



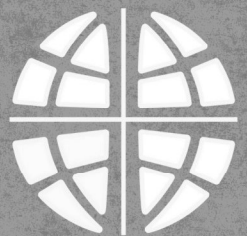
# LifeLINES

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

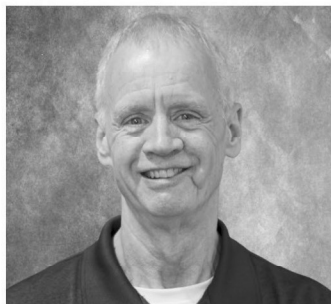


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Monthly Newsletter  
February 2026



## A WORD FROM PASTOR JEFF Martin Luther

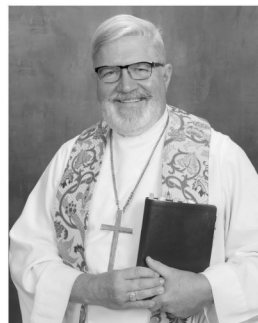
Martin Luther did not set out to become a brand name or a denominational logo. He was a simple monk with an overactive conscience. Luther's problem was not that he thought too much of himself, but that he thought too much of God—God as a vengeful judge with a taste for smiting sinners. He tried to pacify that God by fasting, confessing, punishing his own

body, and climbing the ladder of good works rung by rung, only to discover that the God made known in Jesus is not a God of wrath but a God of mercy. Luther, hunched over his Bible, tripped over a phrase that would not lie still: the righteousness of God. He first heard it as threat—God's righteousness as the standard by which sinners are measured and found wanting. Then, he heard it as gift—God's righteousness given to sinners who have nothing to offer but their empty hands. The gospel, Luther realized, is not good advice about how to climb up to God, but good news that God has come down to us, stubbornly, bodily, in Jesus Christ.

Luther reminds us that the church is always one generation away from forgetting the gospel and substituting something cheaper: morality, nationalism, success, respectability. He calls us back to the scandalous claim that sinners are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, for Christ's sake alone. That is not a slogan for a bumper sticker. It is a word that topples empires and rescues frightened consciences.

We remember Luther not because he was right about everything—he wasn't—but because he was seized by a God who refuses to be bought, managed, or politely admired from a distance. A God who justifies the ungodly. A God who creates a church not out of heroes, but out of forgiven sinners who, like Luther, are surprised to discover that the door to heaven does not open inward, by our effort, but outward, by God's mercy.

## Welcome to Lord of Life Visitation & Encouragement Pastor



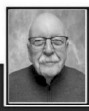
Rev. Lowell D. Nelson retired in 2022 after 40 years of church and corporate life. He is enjoying the "3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter" of his life with his wife Deborah and their family and friends throughout the U.S. Pastor Lowell looks forward to encouraging Lord of Life members through visitation and pastoral care in any setting, wherever they may be residing.

Lowell's church experience includes serving as a lay Family Life Minister at Tanque Verde Lutheran/Tucson, AZ (1990-1994) and lay Outreach Minister at Bethany Lutheran/Elkhorn, NE (2007-2011). He was ordained in 2011 and served as pastor at Immanuel Lutheran/Bellevue, NE (2011-2018) and Senior Pastor at American Lutheran/Sun City, AZ (2018-2022). Lowell's

corporate experience includes working in Finance/Business Planning for IBM in Tucson, AZ and San Jose, CA (1982-1989), as Financial Manager at Carondelet St. Joseph's Hospital in Tucson (1990) and for an extended period at Immanuel Medical Center/Immanuel Health Systems in Omaha, NE (1994-2006). He served as Immanuel's Manager of the Pastoral Care/Community Service department and Director of the Rehabilitation Center before becoming President of Immanuel Retirement Communities and later, CEO of Immanuel Health Systems.

Lowell is a life-long learner who graduated from Augustana College/Rock Island, IL with a BA in History/Psychology in 1979; from the University of Arizona/Tucson, AZ with a MBA in Finance in 1987; from Arizona State University with a MSW in Planning & Administration in 1993; and, a certificate in Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) jointly from Luther Seminary/St. Paul, MN & Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary/Berkeley, CA. He completed the Level II ELCA Coaching certification to strengthen his skill in encouraging individuals, teams and organizations.

# PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS



JERRY SOMA

2025 has passed and even though our memories fade, these are some of the things that took place at Lord of Life.

- We had over 140 opportunities to worship our Lord and Savior.
- There were over 100 classes that gave us a better understanding of the Scriptures and our place in this world.
- Music permeated both our Worship experience and special concerts throughout the year.
- Hundreds gave of their time and talents in over 60 volunteer opportunities. The hours would measure in the thousands.
- Our financial gifts met our needs at Lord of Life and also were spread across our community and the world.
- Our Pastors were our Shepherds; teaching, giving us guidance and helping us in our faith journey.
- Our staff worked tirelessly to keep things running smoothly.
- Our Lord was and is preparing us for a new Senior Pastor.

It was a good year for us at Lord of Life.

What is the vision for 2026 at Lord of Life? The future will unfold, God does have a plan. Will we step up to meet it? Our Lord has a plan for each of us. Will we seek it? The year 2026 gives us boundless opportunities, let's make it happen!

Jerry Soma  
Congregational Council President

## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN PACKING EVENT

We had a successful kick-off for FMSC with our annual chili feed event. Thank you for your generous support. Let's follow this by volunteering to pack meals or donating to FMSC.



February 20 & 21 packing event registration is now open!

Feed My Starving Children provides nutritious meals to children worldwide. Help end hunger and change the world by participating in our packing event at Lord of Life. We plan to pack over 171,000 meals in two days and hope you'll join us. Registration is now open to all. You may sign up as an individual or form your own team. There are many ways to register: call 503-720-7896, email [janicapps@comcast.net](mailto:janicapps@comcast.net), use the FMSC link in the Word of the Day, go to [LOLaz.org](http://LOLaz.org) and click on the blue FMSC link, or visit [FMSC.org/GetInvolved/Volunteer](http://FMSC.org/GetInvolved/Volunteer). There will be tasks available for people with limited mobility and problems standing for extended times.

The shifts are as follows:

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

**Shift 1:** 9:00 to 11:00 AM  
**Shift 2:** 12:00 to 2:00 PM  
**Shift 3:** 2:30 to 4:30 PM  
**Shift 4:** 5:30 to 7:30 PM

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**Shift 5:** 9:00 to 11:00 AM  
**Shift 6:** 12:00 to 2:00 PM  
**Shift 7:** 2:30 to 4:30 PM

Volunteers are needed after packing (4:30-6:30 PM) on Saturday, February 21 to take down tables and clean up. To volunteer email [dcmoh1@gmail.com](mailto:dcmoh1@gmail.com).

JANUARY GRATITUDE GIFT: FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN (FMSC)

Thank you to all who gave so generously to support FMSC. May God bless you all.

## 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
- Lutheran Campus Ministry at U of A
- Navajo Lutheran Mission
- Valley View Food Bank
- West Valley Lutheran Thrift Store



**SignUpGenius**

### 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](mailto: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.

## February Bible Readings

FEBRUARY 1

Micah 6:1-8  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

FEBRUARY 8

Isaiah 58:1-9a  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12  
Matthew 5:13-20

FEBRUARY 15

Exodus 24:12-18  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

FEBRUARY 22

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

## 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



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED



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

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

**Thompson Ranch Elementary** is also requesting a variety of supplies, including pencils, paper, glue sticks, erasers, colored pencils, hygiene items, and notebooks.

Donation bins are located near the Social Hall Annex.

## HELLO FROM THE LOL BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

All are welcome to attend the next book group meeting on **Monday, February 23 at 1 PM** at the church. This month the book selection is *The Mystery Writer* by Sulari Gentil. This novel is a literary thriller. In the story an aspiring writer meets and falls in love with her literary idol—only to find him murdered the day after she gave him her manuscript to read.

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.

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](mailto:info@lolaz.org) or by calling (623) 584-2000.



Save the Date

SOS (Survived our Spouses)  
Potluck Social  
Sunday, February 15  
4 PM - 6 PM  
Social Hall



## FRIENDS OF SJF



## FEBRUARY GRATITUDE GIFT



## THE SOUPER BOWL IS COMING

The Super Bowl is being played in Santa Clara, California on February 8, 2026. However, Lord of Life is having its annual Souper Bowl weekend of collecting cans of soup for the Food Bank.



The CART will be in the Narthex for the weekend of February 7th and 8th for all soup donations. Last year we collected 490 cans of soup. Can we match or beat that? Game on!

## The C.A.R T. (Caring Abundantly Received Thankfully)

Thank you for starting the new year with your abundant generosity of giving food for those in need. The photo shows just how many boxes and bags were collected on the second week of January!



In 2025 we had 403 boxes of cereal. In the next Lifelines issue we will reveal the final count for 2026. Thank you again.

## 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 the following morning

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 or more students.

**We need a minimum of 21 rooms to host the students. Please consider being a host!**

If you are willing to host students, please contact Sherry Hoel, [sehoel@yahoo.com](mailto: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	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	1:30 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

## UPCOMING IN THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

We start out February right with the leading musicians in the Phoenix area (and beyond) giving a sparkling concert. Dan Reed, on trumpet, and Nicole Pesce, on piano. Dan Reed played on The Love Boat a few decades ago and Nicole Pesce plays in a multitude of styles--jazz, ragtime, pop, movie styles, dixieland, musicals. **Sunday, February 1 at 3 PM.** No tickets needed. Suggested freewill offering, \$10.

Saturday Night Life is **Saturday, February 7** with our Lord of Life Big Band as the featured entertainment. More about this on Page 10.

**Sunday, February 22 at 3 PM** is the sought-after Desert Winds Steel Orchestra doing a combination of Pop, Latin, Caribbean, Calypso music. Their director, Jerry Lopatin, started it in 1997 with an 8 member band, now it is at 15 members. Through the years it played at the Cricket Pavillion before Jimmy Buffet concerts. No tickets needed, suggested donation \$10. All are welcome.

Ballet Folklorio is from Thompson Ranch School and they are coming to perform as a thank you to Lord of Life for "adopting" their school. Let's give a great welcome to these young people and enjoy their beautiful costumes and dancing on **Saturday, February 28 at 12:30 PM.**

Looking ahead to **Thursday, March 5 at 7 PM**, when college age students come to Lord of Life from Wartburg College in Iowa with the Castle Singers and Kammerstreicher (orchestra). This is a ticketed event. We need housing for these students. More is found on page 4.

## PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE



Lynn Hunt



Dean Lewellen



Jim McLinn



Christi Rich



Sandra Solomon



Leslie Young

## 2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Dave Benson  
Financial Resource



Lou Eppelsheimer  
Benevolence



Sherry Hoel  
Arts



Gary Kakert  
Mission Endowment



Joe Marsh  
Safety & Security



Jim McLinn  
Building & Grounds



Brenda Reynolds  
Education



Bill Shelly  
Worship & Music



Sheila Wright  
Fellowship

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





# As the Tail Wags

## MR. BANKS ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS



Hi, it's Mr. Banks! I'm back to answer your questions, share a few stories from my busy days, and, of course, wag my tail as much as possible. Maybe even sneak in a treat or two along the way—don't tell Pastor Pam! I love hearing from all of you and spreading a little joy.

**Has Pastor Pam ever told you where your name came from? Everytime I hear it, it reminds me of Mary Poppins and I smile.**

Pastor Pam has told me all about my name! My full, very official AKC Registered name is Banks Olesen Wolfe, which sounds quite serious and important. Thankfully, most friends know me by my much friendlier nickname, Mr. Banks. Whether you call me Mr. Banks or use my full fancy name, I'm always happy to be right where I belong — wagging my tail and doing my best to brighten your day.

**So what might we do for you, Mr. Banks, to give you our love and appreciation in return? A special event, a bag of treats, a donation to your favorite animal shelter, therapy or service dog organization?**

That's very kind of you to ask! Honestly, the best gift you can give me is your gentle kindness — calm greetings, soft voices, and understanding when I'm working. Those things help me do my job well and keep my tail wagging.

If you're feeling extra generous, sharing the love with a local animal shelter or a therapy or service dog organization would make my heart very happy.

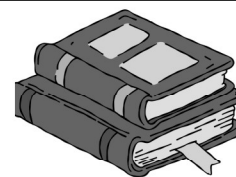
**As a therapy dog, are you allowed to visit people in the hospital?**

Sometimes, yes! Therapy dog visits depend on hospital policies and health guidelines. When everything lines up, visiting hospitals can be one of the most meaningful parts of my work. A calm presence, a soft ear to scratch, and a quiet moment of comfort can go a long way — and I'm honored whenever I get to help in that way.

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](mailto:info@lolaz.org).** Keep questions coming — who knows, yours might be featured in the next edition of *As the Tail Wags*!

*Mr. Banks* 🐾

## MEN'S BOOK CLUB



Join the Men's Book Group on **Tuesday, February 10 at 10 AM** to discuss the book *Separation of Church and Hate* by John Fugelsang. This book examines how fundamentalism distorts Christianity, exploring what scripture actually says about the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants and the poor while reclaiming Jesus's revolutionary message. I have only just begun to read the book but it appears to be a no holds barred discussion of Christian fundamentalism and Christian nationalism. I am looking forward to our discussion, particularly how you think we can constructively discuss this topic with our acquaintances that may be on that path.

I hope to see you there!

Randy Farwell

## ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

### MENS CARING AND SHARING

Monday from 9 - 11:30 AM

### LOL UNIVERSITY: THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Monday at 11 AM

### ZOOM AT NOON

Wednesday at 12 PM

### QUILTING TEAM

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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



# U LOL UNIVERSITY

## 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.

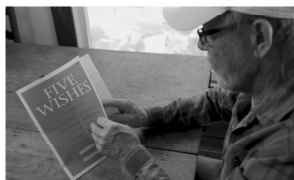
**WHEN:** Fridays, January 30, February 6 & 13 at 2 PM

**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.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 4 at 2:30 PM

**WHERE:** Conference Room

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

Please sign up though the LOL SignUpGenius.

## YOUR LIFE'S STORY LIVING WITH DIGNITY PART II

Planning for your own Celebration of Life seems like an undaunting task. It's not easy to think about your final wishes, but planning now will be a true gift for your family and friends and provide you with great peace of mind.



CONTINUED

Whether you live here part-time or full-time you may be unaware of the different types and levels of service open to you regarding final arrangements as you journey from this place to your home in glory where Jesus welcomes you to everlasting life in paradise.

Please join us to learn more about LOL's Columbarium and the various memorial and mortuary services available.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 11 at 11 am

**WHERE:** LOL Social Hall

**HOW:** Bring a notebook and a writing implement. Brochures and handouts will also be provided.

## THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION A RELIGIOUS & THEOLOGICAL BOOKCLUB

Lord of Life University presents classes with Biblical and Community themes, but often a 4-week class just isn't enough time to discuss a 300+ page book that has an in-depth Spiritual impact. Such a book needs time to read, digest, and discuss. Therefore, it seems appropriate that LOL creates a bookclub dedicated to topics that can encourage, rejuvenate, and steady us on our walk with the Lord.



Some initial book ideas include Falling Upwards by Richard Rohr, A Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis, and The Lutheran Trump Card by Dave Daubert.

We will conduct an introductory meeting of THE Spiritual connection Book club

**WHEN:** Monday, February 16 at 10 AM

**WHERE:** Conference Room

**HOW:** Bring your calendars and book suggestions

## FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO LASTING LEGACY

What began as a simple, faithful idea has grown into something far greater than anyone could have imagined. The Lutheran Thrift Shop was founded with a vision—one rooted in service, generosity, and trust that God could use even small beginnings to make a meaningful difference. Our founder, Dot Nelson, dreamed of a place where donated items and willing hands could be transformed into hope for others.

From modest beginnings, the Lutheran Thrift Shop has grown into a vital resource for the West Valley community. Through faithful stewardship and the dedication of hundreds of volunteers over the years, the shop has been able to give millions of dollars back to West Valley nonprofits—supporting food banks, shelters, social service agencies, and countless programs that lift up our neighbors in need.

None of this would be possible without the people who give their time, talents, and hearts. For more than 30 years, generations of volunteers have sorted, priced, stocked, greeted, prayed, and served—often quietly and humbly—making a powerful impact far beyond the walls of the shop. Their service is the true foundation of our success.

We believe Dot Nelson would be incredibly proud to see how her vision has grown, not just in size, but in purpose and impact. Her dream continues to bear fruit through every donation received, every volunteer shift served, and every nonprofit supported.

As we look forward, we invite you to become part of this legacy. Whether through volunteering, donating, or simply sharing our story, you help carry forward a mission rooted in faith, service, and love of neighbor. The Lutheran Thrift Shop is more than a store—it is a ministry, a community, and a living testament to what can happen when God's people work together. Would you like to become a part of our story? Stop by and get a tour or call the shop 623.815.7061.

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

📍 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, 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.

**Reminder to ticket holders:**  
arrive at 6 PM or after Worship.

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



## QUILTING MINISTRY



The Lord of Life Quilting Ministry is up and running again. Join us from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month. Remember: **NO HAND SEWING REQUIRED!** There are many tasks required to complete each quilt. We have machines and tools for your use. We have seasoned quilters to help you those who take kits home to assemble on their own machines. Break time includes exchange of ideas and even surprise snacks!

We are the friendship group you've been looking for! Please contact Sally Jo Brown at 623-444-8442 for more information.

**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](mailto: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.

## LIBRARY LINES

I hope you are finding good things to read or puzzles to solve. If you don't see something you really want, please leave a note on the library desk in the back room and we will do our best to get what you want or need.



Just this last month, some books on grief that had been MIA for over a year, turned up again! These five very helpful books for working through grief will be placed on the "new to LOL library" shelving for the next few months. Then they will join all our other books on grief that can be found on the middle low shelving unit right across from the new books in the Social Hall Entry.

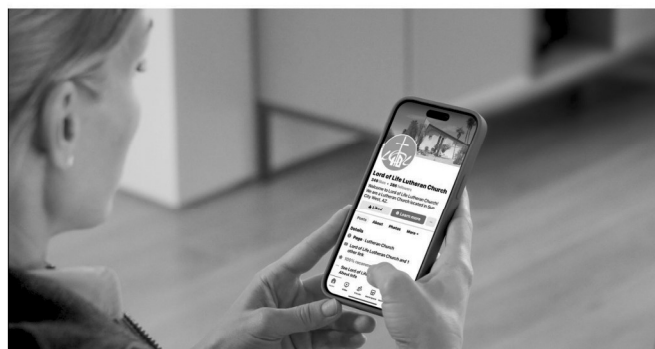
May God guide you to just the book you need.

*As always, happy reading!*



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

[www.facebook.com/LordofLifeAZ](http://www.facebook.com/LordofLifeAZ)



## WELCA SCHEDULE JANUARY 2026

Hannah Circle	Katherine Circle	Rachel Circle	Ruth Circle
Monday, February 2 10 AM	Monday, February 9 9:30 AM	Monday, February 9 1:30 PM	Thursday, February 12 10 AM
Conference Room	Conference Room	Offsite	Room 2





# FEBRUARY Birthday's

01 Sandy Davidson  
Dan Kratz

02 Ken Dubrau  
Marlys Engh  
Mary Zulk

03 Paul Wallin  
Richard Zill  
Jerry Weinsheimer

04 Shirley Gliot  
Maryann Bast

05 Gary Starr  
Andre Kalich  
Inez Jorgensen

06 Janann Anderson

07 Ellen Nelson  
Ed Williams

08 Ken Ellingson  
Ron Jensen  
Geri Skogen  
Barb Houdek

09 Diane Koschmeder  
Penny Wennerlyn  
Rich Young  
Wayne Odell  
Susan Wise  
Carolyn Tasson

10 Leona Kraus  
Lynette Waldenberger  
Kathy Schillinger

11 Olivia Evans  
Lynda Strobel  
Bob Reynolds

12 Bonnie Finch  
Glenice Gibson  
Sheila Johnson-Soma

14 Joni Anderson  
Maryalice Quinn

15 Regina Cirillo  
Jim Merwin

Joy Sheets  
Cindy Gunnarson

16 Sharon Van Hauen  
Gene Meyer

17 Nancy Carson  
Skip Halverson  
Scott Caverly

18 Mike Erlandson

19 Dave Braun  
Glenn Grumann  
Don Johnson  
Rose Mary Miller  
Catherine Lamphier  
Gladys Sondrol

20 Warren Carson  
Geri Ikola  
William Stroh

21 Judy Henriksen

22 Rebecca Strand  
Diane Harvey

23 Bill Melville

24 Mary Robinson  
Gwen Rosdahl  
Rosemary Thiede  
Forrest Pietsch  
Patti Harris  
Linda Klaasmeyer

25 Eileen Oakes  
Roger Roskens  
Brenda Roskens  
Dave Wascher

Brenda Webb  
Sue Rickmeyer  
Marilyn Erdman

27 Dorothy Kropf

28 Luann Bauman  
Nancy Henricksen  
George Wennerlyn  
Brenda Reynolds

29 Dick Stuckey

## 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!



## LOVE THAT BRINGS LIFE (AND MAYBE SOME CHOCOLATE)

February often brings hearts, cards, and reminders of Valentine's Day—along with chocolate showing up in places it normally doesn't. As a Parish Nurse, I see this season as a gentle invitation to reflect on love in its truest form: love comforts, strengthens, and connects us.

Jesus tells us in John 10:10, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Abundant life doesn't mean we always feel energetic, organized, or on top of things. It means we are held in God's care—body, mind, and spirit—even on the days when we misplace our glasses, forget why we walked into a room, or eat one more chocolate than planned.

Love often shows up in quiet, meaningful ways: a kind word, a shared prayer, a casserole left at the door, or a simple "How are you really doing?" These small acts of love help bring God's abundance into everyday life.

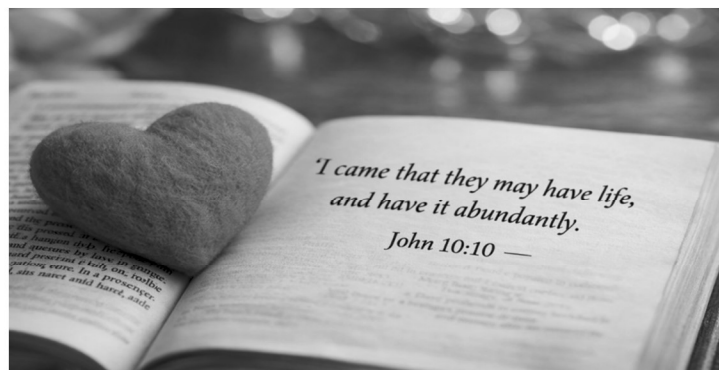
For some, this month is joyful; for others, it may feel tender or even a little long. If Valentine's Day brings mixed emotions, please know you are not alone. A smile, a note, or a warm conversation can be a blessing—both to give and to receive.

As your Parish Nurse, my hope is that you feel surrounded by care this month. May your days include moments of rest, laughter, good connection, and reminders that you are deeply loved—by God and by this church family.

And if chocolate happens to be part of your self-care this month, enjoy it with gratitude.

With warmth and blessings,

Parish Nurse  
Leoma Lightner, BSN, RN,FCN



**Membership Count:**

662 Full  
 245 Associate  
 907 Total

**Surgery/Hospitalization  
since last Lifelines:**

Ron Aron  
 June Fredericksen  
 Ron Guse'  
 Joanne Holt  
 Dennis Peterson  
 Norm Plath  
 Dave Roberts  
 Leonard Saathoff  
 Dave Schneider  
 Blanka Schuster  
 Jim Wright

**In Memoriam**

Don Thunborg  
 Gene Van Hauen

**Removal from  
Membership:**

Myron & Linda Kempen  
 Kathleen Switaj

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church****Treasurer's Report****December 2025**

	Dec Actual	Dec Plan	YTD Actual	YTD Plan
<b>Income</b>				
Envelope Offering	140,459	142,000	1,164,097	1,184,800
Loose Plate Offering	2,968	5,044	23,537	26,446
Other Income	4,100	3,271	50,927	67,162
<b>Total Regular Income</b>	<b>147,527</b>	<b>150,315</b>	<b>1,238,561</b>	<b>1,278,408</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>General Expenses:</b>				
Salaries & Benefits	66,139	87,881	782,974	827,107
General Operations	10,315	6,510	74,445	73,739
Regular Ministries	36	6,942	31,934	66,256
Building & Grounds	2,224	6,822	56,254	69,027
Utilities	1,352	300	30,388	21,610
Insurance	1,830	1,962	21,239	22,590
<b>Sub-Total General Expenses</b>	<b>81,896</b>	<b>110,417</b>	<b>997,234</b>	<b>1,080,329</b>
<b>Mission Support:</b>				
G/C Synod Support	11,110	11,110	133,320	133,320
G/C Synod Pass-Thru	4,004	4,544	52,248	54,408
Non-Synod Direct	834	834	10,008	10,008
<b>Sub-Total Mission Support</b>	<b>15,948</b>	<b>16,488</b>	<b>195,576</b>	<b>197,736</b>
<b>Total Regular Expenses</b>	<b>97,844</b>	<b>126,905</b>	<b>1,192,810</b>	<b>1,278,065</b>
<b>Net Operating Income - Month</b>	<b>49,683</b>	<b>23,410</b>		
<b>Net Operating Income - Year-to-Date</b>			<b>45,751</b>	<b>343</b>
<b>Variance to Month Budget</b>	<b>26,273</b>			
<b>Variance to Year-to-Date Budget</b>	<b>45,408</b>			
<b>Mission Endowment Fund Balance</b>	<b>2,105,664</b>			
<b>Online Giving</b>	<b>29,271</b>	<b>17%</b>		

**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](http://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

### STAFF

**The Rev. Pam Reynolds**

pastorpam@lolaz.org

**The Rev. Jeff Hackler**

pastorjeff@lolaz.org

**The Rev. Lowell Nelson**

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Director of Administration

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Choir Director

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**Sheila Wright**

Events Coordinator

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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

FEBRUARY 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](http://www.lolaz.org), or subscribe to Lord of Life on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/c/LordOfLifeLutheranChurch](http://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](http://www.lolaz.org/donate) to give today!