

# Saints Alive Newsletter

April 2025 - Issue #526



## “First Class Easter”

by Pastor Dan Hoeger

I knew my cousin, Mark, was going to die. He had a very aggressive cancer that spread through his strong, middle-aged body, like a blight consuming a verdant forest. It was Lent about 15 years ago. Even though it was a very busy time, I drove the six hundred miles to see him again before he was gone. I needed to ask for his blessing. So, we prayed with and for each other, one last time.

My cousin, Mark, was more than family to me. Mark had been my pastor and my spiritual guide. I looked up to him in so many ways. Mark was fearless, fashionable, funny and faithful. Spending time with Mark had always been like traveling first class. Now, even with the cancer, Mark still had a playful twinkle in his eye. He knew full well that he would soon die. Mark did not surrender his hope and joy, because he trusted the resurrection that Christ was preparing for him.

I came home, and Lent wore on. I would get family updates as his end was getting closer. Mark spent his Holy Week in the hospital. I remember praying by myself for Mark, early on Easter morning, while it was still dark. Suddenly I had the strong intuition that Mark must already be dead. But here's the surprising thing, it did not make me sad. This thought that had come to me while praying: If Mark could get his way, there is no way he would settle for an Easter on earth, when he could have a first-class Easter in heaven.

Later that Easter Sunday, when we were gathered with family to enjoy a feast at my sister's house, we got the word that I had already anticipated in my prayers. Mark had died late on Saturday night. The thought of Mark attending the Easter feast in the Lord's house gave me the peace to celebrate with him the hope that we shared.

That was many years ago. Since then, many more loved ones have died. I think of them too at Easter. I also think of the first-class Easter that is yet to come for me. It can put a twinkle in my eye.

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## Love endures. So can your giving.

The All Saints Lutheran Endowment Fund helps continue our church legacy into the future, growing over time to support our mission and programs today, tomorrow and for the life of the church.

Please prayerfully consider a tax-deductible outright or estate gift to the All Saints Lutheran Endowment Fund.

You may contact the church office or Thrivent Charitable at [thriventcharitablee@thrivent.com](mailto:thriventcharitablee@thrivent.com) or 800-365-4172 for more information.



All Saints provides transportation to members who can no longer drive and who wish to worship with us in person. If you would like to help, please drop off donations to the church office or give online to the "Senior Transportation" fund. Thank you for your contributions!



## Staffing UPDATE!

In March our Senior Ministry Steering Team offered **Pastor Deb Hippen Schultz** the opportunity to stay on as the permanent **Director of Senior Ministries**. We are looking forward to continuing to work with her in this vibrant and growing ministry.

You can reach her through the church office (602-866-9191) or via email [seniorministries@allsaintsphoenix.org](mailto:seniorministries@allsaintsphoenix.org).



# thank you



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your ongoing support of WHEAT and its efforts to end hunger and poverty at the root. Your gift of \$420.00 for your January 2025 Mission Support will help us in that quest.

Whether it is providing training for living wage employment, SNAP Outreach services throughout the State, outfitting men and women with free, workwear, advocating for changes to the root causes of hunger and poverty or making fair trade a part of our community's buying option for gifts and goods helping artisans and farmers feed and clothe their families, WHEAT will continue to strive for the elimination of hunger.

WHEAT continues to serve more and more in our communities, helping them to become self-Sustaining!

Through its education, empowerment and advocacy efforts WHEAT is making a difference and you are a part of that difference!

Thank you for joining us on this mission to make hunger and poverty a thing of the past!!

Sincerely,  
Tamera Zivic, Ph.D.  
Executive Director/CEO

**COMING SOON**

Visit [www.allsaintsphoenix.org/coming-events](http://www.allsaintsphoenix.org/coming-events)

for a full calendar and updated list  
of future events at All Saints

## **FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**

**Sunday School:** Begins at 9:00am in the Sanctuary

### **Confirmation:**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade meets Sundays at 10:15am in room 203

7<sup>th</sup> Grade meets Sundays at 10:15am in room 202

8<sup>th</sup> Grade meets Sundays at 10:15am in the YO Zone

### **High School Hangout:**

Meets Sundays at 10:15am in YO 1 & 2

**Classes will not be held on**

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday) and**

**Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday).**

Classes will resume Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>.



## **Save The Date: Rite of Confirmation**

will take place on **Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**at the 9:00am Worship Service.**

## **Holy Communion Milestone & Baking of the Bread**

Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am in the Fellowship Hall

Children receiving their First Communion or that have been receiving Holy Communion but have not attended a class are invited along with their parents to learn about the sacrament and bake communion bread.

Attendees will then receive Holy Communion during the **Maundy Thursday Worship Service at 6:30pm on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.**

RSVP to Donald Wade at [dwade@allsaintsphoenix.org](mailto:dwade@allsaintsphoenix.org) to attend.



**Sunday School will be singing at the 9:00am service on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.**



## **Book Club**

Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
at 9:30am in Room 201

This month's selection:

***Real Americans***  
by Rachel Khong

In immersive, moving prose, Rachel Khong weaves a profound tale of class and striving, race and visibility, and family and inheritance - a story of trust, forgiveness, and finally coming home. Exuberant and explosive, *Real Americans* is a social novel par excellence that asks: Are we destined, or made, and if so, who gets to do the making? Can our genetic past be overcome?

Questions? Contact Donald Wade at [dwade@allsaintsphoenix.org](mailto:dwade@allsaintsphoenix.org).

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY**

Meets Wednesdays at 7:00am  
in the Fellowship Hall.

**2025 VBS**  
**June 2 - 6**



**Children ages 2 through entering 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.**

**Volunteer Registration is now open. Please register by contacting the office or scanning the QR code**





# GOOD GRIEF

"The death of a beloved is an event that rings and rings through a life; bearing it is not a problem to be solved, but a long, slow piece of music to listen to. And mourning, like music, is best listened to with others."

Sarah Miles, from her book, *Jesus Freak*

When attempting to describe the depth of emotion we experience when someone we love dies, we struggle to put our sorrow and pain into words and into a context we can understand. Whether you are recently bereaved or experiencing the pain of long-standing grief, the Good Grief Support Group at All Saints is provided to give you the encouragement needed to help you move forward with your changed lives in a safe place where you can share your story, your struggles, your concerns and begin to heal at your own pace. Our spring session is scheduled as follows:

**8 important weeks – Thursdays May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>**

TO REGISTER: Call the church office at 602-866-9191 and leave your name and telephone number with the receptionist. The group facilitator, Pastor Deb Hippen Shultz, will return your call and respond to any questions you might have. When registration is completed, participants will determine the most convenient 1-1/2-hour time frame in which to regularly meet each Thursday. Regular attendance provides the best experience for the whole group.



WE WELCOME THOSE WHO WORSHIP WITH US AT  
ALL SAINTS AND OUR FRIENDS IN THE COMMUNITY.  
**THERE IS NO COST TO PARTICIPANTS.**



## Card & Jewelry Making Class

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 10:00am-2:00pm  
Both classes will run simultaneously in Room 201.

Individuals are welcome to come and go as they please and to work on one or both of the projects. You are always welcome to invite others.

**All materials are furnished and there is no charge.**

However, we do ask that you make your first project for the church, your second is yours to keep or share with others. **Sign up in the church office or in the Narthex.**

## JOY CIRCLE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Women of the Old Testament

Women of All Saints, if you have been curious about the Women's Bible Study, this month is a good one to join us. Our lesson is from Proverbs 9:1-18 in which Godly wisdom is represented by a woman. Lady Wisdom will guide us in a discussion of how we too can live with wisdom and grace. No prior experience with bible study is necessary.

**The Joy Circle meets on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, from 9:30-11:00am in Room 201.**

The Joy Circle is led by Pastor Pat Reed. For more information, contact her through the church office.

**SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**is an All Saints Youth Sunday celebrating the achievements**  
**of our Confirmation and High School students.**

**The 9:00am and 11:00am Worship Services** have been developed by our 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Students and will be led by our youth.

**High School Senior Recognition** and the awarding of the  
**2025 Mary Harris Academic Scholarships** will take place at the 9:00am Worship Service.

**2025 New Driver Milestone** will take place at the 11:00am Worship Service.

# ARTS CAMP

**July 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The Arts Camp Committee is working diligently to bring this amazing ministry back for the Summer of 2025.

At the time of this publication, we are finalizing our class list and getting ready for participant registration to open on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in volunteering to help bring art to the community please register by contacting the church office or using the QR code below.

Some classes we are working on right now include activities like polymer clay, acrylic and watercolor painting, cartooning, board game design, sound design, and a plethora of music classes.

If you have a child in your life in Kindergarten-10<sup>th</sup> grade, we would love to see them July 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> here at All Saints for Arts Camp 2025!

Contact Pastor Daniel at [dvolkman@allsaintsphoenix.org](mailto:dvolkman@allsaintsphoenix.org) for more information.



**June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Registration now open for Campers  
Applications now open for Counselors

**Counselors:** students completing  
grade 10 through age 24

**Campers:** completing grades 5-8 and

**GAP Campers:** completing grade 9

[www.lutherancampformation.com](http://www.lutherancampformation.com)

**LUTHERAN  
CAMPEFORMATION**



Lutheran Campformation's mission is faith formation  
for 6th-12th grade youth in an outdoor setting.

Lutheran Campformation is a sub-ministry among various ELCA congregations within the Grand Canyon Synod

## UPCOMING SYNOD EVENTS

**2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly**

Monday, July 28, 2025 8:00am to Saturday, August 2, 2025 9:00pm

The Grand Canyon Synod will host the **2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly**  
in Phoenix from **July 28–August 2, 2025**.

We'll need up to **100 volunteers** to assist with this significant event,  
held at the Phoenix Convention Center.



Visit our Churchwide Assembly page by scanning the QR code to learn how you can help.

For early inquiries, contact Mary Beth Baron at [mbbaron@gcsynod.org](mailto:mbbaron@gcsynod.org).

Help us welcome the wider ELCA church to Phoenix!

Visit [gcsynod.org/calendar](https://gcsynod.org/calendar) for a full list of upcoming Synod events or to register for these events.

# Lenten Mid-Week Services

Jesus tells his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew when they ask him how to pray, to

“Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial,

but rescue us from the evil one.” (Matthew 6:9-13)

This year, as we journey through Lent together, we will gather each week on Wednesday nights starting at 6pm to share a meal and then move to the sanctuary at 7pm to sing together, pray together, hear the word of God, and reflect on this prayer Jesus teaches us together.

Each week will focus on a different petition of the Lord’s Prayer, and, with help from Martin Luther and the Small Catechism, we will use this Lenten season to grow closer to God in our communal lives of prayer.

**We hope to see you there!**



Wednesday Evenings  
through April 9<sup>th</sup>

6:00pm Lenten Dinner  
in the Fellowship Hall

7:00pm Worship Service  
in the Sanctuary



## Holy Week Worship

**Palm Sunday - April 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00am & 11:00am**

Sunday services begin in a triumphant  
Palm Procession into the Sanctuary

**Maundy Thursday - April 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30pm**

Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

**Good Friday - April 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**12:00pm & 6:30pm**

**Easter Sunday - April 20<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00am**

Sunrise Worship with  
Holy Communion in the Courtyard

**9:00 & 11:00am**

Festival Services of Holy Communion  
Sanctuary Choir and Brass Ensemble



ORDER YOUR  
EASTER LILY  
TODAY

EASTER LILY'S CAN BE  
ORDERED IN MEMORY OF  
A LOVED ONE, IN HONOR OF  
A LOVED ONE, OR TO THE  
GLORY OF GOD.

ORDER FORMS CAN BE  
PICKED UP IN THE  
CHURCH OFFICE. THE LAST  
DAY TO ORDER WILL BE  
PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>.

# SENIOR MINISTRY



## Senior Ministry Steering Team

### Members:

Owen Swenson  
Barb Swenson  
Margie Olsen  
Warren Mitch  
Scott Hagen  
CC Tomasi  
Pastor Deb  
Hippen Schultz



**Senior Ministry**  
is looking for some new  
volunteers! Contact  
Pastor Deb or Pastor  
Dan if you are  
interested in helping.

### Easter is late this year.

We continue our Lenten Journey and look forward to Holy Week. (Isn't every week Holy?)

Maundy Thursday - when Jesus washed the disciple's feet. I love this saying - "It's hard to throw stones if you're busy washing feet."

Good Friday - not good for Jesus but the best for us - taking all of our sin upon Himself! Then saying "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Remember - the person who has the most control over your life is the one you refuse to forgive.

### Easter Sunday

**HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

**May we rise each day in the  
resurrection power of our Lord.**

Before it gets too hot, on **Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>** we are having a potluck picnic lunch at Sahuaro Ranch Park - 9802 59th Avenue, Glendale. (23 minutes from the church, historical buildings, peacocks, walking trails).

We will meet at the park, but if you need a ride, just let us know. We'll meet at noon and we'll enjoy about 2 hours together. Fried chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, watermelon, or anything else you can imagine. Yummy!

**We will have activities throughout  
the summer, so join us if you can!**

Our March event was attended by about 80 people - the corned beef and cabbage was delicious and the green lemonade a delight!

Everyone was Irish that day as we listened to the wonderful music by Cindy Rupp, Dane Chavers, Danny and Jenny Hunkin, Daniel and Mallory Volkmann, Owen and Barb Swenson, Dan Reed, Holly Bohling and Chris Madden. Such talent!!







**Love little ones?  
MomCo could use  
your help!**

**We are still looking  
for a few volunteers  
who could help  
with our childcare**

**program on Thursday mornings from now  
through May - including folks who might  
be able to "fill in" on an occasional basis.**

**Paid positions are also available.**

**Please contact Diane Lensch through the  
office if you are interested.**

## Senior Transportation Weekday Volunteers

We are seeking compassionate volunteers who have a few hours to spare during the weekdays, and can help with transportation for errands or appointments for members of our congregation. Every trip could make a significant difference for those unable to drive.

We warmly welcome individuals and families from all walks of life to join us in this rewarding mission. If you're interested in helping or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Deb Hippen Schultz at [seniorministries@allsaintsphoenix.org](mailto:seniorministries@allsaintsphoenix.org).

Together, we can strengthen our bonds and make our church a more inclusive place for all!

## Sign-Up to be a Worship Volunteer

**March through May dates now available!**

Trained volunteers can now visit [allsaintsphoenix.org/volunteer](http://allsaintsphoenix.org/volunteer) to sign-up as a worship volunteer. Please contact the office with any questions.



## "Calling Tree" Returns Telephone Assurance Program

Live alone? Would you like a daily check in by call or text?

A Calling Tree volunteer would be happy to accommodate you. People of any age who live alone are welcome to take advantage of daily reassurance check-in calls. Contact Pastor Deb Hippen Schultz in the church office or at [seniorministries@allsaintsphoenix.org](mailto:seniorministries@allsaintsphoenix.org) if you are interested.

We also welcome anyone who would like to become a Calling Tree volunteer to help support this ministry.



## Lutheran Thrift Shop

10615 West Peoria Ave, Sun City

Open Monday-Saturday 9am-3pm and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 5pm-7pm

### Volunteering is Good Business!

Last week we celebrated our volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. These volunteers generously give thousands of hours of their time to the mission of the LTS every year. In 2024, our 200+ volunteers worked over 40,000 hours in the shop and from home. According to the Federal Agency for Service and Volunteering, an hour of volunteer time in Arizona is worth \$33.49 cents; meaning our volunteers saved the thrift shop more than \$1,339,600. in payroll last year. Those hours donated translated into over \$ 88,000. in grants provided to west valley nonprofits. Way to go volunteers – that's good business!

This is the perfect time to make our business your business! It's not a huge commitment. You can work as little as 3 hours a week if that suits you. Stop by and check us out! If you like what you see, pick up an application, schedule a tour and get started on the journey of your life.

Join us, won't you? Shop with us, donate your gently used goods or join us as a volunteer. Call us today to schedule a tour or a pick-up of large items. Check out our website [www.lutheranthrift.com](http://www.lutheranthrift.com) for more shop info, pictures and videos and follow us on [Facebook.com/westvalleylutheranthriftshop](https://Facebook.com/westvalleylutheranthriftshop) for weekly sales and special events.



## New Executive Council

On Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup> the council voted in their Executive Council.

Please join us in welcoming these council members into their new positions within the congregation.

Council President: Tim Gaffney  
Vice President: Nance Wabshaw  
Treasurer: Ginny Alexander  
Secretary: Holly Bohling

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

These couples will be celebrating their marriage in April. We send our prayers, blessings, and thanks for setting wonderful examples of Christian marriage.

Craig/Erin Jellick	Apr 2	17th
Charles/Dawn Katek	Apr 6	34th
Garrett/Christina Berlinger	Apr 9	15th
Richard Moeur/Suzanne Carlisle	Apr 10	26th
Dan/Debi Wall	Apr 15	19th
Dan/Yumiko Hoeger	Apr 15	36th
Matt/Katie Baker	Apr 16	14th
Clay/Carrie Templin	Apr 16	43rd
Kevin/Lou Ann Brennan	Apr 20	40th
Robert/Erin Mercer	Apr 26	6th
Ted/Sheila Nathan	Apr 26	56th
Daniel/Sarah Manzanares	Apr 28	35th
Truman/Irene Flynn	Apr 29	58th

## All Saints Budget Through February 28, 2025

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	\$ 206,230	\$ 202,358
Expenses	\$ 205,537	\$ 228,481
Deficit	\$ 693	\$ 26,123

## HOLY BAPTISM

If you would like to have a baptism at All Saints, please schedule a meeting with a pastor.



Contact Shari Clark in the church office to process the information that the pastor will need before your scheduled meeting.

## SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS OR ETERNAL LIGHT

Honor a special occasion or remember a loved one by sponsoring the sanctuary altar flowers or eternal light.

- \$45 to donate flowers
- \$10 for the eternal light

Sign up and pay in the church office.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### LET US PRAY FOR YOU



WE WELCOME REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS OF NEED AS WELL AS PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING OR PRAISE.

OUR CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS ON THE PRAYER TEAM WILL PRAY FOR YOUR REQUEST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 602-866-9191 OR YOU CAN ALSO VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE TO SUBMIT YOUR REQUEST.

<https://www.allsaintsphoenix.org/care-support>



## **FOOD DRIVE OFFERING**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month:  
April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Bring your offering of non-perishable food to stock our campus food cupboard for those in need and to contribute to other local food pantries.

We are in need of cereal, pasta, canned goods, peanut butter, canned fruit, crackers, and canned tuna

Donation carts will be located by the outside elevator and office doors.

## **MISSION SUPPORT RELIEF OFFERING**

**April 27<sup>th</sup>:  
ASLC Community  
Integration Fund  
(Refugees)**

These offerings may be brought forward and placed in the baskets at the altar during the worship offering.

Mail-in, on-line, and text donations also welcome!

We raised \$724 for ASU Campus Ministry in February!

## **Contact Us**

Give us a call for more information about our services and ministries.

(602) 866-9191

[aslc@allsaintsphoenix.org](mailto:aslc@allsaintsphoenix.org)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.allsaintsphoenix.org](http://www.allsaintsphoenix.org)

**Office Hours:**  
**Mon-Thur 9am-3pm**

**Follow us:**



*Our mission is ... "to bring people the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ."*

**ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
15649 N 7<sup>TH</sup> ST  
PHOENIX, AZ 85022**