

PLUG INTO THE
HIGHEST
POWER

THE LIVE WIRE



You have been a beautiful example of God's love. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. Proverbs 31

KIDCONNECT IS LOOKING FOR MORE TEACHERS AND HELPERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL! Contact Tricia if you can lend a hand. 445-4348 ext. 318



SAVE THE DATE!
Vacation Bible School
June 3 - 7, 9am-Noon.
Ages 3 through 5th Grade.
Register online at:
vbspro.events/p/vbsfun

ENDOWMENT fund

One Gift. Many Benefits



In the daily-ness of church budgets, it is sometimes hard to remember that we're here for the long game. We certainly want American Lutheran Church to be vibrant today, but we also want to leave a strong foundation for the generations that follow us.

This is why the Endowment Fund - and specifying it in our estate plans - is so important. We want to do mission-critical things out of the reach of the general budget, to fund special activities without putting a drag on the church. All of that happens with a planned gift: a promise made to give in the future to a flexible financial tool to which we have access.

The ALC Endowment Board uses InFaith Community Foundation (www.infaithfound.org) as one of its managed funds. InFaith is known for its flexibility, a high level of service, and an alignment with Christian values. Contact the church office (445-4348) or an Endowment Board member to find out how you can add the ALC Endowment Fund in your will or estate plan; or call InFaith directly at 800-365-4172.



Church Photo Directory

American Lutheran Church just recently accepted 34 New Members into the family of ALC. *Praise the Lord!* We are excited about the growth of our loving & growing church family! We have added our new member photos to the church photo directory. We would like to get updated photos of our current members and regular attendees. If we don't have your photo, please bring in or e-mail us a photo at info@americanlutheran.net and we will include you in the directory. Call the church office 445-4348 to request an updated printed copy of the church photo directory.

Prayers for Our Church
Dear Father God, Your word says: "May he give you the desires of your heart and make all your plans succeed." (Psalm 20:4). We ask that all that we plan and all that we do at ALC aligns with your will and glorifies your holy name. We want all to know that our church is an established beachhead, a base of operations for you our Shepherd. Bring new believers into the fold and gather us together in true Christian fellowship. Amen



CHARITABLE DONATIONS — TAX PLANNING IDEA If you are over 70½, you can contribute up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA directly to the church as your annual contribution. Or direct your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) to be directly donated.

This would be a **tax-free withdrawal** for you. The standard deduction was increased so many of you may have found out it did not benefit you tax-wise to itemize your deductions. Therefore, your contributions were of no tax-benefit, as they may have been in the past. This

must be a direct transaction from IRA to charity. It does not work if you receive the distribution and write a check to the charity. Now that your income tax has been filed for the 2018 year, or you at least have an idea how the new 2018 tax act affected you if you extended, it would be a good idea to revisit this tax planning idea for 2019, if you didn't act on it last year.

Talk to your financial advisor or tax preparer for details on how this could benefit your personal situation. If you prepared your own taxes and have questions, call the church office and they can direct you to someone who could provide some answers.



REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

By Kenny James

The Christian life consists largely of a struggle against our own forgetful nature. After having embraced the truth that Christ has rescued us from death, all of life then becomes about trying to live out what we say we believe, to remember who we are in light of that rescue. We have a vertical connection with God that should broaden our perspective and utterly change the way we look at everything - the way we spend our time, think about work, respond to slights, prioritize our relationships ... all of it. The vertical should drastically change the way we think about the horizontal. And yet, despite the fact that this gift of rescue has been given us, we easily drift into thinking that what's in front of us - the horizontal - is all there is, living as if God is not part of the equation. This has been true for all of history.

Lately I've been studying the epistle of First Peter. This letter was written by the Apostle Peter, who spent three years as one of Jesus' disciples before Christ was crucified. The first apostle called to follow Jesus in his ministry, Peter witnessed many miracles performed by Jesus; he himself walked on water when Jesus called him out of the boat to join Him on top of the waves ([Matthew 14:22-33](#)); he was one of three men chosen to join Christ on the mountain where he saw Jesus transfigured ([Matthew 17:1-8](#)). He was the first disciple to announce to Jesus that he believed he was the Christ who was foretold by the prophets ([Matthew 16:13-20](#)). Peter was bold and forthcoming about who he believed Jesus to be, and he left behind his old way of life to follow Jesus and help spread the good news ([Matthew 19:23-30](#)).

Peter was also a witness to Jesus' arrest in the garden and, as the events of that day unfolded, Peter was the disciple who, in deep fear for his own life, openly denied that he even knew or was in any way attached to this Jesus of Nazareth who was on trial ([Luke 22:54-62](#)).

Peter lived three years with daily reminders of who Jesus really was, and yet in a moment of danger and deep fear, he responded to the horizontal events as if the vertical relationship - that relationship which changes everything - didn't exist.

We don't have to have our own lives threatened in order to do the very same thing. There was a day just last week when I started strong; having spent time studying this letter by Peter, I began my day with the confident reminder that Christ's work for me was secured. It only took a few small disappointments, and by the end of the day, irritation ruled my emotions and colored how I responded to others. I had completely let go of my hold on the perspective that my relationship with God should have given me, and responded to the horizontal provocations as if that was all that mattered.

Peter wrote his first letter (1 Peter) to encourage believers in churches spread throughout Asia during a time when they, too, might have been tempted to respond to the horizontal events as if that was all that mattered. This letter was likely delivered to these churches along with the news that the Apostle Paul had been martyred in Rome. These people would have all known Paul well, as he was the apostle who preached the gospel to them and helped found their congregations. He was a friend and a mentor, someone they would have loved and respected. At least some of the letters Paul wrote during his ministry were directed to these same churches.

Imagine, then, how grieved they would have been to hear of his death. Paul was killed during a time in Rome when persecution of Christians was on the rise, so news of his death may have well also come alongside other terrifying details of hardship occurring. Peter's letter starts out by reminding them of a great truth: *According to his (God's) great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and*

unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith - more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:3-7)

Peter is essentially saying to them, "Remember who you are! Remember that through His death and resurrection, Christ has guaranteed your salvation and is guarding it in heaven, for you. Death is not the final word! This changes everything! Live joyfully, in spite of this trial!"

It doesn't take death threats to get me to live as though God doesn't matter; when I find that my eyes are focused on what's going on around me, the people who are "failing me" or the difficulties of my day, I am living at the horizontal level. I have forgotten that I am already a chosen son of the King, with an inheritance already awaiting me in eternity. These truths, when I hold on to them, change the way I live and soften the ways in which I respond to others.

It would be easy to beat myself up for the times each day when I forget who I am and live out a practical denial of God's work in my life. How encouraging, then, to read Peter's letter and to hear him - this impetuous guy who failed to live out what he knew to be true at a truly crucial moment in Jesus' last hours - exhorting others to remain faithful during a time of trial. How like our kind Father to use Peter's magnificent failure to encourage all of us forgetful brothers to come after him.

Today, I simply encourage you to remember who you are - God chose you as His own child. Remember what you already have - immeasurable joy awaiting you in heaven that cannot be damaged or changed by your failures. Live today in light of this joyful reality.

My beloved Fern died peacefully in her sleep in the Samaritan Center on April 9. Her congestive heart failure and other related heart issues had brought to an end our 64-year journey together here on earth.

The kind thoughts and prayers, cards, spoken words and physical assistance that have been given to me have been deeply appreciated. I treasure all the friends who have given and who continue to give me and my family encouragement, and who continue to share with me a firm foundation in the Lord.

We're thankful that Fern is free from pain and of the failures in her health, and is safe in the arms of Jesus.

A **Celebration of Life** for Fern will take place at American Lutheran Church and the Columbarium on Saturday, May 25 at 2:00PM. Thank you to our entire ALC family.
Pastor Wally Cole



Look for these NEW books on the library book cart!

Dead Sea Rising by Jerry B. Jenkins - This fascinating historical fiction offers suspense and drama of a modern-day Messianic Jewish family and the birth of Abram in ancient Ur of the Middle East. It juxtaposes two stories of an idol-making unbeliever in Mesopotamia whose wife is pregnant with a son who will become the father of three religions, with a wealthy woman in Manhattan and a proposed archeological dig in Saudi Arabia. After reading this thriller, I predict it will be made into a movie soon. **Reviewed by Mary Ellen Dotson**

If I Live by Teri Blackstock - Popular Christian author Blackstock takes the reader on a heart-stopping chase involving Casey who is on the run after being indicted for murder and Dylan, an investigator who is her only hope. Exposing the real killers is more complicated than they knew.

Two light mysteries from Guideposts in the Secrets of Wayfarers Inn series:

Family Secrets by Becky Melby - three retired friends decide to restore an historic hotel in Marietta, OH which was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Baffling things happen - who is trying to scare them away?

River of Life by Kathleen Y'Barbo - the River of Life quilt is missing from the National Archives. The contractor who is restoring the Inn finds an old tattered quilt in one of the secret rooms that housed runaway slaves. Could this be the missing quilt?

Book reviews by Vonna Reynolds

Remember: when returning library items, please return them to the basket in the library or the donations box, rather than putting them back on the library cart with the other books and DVDs. Thank you! More volunteers are needed in the library. Contact Vonna Reynolds, 928-771-9923.



Nate Chinander
Grandson of Ardis Chinander
Bradshaw Mountain High School
Prescott Valley, AZ

YOU DID IT!
Congratulations



Kaylie Dawson

Granddaughter of Richard & Linda Dawson
Foothills Tech High School
Ventura, CA



Angel Rain Fite

Granddaughter of Rich & Chris Fite
Odyssey Institute for Advanced & International Studies
Buckeye, AZ



Torie Dawson

Granddaughter of Richard & Linda Dawson
Saint Mary's College
Moraga, CA
Kinesiology Degree



Rylan Haag

Grandson of David & Bobbi Wilcott
US Air Force Academy
Colorado Springs, CO
Bachelor of Science Aeronautical Engineering
Commissioned as Second Lieutenant USAF



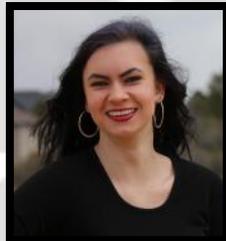
Miranda Hess

Granddaughter of Keith & Signe Ruppert
Imagine Prep Superstition
Mesa, AZ
Miranda is a very talented volleyball player
She plans to use her skills where she can
get the most playing time.



Katherine M. Hilgendorf

Granddaughter of Bruce & Lois Hilgendorf
Pinnacle High School
Phoenix, AZ



Kassandra Holmes

Daughter of David & Danette Holmes
Homeschool Graduate
Prescott, AZ

Kolten Jones
Son of Kenny & Karen Jones
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, AZ
Bachelor of Science - Creative Media & Film



Hannah Loder - Co-Valedictorian

Granddaughter of Keith & Signe Ruppert
Glendale High School
Springfield, MO
Will attend George Washington University
Washington D.C.



Trey Overton

Grandson of Thurlow & Gloria Baxter
Summerville High School
Summerville, South Carolina
Will attend University of South Carolina

Andrew Sinclair
Grandson of Tom & Lois Floyd
McKinney High School
McKinney, Texas
Will attend the University of Alabama



Beth Snear
Daughter of Jim & Jessica Diehl
University of Texas
Masters of Social Work



Cameron Weber

Son of Bill & Jodi Weber
Basis School
Prescott, AZ
Will attend Purdue University



Jessica Zaragoza

Daughter of Julie Auwen
Judson University
Rockford, IL
BA in Human Services



CALENDAR (subject to change)



Sunday 5/5

8 & 10:30AM Traditional Worship
 9 & 10:30AM Contemporary Worship
 9:15AM Connections Adult Education Hour
 10:30AM Kid Connect
 3PM MasterWorks Concert
 3:30PM Community Meal
 4PM Scouts Troop 7106 - The Rock



Monday 5/6

8AM Prayer Time 10AM Worship Adv. Committee
 10:30AM Women's Cursillo 12PM Ignite Group
 1PM Moms Prayer Group 4PM Beautiful Signers
 5PM Men's Cursillo Study
 5PM Monday Women's Bible Study

Tuesday 5/7

8:30AM Katharina Von Bora Quilt Group
 9AM Book Club 9:30AM Leadership Staff Mtg.
 1:30PM Miracle Prayer Time
 6PM Celebrate Recovery Small Groups
 6:30PM Boy Scout Troop 7006 @ The Rock
 7:30PM Tues. Men's Bible Study

Wednesday 5/8

8AM WOW Spring Session 9AM ALS Chapel
 11:30AM Women's Cursillo 6PM ALC @ The Rock
 6:30PM Sanctus Choir

Thursday 5/9

5:45AM Crossfire Men's Ministry
 8:15AM "Good Book...Good Men" Bible Study
 8:45AM MOPS Leadership Mtg.
 9:30AM ALS Chapel
 10:30AM ALS Mother's Day Tea
 2PM Library Volunteers
 4:30PM Heavenly Chimers
 5:15PM Friendship Bible Study
 5:30PM Celebrate Recovery
 7PM Celebrate Recovery Small Group Meetings



Friday 5/10

9AM Charity Knit/Crochet Group
 10:30AM ALS Mother's Day Tea
 4PM Parents Night Out

Saturday 5/11

No events

Sunday 5/12

8 & 10:30AM Traditional Worship
 9 & 10:30AM Contemporary Worship
 9:15AM Connections Adult Education Hour
 10:30AM Kid Connect
 11:45AM Prayer Team Mtg.
 3:30PM Community Meal 4PM Scouts Troop 7106



Monday 5/13

8AM Prayer Time 10:30AM Women's Cursillo
 12PM Ignite Group 1PM Moms Prayer Group
 5PM Men's Cursillo 5PM Monday Women's Bible Study

Tuesday 5/14

8:30AM Katharina Von Bora Quilt Group
 9:30AM Leadership & Program Staff Meeting
 1:30PM Miracle Prayer Time
 6PM Celebrate Recovery Small Groups
 6:30PM Boy Scout Troop 7006 @ The Rock
 6:30PM Tues. Men's Bible Study

Wednesday 5/15

8AM WOW Spring Session
 11:30AM Women's Cursillo
 6PM ALC Youth @ The Rock

Thursday 5/16

5:45AM Crossfire Men's Ministry
 8:15AM "Good Book...Good Men" Bible Study
 9AM MOPS Meeting
 2PM Library Volunteers
 5PM Building Committee
 5:15PM Friendship Bible Study
 5:30PM Celebrate Recovery
 7PM Celebrate Recovery Small Group



Friday 5/17

10:30AM ALS Graduation

Saturday 5/18

No Events

Sunday 5/19

8 & 10:30AM Traditional Worship
 9 & 10:30 AM Contemporary Worship
 9:15AM Connections Adult Education Hour
 10:30AM Kid Connect
 3:30PM Community Meal 4PM Scouts Troop 7106

Monday 5/20

8AM Prayer Time 9:30AM Care Partners Mtg.
 12PM Ignite Group 1PM Moms Prayer Group
 4PM Beautiful Signers 5PM Men's Cursillo Study
 5PM Monday Women's Bible Study

Tuesday 5/21

8:30AM Katharina Von Bora Quilt Group
 9:30AM Leadership & Program Staff Meeting
 1:30PM Miracle Prayer Time 4PM Deborah Circle
 6PM Celebrate Recovery Small Groups
 6:30PM Boy Scout Troop 7006 @ The Rock
 6:30PM Tues. Men's Bible Study

Wednesday 5/22

8AM WOW Spring Session
 11:30AM Women's Cursillo
 11:30AM WOW Class Leader Mtg.
 4PM Executive Committee Meeting
 5PM Summer Bells
 6PM ALC Youth @ The Rock

Thursday 5/23

5:45AM Crossfire Men's Ministry
 8:15AM "Good Book...Good Men" Bible Study
 11:30AM SR Connection Speaker's Bureau
 2PM Library Volunteers
 5:15PM Friendship Bible Study
 5:30PM Celebrate Recovery
 7PM Celebrate Recovery Small Group Meetings

Friday 5/24

9:30AM ALC Safety & Security Meeting

Saturday 5/25

2PM Fern Cole's Memorial Service

Sunday 5/26

8 & 10:30AM Traditional Worship
 9 & 10:30AM Contemporary Worship
 9:15AM Connections Adult Education Hour
 10:30AM Kid Connect
 3:30PM Community Meal
 4PM Scout Troop 7106 @ The Rock



Monday 5/27

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED - MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday 5/28

8:30AM Katharina Von Bora Quilt Group
 9:30AM Leadership Staff Mtg.
 12PM Young at Heart (YAH)
 1:30PM Miracle Prayer Time
 6PM Celebrate Recovery Small Groups
 6:30PM Boy Scout Troop 7006 @ The Rock
 7:30PM Tues. Men's Bible Study

Wednesday 5/29

5PM Summer Bells
 6PM ALC Youth @ The Rock

Thursday 5/30

5:45AM Crossfire Men's Ministry
 8:15AM "Good Book...Good Men" Bible Study
 2PM Library Volunteers
 5:15PM Friendship Bible Study
 5:30PM Celebrate Recovery
 6PM Church Council
 7PM Celebrate Recovery Small Group Meetings

Friday 5/31

11AM WOW Meeting



Young at Heart (YAH) - Come hear about the mission of the Arizona Crisis Team, on Tuesday, May 28. Join us for a meal (\$5 donation) and fellowship at noon, with the program at 12:30 PM. *Three ALC members are a valuable part of the dynamic and important work of the "Arizona Crisis Team."*

Arizona Crisis Team (ACT) is a nonprofit organization of trained volunteer advocates that provide 24/365, on-scene services in Yavapai County. ACT volunteers provide immediate crisis intervention support to individuals who have been faced with trauma. They are called by police officers, firefighters, paramedics and hospital personnel to assist family members and friends following a natural or unexpected death; victims of violent crime including rape, assault, robbery or burglary; victims of fire; disoriented or lonely elderly persons; people involved in motor vehicle accidents; people who are distraught and seeking immediate support; and survivors of suicide.

Please RSVP the church office (445-4348) if you plan on attending. Invite a friend, we hope to see you there!