



LifeLINES

Lord of Life Lutheran Church



INSIDE THE ISSUE

- A WORD FROM PASTOR JEFF ► Page 1
- CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ► Page 1
- COUNCIL CORNER ► Page 2
- CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE ► Page 4
- CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE ► Page 3
- FMSC IMPORTANT DATES ► Page 4
- NEW BIBLE STUDY CLASS ► Page 5
- DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS ► Page 6
- MUSIC UPDATES ► Pages 7-8
- RECENT SNAPSHOTS ► Pages 9-10
- JOY ► Page 11
- LEGACY OF LOVE ► Page 12
- AS THE TAIL WAGS ► Page 13
- MEMBER & GIVING UPDATES ► Page 14



Monthly Newsletter
December 2025



A WORD FROM PASTOR JEFF

Advent is the season of the church that teaches us to wait, something I'm afraid that we modern people are not very good at. In a world addicted to immediate gratification, Advent reminds us that God moves at a different pace. We live in a culture that despises waiting. Fast food, fast WI-FI, fast news - we have built an empire on instant everything. But Advent forces us to lean into God's time - four weeks to take time and to mark time differently from the way the world keeps time. The church gives us these four weeks, not as a countdown to Christmas, but as a time to learn again how to hope, how to watch, how to wait. Advent is the season that refuses to let us rush to Bethlehem without first standing still long enough to reflect on the sin of a world that needs saving.

Advent is not about pretending the darkness isn't real. It's about daring to believe that the light is on its way. And so we light the Advent candles against the darkness of this world remembering that the church stands in the tension between promise and fulfillment, fear and faith. We pray, "Come, Lord Jesus" knowing that things are not yet as they should be, and in the hope of believing that one day they will be.

So here we are - waiting again. Waiting not for Santa or sentiment, but for a savior. The one who came once in humility as the babe of Bethlehem and the one who will come again in glory. The one who refuses to leave the world as it is. So, this season of Advent, light your candles, sing your hymns, pray your prayers. But don't get too comfortable. Jesus is coming, and when he arrives, he tends to turn everything upside down.

Pastor Jeff



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Council elections will be held around Worship Services the weekend of **Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14.**

Meet your Council Candidates.....



Linda Spence-Noyer

I am Linda Spence-Noyer, and my husband Richard and I 'found our church home' at Lord of Life, becoming members in 2022. Prior to moving here, I have served as a Sunday School teacher, LCAW president, lector, and choir member. Here at LOL I am blessed to serve with the Fellowship Committee, Listening Circle, FMSC, Fellowship Hour, and Memorials. I graduated from the UW Seattle Business School, majoring in business management, human resources, and communications and served as the Program Administrator for Student Affairs & Services at UW Tacoma.

Outside of church activities, I enjoy spending time with friends and family, traveling, silver crafting, and lapidary. I remain committed to ongoing development and seek always to serve God and the church with integrity, purpose, and faithfulness.



Lynn Hunt

I grew up in Tempe and returned in 1970 after serving 4 years in the Navy. My wife Jan and I left Arizona in 1971 and spent 49 years in the Midwest. We returned in December 2020 and settled in Vistancia. Shortly thereafter we joined Lord of Life. I have served on the Congregational Council at LOL, serving as President for one year. I led the transition when Pastor Steve left, and I currently serve on the Call Committee, Benevolence Committee and Arts Committee.



Janet Horst

I have been a member of Lord of Life since November 2019. I lost my husband of 52 years in July. I have a 2-year-old granddaughter here in Phoenix area which is a huge blessing. I served on Council once before and love serving God through Lord of Life.

COUNCIL CORNER

In September the Congregational Council appointed an Architectural Committee to evaluate the future and immediate needs of the Sanctuary and Narthex which includes the restrooms.

The question most would ask is "are they nuts?" They have been asking the congregation to increase their giving to meet our obligations and now they want to spend more?

These are some of the reasons why:

- The building is forty years old and other than an organ replacement, there have been no significant facelifts or improvements. There aren't many homes in our community where some remodeling and refreshment hasn't been done.
- We need to have a vision of the future and improve our welcome to the community. The outdated narthex doesn't provide that welcoming vibe.
- It is clear we need to update the restrooms in the narthex. The Narthex needs to be more welcoming and functional.
- We need to evaluate storage spaces. Current storage spaces are inadequate and difficult to access.

There are no plans to do a fund appeal or divert monies from our operating expenses. It may happen in the future, but there are no plans at this time.

We are very fortunate that one of our members gave us a very large gift from her estate and about one million dollars was set aside for facility renewal. This could be used to pay for some of the immediate needs.

Take time to walk around our campus and be aware of the improvements that have been made in recent years: Ruby Hall, the kitchen, the office space, upgrades to the parking lot lighting, solar panels, corner sign and courtyard. This narthex project is another step in bringing our facilities to the standard that we have enjoyed.

We will keep you updated as things move forward.

Jerry Soma
Congregational Council President

WOW! THE YEARLY WHEELBARROW STATISTICS:

The Lord of Life members and friends never cease to amaze when it comes to generosity. You continue to help families in need with your gracious giving.



January - 403 boxes of cereal
Souper Bowl Weekend - 490 cans of soup
March - 1545 boxes of mac and cheese
April - 926 cans of vegetables
June - 532 sweet treat items
August - 502 items of applesauce, beans & cereal
October - 670 jars of peanut butter and jelly

The grand total: 5078 donated items!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION. The single food item collection will return in January.

Thank you to all the drivers who delivered the food to the Food Pantry.

Christmas Worship SCHEDULE

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
Wednesday, December 17 at 5 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE
Wednesday, December 24
3 PM • 5 PM • 7 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
Thursday, December 25 at 10 AM

A SEASON OF GRATITUDE AT THE LUTHERAN THRIFT SHOP

As we enter this holiday season, our hearts are full as we reflect on the many blessings God has poured out through the Lutheran Thrift Shop.

What a joy it is to witness the generosity of our community, the dedication of our volunteers, and the friendships that have blossomed in this ministry.

We are especially grateful for the countless hours given by our faithful volunteers. Their smiles, patience, and commitment bring Christ's love to life each day. Through their service, our shop is not only a place of affordable treasures, but also a place of welcome, kindness, and hope.

We rejoice in the new friendships we've made along the way—each one a reminder of how God knits us together as the Body of Christ. At the same time, we pause to remember and grieve those beloved friends and volunteers who are no longer with us. Their legacy of service and love continues to inspire us and remains woven into the fabric of this ministry.

As a community of faith, we give thanks for the blessing of the Lutheran Thrift Shop. And we invite YOU to be part of this ministry! If you have ever wondered what volunteering might be like, we would love to show you around. Come take a tour of the shop, meet some of our dedicated volunteers, and see firsthand how your gifts and talents could make a difference.

Together, let us continue to serve with grateful hearts, lifting one another up in love, and shining God's light in all we do.



Patiently Waiting

Patience is something that varies from person to person—some people have plenty, while others have very little. Personally, I run out of patience quickly when I'm trying to show Leland how to use the TV remote for the hundredth time! We all lose patience waiting in line, dealing with customer service on the phone, with our children, or even with the driver ahead of us.

We've heard impatience expressed about the search for a new pastor. Many feel it's taking too long. Some wonder if we could just hire someone temporarily and keep searching. Others question whether the call committee is actually making progress.

Please be assured that the call committee is diligently working to identify a candidate who meets the qualifications outlined in our Ministry Site Profile and reflects the preferences of the congregation. The committee adheres strictly to this process to ensure the best possible outcome for our church community. Currently there are more congregations seeking pastors than there are available candidates; although several pastors have been interviewed, they did not align with the specific needs and values of our church.

Our congregation is distinguished by its love, energy, and generosity. The call committee remains committed to finding a pastor who embodies these attributes and demonstrates additional qualities essential to our mission. We believe that the right candidate has already been chosen by God and await His guidance for this individual to join our community.

We respectfully request your continued prayers for the call committee and for God's direction in sending us a new pastor. If you know of a pastor who may be a suitable fit for our congregation, please inform a committee member. Should you have a personal relationship with such a pastor, kindly inquire about their interest in pursuing a new call. If interested, we will notify the Synod Transition team to initiate the interview process.

But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently. Romans 8:25

Lynn Hunt
Dean Lewellen
Jim McLinn
Jim Price

Christi Rich - Chair
Sandra Soloman
Leslie Young

Christmas Dinner REMINDER



 Thursday, December 4
 Doors open 5:30 PM; dinner starting at 6 PM
 The Colonnade
19116 N Colonnade Way, Surprise, AZ 85375

DONT FORGET YOUR DRINK TICKETS: SEE YOU THERE!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN AND CHILI FEED

SAVE THE DATES:

January 17, 2026 at 6 PM

will be the FMSC CHILI FEED

KICK-OFF AND SATURDAY NITE LIFE. Come join us and enjoy a bowl of chili and good entertainment. All your questions about the FMSC packing event will be answered. No tickets needed. A freewill offering will be collected.

FEBRUARY 20 & 21, 2026 is the FMSC Packing Event. Sign-ups begin on January 17 at the Chili Feed/SNL.



LIBRARY LINES

LIBRARY

Just a quick note! With all your *little* visitors over the holidays, don't forget your Lord of Life Library is a GREAT resource!

We have puzzles, children's DVD's, and children's books which are all located in the library that is in the social hall annex.

Check out whatever you can use and ENJOY!
Great times puzzling...watching... and, of course,

HAPPY READING!

December Bible Readings

DECEMBER 7

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13

DECEMBER 14

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10

DECEMBER 21

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7

DECEMBER 28

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18

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 DECEMBER 25, JANUARY 1 & 3

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 schools 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

HELLO FROM THE LOL BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

All are welcome to attend the next book group discussion on **Monday, December 15 at 1 PM** at the church. The book selection for the month is *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng. This is an old story made new, of the ways supposedly civilized communities can pretend to ignore the most searing injustice.

The group will also have a book exchange. Please bring a wrapped book. The book does not have to be new but should be a book the group has not already read.

You may also bring a holiday treat to share with the group.

Blessings,

Gail Muehling



The Birth of the Messiah



This Advent season, we invite you to deepen your understanding of the Christmas story through a new Bible study class: *The Birth of the Messiah*. While the story of Jesus’ birth is one of the most loved in all of scripture, Matthew and Luke tell it in beautifully distinct ways. Together, these accounts reveal the richness of God’s plan and the hope brought into the world through the birth of Jesus. In this class we will explore:

- The historical and cultural background of Jesus’ birth.
- How Matthew and Luke each portray Jesus’ identity and mission.
- The theological themes of light, fulfillment, and divine promise.
- What these stories teach us about God’s presence in our lives today.
- This study will bring insight and inspiration as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Class Details

Dates: Wednesdays, December 3, 10, 17
Time: 10 AM
Location: Chapel
Instructor: Pastor Jeff



December Holiday CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24 - Closed At Noon
Thursday, December 25 - Closed All Day
Friday, December 26 - Closed All Day
Wednesday, December 31 - Closed At Noon
Thursday, January 1 - Closed All Day

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
- Community Fund of Sun City West
- Desert Oasis Elementary School
- LCM Canterbury
- Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest
- Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
- Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church
- Valley View Food Bank

Christmas Poinsettias



You can order your Christmas poinsettias by using the poinsettia envelopes on the counters in the Narthex, and also in the church office. The cost is \$15.00. The deadline is **Monday, December 15**. You may designate this as a memorial or honorarium. The poinsettias will be available for pickup after the Christmas Day worship service if you would like to take one home.



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.

WELCA SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2025					
Hannah Circle	Katherine Circle	Rachel Circle	Ruth Circle	Sarah Circle	Esther Circle
Monday, December 1 10 AM	Monday, December 1 9:30 AM	Monday, December 1 1:30 PM	Thursday, December 11 11 AM	Friday, December 12 9 AM	Wednesday, December 3
Conference Room	Social Hall	Offsite	Offsite	Offsite	Offsite

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
Happy New Year!
Sunday, December 28
4 PM – 6 PM
LOL Social Hall



DECEMBER GRATITUDE GIFT



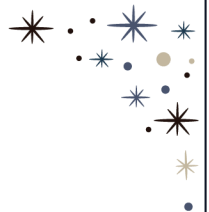
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

December Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Marie Taylor | 09 Susan Pedersen | 18 Jim Braun | 28 Marilyn Carhart |
| Nylene Fahey | Audrey Reinhart | Sandy Christensen | Curt Birkeland |
| Heidi Hartman | 10 Ellie Lasiter | Carole Oien | 30 Marsh Adams |
| Frank Stoll | Joanne Holt | George Schaefer | Chuck Saddoris |
| 02 Carolyn Vinson | Rhoni Lindgren | 19 Sonya Myers | Peter Sersland |
| Jeanne Turner | 11 Carol Akason | 20 Sandy Erickson | Paul Atkins |
| 03 Nellie Brown | Mary Anderson | Sue Johnson | 31 Dean Carlson |
| 04 Zayna Anderson | Pat Eide | Gayle Snyder | Shirley Cash |
| Don McCravy | Suk-King Yiu-Gering | Gwen Mekus | Carol Schiff |
| 05 Janie Nordling | Thelma Brown | 21 Ann McAlpin | Sheila Dott |
| Dianne Wuethrich | 12 Natalie Ray | Jim Oksol | |
| Kathleen Derrick | Linda Wainio | 22 Alice Floss | |
| 06 Judy Onnen | Lorna Boline | Brandi Spencer | |
| Brian Brown | 13 Wayne Houdek | Carol Murphy | |
| 07 Darnell Lundstrom | Judie Watkins | 23 Bob Bjornaas | |
| Eydie Birkeland | Gary Boline | Carol Koffel | |
| Sylvia Trejo | 14 Kathy Greenberg | 24 Dorothy Gaver | |
| 08 Ellen Danielsen | Linda Spence-Noyer | 25 Bob Sauer | |
| Dave Melby | Mason Minnes | Diane Seegers | |
| Bob Rasmussen | Kathy Yagami | Donna Kirk | |
| Cindy Smith | 15 Jane Brambilla | Cheryl Jensen | |
| | Peggy Bittner | 26 Lis Trent | |
| | Carl Burchill | Mike Lucas | |
| | 17 Jerry Gaulke | 27 Brenda Measures | |



Lord of Life Big Band Concert

You are invited to a Christmas Concert by the Lord of Life Big Band on **Friday, December 19, at 10 AM** in the Social Hall. They also will have several vocalists leading some of the Christmas Music. Light refreshments will be served. All are Welcome. Bring family and friends.



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 Worship in a New Key	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

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Happy December to all of you! A busy time, but so worthwhile when. We remember we are celebrating the birth of Jesus, who transformed The world, hundreds of years ago and continues today.

JuBELLation performs for Solo/Spouses Group in Sun City on **Tuesday, December 2 at 12:30 PM**, *The Sounds of Christmas*. We included a photo of this year's bell ringers—our largest group yet! Yay!!!

On **Thursday, December 4** is our Christmas Congregational Dinner at the Colonnade with guest musicians Ellen Zacko, on violin, and Beth Lederman on piano. Ellen is known for jazz, pop, classical and even the "Orange Blossom Special". Ellen and her husband, Ed, both of whom played a number of years with our Lord of Life Big Band, also have written a book *The Partnership Voyage of Entr'acte*. They spent a year sailing, with lots of adventures and are on the sailing channel.



CHRISTMAS COLLAGE WITH CHRIS LOBDELL

Chris Lobdell will present a very special concert unlike any we have had thus far on **Wednesday, December 10 at 5 PM**. He is a composer, arranger, studio musician, orchestrator, performer with stories and enthusiasm which doesn't stop. He's composed for the Boeing Corporation, The Miss America Pageant, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, The United Way, and Australia's "Today" Show. He'll be playing a number of selections, our Chamber Singers will perform his Christmas Collage and a couple of other people also will play. Originally from Washington State, he now resides in Sun City West. All are welcome.

Freewill offering, suggested donation is \$10 per person.



JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT!

The women of Lord of Life are excited to host a community outreach event, and we would love for YOU to be a part of it!

On **Wednesday, December 10 at 5 PM**, talented composer and musician Chris Lobdell will be performing a wonderful concert. After the music, we'll continue the celebration with dessert and coffee in the Social Hall—and we need your help to make it memorable!

We're looking for volunteers to serve refreshments and for Lord of Life bakers (or enthusiastic buyers!) to contribute pies, cookies, sheet cakes, and other treats. Desserts can be dropped off in the Social Hall or kitchen on Tuesday (all day) or Wednesday (before noon). Call the church office if you can help.

Let's show our community that at Lord of Life, all are welcome. Come, help, and celebrate with us!



HANGING OF THE GREENS



Join us for our joyful Hanging of the Greens on **Saturday, December 13 at 8 AM**! Come share in the spirit of the season as we deck the halls, trim the tree, and fill our church with the beauty and warmth of Christmas. All are welcome—your helping hands and holiday cheer make it shine even brighter!

2025 CONCERT SERIES UPCOMING



Chris Lobdell

Wednesday, December 10 at 5 PM

- Pianist, Arranger, Composer Extraordinaire
- Advent/Christmas Music
- Chamber Choir will also Participate
- Freewill Offering

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 (or more).

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

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







Laughter, Joy, and Scrubs - A Guide to Embracing the Fun Side of Nursing and Beyond.

Stressed about life? Running on caffeine and adrenaline? Fear not! As nurses, we've lived long on that fuel, but it's time we add a dash of joy to the mix. Here's a lighthearted take on embracing happiness in the wacky world of nursing and guide to find joy:

Laughter is the Best Medicine: Share your smile or use your unique sense of humor with colleagues, friends, family, or even the help at your local Fry's store, anyone! They might think you're a bit crazy, but hey, laughter burns calories! Joy

Do you manage to make a grumpy person smile? Congrats! This one was a goal for me, as a hospital nurse, and yes sometimes it took me 12 hours to do it. Joy

My BIGGEST joy/success was starting a successful IV insertion on the first try. Believe me there was a dance of victory behind the next closed door. Joy

Wearing silly scrubs on Fridays was fun, but it was not well accepted by the community. The blue scrubs were a good reminder of your status by patients. By the way I still have my navy-blue scrubs in my closet and can not get rid of them. How those scrubs have changed over the years. Material, style, fit and increasing prices. More pockets for more stuff, cause going out of the patient's room, to get something you need was a real beast. Joy

At the end of the shift, there was a basket, set by the timecards so we could empty our pockets. Always interesting what you find after 12 hours. Yes, at one point and time in my life the hospital paid for our scrubs. Joy

I did start with the white starched dress, white polished shoes and white stockings. At my nursing recognition ceremony yes, I wore a white hat too. Remembering it as a joy in my life. Joy

Feeling like your life could use a dash of delight? Don't wait for happiness to knock on your door – open it yourself and let the good times roll in! Here's your guide to finding joy in the everyday, no special occasion required:

Find pleasure in simple pleasures like a morning cup of coffee, a walk, or a heartfelt conversation. Savor the small moments that make life sweet. Joy

Dance like nobody's watching (or if you're feeling bold, like everyone is watching!). Exercise releases endorphins, your body's natural mood boosters. Move and groove or beat a drum. Any form of exercise is a must! Joy

Take time each day to appreciate what you have, whether it's a loving family, supportive friends, or simply a roof over your head. A thankful heart is a happy heart. Joy

Brighten someone's day with a random act of kindness. A simple complement or small gesture can create a ripple effect. Joy

Carve out time each day for the things that make your heart sing. Joy

Incorporating these joy-boosting habits into your daily life, it will transform mundane into magical. So go ahead, sprinkle that joy around like it's your job – your happiness awaits! Don't be afraid to let your inner joy shine through!

Parish Nurse Leoma

LEGACY OF LOVE FINAL REPORT

On November 15 and 16 a celebration coffee hour was held to thank all who participated in the Legacy of Love Appeal. If you were unable to attend, we wish to share some of the information presented on those days

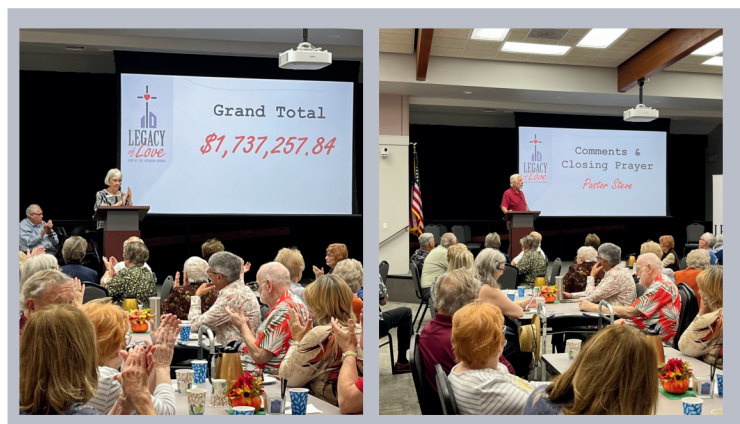
The original goal was to raise, \$1,500,000 over a three year time frame. The initial designated areas were \$500, 000 each for campus refresh, facilities renewal and ministry in the West Valley. Members, past members and friends of Lord of Life turned the hope of the committee into reality.

The statistics from this appeal are as follows: 284 families pledged and 375 families made a donation. The total that was pledged was \$1,646,555.36 and the amount received totaled \$1,616,508.45. The wonderful and amazing fact is we received 98% of the pledged amount!

An additional \$120,749.39 was received through memorials and estate gifts making the grand total \$1,737,257.84. There were campaign expenses such as printing, postage, food for the brunches, consultant and graphic artist fees for the banner, and the Legacy of Love prospectus. This left us with \$1,695,061.01 for projects.

Because the donors said "yes, it is our time and our turn." many projects were able to be completed. Having the sanctuary, social hall, chapel, classrooms and the administration building reroofed, the social hall remodeled, a new corner sign and the courtyard refreshed are just a few of the items accomplished because of the generosity of all. The donors wanted to be a part of leaving a Legacy and they did. They left a Legacy of Love.

Thank you for your gracious response to this appeal,
The Legacy of Love Committee



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



The Giving Tree Program provides Christmas gifts and food vouchers for needy families and their children. As of December 2, we will have collected all of the gifts that members of Lord of Life have shopped for and returned, for the children at Desert Oasis, Nadaburg, Thompson Ranch and Pan de Vida Lutheran Church. As well as gifts in support of Midtown Primary elementary schools.

For those of you who still wish to contribute this Christmas season, envelopes are available in the Narthex and may be put in the offering plate or brought to the church office.

Thank you for your ongoing generous support of this year's Giving Tree Program and for helping us share the love and hope of the Christmas season with the neighbors God has given us. If you have any questions, please contact John and Lisa Harris, or Gene and Linda Robertson.

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

*No quilting on 12/24

EYE OPENER BIBLE STUDY

Thursday at 7:30 AM

*No class on 12/18, 12/25 and 1/1

THURSDAY PRAYER GROUP

Thursday at 9 AM

*No prayer group on 12/25

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday at 1:30 PM

CENTERING PRAYER

Friday at 9 AM

MAHJONG GAME GROUP

Friday at 12:15 PM



As the Tail Wags

MR. BANKS ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS



Hello again, friends! It's me, Mr. Banks — your 94-pound golden retriever with two official careers and one very busy tail. Welcome to the second edition of my column! I'm thrilled you came back for more of my thoughts, stories, and highly professional dog wisdom.

As you may remember, I'm both a registered therapy dog and service dog, which means I work two jobs: one helping Pastor Pam and one bringing comfort, smiles, and an appropriate amount of golden fur to everyone I meet. I take both roles very seriously, although I admit I occasionally get distracted by snacks... or squirrels... or someone saying "Who's a good boy?"

In this edition, I'm ready once again to answer your excellent questions and share a few tales from my busy life at church and home. So settle in, give yourself a good stretch, and let's start wagging our way through another round of fun.

And don't forget — I always need more questions to keep this column going. A hardworking dog can't do it alone!

1. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GAME?

My favorite game? Well, let me tell you — it's a masterpiece of athleticism and strategy. It's called *"Zoomies Around the House for No Reason Whatsoever."*

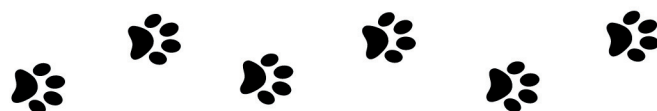
I begin by staring into space as if I've just discovered the meaning of life. Then, without warning, I launch into full-speed circles, sliding, skidding, and narrowly avoiding furniture like a canine NASCAR driver. Pastor Pam always says, "Banks, what's gotten into you?"

And honestly, I couldn't tell you. It's just the spirit of the Zoomie.

I also dabble in *Toy Redistribution*, where I take all my toys out of the basket and put them in places where Pastor Pam will definitely trip over them. It keeps her reflexes sharp.

2. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF CHURCH?

Oh, now we're talking! My favorite part of church is definitely greeting the humans.



There's nothing like standing by the door with my tail swishing like a metronome, welcoming everyone in. Some people come for the sermon, some come for the music... and some, I suspect, come for me. I offer a full-service greeting:

- Wagging
- Sniffing your "feets" for smells
- Looking deeply into your soul
- Accepting treats

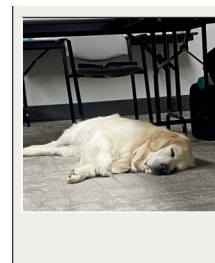
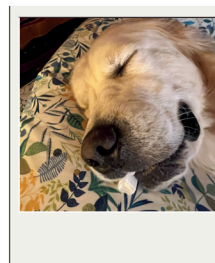
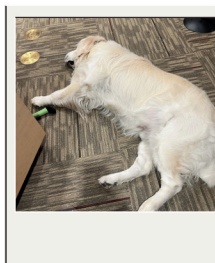
Another highlight is when I help during visits or activities. My job is to bring calm, comfort, and an occasional nudge for more petting. Pastor Pam calls it "ministry." I call it "Tuesday."

But the very best part? When people say, "Hi Mr. Banks!" and I get to pretend I'm famous.

3. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOBBY?

Oh, that's easy — sleeping! Honestly, I consider it a full-time profession. There's nothing better than finding a sunny spot, curling up just right, and drifting off into a nap so deep even Pastor Pam can't tempt me with treats. Some dogs chase balls. Some dogs chase squirrels. Me? I chase dreams. Naps are where I recharge for my two jobs — therapy dog and service dog — and for all the important duties of wagging tails, supervising snacks, and keeping Pastor Pam on schedule.

If there were a gold medal for napping, I'd have a whole display case by now. And just between us, a well-timed nap makes every walk, treat, and tail wag that much better.



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 

Membership Count:

Full: 671
Associate: 264
Total: 935

Hospitalized/Surgery

(since last Lifelines):

Curtis Birkeland

Neal Johnson

Eileen Oakes

Brenda Reynolds

Ellie Skon

Suk-King Yiu-Gering

In Memoriam:

Carol Buck

Removed from**Membership:**

Richard Maki

Carole Weber

New Members

(joined in November)

June Fredericksen

Christine Lucas

Dennis & Bonnie Pladson

Nancy Roberts

Bruce Truhlar

Kristy Wikum

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

	Oct Actual	Oct Plan	YTD Actual	YTD Plan
Income				
Envelope Offering	92,691	89,000	925,643	952,800
Loose Plate Offering	1,571	1,624	18,326	19,070
Other Income	1,026	5,986	43,312	60,432
Total Regular Income	95,287	96,610	987,281	1,032,302
Expense				
General Expenses:				
Salaries & Benefits	64,522	67,558	652,133	671,345
General Operations	5,974	5,632	59,476	61,662
Regular Ministries	3,110	3,832	29,760	54,194
Building & Grounds	3,338	4,981	48,699	56,924
Utilities	2,800	2,175	26,924	19,660
Insurance	1,830	1,889	17,579	18,738
Sub-Total General Expenses	81,574	86,067	834,570	882,523
Mission Support:				
G/C Synod Support	11,110	11,110	111,100	111,100
G/C Synod Pass-Thru	4,004	4,544	44,240	45,320
Non-Synod Direct	834	834	8,340	8,340
Sub-Total Mission Support	15,948	16,488	163,680	164,760
Total Regular Expenses	97,522	102,555	998,250	1,047,283
Net Operating Income - Month	-2,234	-5,945		
Net Operating Income - Year-to-Date			-10,969	-14,981
Variance to Month Budget	3,711			
Variance to Year-to-Date Budget	4,012			
Mission Endowment Fund Balance	2,119,851			
Online Giving	27,196	24%		

PLAN AHEAD - END OF YEAR GIVING INFORMATION

Thank you for your generous support of Lord of Life Lutheran Church! This article is to help you plan your end of year giving if you wish to receive contribution credit for gifts in 2025. Due to the IRS rules for compliance with GAAP, we will only be able to accept gifts for contribution credit in 2025 if the following are true:

- We physically receive the gift by midnight on 12/31/2025
- A mailed gift is dated AND postmarked on or before 12/31/2025
- A gift from distributions such as an IRA is also to be dated AND postmarked by 12/31/2025

We too must strictly comply with the IRS regulations. Not adhering to these rules will be flagged as Regulatory Non-Compliance in an audit. Look for more information to come as we get closer to the end of the year!

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. Jeff Hackler
pastorjeff@lolaz.org

The Rev. Pam Reynolds
pastorpam@lolaz.org

Deb Dorough
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Music Director
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Sound Tech
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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
DECEMBER 2025

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!