

Saints Alive Newsletter

October 2025 - Issue #531

God Has Been Good to Me

By Pastor Dan Hoeger

“The Lord is merciful and good; our God is compassionate. The Lord protects the helpless; when I was in danger, he saved me. Be confident, my heart, because the Lord has been good to me.”

Psalm 116:5-7

Each summer I sit down with our Stewardship Committee, and we begin planning for the fall. The first thing we focus on is finding some scripture that will be our annual stewardship theme. We look at various verses from the Bible that each of us have found inspiring. The hope is that all of us grow our understanding what it means to use our lives in service to God.

This year’s theme is from Psalm 116 - **“God has been Good to Me.”** It comes from an ancient song that was sung at the temple. Based on the positive sentiment of the theme, you might imagine this song must have originally been upbeat and fun to sing. Unfortunately, all the original tunes to the Psalms are long lost. But when you read this psalm in its context you realize that the songwriter has gone through a lot of struggles before saying these uplifting words. This song is more of a tear-jerker. The songwriter is talking about having an upbeat faith, despite deep troubles in life.

Listen to what the songwriter has to say:

Verse 5: ***“The Lord is merciful and good; our God is compassionate.”*** Only a person that has failed God truly has experienced the mercy and compassion of God.

Verse 6: ***“The Lord protects the helpless; when I was in danger, he saved me.”*** The songwriter knows what it is to be weak and vulnerable, to be a person unable to save themselves.

Verse 7: ***“Be confident, my heart, because the Lord has been good to me.”*** The songwriter is singing not to us, not even to God, but to their own heart. They are not placing their confidence in themselves, but in the goodness of God. This song is a bold declaration of the meaning of life.

We might fail, we might be weak and vulnerable, but even in the middle of the struggle we remain confident of the goodness that God will give us - often despite the harshness of life.

At the end of each day, may each of us find the faith to sing this song to ourselves: ***“Be confident, my heart, because the Lord has been good to me.”***

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Thank You

Dear All Saints Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the gift given to your synod, which was received by the ELCA churchwide organization last month.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.-1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Your gift is a reminder that our work of faith and labor of love are not done alone. We give thanks for our shared work and our shared hope, which inspire ELCA churchwide ministries, in partnership with congregations and synods, to make God's love real in exciting and ever-changing ways.

Your generosity is starting new faith communities and sustaining existing ones, empowering leaders, responding to disaster with long-term commitment, and addressing hunger and poverty. Through your gifts, you join with the whole church in loving our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you! May the God of all good gifts continue to work among you.

In Christ,
The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, Congregational Generosity



Grand Canyon Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Because of you, the vulnerable are made stronger. Hungry stomachs are silenced. Adults with special care needs have a safe space with daily enrichment. And young children learn and grow in a creative classroom where education helps them find their wings.

Thank you for your recent donation to Desert Mission. Because of compassionate and generous donors like you, HonorHealth Desert Mission remains a beacon of hope to the most vulnerable members of our community. Through your support, Desert Mission's critical community services continue to uplift our neighbors in need today and for generations to come.

You are changing lives - and we honor your generosity and kindness.

With gratitude,
Jared A. Langkilde, MBA, CFRE
President and CEO HonorHealth Foundation

HONORHEALTH®

Foundation

COMING SOON

Visit www.allsaintsphoenix.org/coming-events

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

JOY CIRCLE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

The Joy Circle Bible Study meets on

Tuesday, October 7, from 9:30 - 11am

in Room 201 to begin our study of the Life of Paul.

This month's lesson is Paul's transformation on the Road to Damascus as told in Acts 9:1- 22.

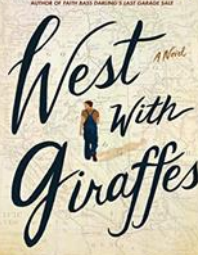
Led by Pastor Pat Reed each month's meeting includes a bible lesson, discussion on how that lesson applies to women of faith in the 21st Century, prayer and encouragement. All women are welcome. No bible study experience is necessary.

If you have questions, contact Pastor Pat through the church office.

MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY

Meets at 7am each Wednesday
in the Fellowship Hall.

LYNDA RUTLEDGE



Book Club: October 14th at 9:30am

in Room 201.

Selection: "West With Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge.

Part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age love story, "West with Giraffes" explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late.?

Contact Donald Wade (dwade@allsaintsphoenix.org) for more information.

C.O.W. (Church on Wednesdays)

Due to location scheduling issues and the unavailability of many of our youth on Wednesday evenings going forward, the leadership of C.O.W. has decided to put the program on hold for the remainder of 2025 as we, in partnership with you, our Confirmation families work together over the next few months to develop a truly realistic and shared commitment toward fostering faith, fun and fellowship among the Confirmation youth and their parents / guardians from All Saints, St. Andrew, and Our Saviour's (and, who knows, maybe we can get some other churches involved as well).

Contact Donald Wade (dwade@allsaintsphoenix.org) for more information.

Card & Jewelry Making Class

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 10am - 2pm.

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.**



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH 9:00am - 1:00pm

Invite family, friends, and neighbors!

Proceeds raised will go towards ASLC programs.

Interested in being a vendor for this event?

Go to allsaintsphoenix.org/fallbazaar or contact Courtney Krueger in the church office.

Interested in volunteering at this event?

Go to allsaintsphoenix.org/fallbazaar or contact Courtney Krueger in the church office.

GOOD GRIEF

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 – Starting October 2nd
Thursdays at 3:00pm - 4:30pm**

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 Schultz, 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.**



Sunday Education Hour:

Children 3 years old through 5th Grade

participate in our **Sunday School Godly Play** program.

Students in Grades 6 through 8

participate in our **Lutheran Confirmation** program.

Students in Grades 9 through 12

participate in our **High School Bible Study** program.

Adults of any age are welcome to join any of the adult courses throughout the year. Each Sunday a minimum of 2 different adult education sessions will be offered.

Contact Donald Wade (dwade@allsaintsphoenix.org) or Pastor Daniel (dvolkmann@allsaintsphoenix.org) for questions or info.

MomCo

MOMCO meets here at the church every Thursday morning from 9:15am-11:15am from September-May and is open to ALL moms in our community.

We started our new year in September building connections with some “getting to know you” activities, had a group discussion after viewing the video, “A Blessing for Moms”, enjoyed a Mom’s Night Out hosted by one of our mentor moms, swapped outgrown kids’ clothes and toys & miscellaneous items, and baked items to donate to our annual bake sale fundraiser.

October meetings and events will include:

- Oct 2 & 23 videos & discussion groups
- Oct 9 is GID-Get It Done
- Oct 16 guest speaker
- Oct 25 Family BBQ off campus
- Oct 30 a special 5th Thursday pumpkin painting play date hosted by one of our moms.



SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION OPTION FOR THIS FALL

Have you ever asked your self any of these questions?

- Who Am I?
- Why Am I Here?
- What’s my place in the world?
- How can I make a difference?
- What does God want me to do with my life?

“Discovering God’s Vision for Your Life” can help you live your faith more effectively and completely. Be part of this opportunity for personal and spiritual growth! Beginning the week of October 26th, the class will meet for 8 Sunday sessions this fall. **To sign up for this class please call the church office so that we can ensure there are enough supplies for each participant.**



DISCOVERING
GOD'S VISION
FOR YOUR
LIFE

Pray Without Ceasing

30-Minute Informal Service Of Prayer, Song, Scripture, And Community
Every Thursday at 6:15pm in the Sanctuary

In response to an invitation from Bishop Hutterer, congregations and communities in our synod are signing up to host weekly **Pray Without Ceasing** gatherings - joining congregations from across the ELCA in a call to prayer.

All Saints began meeting weekly for prayer on Thursday May 15th and throughout the summer months it has remained a steadfast offering before the Lord. As we now enter the program year, we seek to weave this service yet more deeply into the fabric of our common life - into the prayers of the people, the ministry of care, and the witness of the prayer chain. In the spirit of the Apostle’s exhortation to “continue steadfastly in prayer” and to “bear one another’s burdens,” we invite you to join us in this holy work. Together, may we be strengthened in the presence of God and knit more closely into the fellowship of Christ’s Body.

All are welcome. Come when you can and as you are.



Please join us in receiving new members at the **9:00am** service on **Sunday, October 12th**

SMART Recovery LIFE BEYOND ADDICTION

SMART Recovery 4-Point Program Mutual Support Meeting in North Phoenix!

This meeting occurs every **Wednesday from 6:30-8:00pm** in Room 203. The meeting is open to all adults who would like help with eliminating or reducing addictive behaviors. There is no charge to attend. See you there! www.smartrecovery.org

Altar Guild Recruitment

Do you have a heart for serving the Lord? Do you want to make a difference in worship? Do you have an eye for detail? Join the Altar Guild!

The Altar Guild is seeking volunteers to assist with tasks such as setting up communion, caring for and filling candles, laundry, changing banners and paraments, and more.

Talk with Pr. Daniel if you are interested in joining.

We will begin meeting regularly starting in early October!



SAVE THE DATE.

The ASLC Endowment Committee is hosting an Education Hour presentation called "Growing Our Endowment with Your Support" led by Thrivent on December 7. Please join us for this informational event on how you can help ASLC now and into the future.



Join Our Staff

Do you feel called to serve others? We are now hiring for a Property Manager

This is a part time position (24-29 hours/week). The Property Manager oversees the property/assets of the church. Some of the Property Manager duties include:

- Schedule Facility Manager as needed per monthly calendar needs
- Recruit Volunteers and schedule monthly meetings/workdays
- Manage Vendors for regular maintenance on major equipment such as A/C units, elevators, etc.
- Oversees Janitor/janitorial supply orders

The job description and application are available in the church office, the All Saints Website (allsaintsphoenix.org) or request by email at aslc@allsaintsphoenix.org. If you have questions or need more information please contact the church office at 602-866-9191.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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

Russ/Barb Gunther	Oct 2	60th
Jay Fix/Jackie Gibbs	Oct 5	34th
John/Betsy Ingram	Oct 8	31st
Chuck/Donna Tomasi	Oct 8	37th
Eric/Marsha Jones	Oct 9	21st
John/Sandy Bartilomo	Oct 9	32nd
Jim/Monica Rabb	Oct 10	33rd
Justin/Mikaela Stannard	Oct 13	7th
Scott/Pamela Miller	Oct 14	31st
Aaron/Elisabeth Davis	Oct 15	8th
Mitch/Sarah Erkert	Oct 18	11th
Daniel/Staci Shaw	Oct 18	23rd
Byron/Konnie Bass	Oct 18	61st
Frank/Louanne Brown	Oct 19	40th
Juergen/Debbie Erkert	Oct 19	41st
Tom/Linda Polcha	Oct 20	41st
Owen/Barb Swenson	Oct 21	30th
Jason/Valeri Berg	Oct 23	21st
Mike/Tammy Follensbee	Oct 23	21st
David Cech/John Weaver	Oct 24	11th
Greg/Gayle Fraker	Oct 24	16th
Charles/Deanna Stewart	Oct 24	55th
Don/Nancy Ekstrom	Oct 24	61st
Dave/Jamie Gore	Oct 25	23rd
Vaughn/Valerie Hollman	Oct 27	41st
Warren/Vivi French	Oct 29	31st

All Saints Budget Through July 31, 2025

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	\$726,550	\$671,567
Expenses	\$724,699	\$748,740
Deficit	\$1,851	(\$77,173)



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>



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.

2026 dates now available.

For 2026 date flowers will cost \$50.

UPCOMING SYNOD EVENTS

2025 GCS-WELCA Convention and Gathering

The Grand Canyon Synod-Women of the ELCA will hold our 2025 Convention and Gathering on Saturday, November 8th at Faith-La Fe Evangelical Lutheran Church (801 E. Camelback Rd). The theme is Flourishing Relationships.

There are opportunities for All Saints members to host attendees that are traveling a great distance for the conference. Please contact the church office for additional information.

Prior to the November 8th GCS-WELCA Convention and Gathering there will be 3 Bible Studies to explore "Flourishing Relationships". These will be held on Saturday mornings at Faith-La Fe 9:00-11:00am in Faith Center in this schedule:

- September 27, Pr. Judi Tyler
- October 11, Deacon Candidate, Carly Chamberlain
- November 1, Pr. Kari Williamson

There is no charge for these Bible Studies which will follow the study published in the Sept-October issue of Gather Magazine of the WELCA. Please attend any or all that you can!

Awakening the Church to Address Addiction

[One-Day Virtual Conference](#)

Thursday, October 23, 2025 from 8:00am to 4:00pm

Join the Oct. 23 one-day Virtual Addiction & Faith Conference, "Awakening the Church to Address Addiction," hosted by the Center of Addiction & Faith. Open to clergy, laypeople, and all impacted by addiction, this \$50 per person event equips congregations to become safe, recovery-friendly communities. Register now and share the flyer to spread the word across our synod.

National Women of the ELCA 2026 Gathering in Des Moines

Registration is now open for the Women of the ELCA 2026 Triennial Gathering, taking place **July 16 –19, 2026**, in **Des Moines, Iowa**. The theme, "**I Am Worthy**", is inspired by *Psalms* 139:14: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made," affirming our God-given worth and the Spirit's power to bring healing in a world marked by division and struggle.

This national gathering brings Lutheran women together for four days of **worship, Bible study, plenaries, and workshops** designed to empower, restore, and inspire. This is a sacred space to reflect on God's promises, renew your spirit, and be surrounded by a vibrant community of women living out their faith.

Women from across the Grand Canyon Synod are encouraged to register early and begin making travel plans. Whether you've attended every triennial gathering or this will be your first, this is a unique opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship.

Register today and learn more at: womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page

Visit gesynod.org/calendar for a full list of upcoming Synod events or to register for these events.

SENIOR MINISTRY



Senior Ministry Steering Team

Members:

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



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

Reminders for the next 4 months of Friday Friendly:

- On **October 10th** we are going to the Phoenix Art Museum at 10am for a docent tour for \$10. They recommend Docent's Choice tours, as they can really build routes on what's new in galleries or make connections across genres. One of the more anticipated exhibitions on view will be Florentine Baroque: The Haukohl Collection which we will have access to. Those who want can go somewhere for lunch after the tour – The Spaghetti Factory, Thai and pizza are all in the area. Let us know if you need a ride.
- On **November 14th** we will have lunch in Sahuaro Park and Sean Mireau and one of his Volcano Island Band members will play steel drums and sing for us. Looking at a boxed lunch option. Wear your grass skirts, leis and coconut bras! Let us know if you need a ride. Hoping the weather will be beautiful.
- On **December 12th** we will have our annual Christmas party with gift exchange and potluck.
- On **January 9th**, 2026 we will have our annual trip to Organ Stop Pizza with MomCo – a bus will be rented.

We had 86 for lunch and over 100 for Nicole Pesce's wonderful music. After serenading Bessie Sweet for her 96th birthday, she played Happy Birthday the way Beethoven, Mozart and Bach would play it! Delightful!!

I was regretting the past and fearing the future.
Suddenly my Lord was speaking: "MY NAME IS I AM"
He paused. I waited. He continued.
"When you live in the past with its mistakes and regrets
it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I WAS.
When you live in the future with its problems and fears,
it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I WILL BE.
When you live in this moment
it is not hard. I am here. My name is I AM."

Lutheran Thrift Shop

10615 West Peoria Ave, Sun City

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

Summer's Finally Over!

According to the calendar it's finally Fall! Any day now the temperatures will catch up with that calendar and it's a darn good thing because, at the Lutheran Thrift Shop, we're done with summer! Our snowbirds are returning – it's probably already snowing in Minnesota - and we're happy to be welcoming them back!

Now is a great time to join the LTS nation! We are currently seeking people in all areas of the shop. However, cashiers and jewelry counter people are an immediate need. Whatever your interest or talent, though, we have a place for you! Call us for a tour today and get a "behind the scenes look".

Right now, you'll be blown away by our huge selection of Halloween, Fall and Thanksgiving items in the Holiday House and, of course, our halls are always decked for Christmas!

Time to do some fall cleaning and get rid of stuff you don't use or need anymore? Maybe clean out those closets and the garage and discover extra space you didn't know you had? Bring it to the backdoor of the LTS on Tuesday or Thursday from 9-2 and help us help others. We will gladly pick up furniture from your pet-free, smoke-free home that's too big for you to handle. Our courteous truckers still come inside to pick up your things. Give us a call today to schedule a pick up !

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

Sign-Up to be a Worship Volunteer

Sign-Ups through November now open!

Trained volunteers can now visit allsaintsphoenix.org/volunteer to sign-up as a worship volunteer.

Please contact the office with any questions.



Audio/Visual Volunteers Needed!



We would like to add more volunteers to our AV Team, so if you have some interest in video, audio, and/or computer tech, let us know!

We will of course provide training, so if you are interested in this important ministry and would like to learn more, please contact Jerry Gunderson, jgunderson@allsaintsphoenix.org.

All Saints' Audio/Video Team handles all of the technical needs and tasks for our In-Person Worship and our Livestream Ministry.

A Match Made in Heaven: All Saints and ProMusica Arizona (PMAZ)

By Karen Rasmussen, Executive Director

Some All Saints' members have attended PMAZ concerts performed in our sanctuary and we appreciate your support and your feedback on how much you enjoy our music. However, you may not know just how important this relationship is to both organizations. Let me tell you about that.

During the first years I sang with PMAZ, we had several rehearsal and performance venues, but no permanent site that could meet the needs for a chorale and orchestra of our size – now over 120 performers – nor provide ample parking for our large audiences. In 2022, PMAZ had the opportunity to make ASLC its permanent rehearsal home as well as its venue for Saturday concert performances. Maybe only God knew at the time what blessings this arrangement would bring to both organizations. Here are just a few:



- All Saints charges the non-profit PMAZ reasonable fees for the use of the sanctuary for Monday and Tuesday night rehearsals as well as for Saturday performances, helping us keep our costs low
- The revenue PMAZ pays to All Saints is a boost to ASLC's budget and "very nice to have" Treasurer Ginny Alexander recently told me.
- Seven members of All Saints Sanctuary Choir now sing in the chorale or play an instrument in the orchestra; in addition, we share our wonderful pianist Jeff Yoder, use some of each other's instruments and frequently collaborate on music, including chorale arrangements produced for PMAZ by All Saints' very own musical wizard Jerry Gunderson
- PMAZ concerts, including both secular and sacred music, bring large audiences from all over the Valley, introducing them to our church and, hopefully, making them feel truly welcome.

As a lifelong musician, music feeds my soul when nothing else seems to resonate. I can be feeling lower than a snake's belly when I come to rehearsals, whether choir or PMAZ, and I am lifted out of the doldrums with the very first song. I know many of you feel that way about the music that is such an important part of All Saints services.



Imagine having that same feeling after attending a ProMusica Arizona concert! Make plans to attend our **October 18th 3:30pm** performance "**Birds of a Feather**" and stay afterward for a few minutes to meet our wonderful artistic director Patti Graetz, our concertmaster Alan Ames and other PMAZ leaders at a small reception in the Fellowship Hall. Scan the QR code to purchase tickets.

FOOD DRIVE OFFERING

**1st Sunday of the Month:
October 5th**

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

October 26th:

ELCA Fund for Leaders

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!

Contact Us

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

(602) 866-9191

aslc@allsaintsphoenix.org

Visit us on the web at
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
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