



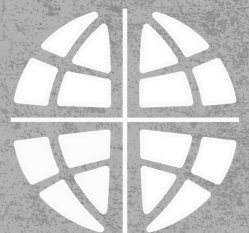
LifeLINES

Lord of Life Lutheran Church



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Monthly Newsletter
August & September 2026



A WORD FROM PASTOR PAM

Well, here we are in the “Dog Days” of summer! What’s that? The whole summer has felt like hot and humid dog’s breath? I absolutely agree. In fact, we got a head’s up this year by hitting triple digits in March! Wasn’t that fun? Do you know how we got the expression “Dog Days”?

Some of you astrologers out there know the answers, but for us regular folks, here it is.

“Dog Days” of summer come to us from ancient Romans who noticed that during this time of year the “Dog Star,” Sirius, is in its heliacal rising, it is now the brightest star in the sky.

Ancient Romans believed that the combined heat of Sirius and the Sun was responsible for this scorching weather (Old Farmer’s Almanac). The star doesn’t actually heat up the earth’s

surface, but its rising coincides with “thermal lag” which occurs in the hottest part of the summer. While we have been blessed with an active monsoon season this year, the humidity only adds to the discomfort. It feels as if it is just too difficult to even inhale when you go outside.

Well, there isn’t much we can do about the climate conditions this time of year except stay indoors where it’s cool and keep drinking water so that we stay hydrated.

The good news is that regardless of the temperature and humidity, we are getting a breath of fresh air! Pastor Lanny Westphal begins his ministry among us this month and he is going to be a welcomed addition to our community. We will welcome into our midst a fully trained and experienced Intentional Interim who will accompany us the rest of the way to calling a new Senior Pastor. I have known Pastor Lanny from other times and places, and I can assure you, he is both wise and wonderful! His leadership will guide us faithfully in both self-awareness and preparation for the one the Holy Spirit is calling as the next Senior pastor for Lord of Life. We will have laughter and fun along the way with him as well.

Pastor Lanny will be learning from us too. This is his first experience of Arizona, I keep telling him, winter is lovely. He is coming to us from his last ministry which was in Virginia. So, we will have much to share with him about getting acclimated to “Western Lifestyle.” His first weekend with us will be August 8 and 9, so I hope that many of you will be in town to help us welcome him to the Lord of Life family! As always...there will be cake!

Dog Days Blessings,

Pastor Pam

God's work. Our hands.

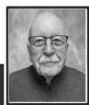
This year, Lord of Life is excited to participate in the ELCA's annual God's Work, Our Hands day for the first time! This nationwide day of service brings congregations together to serve their communities in meaningful ways.

To kick off our participation, we'll be collecting TRAVEL-SIZE hygiene items throughout the month of August for Native American Urban Ministry. Donations may include travel-size shampoo, toothpaste, lotion, tissues, feminine hygiene products, laundry soap, and other single-use personal care items. Please place your donations in the C.A.R.T. in the narthex.

On **Sunday, September 13**, (stay tuned for a time) we'll gather to sort and pack the donated items as our God's work. Our hands. service project. We hope you'll join us as we serve others together!



PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS



JERRY SOMA

Once in a while I think about the past and reflect on all the changes that have taken place in my lifetime. I remember the crank phone on the wall at my cousins house. I read the Dick Tracy comics and marveled at the wrist radio that he had. I think about my grandparents that were born in the 1890's. They hadn't seen an auto or couldn't imagine an airplane. Change is moving so fast now that we can't imagine what changes are going to happen in the next five years.

We have adapted, people without a cell phone or a computer they are a rarity.

When I grew up in a rural community almost everyone went to church. We learned about Christ and what he has done for us. We learned the purpose of worship and how to love our neighbor. The church was also our connection with our neighbors. Lutheran League was part study, but was mostly social.

When you moved one, of the first things that you did was find a Lutheran Church. When we moved to Sun City West 20 years ago, that's what we did.

The church is changing like the rest of the world. Younger people indicate they are Christians, but don't join like we did. There are many studies that show why church attendance is decreasing and churches are closing. However, there are few clear directions as what to do. The challenge is how do we reach out in the community and meet the needs of our neighbors as Christ directed us to do.

This is one of the efforts that we at Lord of Life will be discerning as Pastor Westphal joins us as our new intentional interim senior pastor.

We are up to the challenge.

Jerry Soma
Congregational Council President

WELCOME PASTOR LANNY

Join us as we warmly welcome Pastor Lanny during his Installation Weekend on **August 8 & 9!**



A special Meet & Greet will be held that weekend on **Saturday, August 8, at 4 PM** before the worship service and on **Sunday, August 9, at 10:30 AM** after service. We hope you'll stop by to introduce yourself, offer Pastor Lanny a warm welcome, and celebrate this exciting new chapter in the life of our church together!

Thank You

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

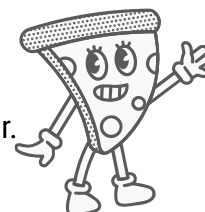
- ELCA Good Gifts
- ELCA World Hunger
- Grand Canyon Synod Growing in Faith Program
- Hope Women's Center
- Lutheran Campus Ministry Canterbury
- Lutheran Campus Ministry at U of A
- Lutheran Disaster Response
- Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest
- Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
- Rainbow Acres
- St. Mary's Food Bank
- Valley View Food Bank
- West Valley Lutheran Thrift Store

AUGUST SNL

SLICE INTO ITALY!



Join us on **Saturday, August 15 at 6 PM** for an evening of delicious pizza, salad, dessert, and great entertainment! Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased around worship services or in the church office. Be sure to purchase your tickets in advance – no tickets will be sold at the door.



SOME LIKE IT HOT!

Greetings from Thompson Ranch! School is going to be starting soon, hungry minds will need help with class supplies. Materials needed are pencils, glue sticks, crayons, scotch tape, college lined notebook paper, construction paper, composition books, erasers, mechanical pencils (for the 8th graders) and backpacks.

Outside of school supplies there is a great need for deodorant, toothbrushes, small tubes of toothpaste, shampoo, and soap. Thank you for loving these kids, as I do. Donation bins are located near the Social Hall Annex.

Blessings,

Leslie Young

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED



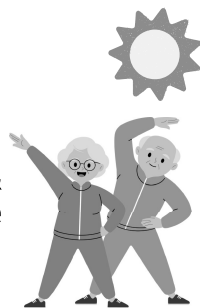
Lord of Life has a long history of supporting Nadaburg Elementary School District through tutoring and collecting classroom supplies.

Nadaburg Elementary School District is currently in need of pencils, plain and lined paper, and glue sticks.

Donation bins are located near the Social Hall Annex.

Sunrise Strength & Stretch 7 AM on Tuesdays & Thursdays

Join us for our new Sunrise Strength & Stretch class! We're excited to welcome Amber back to lead this energizing workout. Freewill offering.



Daybreak Tai Chi 7 AM on Wednesdays STARTING AUGUST 5



Awaken your body, calm your mind, and start your day with our instructor Amber! Enjoy gentle Tai Chi that improves balance, flexibility, and overall well-being while leaving you feeling refreshed and energized.



Save the Date

SOS (Survived our Spouses)
Potluck Social
Sunday, August 23 & September 27
4 PM
Social Hall



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Mrs. Muniz, a CNA at Boswell Hospital, selecting kitchen supplies provided by LOL for her family's new Habitat for Humanity home.



Ms. Green, a proud US Air Force veteran, selects kitchen supplies provided by LOL for her family's new Habitat For Humanity home.

C.A.R.T. NEWS



For the month of July, members and friends of Lord of Life have been collecting cans of vegetables to send to the Valley View Food Bank. These types of donations make a tremendous difference to those struggling to feed themselves and their family.

We called it our "veg out" collection during a rather hot month in Arizona. Well, it wasn't so hot after all for the collecting and counting. It wasn't hot, because the donations were ON FIRE. We have had over 500 cans to date which is a fantastic number when so many of our weekly attendees are not in Arizona.

Thank you for supporting this project. We do not know the recipients of your donations, but we do know that you are making a difference. Thank you! You epitomize the C.A.R.T. acronym...Caring Abundantly Received Thankfully.



PARISH NURSE'S CORNER

It's that time of year again in Arizona, when opening the front door feels like you've opened the oven to check on dinner! Your body itself is already starting to preheat to cook. How fast do you shut your door?

SUMMER SURVIVAL HAS BECOME AN OLYMPIC SPORT:

- The steering wheel is officially a branding iron.
- Every metal door handles everywhere has a warning before touching.
- You park under the one tree in the parking lot as if you've won the lottery. And you hope the sun doesn't move while you are away from car.
- Weather forecasters stop saying, "It's hot," and simply shrug.

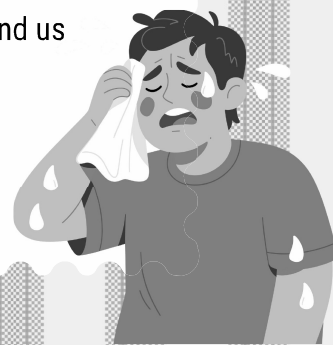
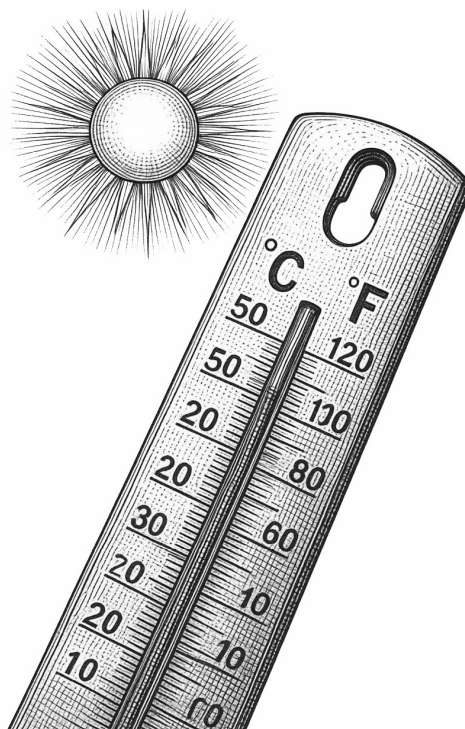
A FEW REMINDERS FROM YOUR PARISH NURSE:

- Water is your best summer companion—carry it everywhere. Including to worship!
- If you're walking the dog, remember: if the pavement is too hot for your hand, it's too hot for paws.
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors. A cool phone call or visit can brighten someone's day as much as air conditioning.
- And to all of our wonderful snowbirds enjoying cooler weather in other states...please know we are thinking of you. In fact, we'd be happy to come visit—for just one night! We promise not to overstay our welcome. While you're enjoying those cool evenings and maybe even needing a light sweater, we'll be over here deciding whether it's too hot to check the mailbox before sunset. Just saying... ☺ We look forward to welcoming you back and seeing you again, cause' when you are back so is the cool weather.

The good news? Arizona summers teach us patience, gratitude, and the joy of finding a parking spot in the shade.

May God protect us through the hottest days, fill our hearts with gratitude, and remind us that we are never alone.

Your Parish Nurse, Leoma





AUGUST GRATITUDE GIFT



NADABURG DESERT OASIS ELEMENTARY

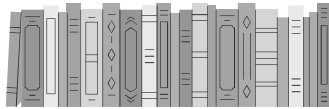


SEPTEMBER GRATITUDE GIFT



BARBELL SAVES

LIBRARY LINES



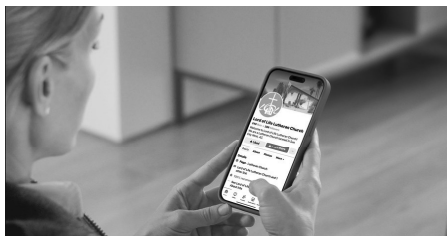
Hope you've had a good summer, wherever you were or still are! We have had MANY puzzles going in and out to keep us busy and out of the heat. PUZZELERS, please help! Whenever you do a puzzle and it's missing a piece or 2, PLEASE LET US KNOW! With all the great donations we have been getting, we'd like to keep only the best and removing puzzles that have been well used. When I donate it, I like to let the next person know about missing pieces and, if possible, where they are missing on the puzzle. THANKS!!

Finally, thanks to all your wonderful donations! We use what we need and can move others on to our thrift store charities. I will be placing an order for new books and I need your help! Please let me know, a title, book genre, anything you can so I get what you want for YOUR library! Welcome back to many of you returning to the valley for winter and HAPPY READING!



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

www.facebook.com/LordofLifeAZ



August + September BIBLE READINGS

AUGUST 2

Isaiah 55:1-5
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

AUGUST 9

1 Kings 19:9-18
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

AUGUST 16

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: 21-28

AUGUST 23

Isaiah 51:1-6
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

AUGUST 30

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

SEPTEMBER 6

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

SEPTEMBER 13

Genesis 50:15-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

SEPTEMBER 20

Jonah 3:10-4:11
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

SEPTEMBER 27

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

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



I-HELP

INTERFAITH HOMELESS EMERGENCY LODGING PROGRAM

Lord of Life is once again supporting the I-Help program, although in a slightly different way. As you may know, the Surprise I-Help program, previously supported by Lutheran Social Services, ended when federal funding was discontinued. Several churches came together to continue the ministry on their own. After getting organized, the program is now up and running. Pastor Jeff's new congregation, Christ Evangelical Church in Goodyear, is one of the participating churches, and Lord of Life is partnering by providing an evening meal, currently once each month.

When a meal is needed, I send an email to those interested in helping with the menu and date. Volunteers can sign up to donate a food item or contribute toward the entrée. If a particular month doesn't fit your schedule, simply wait for the next request. I'm so grateful for this wonderful team! If you'd like to join us, email me your email address and phone number, and I'll include you in future meal requests. Our next opportunity to help is Friday, August 21. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me.

Carol Karsten
cakarsten@cox.net

MEN'S BOOK GROUP



Join the Men's Book Group **Tuesday, November 10 at 10 AM** as we discuss the book *"The Great Contradiction: The Tragic Side of the American Founding"* by Joseph J. Ellis. This book discusses the contradiction that existed as the thirteen colonies armed themselves to defend against the idea of being governed without consent when there was a flourishing slave trade and half a million enslaved African Americans who were embedded in the North American population. Also, how could it permit the migration of settlers who understood the phrase "pursuit of happiness" was to mean displacing Native Americans from their ancestral lands?

Joseph Ellis is the author of many works of American history, including *"Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation"* which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. *"The Great Contradiction"* will help us understand the context of the time and the people involved as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and renew our commitment to the ideal it expresses that all men are created equal and have certain onalienable rights.

LOL UNIVERSITY NOURISHED

I got interested in nutrition about 12 years ago. What did I find out? All human cultures consume various combinations of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats. But the healthiest of these stuck to the basics – they eat whole real foods and minimized processed foods. But is there more to good health than eating nutritious food? As Matthew 4:4 says, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'



The word bread can represent anything from types of food to material possessions. But the phrase also implies that we, as people, also need intellectual, emotional, and sometimes spiritual nourishment to live a good life worth living. Most of us at LOL are retired, own our homes, and are financially secure. So, what else is there? I think all of us know, the material things in life can bring us comfort, but do they actually make us happy? In other words, even in this 3rd chapter of life, we need more than just material things in order to enjoy life. I wrote a GWOTD about getting to 1st and 2nd base spiritually. I wrote a bit about attempting to get to 3rd base (basking in God's Grace). I know I'm not there, but I would like to be. So, I am requesting a response from LOL members, who on their journey of Faith, believe they have come close to living in Grace. I would like to charge the Education Committee to build classes around your experiences; those things that have assisted and strengthened you, provided you with a degree of Peace in knowing you are loved as a beloved child of God.

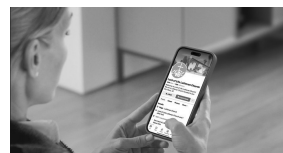
There is a small black mailbox just on the left side entrance to the Church Office. If you would please address a note (anonymous or signed) to the Education Committee and indicate the topics and areas of learning that have impacted you the most and place it in the mailbox, the office will make sure we get it so we can build an Adult Education program that both nourishes the Soul and uplifts the Spirit.

Brenda Reynolds



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

www.facebook.com/LordofLifeAZ



QUARTER 2 BENEVOLENCES

\$172,375

Gratitude Gifts

Grand Canyon Synod	\$600
Valley View Food Bank	\$135
Thompson Ranch	\$85
ELCA World Hunger	\$150
SCW Community Fund	\$8,590
Friends of SJF-Haiti	\$150
Foster AZ	\$6,690
Nadaburg Desert Oasis	\$30
ELCA Disaster Response	\$15
Navajo Evangelical	\$6,911

\$23,356

Budgeted Benevolence

Campus Ministry	\$1,752
ELCA Global Missions	\$1,251
Grand Canyon Synod	\$33,330
Lutheran Social Services	\$1,251
Native American Urban Ministries	\$1,251
Pan De Vida	\$1,500
Valley View Food Bank	\$1,668

\$42,003

Other Mission Benevolence

Camp Aloma	\$100
ELCA Global Missions	\$40
Pacific Lutheran Seminary	\$34,800
Rainbow Acres	\$10,000
St. Mary's Food Bank	\$100
Legend Acres	\$20
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital	\$500

\$45,560

Mission Endowment Fund

Growing in Faith/Diakonia	\$7,500
Pacific Lutheran Seminary	\$52,200

\$59,700

Women's Ministry

Hope Women's Center	\$1,098
Native American Urban Ministries	\$520
Valley View Food Bank	\$138

\$1,756

AUGUST Birthdays

01 Lance Berglund Gene Maul Bev Stokebrand Cindy Thompson Gene Zulk	07 Donald Chamberlain Joyce Chamberlain Neal Johnson Elizabeth Martin John Stanerson	13 Daphne Greenwood Gail Peterson Mike Timken	19 Ruth Baumann Dave Robinson	27 Beth Blake Bill Clark Linda Keyes Jean Kiernat Connie Minnes
02 Margaret Boll Jim Krause	08 Dale Jorgensen Becky Trower	14 Carole Halverson Ray Kutz Rich Sorensen	20 Susan Klaes Julie Peck Bob Sabatke Judy Stiles	28 Zandra Hensel Joe Marsh Daphne Reynolds Marcia Steil
03 Roxanne Butler	09 Jane Stelman	15 Les Brattain Ruth Lundeen Carol Perko	21 Jan Erlandson	29 Ed Bowman Alice Mau Victoria Miller Linda Snyder
04 Marie Forman Dennis Muehling Bruce Nelson John Tilton	10 Van Butler Donalu Diestler Delores Huebner Rick Jensen Ken Kvam	16 Kimberly Brown Mary Jo Gaulke Norm Schnabel	22 Stuart Salter	30 Tim Wise
05 Dick Tiede Diane Worthington	11 Jack Cutler Brown Keith Hohenstein Al Klaasmeyer Peny Schaefer Eric Stelter	17 Alden Awerkamp Mick Eberle Lowell Nelson Janae Wise	23 Ron Gliot Kathy Tiede	31 Jacki Knuth
06 Jonathan Jacobo	12 Bryan Updegraff	18 Dick Crosby Maureen Holt Marilyn Plath	24 Mai Iszler Bonnie Harbour Marilyn Jaster Jerry Koffel George Mackanic Diane Vaughn	
			26 Tina Diede Linda Lee Gimby Mike Trent	

SEPTEMBER Birthdays

01 Richard Stiles	10 Michael Bannon Lori Jensen Gary Patten Dennis Peterson	19 Bob Harbour Don Hild Erv Opsal Dave Quintana Christi Rich Sheryl Saddoris John Staupe	26 Jeanette Cooper Pat O'Neil Ted Repsholdt Sandy St. Clair
02 Mary Butler Linda Engebretson Connie Johnson Joan Nieman	12 Annie Braun Brenda Burchill Elsa Heinemann	21 Sandra Carlson Robert Vaughn, Jr.	27 Karen Carroll Doris Larson Monte Ryan Mary Wilczynski
03 Joel Skogen Marlys Stannebein	14 Janet Arnold Nancy Laible	23 Wilma Goldmann Norm Hagberg Dale Hahn Karin Olsen Bob Olson	28 Rich Holt Bonnie Neitz Mark Ottemann Mary Etta Schaffler Ron Thorkelson Donna Weihofen
04 Terry Petrick Marlene Tucker	15 Roger Norrell Dave Schneider	24 Jim DeCoe Duane Stokebrand	29 Shelly Abner Shari Jones
05 Connie Kvam Sharron Riebe Patti Simeon	16 Susan Cuttone Dorothy Johnson Marjorie Kellogg Billie Spencer Barb Staupe	25 Julie Borgmeier Randy Noecker Judy Roskens	30 Emil Authelet Robin Hanus
06 Steve Laible Dick Towner Ellie Workman	17 John Fahey Harvey Faust Chris Stelter		
07 Diane Jordan Jo Spangler	18 Julie Eide Sherry Hoel Roger Matschke		
08 Audrey Opal Joan Seefeldt			
09 Wayne Harbison			

MEMBERSHIP COUNT:

649 Full
238 Associate
887 Total

IN MEMORIAM:

Marilyn Squires
Gene Abel
Richard Zill
Ann McAlpin

**SURGERY /
HOSPITALIZATION
SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER:**

Gary Wiles
Eileen Oakes
Diane Jordan
Joan Sauer
Sue Pedersen
Ron Hippen

NEW MEMBERS:**REMOVAL FROM
MEMBERSHIP:**

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
June 2026

	Jun Actual	Jun Plan	YTD Actual	YTD Plan
Income				
Envelope Offering	114,770	95,443	616,240	554,392
Loose Plate Offering	769	1,188	16,723	13,443
Other Income	2,385	2,225	45,768	35,812
Total Regular Income	117,924	98,856	678,731	603,647
Expense				
General Expenses:				
Salaries & Benefits	58,432	61,543	401,663	405,705
General Operations	5,068	5,338	33,638	36,104
Regular Ministries	2,583	5,607	21,272	28,382
Building & Grounds	6,869	5,455	36,629	28,620
Utilities	2,271	2,460	13,467	15,200
Insurance	1,980	2,168	11,143	13,113
Sub-Total General Expenses	77,202	82,571	517,813	527,124
Mission Support:				
G/C Synod Support	11,110	11,110	66,660	66,660
G/C Synod Pass-Thru	2,335	2,335	14,010	14,010
Non-Synod Direct	417	417	2,502	2,502
Sub-Total Mission Support	13,862	13,862	83,172	83,172
Total Regular Expenses	91,064	96,433	600,985	610,296
Net Operating Income - Month	26,860	2,423		
Net Operating Income - Year-to-Date			77,746	-6,649
Variance to Month Budget	24,437			
Variance to Year-to-Date Budget	84,395			
Mission Endowment Fund Balance	2,197,699			
Online Giving	24,511	19%		

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:

- Donating 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.

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 9:30 AM

Sunday Happy Hour: 10:30 AM

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

PHONE: (623) 584-2000

EMAIL: INFO@LOLAZ.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.LOLAZ.ORG

STAFF

The Rev. Lanny Westphal

pastorlanny@lolaz.org

The Rev. Pam Reynolds

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Deb Dorough

Director of Administration

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Lori Goodspeed

Office Manager

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Dave Lien

Choir Director

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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

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 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!