

The Live Wire



Plug into the
**HIGHEST
POWER**



KIDS CLOTHING EXCHANGE

Time to clean out those closets for the popular annual KIDS CLOTHING EXCHANGE, hosted by

ALC'S Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) ministry. Drop off your gently used children's clothing (birth through teen) or maternity clothing in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, August 24 from 4:00-7:00 PM. Please make sure your items are in good condition, with no holes, tears, or repairs needed. For each bag you drop off, you will receive a voucher. Pre-sort your clothing into Boys/Size & Girls/Size to receive an additional voucher! Return on Saturday, August 25 from 8:30-10:00 AM to shop, with vouchers or for \$5 per bag. "Early birds" will be welcome at 8:00 AM for a \$5 donation, with proceeds directed to MOPS. You can learn more about our thriving MOPS ministry by visiting www.mops.org/groups/mymopsprescott. The new season of MOPS begins September 6.



CONNECTIONS EDUCATION HOUR for adults of all ages and life stages is held Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM. The Fall Session will run

September 9 - October 28, with registration available on Sundays, August 19 and September 9 after worship services, as well as in the church office. You may choose from the following 3 classes:

The Book of James, a Bible Study (led by Susan Hutson)

The Screwtape Letters (led by JoAnn Brown)

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth (led by Elke Speliopoulos)

If books are used for a class, they will be available for purchase from the leader during the first 2 meetings of the session only. You are free to purchase a copy from another source, purchase an e-book if available, or borrow a copy. As always, full and partial scholarships are available for all Connections classes on request. Contact Coordinator, Susan Hutson at 443-0469 for more information.

STAFF OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT — ALC is now accepting applications/resumes for the full-time position of Director of Administration. Please contact Kate Howell in the church office for more information or to receive a copy of the job description: (928) 445-4348 x324 or kate@americanlutheran.net



ALC STAFF

- Rev. Jack Shannon..... Senior Pastor
- Rev. Erich Sokoloski.....Associate Pastor
- Rev. Don McMillan.....Pastor of Caring Ministries
- Kate Howell.....Director of Administration
- David Sherman.....Minister of Music
- Kenny James.....Director of Contemporary Music
- Tricia Sokoloski.....Dir. of Children's and Family Ministry
- Kathy Lilley.....Ass't. Director of Children's and Family Ministry
- Lori Barbe.....Director of American Lutheran School
- Larry Lee.....A/V Technician
- Benita Rose.....Organist
- Donna Jackson.....Administrative Assistant I
- Rachel Williams.....Administrative Assistant II
- Rita Brammer.....Receptionist
- Jaime Ortiz.....Food Services Coordinator
- Denny Larson.....Custodian
- Ed Carr.....Custodian

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:00 AM Traditional Worship
- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
- 10:30 AM Traditional Worship
- 10:30 AM Contemporary Worship
- 10:30 AM Kid Connect
- 3:30 PM Community Meal

NOAH'S NURSERY

- 7:45-10:15 AM (Birth-5 yrs.)
- 10:15-11:45 AM (Birth-3 yrs.)

Make a Joyful Noise!

As we move toward the fall, our Traditional Music ministry is full of excitement as we return to regular leadership in our Traditional worship services in the Sanctuary. Our ministry encompasses all ages and many different types of musicians that will praise God with our talents of music. We enter this year with many exciting things happening:

- > Our new Organist has arrived!
- > New hymnals will be in the pews in a few weeks.
- > "The Big Sing" Hymn Festival will dedicate the hymnals.
- > Yule Fest 2018 is adding a Sunday afternoon service.
- > Doane University Choir will be presenting a concert.
- > Handbell choirs will be playing at Prescott's "Acker Night."
- > Our choirs and handbells will be adding to worship life in new and exciting ways.
- > Our Our handbells were completely refurbished over the summer.

With these and many other activities that will take place now is the time to join us in making music for our Lord. We invite you to consider becoming a member of one of our music ensembles, providing occasional solos vocally or instrumentally or playing and instrument as part of one of our ensembles. For more info, please contact David Sherman, Minister of Music through the church: 445-4348 x 311 or david@americanlutheran.net.

(Continued on page 3)





WHERE DOES GOD WANT YOU?

"But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life." —1 Timothy 1:16

Have you ever wondered what God is making of your life? Or looked over your particular "story" and wondered how He was going to make it glorify Him? We all do from time to time, I suppose, but when you don't know the answers, it can be very difficult. I've been asking myself these questions daily for the last 4 years.

I recently attended a church conference based on Joshua 1:9 which says, "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." At that time, I was asking God what He wanted for me. I wanted Him to use me more fully. I wanted Him to show me clearly how He wanted to use me. In other words, I needed clarity and I wanted Him more! I was asking questions like, "How can I do more for God?", "Is there something else that I am gifted in that God could use more fully in my life to bring Him praise?" and "God, will you speak CLEARLY to me and SHOW me where you want me?" It wasn't that I needed to do more. It was something deep inside me that needed Him more.

I knew God was speaking directly to me right from the start when the speaker said, "Being courageous and brave means you have the courage to leave when it would be easier for you to stay," and, "A single act of courage can become the catalyst for extraordinary things." These statements were exactly what I needed because I loved my job working with kids at school and singing in worship here at church. By all accounts, things were great. Nothing needed changing, but something wasn't right. I had a God-shaped hole that left me unsatisfied. I didn't know what the next step was and I was scared not knowing what would happen. I was wearing my BE BRAVE bracelet and it actually helped me to be courageous. It reminded me that, even though I may not have the road map or all the details of God's plan for my next steps, He would help me. If I could just take the next step, trusting God to know the plan better than I do, He would carry me and lead me on the path He wants me to be on. And He has.

It is not easy to step out and be brave. It is often uncomfortable and it may inconvenience people, but as my friend says, "Sometimes the right thing and the hardest thing are the same thing." This has been the case for me. It was not easy to say goodbye to 600 students that I loved, or to leave my good friends at work. It was not easy to explain that God needed me somewhere else and that was the only reason I was leaving. But, the joy of knowing I am on God's path doing what He specifically designed me for is so much greater than the temporary fear or inconvenience I experienced at the time. I would rather fall into the center of God's will than wonder what God would have done if I'd trusted and obeyed Him. Graham Cooke said it best when he said, "Carry on doing on earth what you are famous for in heaven."

There are so many amazing people serving here at ALC, but I want to challenge you to ask God where He wants you. Maybe you should keep doing what you're doing, but maybe it's time for a change. God may ask you to consider something else. Consider joining one of the choirs, becoming an usher or greeter, teaching Sunday school, helping in childcare, joining the puppet ministry or prayer team. And, for heaven's sake, if those don't work, pray. Pray for our ministries to be fruitful and effective. Pray that we have enough hands to do the job God has called us to. Pray that

we can change lives through our services. Pray that we are salt and light to everyone around us. The options are endless.

There really is a place for you to serve here at ALC if you feel God stirring in your heart. We have received God's mercy so that Jesus Christ can show His perfect patience with us as an example to those who trust in Him. There is no guilt here. God's love is extravagant. He wants to use us. He'll get the job done with or without us, but what a privilege to participate in His plan for our lives. The questions are, "Will you hear Him if He speaks?" and "Will you act if He asks you to?" Be brave and say yes!

Tricia Sokoleski

Director of Children's and Family Ministry



GET READY TO RALLY – Join us on Sunday, September 9 after the 10:30 AM worship services as we kick off the new "back to church" season and celebrate the 25th anniversary of Senior Pastor Jack Shannon's ordination. Fun and fellowship for all ages, with a BBQ lunch (hot dogs, burgers, potato salad, and more). Show your spirit and wear your favorite team jersey...any team, any sport! *Many helping hands are needed for this event; contact the church office if you can help with setup, serving, or clean-up.*

Women of Wisdom

Interdenominational Fellowship in Christ

ALC's spirit-lifting, faith-renewing, life-inspiring program for women of all ages and backgrounds.



FALL SESSION:
Wednesdays,
Sept. 12 – Oct. 31
8:15 – 11:15 AM

Copies of the complete 2018-2019 WOW brochure are available at the church and viewable at www.americanlutheran.net/wow.

TWO WAYS TO REGISTER FOR FALL WOW:

- 1) Drop off or mail the registration form from the WOW brochure with your payment to the church office.
- 2) In person after worship services on Sundays, August 19 or September 9.

No cost or registration needed if attending First Hour Bible Teaching only.

FREE CHILDCARE & SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

"Growing women in Christ"...for 19 years!

The Live Wire is the bi-weekly newsletter of American Lutheran Church in Prescott, AZ, made available to members of the congregation and to others upon request. Subscriptions by mail are \$12 annually. *The Live Wire* is also available for viewing online at www.americanlutheran.net. If you have material for the next issue of *The Live Wire*, please contact Donna Jackson in the church office at 445-4348 or donnae@americanlutheran.net. Deadline for the next issue is Thursday, August 30 at 12:00 PM.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

MOPS REGISTRATION ROUNDUP for the 2018-2019 season will be held Thursday, August 30 from 9:00–11:00 AM at Granite Creek Park (554 N. 6th St., Prescott). This playdate event is for mothers of preschoolers who have already registered for MOPS as well as moms who are interested in My MOPS Prescott. Snacks will be provided. Be sure to like and follow the My MOPS Prescott Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mymopsprescott.

SPECIAL EVENT — All members of the congregation are invited to join our Care Partners ministry team on Monday, August 27 in the downstairs Activity Center from 9:30 – 11:00 AM. Guest speaker, Sarah Twombly, Bereavement Coordinator with Good Samaritan Hospice will present “Rituals and Healing in Response to Loss With Grief.” Sarah will discuss managing loss, our response to loss, adapting rituals for healing, and assisting others in adapting to their loss experiences. RSVP to the church office.



“BAD GIRLS OF THE BIBLE” by award-winning author, Liz Curtis Higgs is the next class offered by the Monday Night Women’s Bible Study, running September 10 through November 19. Book cost is \$18, with scholarships available. The group meets on Mondays at 5:00 PM in the Parlor and welcomes new participants. This study includes 10 lessons, 12-minute videos, and weekly (not daily) homework. RSVP by Monday, August 27 to Tanya Strozewski at (406) 861-2726 or Joneen Fries at 776-4432, or contact the church office.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY is a biblical and balanced program that helps participants overcome hurts, hang-ups, and habits. This Christian 12-step program meets in the Fellowship Hall most Thursdays, with Meet, Greet & Eat at 5:30 PM followed by worship and teaching at 6:00 PM. We have FUN! Upcoming schedule:

- August 23 — We all have some hang-ups, bad habits, nagging hurts (yes, all of us, if we admit it) and so we all need Christ to teach us how to become truly free. Our speaker will recount a personal story of discovering and recovering freedom and peace, through God’s grace. You will see that it IS possible!
- August 30 — Come share in this powerful teaching about FORGIVENESS. Have you truly accepted God’s forgiveness? Have you forgiven

others who may have hurt you? Have you forgiven yourself for any darkness in your past? Remember: “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)

- September 6 — We will hear a testimony from the Mental Health Leader of Celebrate Recovery, who himself has struggled with mental illness. We will be addressing issues such as anxiety, depression, panic attacks, and bi-polar disorder, as we learn how a Christian 12-step program can offer support to those struggling with mental health issues.

Contact Coordinator, Dale Sams at 420-6480 for more information on ALC’s Celebrate Recovery ministry.

FINANCIAL PLANNING — CHARTING A COURSE TO HELP YOUR MONEY LAST is a free Senior Connection Speakers Bureau presentation which will be offered on Thursday, August 23 from 12:00 — 1:00 PM in the downstairs Activity Center at ALC. Presenter John Tillotson, Freedom Financial, will help you size up your situation and sources of income, understand distribution rules, choose the right distribution method to meet your needs, develop an investment strategy, and prepare for the unexpected. RSVPs are appreciated to Debbie Stewart at 778-3747 or Debbie@SeniorConnection.us.

STAND DOWN FOR U.S. VETERANS / UNDIE SUNDAY — Help our homeless veterans on “Undie Sunday” by donating new socks and underwear (men’s and women’s) in various sizes, now through September 9. Donation boxes are available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall lobby, or drop off your donations in the church office. The 2018 Yavapai County Standdown will be held at Prescott’s Frontier Village on September 28 and 29.



Dear Pastors and friends at ALC: On behalf of Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity, thank you for your very generous July contribution of \$1,041.24 to support our work and mission of building affordable housing in our community. Your financial contribution directly supported the continuing construction of the Williamson family house in Chino Valley. We hope to be able to dedicate this house in early September, and we will send you an invitation as soon as the date has been determined. Since last writing you in May, PAHH has experienced another delay with the City of Prescott regarding our Madison Park Cottages development downtown. If you feel moved to, your prayers would be welcome to move this project forward. I leave you with this prayer by St. Teresa of Calcutta: “Make us worthy, Lord, to serve others throughout the world who live and

die in poverty or hunger. Give them through our hands, this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy.” Amen. Blessings to all in the congregation, **Christine Mack, PAHH Faith Relations Liaison**

“Make a Joyful Noise” (continued from cover)

HANDBELLS — All are welcome to join! Some music reading is helpful but is not required. If you have never rung a handbell before, we offer you an introduction to the instrument and teach you quickly how to play.

- **Beginning Bells and Chancel Chimers** will be combining this year to form a new handbell choir. This fun-loving group of all abilities plays beginning-to-intermediate level music on Tuesday evenings from 4:30–5:30 PM. No experience necessary! Everyone will be challenged to their own ability, learning new skills and working as a team to create fun music. This group is a great opportunity for beginning ringers to be mentored by those with more experience, as they prepare music for monthly church services, community outreach programs, and concerts. Come try out this nurturing group at the first rehearsal on Tuesday, September 4 in the Sanctuary.
- **Peals of Praise** is an experienced group of high school, college, and adult ringers playing six octaves+ of bells and chimes at an intermediate-to-advanced level. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 5:00–6:00 PM. A commitment to attend all rehearsals (or find a substitute) is expected. The group prepares more challenging music for monthly church services, concerts, and community outreach programs. Contact David Sherman for details.

CHOIRS 🎵 🎶 🎷 🎹 🎺 🎻

- **Sanctus** is the primary worship choir for the church. Comprised of over 30+ members representing young adults to senior adults, the central goal of the choir is to worship God with its musical offerings. The choir participates in “The Big Sing,” Yule Fest with orchestra (regarded as one of the finest Christmas events in the area), and other special events throughout the year. Men’s and women’s choirs come out of this group on a regular basis. Sanctus rehearses weekly on Wednesdays from 6:30–8:00 PM in the Music Room. All are invited to join.
- **Youth Choir** is comprised of students in grades 5–12. We sing monthly in worship and participate in Yule Fest at Christmastime. The choir rehearses weekly on Sundays beginning August 26 from 11:45 – 12:30 PM in the Music Room. All are invited to join.
- **Sprouts Choir** is for pre-K. Children will be introduced to music through pitch matching, singing of simple Christian songs, rhythm instruments, movement, and other fun activities utilizing the curriculum, *Growing in Grace*. Each week will focus on a theme, coordinating with scripture. This choir meets after American Lutheran School’s Monday sessions, from 1:00–1:45 PM. Please contact David Sherman if you would like your child to participate.

BOOK LOOK

Thanks to two of your fellow members who have read and reviewed these new books found in the ALC Library:

Total Truth by Nancy Pearcey — Ms. Pearcey, a former agnostic, has become a highly respected Christian theologian, both as a professor and a writer. Her first book, *Total Truth*, is a very readable introduction into the “two-story” way of thinking that we see today in both the secular world and some areas of the Christian church. For examples like these, she will put the Christian religion on top and show how through logic (how novel) Christianity can encompass these areas on the lowest level and answer questions that cannot be answered any other way.

I hadn't realized how often Christ says, “I tell you the truth” until it was brought home to me in the movie, *The Passion of Christ*. He wasn't kidding, and *Total Truth* verifies that in all areas of life.

At the start of her book, *Finding Truth*, Pearcey has a quote from C. S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* that describes our current state: “Nearly all that we call human history . . . is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God that will make him happy.” In this book the emphasis is taking on the God substitute-isms of all types: Materialism, Rationalism, Empiricism, Romanticism, and others and using logic (again) answering life's questions. They all fall far short of the answers that a Christian worldview can provide.

Her newest book, *Love Thy Body*, again uses the two-tier demonstration to deal with abortion and today's gender issues. *Saving Leonardo* by Pearcey can also be found in the Library. —Reviewed by Phil Ellsworth

The Bishop's Wife by Mette Ivie Harrison — Written by a practicing Mormon, this book is a fascinating peak into the lives of modern Mormons as well as a grim and cunningly twisted mystery. The main character, Sister Linda Waldheim, the Bishop's wife, gives us an insider's view of a patriarchal community where strict adherence to God's rule and Church laws are the path to the afterlife. She, as the Bishop's wife, is the unofficial mother of the ward. She and her husband have 5 college age sons, but she is still troubled by the loss of their baby daughter 20 years ago. Sister Waldheim encourages women in the community to speak freely, at least to her, and to escape the shame that has burdened some of them since childhood. She is a strong woman who strives to bring justice to those who are wronged. As she quietly tries to help her neighbors, she slowly unravels the mystery of Carrie's and Helena's disappearances. Set in Draper, Utah, this book is not only a great story, but also a revealing look at Mormonism and its followers. —Reviewed by Carol R. Lake

Look for these good reads on the library cart in the Narthex and outside the Fellowship Hall on alternate Sundays, or in the Library (upper level main hallway) during the week.



7th Annual SPAGHETTI "DRESS" GTTI CELEBRATION
Sunday, September 30 @ Noon
American Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
1085 Scott Drive, Prescott

Luncheon, Volunteer Recognition, Dessert & Silent Auction,
 Live Music, Teens' Closet Fashion Show, Fun & Fellowship

All proceeds to benefit 

Tickets available in the church office:
\$10/person, \$30/family of four
 An outreach ministry of American Lutheran Church

CALENDAR (subject to change)

Sunday 8/19

8 & 10:30AM Traditional Worship
 9 & 10:30AM Contemporary Worship
 10:30AM Kid Connect
 10:30AM Chino Valley Worship
 3:30PM Community Meal

Monday 8/20

8AM Prayer Group
 10:30AM Women's Cursillo Group
 12PM Ignite Discipleship Group
 4PM Beautiful Signers
 5PM Men's Cursillo Study
 5PM Monday Women's Bible Study
 5:30PM Girl Scouts @ The Rock

Tuesday 8/21

8:30AM Katharina Von Bora Quilters
 9AM WOW Worship Music Rehearsal
 1:30PM Miracle Prayer Time
 4PM Deborah Circle
 5PM Beginning Bells
 6:30PM Boy Scout Troop 7006 @ The Rock
 6:30PM Tuesday Night Men's Bible Study

Wednesday 8/22

4PM Executive Committee Meeting
 5PM Peals of Praise Handbells
 6PM ALC Youth @ The Rock
 6PM American Lutheran School Parents Night
 6:30PM Sanctus Choir

Thursday 8/23

5:45AM Crossfire Men's Ministry
 8:15AM "Good Book...Good Men" Bible Study
 12PM Senior Connection Speakers Bureau
 2PM Library Volunteers
 3PM Good News Puppets
 4:30PM Friendship Bible Study
 5:30PM Celebrate Recovery
 7PM Celebrate Recovery Small Groups

Friday 8/24

9:30AM Safety & Security Team Meeting
 4PM Kids Clothing Exchange Drop-off

Saturday 8/25

8AM Kids Clothing Exchange

Sunday 8/26

8 & 10:30AM Traditional Worship
 9 & 10:30AM Contemporary Worship
 10:30AM Kid Connect
 10:30AM Chino Valley Worship
 11:45AM Youth Choir
 3:30PM Community Meal

Monday 8/27

8AM Prayer Group
 9:30AM Care Partners Grief Seminar
 10:30AM Women's Cursillo Group
 12PM Ignite Discipleship Group
 5PM Men's Cursillo
 5PM Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Tuesday 8/28

8:30AM Katharina Von Bora Quilters
 1:30PM Miracle Prayer Time
 5PM Beginning Bells
 6:30PM Boy Scout Troop 7006 @ The Rock
 6:30PM Tuesday Night Men's Bible Study

Wednesday 8/29

9AM WOW Meeting
 5PM Peals of Praise Handbells
 6PM ALC Youth @ The Rock
 6:30PM Sanctus Choir

Thursday 8/30

5:45AM Crossfire Men's Ministry
 8:15AM "Good Book...Good Men" Bible Study
 9AM MOPS Round-up @ Granite Creek Park
 2PM Library Volunteers
 3PM Good News Puppets
 4:30PM Friendship Bible Study
 5:30PM Celebrate Recovery
 6PM Church Council
 7PM Celebrate Recovery Small Groups

Friday 8/31

1PM HR Committee Meeting

Saturday 9/1

