

# Saints Alive Newsletter

February 2025 - Issue #524

## “Healing the Hurts We Don't Deserve”

by Pastor Dan Hoeger

Brian sat with his head bowed down, as the judge accepted his guilty plea. I had known him since he was a little boy. I had been his pastor for over a dozen years. We were, and still are, friends. But on that day, Brian was pleading guilty to a murder he had committed a year before. Now he was, for the first time, facing his victim's family. I was praying for him, as he took responsibility for his evil action. His hope was that his confession might bring some healing to that family. He repented.

How do you forgive such a sin? How do you follow Christ's example, when your life has been crippled by an action of others. I suspect that all of us, have scars on our soul, that are constant reminders of the evil actions of another. Scars that make it hard for us to pray, forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Some wounds cannot be healed with a kiss and a bandage. Sometimes we cannot say the words “I forgive you,” without hard and holy work.

A couple of decades back I stumbled on of the most helpful books I have ever read: “Forgive and Forget: Healing the Hurts We Don't Deserve” by Lewis Smedes. He speaks of Four Stages of Forgiving:

- \* We Hurt
- \* We Hate
- \* We Heal Ourselves
- \* We Come Together

These stages can take a lifetime to walk. But every step of the way is a sacred journey. You need not walk this journey alone.

Let me leave you now with a few quotes from Lewis Smedes writings to ponder:

**Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies.**

**To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.**

**Forgiving does not erase the bitter past.**

**A healed memory is not a deleted memory. Instead, forgiving what we cannot forget creates a new way to remember.**

**Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure.**

**When you forgive, you love.  
And when you love, God's light shines upon you!**

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# UPCOMING SYNOD EVENTS

Our fourth annual advocacy day is **February 10, 2025**. Lutheran Day at the Legislature provides us all an opportunity to engage in direct advocacy together! Whether you are a seasoned advocate or a first timer, this event is for you. This year, we are visiting the Capitol just before crossover week, which means we have a chance to advocate for the types of policies we hope to see this year!

Legislators, LAMA community members, congregational liaisons, policy council members, clergy, and friends from across Arizona will gather together, living out our common belief that we are called to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.



Over a light breakfast and coffee, you will have a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones, hear speakers, meet representatives, get to know other Lutherans from your legislative district, and pray for justice and guidance for all who serve in our government. We will then move on to a meet and greet with legislators and fellow advocates. There will be learning stations, opportunities to sit in on hearings, a tour of the Capitol, an introduction to the House and Senate, and, of course, individual meetings with our officials. **FREE LUNCH will be provided for participants in the majority caucus room.** Our office will provide you with information on our policy priorities and goals, as well as advocacy training before the day.

Register by scanning the QR Code



## National Faith + Climate Forum 2025

Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - 2:30pm Online and In-Person

On March 27, 2025, faith leaders and communities across the nation will come together for the National Faith + Climate Forum. This event, themed *Seven Acts of Faith for Building Thriving Congregations*, will offer both in-person and online participation, providing an opportunity to integrate faith and creation care in profound and practical ways.

Whether you're just beginning your journey in environmental stewardship or you've been advocating for climate action within your congregation for years, this free event is designed for you. Register by scanning the QR code.



Sunday,  
March 16<sup>th</sup> 3pm  
TO  
Thursday, March  
20<sup>th</sup> 12:30pm  
  
Spirit in the Desert  
Retreat Center

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

# SENIOR MINISTRY



## Senior Ministries Steering Team

### Members:

Owen Swenson

Barb Swenson

Margie Olsen

Warren Mitch

Scott Hagen

Pastor Deb

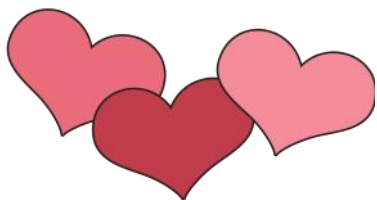
Hippen Schultz



"Now faith, hope,  
and love abide,  
these three; and  
the greatest of  
these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13

**Stay healthy  
and warm!!**



"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It doesn't insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it doesn't rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

That kind of love is hard to live up to, isn't it? I like to change the word "love" for the word "God" and read the passage again. Then replace the word with my name – or your name. We can pray these words and trust that God will melt, mold, fill and use us each day.

## Upcoming Events

- Our Organ Stop outing was lots of fun. There were 58 of us – the bus driver was a comedian, the organist was superb, and the pizza and ice cream hit the spot. This is an annual event, so plan to join us next year.
- On **Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am** we will have a love fest in the fellowship hall – Valentine's Day!! Come celebrate the gift of **LOVE** with us! We will have donuts, pastries, bagels, special coffee made by Pastor Dan and other drinks. **And chocolate!!** We're inviting each one to bring something special to share that has to do with love (picture, poem, story, song, etc.). Feel free to get creative! We will also have communion together.
- Our March event will be on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 12pm – a meal and then music by Cindy Rupp and friends. Put it on the calendar!
- **We are looking for people to join a "sub-committee" to help with Senior Ministries. We have our committee, and we would like to have a group of people who are willing to help with different tasks – setting up, preparing food, calling people, etc. Please let us know if you are interested.**



# Thank You

Dear All Saints Lutheran Church,

In this Advent season, we wait in hope and expectation for the fulfillment of God's promise of justice and peace. Your generous gift of \$43,870.60 is a tangible expression of that hope—a way of extending God's love and care beyond the here and now, leaving a legacy that nurtures faith and inspires action for generations to come.

Your gift honors the legacy of Mike Peterson, whose life bore witness to the power of God's love in action. Through the Grand Canyon Synod Mission & Ministry Fund, this contribution supports leaders in vital and vulnerable ministries, such as Vida Nueva Lutheran Church in Glendale, AZ. It also strengthens the ongoing work of the Bishop's Office, ensuring that together, we continue to be church in the world. Furthermore, your undesignated gift multiplies its impact as 10% is shared with Churchwide ministry, spreading God's work far and wide.

During this season of waiting and longing, we are reminded that God's promises are fulfilled through faithful witnesses like you. Your commitment to collective stewardship reflects the light of Christ in a world yearning for healing and renewal.

Thank you, All Saints Lutheran Church, for embodying God's hope and peace in this season and always. I thank God for your steadfast partnership in ministry and for the ways your faith inspires others.

With gratitude and hope,  
The Reverend Deborah K. Hutterer  
Bishop, Grand Canyon Synod - ELCA



Mike Peterson



Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Thanksgiving Meal Bag drive in November that benefited the West Valley Community Food Pantry.

We have made an incredible difference in the lives of families with food insecurities. Thank you also to Thrivent for providing our bags through a Thrivent Action Grant. This year we were able to provide 130 Thanksgiving meal bags and an additional \$3,125.00 (which included gift cards to purchase turkeys for each of the bags). WOW!! God is amazing and All Saints is amazing!!

Special thanks go to Linda Reidenbach, the Hoffman family, Wirsig family, the Walin family and the entire Social Ministry Team. Thank you for embracing our Stewardship Campaign and giving back with 'Whatever Gift You Have'. Together, we have made an incredible difference!

Thanks be to God!

Sarah Manzanares and West Valley Community Food Pantry



## Worship Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

To honor your invaluable contributions, we are thrilled to invite you to a special Worship Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Join us **Thursday, February 27 at 6:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of fellowship, connection, and heartfelt gratitude as we celebrate the incredible work you do.

Childcare will be provided, so parents can relax and enjoy the evening without a worry in the world. **Please don't forget to RSVP with the church office** so that we can effectively plan to celebrate you!

Let's come together to share stories, laughter, and delicious food, as we recognize the blessings that your service brings to our community. Your efforts foster a nurturing environment where everyone feels welcomed and loved, and we want to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation.

We warmly encourage all volunteers to attend this joyful gathering. Together, let's celebrate the bonds we've formed and the positive difference we continue to make in our church and beyond.

With heartfelt thanks,  
The All Saints Lutheran Church Staff



## Sign-Up to be a Worship Volunteer

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 or to schedule training.

### 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

### We Love Our Volunteers!



Where would we be without them? Each day, so many folks donate their time and talents to the success of this place. Their dedication is truly appreciated!

Right now our Holiday House is gearing up for all the upcoming spring holidays including Valentines Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter and Mother's Day. Come by and see all the beautiful items we have to brighten up your spring!

We welcome new volunteers each week expanding the LTS family.

Auction, Holiday, Art, Electronics, Shoes, Women's Clothing, Men's Processing, Housewares, Home Decor, Books, Crafts and Cards are just a few of the departments which always need volunteers. Are you interested in joining us? Call for a shop tour today.

This time of the year, before it gets too hot, is a great time to do some spring cleaning. Discover some long lost usable space in your house and garage by going through them and donating items you no longer need or want. Bring them to our backdoor on Tuesday or Thursday from 9am-2pm. If you have large items that don't fit in your car, give us a call to schedule a pick up.

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://www.facebook.com/westvalleylutheranthriftshop) for weekly sales and special events.

## Retirement Announcement from Shari Clark

This coming August 15<sup>th</sup> will mark the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when I joined the staff here at All Saints Lutheran Church. It has been a true blessing to serve alongside each of you, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to God and to all of you who have welcomed me into this vibrant community.

With this being said, as of October 1, 2025, I will be retiring. This decision comes with mixed emotions as I reflect on the countless cherished memories and the deep connections I've formed with my All Saints family and friends.



I want to assure you that we will begin the process of finding my successor soon. It is my hope to pass on my experiences and knowledge to ensure that the nurturing spirit of All Saints continues to thrive.

In this time of transition, let us cherish the moments we have shared and look forward to the new opportunities that await us. Together, we will continue to grow in faith and love, supporting one another as we move forward.

God's Peace,  
Shari Clark

## Join Our Staff:

### **Nursery Attendant**

**This is a great part time job for someone who loves children. If you have children, they would be welcomed to 'come' to work with you and be included in all appropriate programming.**

**Hours vary and depend on monthly programs**

**position is shared with other nursery attendants**

**primary hours of need are Sunday: 8:30am to 10:00am**

### **Job Requirements:**

- ♦ **All Saints Child/Youth Protection certification (Online Training)**
- ♦ **CPR/First Aid certification (All Saints will pay for certification)**
- ♦ **Drug Test (All Saints will pay for testing)**
- ♦ **Back Ground Check (All Saints will have this done)**
- ♦ **2 References**

**For more information or to set-up an interview please contact Pastor Daneil in the office (602-866-9191) or via email at [dvolkmann@allsaintsphoenix.org](mailto:dvolkmann@allsaintsphoenix.org).**

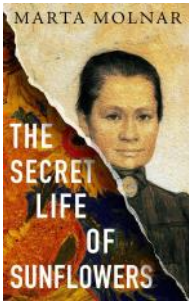
**Job descriptions and applications are available in the church office, the All Saints Website – [allsaintsphoenix.org](http://allsaintsphoenix.org) or request by email: [asl@allsaintsphoenix.org](mailto:asl@allsaintsphoenix.org)**



**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



### **Book Club**

Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>  
at 9:30am in Room 201

This month's selection:  
***The Secret  
Life of Sunflowers***  
by Marta Molnar

A gripping, inspiring novel based on the true story of Johanna Bongers, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law.

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

### **C.O.W. (Church on Wednesdays)**

Wednesday **February 12<sup>th</sup>** from  
**6:30pm to 8:00pm** here @ All Saints

Students (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) and their parents / guardians are invited!

A collaboration of three ELCA congregations in the Phoenix area for all Confirmation Youth (Grades 6th-8th) and their parents / caring adults.

### **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.

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

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

### **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



### **2025 VBS**

**June 2 - 6**

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



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



## Winter 2025 New Member Class



Classes begin January 27<sup>th</sup> and continue through March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Each session includes dinner and childcare (if needed). Register online, call the church office, or contact Donald Wade at [dwade@allsaintsphoenix.org](mailto:dwade@allsaintsphoenix.org) to participate.

**LENTEN  
SEASON  
begins Ash  
Wednesday  
March 5<sup>th</sup>**



**Services will be held at  
7:00am and 6:30pm**

## Confirmation Lock-In (Grades 6 thru 8)

**Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm  
until Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.**

This is an **OVERNIGHT** Confirmation event.

Join us for fun, faith, festivities, and **fellowship**.

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

Please note: There will be **no** Confirmation classes on Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>.



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

The Joy Circle Bible Study meets on **Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 - 11:00am** in Room 201

She saved her people from violence with her wisdom and courage. This month's lesson focuses on a little known story about a "wise woman" found in 2 Samuel 20:1 - 22. All women are welcome to join the discussion of how this woman from the time of King David speaks to us today.

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

## ARTS CAMP RETURNS

As I was in the call process to come to All Saints, the call committee told me about all the amazing ministries this congregation hosts and executes throughout the year. One of these ministries was Arts Camp. They told me about the joys this ministry brought to the congregation and how it had gone by the wayside, as all ministries have a life cycle.

After much conversation and planning, I am happy to announce that **July 14-18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, we will, once again, have Arts Camp** here at All Saints.

There is a dedicated committee in place working hard to bring this week to life with classes to help K-10<sup>th</sup> graders experience art, but also working hard to find leaders to help put on the musical for the week, "What's Up Zak," a retelling of the Zacchaeus story that teaches kids that Christ knows us by name and loves us just the way we are.

On behalf of the Arts Camp committee, we are so excited for this ministry to return and take shape over the coming months. Keep an eye out for more information and ways to volunteer, but if you know you're interested now, contact me at [dvolkmann@allsaintsphoenix.org](mailto:dvolkmann@allsaintsphoenix.org), and I would love to talk about how you want to be involved.

Your servant in the Gospel,  
Pr. Daniel Volkmann



## Welcome, New Members

Please join us in receiving new members at the **9:00am** service on **Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**



Our annual meeting will be held  
**February 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 12:00pm**  
(following the 11am service) in the Sanctuary.

The Annual Report will be made available prior to the meeting. If you would like a copy mailed or emailed to you please contact the church office.

## 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.



## All Saints Budget Through December 31, 2024

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	\$ 1,197,158	\$ 1,139,491
Expenses	\$ 1,197,154	\$ 1,153,913
Deficit	\$ 4	\$ 14,422

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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

Mike/Sue Krzyston	Feb 1	56th
Bill/Carol Lewis	Feb 2	63rd
Alex/Arianna Katek	Feb 3	1st
Jerry/Pat Dilk	Feb 5	17th
Patrick/Margie Cochran	Feb 5	53rd
Lalo/Lee Rios	Feb 7	27th
Stephen/Sierra Harris	Feb 17	6th
Mike/Pat Reed	Feb 19	20th
Duane Loranger/ Jamey Schultz	Feb 23	32nd
Arlin/Jan Snesrud	Feb 28	63rd



## 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:  
February 2<sup>nd</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**

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>:  
ASU College  
Campus Ministry**

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 \$622 for Vida Nueva Lutheran Church in December!

## **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**