making balance a bit of a circus act.

Don't let gravity get the best of you! Here are some lighthearted tips to keep you upright and grinning:

Rock shoes that don't make you feel like a wobbly newborn giraffe.

Channel your inner tortoise – slow and steady wins the slip-free race!

Scan the ground like you're searching for buried treasure (or just avoiding banana peels).

Hold onto those handrails for dear life, like they're your favorite dance partner.

Take your sweet time and remember haste makes waste (and sometimes bruises).

Keep your paws free and watch out for sneaky slick spots – they're like ninja warriors of the floor!

Lighten Up: Brighten your space with good lighting. No one wants to play "guess the step" in the dark.

Start your New Year 2026 off on the right foot. 😊

Parish Nurse Leoma

GROUP HOME TOUR WITH LEOMA



You're invited! I have organized a visit to a local group home, where we'll spend time with residents, share stories, and learn more about group homes. Join us for a short time of connection, compassion, and educational discussions.

Paradise Life Care, located in Surprise, AZ, is a family-owned short-term stay, assisted living and memory care facility dedicated to providing personalized care tailored to the needs of its residents. With over ten years of experience, the facility prides itself in its high staffing ratio, ensuring attentive one-on-one care in a nurturing home-like environment.

Led by Mirela Moruz and her daughter Ana Maria, Paradise Life Care offers a range of services including short-term stays and is well-known in the community for its exceptional focus on both physical and mental health. The facility emphasizes a friendly atmosphere, with quality meals and various activities designed to keep residents engaged and happy.

Even if you don't need a group home, it would be good for you to educate others. Let's come together to make a difference in the lives of others. Limit seating at home 10 peoples. Please use Signup Genius, which will be available soon. Hope to see you there!

I will meet you at the group's home on **Friday, January 30 at 10 AM.**

Paradise Life Care
14384 W Maui Lane
Surprise, AZ 85370

Parish Nurse Leoma

Membership Count:

666 Full
 246 Associate
 912 Total

Hospitalized/Surgery since last Lifelines:

Paul Anderson
 Curtis Birkeland
 John Harris
 Pat Heliker
 Cheryl Hupalo
 Neal Johnson
 Diane Jordan
 Dorothy Ludtke
 Eileen Oakes
 Brenda Reynolds
 Dave Schneider
 Ellie Skon
 Theresa Summers
 Tom Teichman
 Kay Turner
 Ray Weihofen
 Suk-King Yiu-Gering

In Memoriam:

Carol Buck
 Kirk Margosian
 Ken Stacey

New Members:

June Fredericksen
 Christine Lucas
 Dennis & Bonnie Pladson
 Nancy Roberts
 Bruce Truhlar
 Kristy Wikum

Removal from Membership:

Kathryn Auburg
 Randy Jarquin
 Debbie Kent
 Rick Maki
 Carol Weber

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Treasurer's Report

November 2025

	Nov Actual	Nov Plan	YTD Actual	YTD Plan
Income				
Envelope Offering	97,995	90,000	1,023,638	1,042,800
Loose Plate Offering	2,242	2,332	20,568	21,402
Other Income	3,542	3,459	46,855	63,891
Total Regular Income	103,780	95,791	1,091,061	1,128,093
Expense				
General Expenses:				
Salaries & Benefits	64,720	67,881	716,853	739,226
General Operations	5,644	5,567	65,120	67,229
Regular Ministries	2,046	5,120	31,806	59,314
Building & Grounds	5,331	5,281	54,030	62,205
Utilities	2,112	1,650	29,036	21,310
Insurance	1,830	1,890	19,409	20,628
Sub-Total General Expenses	81,684	87,389	916,254	969,912
Mission Support:				
G/C Synod Support	11,110	11,110	122,210	122,210
G/C Synod Pass-Thru	4,004	4,544	48,244	49,864
Non-Synod Direct	834	834	9,174	9,174
Sub-Total Mission Support	15,948	16,488	179,628	181,248
Total Regular Expenses	97,632	103,877	1,095,882	1,151,160
Net Operating Income - Month	6,148	-8,086		
Net Operating Income - Year-to-Date			-4,821	-23,067
Variance to Month Budget	14,234			
Variance to Year-to-Date Budget	18,246			
Mission Endowment Fund Balance	2,115,296			
Online Giving	24,989	19%		
Estate Gift				

GIVING OPTIONS

It is important to remember it still takes this community to keep the church doors open and working in the world. Please remember to continue your contribution by:

- Donate online at www.lolaz.org/donate
- Use Bill Pay from your bank
- Ask your financial advisor about a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA
- Talk to us about gifting if you have a 401(k) account
- Mail contributions to 13724 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375
- Drop contributions in the mailbox next to the front door of the office

Please note that all electronic forms of giving are protected and secured by PCI compliant methods. We are also grateful for the directed gifts from Thrivent Choice Dollars and any other charitable groups through your financial institution.

WORSHIP HOURS

Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM
Sunday Fellowship: 9:30 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

PHONE: (623) 584-2000

EMAIL: INFO@LOLAZ.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.LOLAZ.ORG

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LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
13724 W. Meeker Blvd.
Sun City West, AZ 85375-3730

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SUN CITY, AZ
PERMIT NO. 17

TIME DATED MATERIAL JANUARY 2026

CURRENT RESIDENT/OR



ITEMS OF INTEREST

- **Worship Services on the Web.** If you are out of town or not able to attend services, visit our website and listen to the service at www.lolaz.org, or subscribe to Lord of Life on YouTube at www.youtube.com/c/LordOfLifeLutheranChurch.
- **Listening Devices.** Assisted listening devices are available as part of our sound system during worship services.
- **Holy Communion in the Pew.** If you wish to receive Holy Communion in the pew during worship, please notify one of the ushers prior to the beginning of the service. We are always happy to offer the sacrament to anyone who is unable to come forward to the altar.
- **Unisex Handicap Restrooms.** The restrooms in the Chapel are Unisex Handicap Restrooms and are available for people who need family member assistance or are in wheelchairs.
- **Wheelchairs.** Wheelchairs are available in the Narthex for those who may have difficulty walking from the parking lot to the Sanctuary for worship. The door into the Sanctuary on the east side of the building (next to the Columbarium) is handicap accessible for those in wheelchairs, walkers or who have difficulty walking.
- **Pastors on Call.** One of your pastors is on call after office hours, on weekends and on holidays for emergencies. If you need to contact a pastor during those times, call the church office answering system at (623) 584-2000 and leave a message. The on-call pastor will return your call as soon as they are able.
- **Hospitalizations.** If you are having surgery or in the hospital and want us to be aware of it, please call the church office or have someone call on your behalf. You can also request to add your name or those you care about to the prayer list (for any reason), for up to two weeks.
- **Council Minutes and Financial Statements.** These documents are available for your perusal in the church office or on our Member's Only website.
- **Lost & Found.** Check the Narthex counter or come to the church office to claim lost items.
- **Visit** www.lolaz.org/donate to give today!