



Bible Study: Five Week Reflection Series Begins March 2nd

Becoming: A Season For Rebirthing is a 5-week reflection series during the season of Lent.

To know and be known is a basic human desire. You are invited inward to ask the questions that live deep within: Who am I, God?, Who are you, God?, and Who are we, God?

Each session includes a short film with reflections to help guide toward a greater knowing of self, humanity, God, and the blessing of Christ.” The series will begin on **Thursday, Mar 2 at 10 am and run through Thurs, Mar 30th**. A registration form will be available in the Narthex this Sunday. Feel free to email the office with your intent to participate.

March Newsletter

To know, grow, and go in God's love.



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Special points of interest

- Lenten Worship Schedule
- Lenten Bible Study
- Upcoming Events



Wednesday, March 15th: 6:00 p.m.



April 6th: 6:00 p.m.



April 7th: 6:00 p.m.



April 9th:
8:00 a.m. garden service
10:00 a.m. traditional service



Ascension Lutheran Church

Mission Statement:
To know, grow, and go in God's love.

Ascension Lutheran Church
7100 N. Mockingbird Lane
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
480-948-6050
www.alcpv.org



It's a Different World

"The world in front of you is nothing like the world behind you." That quote is from Tod Bolsinger's book 'Canoeing The Mountains' written in 2015. When members of Ascension's Council read this book upon my arrival in the fall of 2019, we had no idea how prophetic Tod's message would be just 5 months later when we were introduced to COVID-19.

Nobody could have known how drastically the entire world would change. But Covid in itself is not the full picture. Bolsinger's point was written 5 years prior to Covid for a reason. The Church world had changed so considerably over the decades that it was nearly unrecognizable. We could adapt the first sentence of this article to say, "The Church in front of you is nothing like the Church behind you."

As we came out the other side of the world pandemic (mostly), a typical reaction was to get back to normal as quickly as possible. But we have learned two important points, 1) normal isn't easily measured or defined, and 2) what used to be is no longer. What seems normal for people in AZ is not normal in WI and what seems normal for teens is not normal for retirees. Normal is different for all people. And of course, we are unable to go back in time. No matter how

much we loved those church basements full of kids, we no longer live in that time/culture. No matter how much we prefer hard-copy print, the reality is that paper is being replaced with digital print. The question becomes, are we able to adapt to change?

Bolsinger offers the following thoughts. "Even more complicated, our problems are very often the result of yesterday's solutions...What got us *here* won't take us *there*." A solution that worked in the past will not necessarily work today. Therefore, as we move into the unknown, necessary adaptation will occur when we embrace the surrounding changes more than we resist them.

Life is an adventure that we are unable to control. And when we DO attempt to control it, we lose the exhilaration and transformation of new life. Let's enjoy the ride, pray for the ability to trust God's Spirit, and seek wisdom in discernment.

Peace,
Pastor Randy



...What got us *here* won't take us *there*."



Kitchen Donation Thank YOU!

A HEARTFELT THANKS to all who participated in the kitchen item collection for the Afghan refugee family apartment and to those faithful volunteers who helped with the setup! As you can see from the photos, with combined donations from Ascension and Living Water, we had more than enough to completely stock the kitchen and surplus was returned to LSS for future arriving families. Your generosity is overflowing – thank you!

Thank you to Ascensions office volunteers! Our church council held a luncheon for our office volunteers, we in the office greatly appreciate all of your hard work!



Council Summary-February 2023

Your Ascension Lutheran Church Council met at the church on Tuesday, February 21 (and via phone call with Molly Gary) with President Laura Musfeldt presiding. All members were present including interim treasurer Mac Bolton and Scott Rehorn (see info at conclusion of summary). The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM by President Laura Musfeldt who offered the opening prayer.

Interim treasurer, Mac Bolton, updated the Council on the financial status of the church. Discussion ensued on providing a QR code on the bulletin insert, the newsletter, and in the pews alongside the offering envelopes. The Council agreed that a monthly financial report will be made in available in the monthly newsletter (note: the report will be for the previous month).

Mac Bolton also updated the Council on the status of the repairs to the sewer system that closed the church for a few days noting that bids are being sought for the repair work. In addition, Mac provided an update related to the stain glass window located in the ceiling above the altar/pulpit and noted the issues involved. Jim Geldien, Council representative to the "Designing the Future Committee," invited Mac to present his information to the committee.

Committee Reports:

Outreach -- Karen Olson.

Karen reported that plans are on hold during Lent but that financial contributions are being accepted for the work being done in the Nogales area.

She also noted that the "Pajamas for Seniors" drive is coming to a close

She reported on "Lutheran Day at the Legislature."

Finally, she noted the success in setting up the apartment for the refugee family (partnering with "Living Water")

Worship Committee -- Pastor Randy referenced his Council report and noted the following:

Distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday as a "drive-thru"

There will be two Lenten services -- one on Ash Wednesday and one on March 15. Both services begin at 6 PM

He noted his challenge to the congregation to develop a "two-minute faith statement" to stimulate growth and enhance the importance of faith on growth

There will be two services on Easter morning...one at 8 AM and one at 10 AM

Stephen Ministry -- Laura Musfeldt

Laura noted that a "Grief Group" will begin March 6

Fellowship and "Designing the Future-- Jim Geldien

Jim noted that the two food truck events scheduled -- one on March 24 and a second April 21. Both begin at 5 PM. He stressed the need to advertise these two events

Jim, as the Council representative to the "Designing the Future" Committee, also provided an update on the progress being made.

Finally, the Council voted the following:

Jim Geldien to become Vice president

Scott Rehorn to fill the remainder of Molly Gary's term on Council after Molly leaves

Meeting adjourned at 5:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Hertzog, ALC Secretary

Church Council 2023



Laura Musfeldt-President



Molly Gary-Vice President



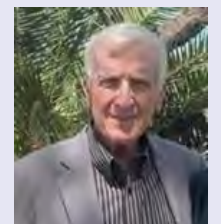
Jay Hertzog-Secretary



Karen Olson-Council Member



Jim Geldien-Council Member



Mac Bolton-Interim Treasurer

ELCA Disaster Relief

On Feb. 6 two powerful earthquakes hit Türkiye and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The first was a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in south central Türkiye, followed hours later by a magnitude 7.5 quake in the southeastern part of the country. The two quakes devastated Türkiye and Syria, collapsing thousands of buildings and damaging infrastructure. Thousands of people have been killed and thousands more have been injured, yet search-and-rescue efforts are only in the early stages. A cold and snowy weather system now moving through the region complicates response efforts.

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to supporting ACT Alliance and other partners in responding to these earthquakes. Mere hours after the earthquakes hit, ACT Alliance member organizations began distributing emergency supplies, including medicines, bedding and other relief items. A comprehensive response will be coordinated as the full extent of the impact becomes clearer.

Lutheran Disaster Response has been active in this region for several years, partnering with ACT Alliance, the Lutheran World Federation and the Middle East Council of Churches to accompany Syrian refugees with food, water, shelter, health services and sanitation support. The epicenter of one earthquake lies near Turkish provinces that host hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees, which will only exacerbate the refugee crisis in the region.

Your gifts designated for "Middle East Crisis" will be used entirely (100%) to provide long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by disasters in the region.

www.ELCA.org

Grief Support Group

Led by:
Pastor Tim Duerr of Stoneridge Hospice
Ascension Lutheran Church
7100 N Mockingbird Ln,
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
(480) 948-6050

Second and fourth Mondays of the Month
Beginning March 13th at 10:00 am

RSVP with the Ascension Church office.

Session:	Date:	Topic:
Session 1	Mar. 13th	Introduction and the Impact of Loss.
Session 2	Mar. 27th	A Journey of 1000 Days Starts with the 1st Step.
Session 3	April 10th	Healing and Rebuilding From Our Loss.
Session 4	April 24th	Overcoming Shock and Disorganization.
Session 5	May. 8th	The Serenity Prayer.
Session 6	May. 22nd	Finding a Safe Place.
Session 7	June. 12th	The Process of Grieving.
Session 8	June 26th	What Am I Taking From This?

WOMEN OF THE GRAND CANYON SYNOD

Join us at a **POP UP** to learn about the **Just Love** Gathering coming to Phoenix, September 2023!

Thursday, March 2 | 1- 3 pm

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
13724 W. Meeker Blvd.
Sun City West, AZ

Light refreshments served – RSVP to geri.skogen@gmail.com



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

Gathering Registration opens March 1.
Visit: welcatg.org



Women have the greatest potential to bring lasting change to their communities.



Yet, around the world, they are not afforded the same access to education due to social and political structures.

You can change that. Join us this International Women's Day, March 8, as we boldly invest in the education of women and the future of communities around the world through the ELCA's International Women Leaders initiative.

Double Your Impact

Because of the generosity of supporters of IWL, your gifts will be matched dollar for dollar until we reach \$50,000. Give a gift today and invest in the future of women leaders.

Give now:

ELCA.org/SupportIWL - 800-639-3522
ELCA - P.O. Box 1809 - Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Make checks payable to "ELCA" and note "International Women Leaders GCSS000" on the memo line.



Upcoming Events



FLORAL INSPIRATION 2023

March 11 & 12, 2023

Free to the Public

Enjoy over 50 Floral Arrangements by 25 local Ikebana artists in a beautiful Taliesin designed sanctuary and gardens. Experience the contemplative side of Japanese style floral arranging in this *Beauty in Meditative Ikebana* floral exhibition.



WOW..... Women Who Wine. Don't forget WWW (Women Who Wine) which rolls around the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Susan Rehorn is opening her home for us this month. We had 21 last month. Again, another wonderful opportunity to bring a few friends to our informal gathering. Watch for more info in the Extra Extra!

Fasten your safety belts! WE are heading into another fun filled season of FELLOWSHIP events. Great opportunities to share Ascension Fellowship with your family, friends, and neighbors!!!! We need ALL of our church family to participate in sharing God's love with our community.



A huge thank you to all those who cooked up their dynamite chili and those who brought the compliment dishes for our Chili Cook Off! We had about 80 and ate down 8 crockpots of chili. Good work Team!!! Ciao, Cheers, and God Bless!

FOOD TRUCK NIGHTS-

Friday, March 24 from 5-7pm in our beautiful garden and Friday,

April 21 from 5-7pm. Start now to put a table together of friends for a night of fun. No cooking, no cleaning! Just bring your drinks and come order and buy some fabulous food from the trucks! We NEED everyone of you party people to join in the fun!



March 19 at 3:00 PM

The Arizona Masterworks Choral & Organ Masterworks presents: Felix Mendelssohn's great Psalm 42 for choir, organ, and brass, Psaume Solennel by Jean Langlais, and much, much more!



SPRING SURPRISES!

Sunday, April 30, 2023
3:00 PM

Ascension Lutheran Church
7100 N Mockingbird Ln
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

PROGRAM

Mendelssohn | Overture zum Märchen von der schönen Melusine, Op. 32 (Legend of The Fair Melusine)

Marianna Martinez | Symphony in C

Haydn | "Surprise" Symphony Op.94 in G Major

Admission by Donation
Reserve Tickets Now on Eventbrite

www.Womens-Orchestra-Arizona.org