

Apostles Lutheran Church Visions

To Know Jesus and make Jesus Known



May 2025

Vol. 31 No. 5

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Dear Friends,

As many of you have heard, on May 4th we are moving to one English language worship service on Sundays at 9:00 AM and moving the Spanish language worship back an hour to 10:30 AM. We will enjoy the fullness of our church. All the members will see each other and be able to connect with each other. “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1). Especially in the summer our attendance numbers drop as do most congregations. Instead of having two smaller services we have decided to have one service to concentrate the singing, energy, enthusiasm, and connection.

This move has caused me to think about why we actually “go to church” and have worship services. For many years the idea behind having two worship services was to appeal to more people by having two different styles of worship. But that has not born fruit. It turns out that having two different styles of worship takes a lot more people and resources than we had available. As we continue to grow, perhaps that idea can be revisited.

Why do we “go to church” and show up in person? We believe that God the Holy Spirit comes to each believer through physical means, baptism and the bread and wine of the Lord’s Supper, as well as the word of God that we read and hear preached. Too often we equate the presence of the Holy Spirit with our individual emotional state. That is not true. God is active and with us regardless of our emotional state. We can be happy, sad, in pain, bored, scared, joyful, curious or any number of other emotional states and God is still with us. He comes to us by means of his word read and his word explained.



Us knowing and listening to His word is so important to God that the third of His ten commandments tells us to set aside time to focus on and listen to His word. “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and his word. But hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.” (Small Catechism). Since most of us live our lives by routine and group accountability, its easiest to accomplish this as a group and on a regular basis. Though not required by scripture, most

Christians today gather to focus on God’s word once a week on the day of Jesus’ resurrection, Sunday, rather than on the Old Testament worship day of Saturday. One of the reasons we physically show up is to receive the Holy Spirit in the means of grace. We also learn in the sermons and bible classes but that’s not the only reason we show up. We show up to receive.

We also show up to build relationships. God is a very relational being. All of the Bible tells us that. People are the most important thing to God. We especially see that in Luke 15 and Matthew 18. We worship together, work together, encourage each other, and yes forgive each other. This is how relationships are built. Its easier to build relationships in person, than online. The reason we “go to church” is to receive the Holy Spirit, build our relationship with God and with each other.

Everything I said above applies if you are staying home for the summer or hitting the road. Gather with God’s people wherever you are, and you will be blessed.

Peace,

Pastor Andrew



Altar Flowers

May 4

May 11

May 18

May 25 Skip & Deb Kamps in memory of mother, Dorna Kamps

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**. Our florist is Four Seasons located at 67th Ave. and Cactus 623-878-2740. Please keep them in mind for your floral needs.



01 Oscar Miller
 Deb Rayburn
 06 Jean Morriss
 05/06/1978 Sharon & Mike Ferraro
 07 Ariadna Cabrales
 05/10/1975 Fred & Elizabeth Polak
 05/13/1983 Octavio & Maria Figueuroa

16 Donna Foxhoven
 05/23/1980 Dave & Dawn DuRocher
 05/26/1990 Pastor Andrew & Marie Byars
 05/26/2012 Leo Gonzales & Dora Ordaz
 30 Lynn Hodgden
 30 Fernando Carranza



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.)



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.

Camp ALOMA

News



Summer Staff 2025

CHANGE LIVES

EIGHT WEEKS
OF FUN



Make your summer matter!
Work at camp this summer to sing, dance, play, and explore! To live in an intentional Christian community, encourage others in their faith, and grow your leadership skills!



Apply Now

PHONE: 928-778-1690
OFFICE@CAMPALOMA.COM
CAMPALOMA.COM



\$365

Camp ALOMA SUMMER CAMP 2025

June Sessions	July Sessions
W1- 6/1-6/6	W5- 6/29-7/4
W2- 6/8-6/13	W6- 7/6-7/11
W3- 6/15-6/20	W7- 7/13-7/18
W4- 6/22-6/27	

Activities:

- Archery
- Canoeing
- Slingshot
- Lovropes course
- Bible Study

Grades Offered:

- Mini Camp (1st-3rd)
- Explorers (3rd-4th)
- Pioneers (5th-6th)
- JR High (7th-9th)
- High School (9th-12th)
- JC Training (9th-11th)

Come join us this summer for fun, adventure, and Jesus!
Head on over to our website to see which weeks are open for your camper!

Information: 928-778-1690 campaloma.com



"This is our first time!"

Each time I welcome a newcomer to the Thrift Shop I'm amazed! After 30 years on the same corner, there are still people coming in every-day who have never shopped with us. Most comment at the size, cleanliness and organization of the shop and the friendly people they encounter. We have so much to offer "thrifties" as they navigate through our many departments.

The Silent Auction is always a big draw to our customers; outbidding someone for an item makes the win more special! Our extensive jewelry department is another place customers spend a lot of time. The Man Cave is popular for the treasure hunter looking for just the right part, cord, bolt or bulb to bring an item back to life. Vintage electronics like receivers, turntables, DVD/VCR players, clock radios and speakers are popular for purists who believe the best music doesn't come from a streaming service. We have a huge Art Department stocked with framed art, empty frames and metal wall art for every taste.

A trip through the shop wouldn't be complete without visiting the Holiday House. It features decorations for upcoming holidays, gift bags, wreaths and Christmas 365 days a year. Speaking of holidays, did you know we sell greeting cards for .25? Best bargain in Sun City.

We have the largest selection of gently-used, pet-free, smoke-free furniture of any thrift shop making us popular with students, temporary residents and those looking for quality furniture without the brand-new price.

I haven't even talked about our clothing departments for both men and women or the big Book Nook, full of paperbacks, hard covers, games & puzzles, CDs, VHS tapes, movies and vintage vinyl. I guess you're just going to have to come by and check us out! See you soon.

Keep up with the LTS by following us on Facebook.
<https://www.facebook.com/westvalleylutheranthriftshop/>
Or at our website: www.lutheranthrift.com



Social Ministries— Service Project

While sleeping mats are still being made, we ask that you do not bring bags to church until September. This will give us time to use the bags you have already donated. Thank you.

Did you ever imagine those pesky overly abundant plastic grocery bags that pile up in our homes could make a positive difference in the life of a person on the streets? They most certainly can. Brave and intrepid volunteers here at Apostles are making sleeping mats from plastic bags. It takes 500-700 bags to make one mat. These mats are lightweight, easy to clean, and provide insulation and a barrier between the individual and the ground or floor.

It takes between 400-700 bags to make a mat, so you all have done a super job at moving this project forward. I encourage you to pray for the homeless as you fold the bags flat. Those working on crocheting mats are praying for the homeless, also. We will collaborate with a group that serves the homeless to get them delivered. In the meantime, let's cover them in prayer.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

"The Prayer Shawl ministry has shawls available upon request. If you have a special request let us know. We will make a shawl with prayers for that specific person.

Email Mary Otte at

Mbotte52779@gmail.com

with your request.

Human Care Ministry

The Free Food Box Giveaway is the 3rd Saturday of the month. In February we had our first food box giveaway and served 9 families. In March we served 21 families. Thank you to those who are responsible for getting the word out by providing a sign and a stand for the sign. Each family received a food box, and a prayer from Deacon Danner. Included in the food box is information designed to help them in their walk with Jesus or to bring them to Jesus. We look forward to the 3rd Saturday of the month and the opportunity to help others.

The grant from the Lutheran Thrift Shop helps to fill our food pantry, and your donations fill in the gap. Thank you for your donations to the food pantry and remember to shop at the West Valley Lutheran Thrift Shop on 107th and Peoria Ave. Volunteers are needed to process, cashier, or help as needed. It's a pressure free job with great benefits – like making new friends!

We need your help! Households cannot use SNAP benefits to buy any nonfood items such as cleaning supplies, paper products, and other household supplies. Therefore, in addition to food, we want to help with: **deodorant, toilet paper, paper towels, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothpaste (we have a lot of toothbrushes), feminine products, and baby supplies. Items must be unopened.** We make available these types of items when they pick up

Prayer For Helping Those In Need

Gracious Lord,

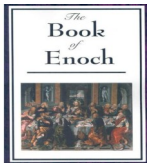
Thank you for your love and mercy in my life. Thank you for being my provider and my comforter. Today, I pray for those who are struggling and in need of help. I pray that you will visit them and bless them. Touch their lives, Lord, let them see your goodness in their life. I pray that you, Lord, will use me as a tool to spread joy to people. Fill my heart with the desire to help people. Teach me to be patient and understanding to people. Help me to identify the needy and help them. Teach me to put what you've given me to good use in order to benefit others, in Jesus' name, I pray,

Amen

THE GRACEFUL CHAPTER

Those Serving Us This Month

<p>May 4</p> <p>Video operator: Tom Schleier</p> <p>Counters - Joyce Heil & Ron Bissey</p> <p>Pew Maintenance - Ron Bissey</p>	<p>Skip Kamps, elder</p> <p>Rick Grulke, usher</p> <p>Terri Grulke, usher</p> <p>Ginnie Bargmann, reader</p> <p>Gayle Andrejack, altar guild</p> <p>Henry Baldwin, acolyte</p>
<p>May 11</p> <p>Video operator: Tom Schleier</p> <p>Counters - Karen Nicol & Judi Markosian</p> <p>Pew Maintenance - Ron Bissey</p>	<p>Don Miller, elder</p> <p>Stephen Waltz, usher</p> <p>DeWayne Klockow, usher</p> <p>Tom Nass, reader</p> <p>Henry Baldwin, acolyte</p>
<p>May 18</p> <p>Video operator: Tom Schleier</p> <p>Counters - Joyce Heil & Ron Bissey</p> <p>Pew Maintenance - Ron Bissey</p>	<p>Joel Helsper, elder</p> <p>Lyle Schlenz, usher</p> <p>John Nicol, usher</p> <p>Tom Schleier, reader</p> <p>Leah Peserik, altar guild</p> <p>Sawyer Edmondson, acolyte</p>
<p>May 25</p> <p>Video operator: Abel Abraha</p> <p>Counters - Brenda Smith & Joel Helsper</p> <p>Pew Maintenance - Ron Bissey</p>	<p>Russ Hodgden, elder</p> <p>Barry Yohnka, usher</p> <p>Ken Hodgden, usher</p> <p>Jean Morriss, reader</p> <p>Sawyer Edmonson, acolyte</p>



Not Quite the Bible Study

2nd and 4th Fridays 7pm
Room 5 (Admin. Bldg)



Men's Bible Study

2nd and 4th Saturdays 9:00 am
Admin Building Rm 5



Apostles Women's Bible Study

Mondays 10:00 am
Office Building Library



1329 N 29th Ave, Suite E-15 Phoenix, AZ

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

Secretary Susan Thomas @ 480.621.9251 414stthomas@gmail.com.

**Friends of Orphan Grain Train,
Arizona Branch, Phoenix Collection Center**

Make A Difference



SPRING CLEANING TIME

We need clothing, all sizes and types, also new socks and underwear for the whole family, toddlers to great grandparent sizes. So, clean out those closets, dressers and bureaus!

UPCOMING WORK DATES:

SATURDAY, MAY 10th , FROM 8 AM – NOON

SATURDAY MAY 24th, FROM 8 AM - 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 warm clothing and sometimes as a child well fed.

Go to www.ogt.org and follow the instructions.

Cash donations are most welcome to help deliver your gifts and may be **made payable to Orphan Grain Train** and sent to

Jeannie Becker , OGT AZ Branch Treasurer
16670 W Bajada Tr. Surprise AZ 85387-8201



Classroom Building rooms 1 & 2

May 13th - Courageous

Bring your own beverage and a snack to share.

If you do not think you can sit on those folding chairs that long, bring in a comfy chair .

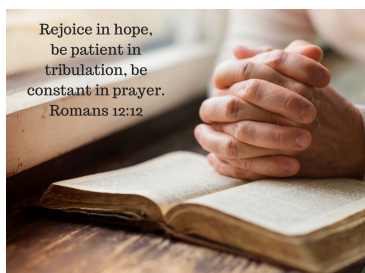


LWML Mission Statement

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 June 29, 2025 – there will be a 2nd freewill offering taken at the 9am service.



For more ways to serve the Lord with gladness visit www.lwml.org



That is **\$2,350,000.00** that you helped to raise. In June, in Omaha, NE the ladies of the LWML will vote on a new mission goal and new mission grants. Stayed tuned for updates later in the summer.

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

9:00 am Worship

(communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays)

10:30am Bible Study

Facebook.com/apostleslutheranchurchaz

www.Youtube.com/ApostlesLutheranChurchPeoriaAZ

Office Hours

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

June newsletter Deadline

Thursday, May 15

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

Prayer Chain

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

Email: secretary.apostles@phxcoxmail.com

Senior Pastor

Rev. Andrew Byars pastorbyars@phxcoxmail.com

Associate Pastor

Rev. Ramon Cabrales preacherrc@hotmail.com

Deaconess

Maria del Carmen Cabrales

Parish Administrator

Kris Lindsay secretary.apostles@phxcoxmail.com