

# Apostles Lutheran Church Visions

*To Know Jesus and make Jesus Known*



April 2024

Vol. 30 No. 4

Dear Friends,

One of the blessings of being in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod is that we have the resources, company, council, and companionship of a larger church body while also making our own decisions about our own congregation. At our April Voters meeting, on April 21st, we will engage an issue that has lurked around in the background of our congregation for at least the last 10 years. What do we do with our east property? Some of you are very aware of the history around that land and some of you do not even know we own it.

The empty (except for a storage shed) two acre lot that lies to the east of our church property, is owned by Apostles. The land was bought about 30 years ago as part of a dream to eventually build a middle school. However, dynamics, times and needs have changed, and that dream is no longer part of our congregation.

Currently, we use part of that property for overflow parking and occasionally rent it out as a staging area for different construction companies. In the past we have been able to pay the mortgage and maintain the property. The mortgage on the undeveloped property has now come due and we have to refinance it at a higher rate, which will mean higher costs for the undeveloped property. Currently the mortgage note on that property is about \$295,000 and is held by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. With our current resources we cannot afford the new payments. So the question is what do we do with that piece of property? At our Voters' Meeting

on April 21<sup>st</sup> we will vote whether or not to put the undeveloped property up for sale. If we vote to keep that parcel of land we are also committing to finding a way to pay the increased cost. If we vote to put it up for sale we will, of course, at a minimum ask for enough to cover the outstanding debt and costs associated with the sale.

If we sell that undeveloped parcel we are not giving up on our plans for growth. The current buildings and space we have on our developed property are adequate to house a congregation of at least 500 - 600 people, which is nowhere near our current or projected membership. We have nowhere near exhausted the uses of our current building site.

I know the sale or use of that parcel of land has been a contentious issue all the time I have been at this congregation and even before my time as your pastor. I do not want our discussion on April 21<sup>st</sup> to lead to more division. I would like our discussion on April 21<sup>st</sup> to lead to healing and realistic plans to move into the future. This is possible if we all remember that Jesus is the one in charge of our congregation. He has our best interest at heart and all the resources we need to carry on the work of our congregation. It is also possible if we love our neighbor as ourselves including the neighbors in our congregation. Please be in prayer about this and come to the Voter's Assembly meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30.

Peace, Pastor Andrew



**Apostles Lutheran Church**

**Voter's Meeting**

**Sunday April 21 12:30 pm**

Happy Spring everyone!

Wow, the rain we received in March has certainly blessed our garden. The plants are loving the moisture but unfortunately so did the weeds. We thank the Property Committee for including the Preschool areas in their weed control. To date, we have enjoyed carrots, cherry tomatoes and even a couple zucchini.

We are currently enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year, so please keep your eyes and ears alert for the any new littles ages 3 –5yrs. you may know that would benefit from the preschool experience . We focus on all the social emotional skills as well as the 3R's basics that will help them to be ready to enter kindergarten.

We had a bunch of fun on Palm Sunday coming to church and singing. We sang two songs, and they did a great job. I hope you were able to stay and hear them.

Now that it is Spring, we are beginning our Spring themed lessons, such as bees, lady bugs, flower life cycles, etc. We are looking forward to new art projects that celebrate Spring and all the new life that is popping up around us.

Being grateful for all God's Blessings,  
Miss Beckie , Miss Kellie, Miss Susan



## Apostles Lutheran Church Preschool

### On-going Enrollment

### Contact us today!



Monday—Friday 7:30 am—5:30 pm  
School Hours 8:30 am—Noon

Need Based Scholarships Available  
Apostles Church Member Discounts

For details contact Beckie Ellis at 623-312-4831

## Human Care Ministry

### Food Pantry

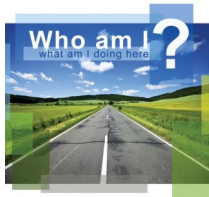
Our food pantry is funded ,in part, thanks to a grant from the West Valley Lutheran Thrift Shop. Our sincere thanks goes out to them. If you, or someone you know, need a food box, please fill out the Food Box Request form on the Human Care Ministry table in the Narthex. Place your request in the box on the table. Food boxes are available for pick-up on Tuesdays from 9 to 11.





03 Claudia Ostrander  
 08 Jimmie Hoffman  
 Tom Moore Sr.  
 09 Sarah Edmondson  
 13 Barbara George  
 14 Leah Peserik  
 Susan Thomas  
 18 Amy Huff

19 Pam Yohnka  
 20/1979 Stephan & Lisa Waltz  
 21 Ruby Ellis  
 23 Elaine Hanson  
 Gary Johnson  
 24 Marie Hoerner  
 25 Autumn Byars  
 Ryan Johnson  
 Paul Wise  
 29 Deb Kamps  
 John Nicol



**Men's Bible Study  
 Prayer**

2nd and 4th Saturdays  
 of the month  
 9:00 am  
 Administration Building



**Apostles Women's  
 Bible Study**

Women's Bible study resumes April 10, at 6pm in the conference room. We will be studying 1 and 2 Peter. Prayerfully consider joining us for study and fellowship. No book - no problem we have what you need.



If you or a loved one is hospitalized, please contact the church office so that we can pray for you and so that one of the Pastors or Elders can visit.

Prayer requests can be made through the church office either by sending an email to secretary.apostles@phxcoxmail.com or calling 623-979-3497.

These requests will then be forwarded on to all our members to include in their daily prayers.



**Are we missing your picture?**

Putting names and faces together is much easier if you provide a picture for the directory. Bring a picture to the secretary to be scanned, email a picture, or ask Pastor to take one on Sunday morning. Getting updates for your church directory is as easy as requesting that service to be provided to you. Drop your directory off in the church office (labeled with your name) and it will be updated for you. We make every attempt to print address changes and additions in the monthly newsletter so you can update your own directory. If you do not currently have a directory and would like one, we can print one for you. (The cost to print a directory in color is approx. \$8.)

## *Those Serving Us This Month*

8:00 am

11:00 am

<p>April 7</p> <p>Video operator:</p> <p>8am– Jed Byars</p> <p>11am - Judi Markosian</p> <p>Counters - Joyce Heil &amp; Judi Markosian</p> <p>Pew Maintenance - Donna Foxhoven &amp; Maria Klockow</p>	<p>Duane Bargmann, elder</p> <p>Rick Grulke, usher</p> <p>Terri Grulke, usher</p> <p>Jean Morriss, reader</p> <p>Joyce Dickerson, altar guild</p> <p>Sawyer Edmondson, acolyte</p>	<p>Don Miller, elder</p> <p>Amaris Baldwin, reader</p> <p>Joyce Heil, altar guild</p> <p>Henry Baldwin, acolyte</p>
<p>April 14</p> <p>Video operator:</p> <p>8am– Tom Schleier</p> <p>11am - As God Provides</p> <p>Counters - Martha Danner &amp; Karen Nicol</p> <p>Pew Maintenance - Donna Foxhoven &amp; Maria</p>	<p>Skip Kamps, elder</p> <p>Stephen Waltz, usher</p> <p>DeWayne Klockow, usher</p> <p>Pat Bilovesky, reader</p> <p>Connor Edmondson, acolyte</p>	<p>Don Miller, elder</p> <p>Joyce Heil, reader</p> <p>Kyrabelle Gentry, acolyte</p>
<p>April 21</p> <p>Video operator:</p> <p>8am - Judi Markosian</p> <p>11am - Abel Abraha</p> <p>Counters - Ron Bissey &amp; Skip Kamps</p> <p>Pew Maintenance - Donna Foxhoven &amp; Maria Klockow</p>	<p>Skip Kamps, elder</p> <p>Lyle Schlenz, usher</p> <p>Gaylen Andrejack, altar guild</p> <p>Sawyer Edmondson, acolyte</p>	<p>Don Miller, elder</p> <p>Amaris Baldwin, reader</p> <p>Lynn Hodgden, altar guild</p> <p>Henry Baldwin, acolyte</p>
<p>April 28</p> <p>Video operator:</p> <p>8am - Tom Schleier</p> <p>11am - Abel Abraha</p> <p>Counters - Brenda Smith &amp; Joel Helsper</p> <p>Pew Maintenance - Donna Foxhoven &amp; Maria Klockow</p>	<p>Duane Bargmann, elder</p> <p>Barry Yohnka, usher</p> <p>Joel Helsper, usher</p> <p>Duane Bargmann, reader</p> <p>Connor Edmondson, acolyte</p>	<p>Joel Helsper, elder</p> <p>Nikki Key, reader</p> <p>Kyrabelle Gentry, acolyte</p>



Altar Flowers

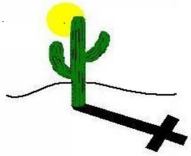
If you wish to donate flowers for a special occasion, the cost is \$25. Please sign the flower chart located in the Fellowship Hall. If you sign up for flowers after the newsletter has been sent for that month, please call the church office. We have space for **2** arrangements per Sunday with a cost of \$25 per arrangement. You can place your payment in the offering box clearly marked FLOWERS.

April 7 Skip & Deb Kamps in honor of their grandson (Sawyer) birthday

April 14

April 21 Stephan & Lisa Waltz in celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary

April 28



**Lutheran Thrift Shop**  
 10615 West Peoria Ave, Sun City  
[www.wvlutheranthrift.com](http://www.wvlutheranthrift.com)

Last month we celebrated our wonderful volunteers, who generously give thousands of hours every year, at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Last year our 200+ volunteers worked over 44,000 hours in the shop. According to the federal government, an hour of volunteer time in Arizona is worth \$25+. That means our volunteers saved the thrift shop more than a million dollars in payroll last year. Way to go volunteers—that's good business!

Our volunteers are awesome and without them we could never have donated over \$10 million dollars in grants over the past 30 years.

Right now we're looking for cashiers; men and women who are friendly and love interacting with others. These folks are the face of the shop!! With summer quickly approaching, getting more qualified cashers trained and working is a priority. We are looking to fill morning and afternoon shifts—Monday thru Saturday.

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. 623.815.7061



1329 N 29<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite E-15,  
 Phoenix, AZ

Our front door faces I-10  
 (2 blocks south of McDowell Rd. on  
 29th Ave  
 see our sign by the gate)

Secretary Susan Thomas @  
 480.621.9251;  
[414stthomas@gmail.com](mailto:414stthomas@gmail.com).

**April workdays are**  
**April 13 & 27**  
**8am to noon.**

**Our Mission:** In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as a bandage well applied and sometimes as a child well fed.

## "New Earth"

by Pastor Ray Wilke, OGT's Founder & President

Every New Year brings new resolutions, new plans, new beginnings and lots of new opportunities and challenges. I have often been curious about God's plans for "New Heavens and a New Earth." What does this mean? Does it mean renewal, or does it mean a whole new planet or a whole new cosmos?

There is a man and wife couple north of Tilden, Nebraska who sell tons of African Night Crawlers castings (night crawler manure) for improving the fertility of gardens and production agriculture. Soil experts agree that the castings help establish a microbial environment that releases natural occurring nutrients into the soil. The worms make "new earth" out of old earth.

There is another farmer in Lancaster County, Nebraska who claims that keeping "cover crops" on the soil, year-round allows nature to do its work in renewing the soil and in the water-holding-capacity. The roots of the cover crop allow the microbes to have a food source even in winter.

I believe that the worm castings and the cover crops are good renewal practices, but these things have been around for a very long time. These practices are probably new to most of us, but they are not new. What about "new earth" do we get that by following good old/new farming practices? Or do we get it by listening to what God/Jesus says about it?

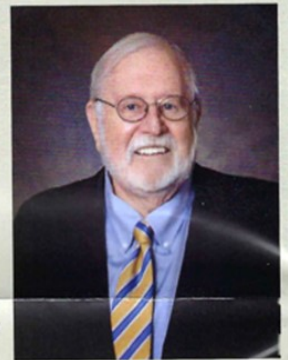
He who is seated on the Throne said, 'Behold I am making all things new.' Seven hundred years earlier He said, "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."

This is the same "new earth" Person who gathered with His disciples on the night before his death and said to them, "Drink of it all, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins."

There are lots of "new's" in God's New Earth Plan.

A new command I give you: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

I pray that this New Year will bring God's "New Earth Plan" to you and to God's Good Earth.



**Pastor Ray Wilke, after mission trip to Latvia in 1992, he envisioned & founded OGT to help bring aid to God's hurting people.**

**ALOMA'S BURGER BASH**

**JUNE 15TH 12PM**

YEAR 51 AND WE ARE STILL HAVING FUN! JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN GOD'S CREATION.

**RSVP**  
office@campaloma.com  
928-778-1690

The annual Camp ALOMA Burger Bash is on June 15th this year! This day is spent in the nice breezy pines of Prescott Arizona enjoying activities such as archery and hiking. Good food and good company awaits you if

**CAMP ALOMA SUMMER 2024**

Registration Fee: \$365

Join us for a summer of ADVENTURE and FUN!

**Activities:**

- Bible Study
- Canoeing
- Archery
- Rock Climbing
- Nature Hikes
- Campfires
- Gaga ball

**Dates:**

- Week 1 Jun 2nd-7th (Ex/Pio/Jr/JST)
- Week 2 Jun 9th-14th (Mini/Ex/Pio/Jr)
- Week 3 Jun 16th-21st (Ex/Pio/Jr)
- Week 4 Jun 23rd-28th (Ex/Pio/Jr)
- Week 5 June 30th - July 5th (Ex/Pio/Jr/JST)
- Week 6 July 7th-12th (Ex/Pio/Jr)
- Week 7 14th -19th (Jr/HS)

**Address:**  
300 S Margaret Dr.  
Prescott AZ 86305

**Email:**  
office@campaloma.com

**Phone:**  
928-778-1690

**Register now at:**  
campaloma.com

### Registration is OPEN!

If you haven't heard summer 2024 is up and running! A week away at camp is the

**HIRING**

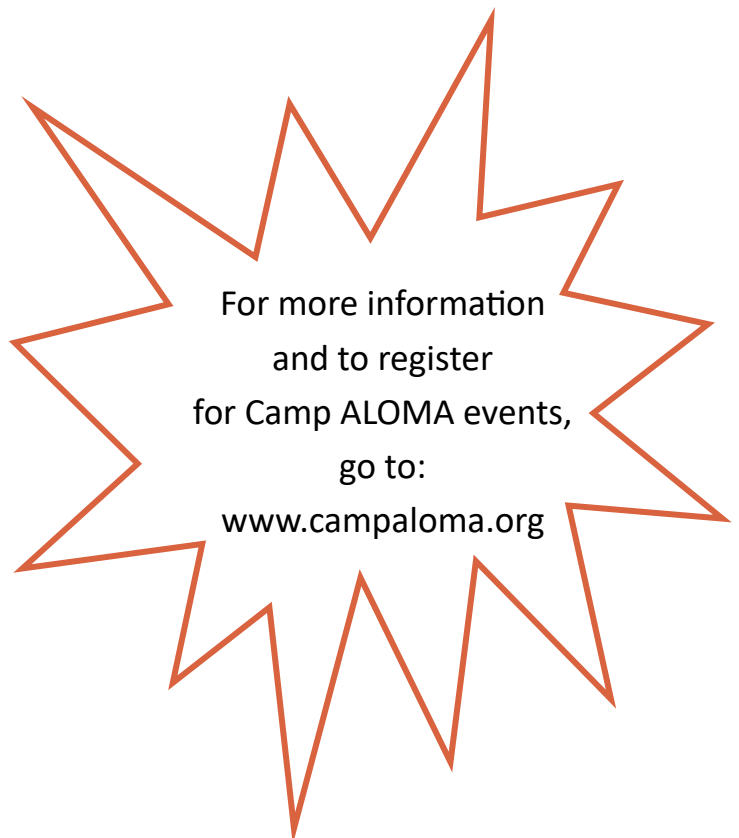
**SUMMER STAFF**

- Grow in your faith and build community
- Unleash your inner kid
- Stay active all summer long

**APPLY NOW**

**Start Date**  
May 25th 2024

**Camp ALOMA**  
300 S Margaret Dr.  
Prescott, AZ 86305





### LWML Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

“When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice” (John 10:4)

Mite Sunday is March 31, 2024 – a freewill offering will be taken at the 8am & 11am services. Your offering will help support missions locally, nationally, and internationally.

2023-2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 6  
**MOBILE KITCHEN**  
FORGED BY FIRE SERVICES | \$85,000



### Sharing Jesus One Plate of Food at a Time

The Gulf Coast Region of the United States is hit annually with hurricanes, flooding, and tornadoes. In the aftermath of the disaster, people’s lives are turned upside down. Their homes may need extensive repair, electrical service is down, and food is scarce. It is in these situations that Forged by Fire Services, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization (RSO), based in LaCombe, Louisiana, reaches out with meals.

Forged by Fire volunteers come into a community with their kitchen equipment in cargo style trailers. They establish a base camp near a Lutheran Church in the disaster affected community. They set up their tent and kitchen and prepare meals for the community. The tent requires a large area and sometimes the weather conditions make the meal preparation and service difficult. Going forward they want to purchase a mobile kitchen trailer. With the trailer they can easily begin helping in areas needing assistance. This grant will help purchase the mobile kitchen trailer.

The volunteers prepare meals to feed those who’ve suffered losses because of the natural disasters. The served meals help their physical bodies, but they also receive help for their spiritual needs. Working with local churches allows the congregations to help serve and connect with their hurting community. Someone is available to speak with those in need and point them in the right direction for help, prayers are offered, and resources such as devotionals and Bibles are shared. It is during the darkest times for the people that hope is given, with a vision of better days ahead.

*If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? (James 2:15-16).*



Bulletin Insert | Learn more at [lwml.org/mission-grants](http://lwml.org/mission-grants)

Mite Sunday is June 30, 2024 – a 2<sup>nd</sup> freewill offering will be taken at the Sunrise, 8am & 11am services. Your offering will help support missions locally, nationally, and internationally.

**Apostles Lutheran Church**

7020 W. Cactus Rd. Peoria, AZ 85381-5318

Office: 623-979-3497 Fax: 623-979-5778

Email: secretary.apostles@phxcoxmail.com

www.apostles-az.org

**WORSHIP**

8:00am & 11:00am Worship  
(communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays)

9:30am Bible Study

Facebook.com/apostleslutheranchurchaz

www.Youtube.com/ApostlesLutheranChurch Peoria AZ

**Prayer Chain**

Church Office (Mon—Fri) Phone 623-979-3497

Email: secretary.apostles@phxcoxmail.com

May newsletter Deadline

Monday April 15

(All information and articles **must** be on the secretary's desk  
by 9am on deadline day)

**Office Hours**

Mon-Thurs 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Senior Pastor**

Rev. Andrew Byars pastorbyars@phxcoxmail.com

**Associate Pastor**

Rev. Ramon Cabrales preacherrc@hotmail.com

**Deaconess**

Maria del Carmen Cabrales

**Deacon**

Duane Danner

**Parish Administrator**

Kris Lindsay secretary.apostles@phxcoxmail.com

**Preschool Director**

Beckie Ellis preschool.apostles@phxcoxmail.com