

# THE LIVE WIRE

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PLUG INTO THE HIGHEST POWER

November 4, 2022



"Growing women in Christ"



This year Women of Wisdom (WOW) supported the Community Pregnancy Center as their fall outreach project. The outcome of the project was huge and the women's generosity was a huge blessing to the program!

Many beautiful baby items were donated, on top of cash donations of \$2,977 and gift cards totaling \$185 for a grand total of **\$3,162!!**

The women at the center were so grateful! They shared with us that just the week before they were completely out of Size 5 diapers and actually had to go to Costco to purchase some for the Baby Store and was going to have to put a grant together to try and get a donation from a local company that supports them to be able to purchase more diapers. But thanks to the WOW ladies and their donation she now has the funds to purchase what they need. The timing of their donation was perfect!

Thank you to all who participated in this important project for the Community Pregnancy Center. You ladies truly have a generous heart!



## The Voice of the Martyrs

November 6 is the International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians.

In China's the Communist government has banned the online sale of Bibles in a further attempt to silence the witness of persecuted Christians. The Chinese Communist Party is also finalizing a revised study Bible that includes notes teaching its Communist ideology. In Iraq in 2014, when ISIS invaded Mosul and surrounding areas of the Nineveh Plains, where Iraqi Christians have lived for generations, the Islamists systematically burned churches and Bibles. Now, Christians there are hungry to once again own a copy of God's Word.

Christians living on the world's most dangerous frontier mission fields cherish God's Word. Persecutors around the world are threatened by God's Word and seek to destroy or remove Bibles in order to discourage the witness of Christians. Let us pray that every Christian living in hostile areas and restricted nations will receive their own copy of a Bible and that Christians will be wise as serpents and innocent as dove (Matthew 10:16) as they smuggle and distribute the Bibles. Also let us pray that persecutors who seize Bibles will read them and place their trust in Christ. Placing a Bible in the hands of every believer living and encouraging them to be bold witnesses for Christ.

Example Prayer: "Heavenly Father, inspire me through the example of my persecuted brothers and sisters to cherish Your Word. May we serve You boldly so that others may be filled with the knowledge of Your glory. Amen"

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

After prayerfully seeking God's wisdom, the call committee recommended that American Lutheran not issue a call for the Associate Pastor position at this time. Instead, the call committee recommended ALC hire a vicar. A vicar is a member of the clergy who, while not high ranking, is still considered a Holy representative of the church. The call committee enthusiastically endorsed Christian Thao for this vicar position and presented this proposal to the church council. The council unanimously approved the proposal.

Vicar Christian will be hired while he completes his ordination process. He is expected to start his vicarship with us around December 1. He will report to Pastor Erich, be given assigned duties and have opportunities to preach. This is a developmental role under a Pastor's leadership and mentoring, during which he will refine the skills required of a future pastor. This is a unique opportunity, responsibility and honor for ALC, and one which both the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) and the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) fully support.

With this decision, the call committee search process for an Associate Pastor will be put on hold.

Next steps:

First, it should be emphasized that no Associate Pastor will be called without congregational review, input and vote.

Typically, it takes 12 to 18 months for a vicar to be ordained and given the title of "Pastor." Once ordained, the call committee will resume the Associate Pastor call process. The call committee will determine whether 1) Pastor Christian is interested in our Associate Pastor position; 2) he should be the committee's selected candidate; or whether 3) the committee should continue its search.

According to the ALC constitution, the call committee will submit its recommended candidate to the church council for approval. If approved by council, a congregational meeting will be held for discussion and a vote on the candidate.

The office staff at ALC simply is not in a position to answer questions about the process in general or the vicar position specifically. If you have questions, please submit them to [alc2022callcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:alc2022callcommittee@gmail.com). You will receive a response. Thank you.

## HAND-IN-HAND

Hand-in-Hand Widow's Group is meeting for lunch and socializing on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 11:30 AM at Casa Sanchez, 1459 W Gurley St, Prescott.

If you would like more information or would like to join us please call Mary Drake at (928)778-7430.



## GIVING STATEMENTS

A reminder that we now only mail out member's giving statements bi-annually. However, you may call Abbie in the office for an update at any time.

# AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH MINISTRIES OF LOSS

**GriefShare-** is starting its third season on October 24. This ministry has helped many people recover from the death of someone they loved. Our church council recently approved new ministries which will help people who have suffered devastating loss of a different kind.

**DivorceCare-** will help people recover from the loss of their marriage by divorce or separation or the end of a long-term relationship. This is a video/seminar support group that meets for 14 weeks at ALC. It is scheduled to begin **January, 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

**Shattered-** will help parents to heal with hope when they have suffered the death of their child of any age, by any circumstance. This is a 10-week facilitated small-group book and bible study starting in 2023. In addition to the small group format, **we have an experienced Stephen Minister, Susan Friedman, who will offer no-cost individual or couple counseling in a church setting.**

**Prayers For Prodigals-** is a 13-week facilitated annual event starting in **February 2023** for parents and grandparents who are concerned about their child's loss of faith and estrangement from the church or are suffering the disappearance of their child due to mental illness, drugs, relationship issues or incarceration. "How do you handle the overwhelming dread of your son or daughter walking away from faith and you. When you have tried it all, what can you do? This course will equip you to come to the heavenly Father with gut-wrenching honesty and hope-filled persistence." Prayers For Prodigals

**Program Director for Ministries of Loss at ALC-** Gail Osten has been working in church ministries for 50 years. She began as a Sunday school teacher and has moved through many types of professional and volunteer ministries in churches around the country. She has served as Director of children's and adult education, worked in administration of a Christian high school, and ended her professional career as Executive Director of a Christian Social Service Agency. Since retiring, she has been trained and worked as a Stephen Minister, a grief minister, led bible studies and *GriefShare* groups in Chandler, AZ and here at ALC.

**Current Volunteers-** Brenda Keith and Linda Lucic Smith are the dedicated volunteers who have been facilitating GriefShare. They feel blessed and honored to answer God's call on their lives to minister in this way. Karen Holsapple and Elena Englesman have responded as well and are looking forward to training and serving *DivorceCare* in the new year. Cheryl Peterman has consented to facilitate Prayers For Prodigals starting in February 2023.

**Stephen Ministers-** Gail is seeking past trained men and women Stephen Ministers to serve in *Shattered* as well as helping with *GriefShare* and *DivorceCare*. If you have been trained as a Stephen Minister and do not currently have an active ministry, please contact Gail to discuss how you can use your gifts, training, and calling to help others with personal loss here at ALC.

**Volunteers-** Ministries of Loss is also seeking persons who have experienced any of the above mentioned losses and is willing to be trained to serve as a leader, group facilitator or helper.

**Praying Our Losses and for our Loss Ministries-** GriefShare, DivorceCare, Shattered, Prodigals, Loss of Pet, Losses in Life – Weekly prayer group welcomes anyone to come together on **Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. in the Prayer Room.** This group prays specifically for persons who have suffered the death of a loved one, for people before and after the funeral of a loved one, for people suffering a divorce or separation, for parents who have lost a child, for parents who have children who have strayed away from home or faith, for people suffering the loss of a dearly loved pet, and for people who currently need prayer for any other kind of loss in their life.

Please contact Gail Osten at [gailosten@aol.com](mailto:gailosten@aol.com) for more information about any of the above.



# 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The 75th Anniversary of our church is coming in 2023. We would love to have you share any photos you might have from the facilities and events of years-gone-by and even more recent years. The photos will be scanned and possibly used in our calendar or on other memorabilia. Of course they will be returned. Please bring your photos, clearly labeled with your name, to the church.

# Thanksgiving FOOD DRIVE

The month of November is upon us and that means.....

THANKSGIVING and giving praise to our Lord and Savior for all of his mercies and kindnesses. It also means we will offer the opportunity to support the Community Cupboard with a canned food drive! Boxes will be placed in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall Lobby for your gifts. As always, the Community Cupboard can use any and all non-perishable food but especially high on the list is peanut butter, canned meats and cereal! If you know of anyone who is experiencing food insecurity, please tell them about the Community Cupboard and its services. They are there to provide some basic necessities. Bless you for your generosity! Especially in these inflationary times.

# BOOK LOOK

Hopefully, Pastor Jack's informative and challenging sermon on Oct 30<sup>th</sup> will have whet your appetite for learning more about Martin Luther. Listed below are the many books found in our ALC library about Luther and his wife Katharina.

**Here I Stand** by Roland Bainton – a comprehensive and in depth classic.

**Martin Luther: Road to Reformation**

by distinguished German Luther scholar, Heinric Boehmer.

**The Essential Luther**, edited by Jerry K. Robbins - a compilation of excerpts on central themes from Luther's essays, letters, and sermons.

**The Table Talk of Martin Luther**, edited by Thomas S. Kepler – consists of excerpts from Luther's conversations with his students and colleagues in which he comments on life, the church and the Bible. Some years ago my husband and I met regularly with about 10 people over dinner to discuss these table talks. Very stimulating conversations ensued!

**Martin Luther, Hero of Faith** by Frederick Nolh - for an easier read.

**The Legacy of Luther** by R.C. Sproul and Stephen J. Nichols – "a timely reminder that the church of our generation needs to be reformed anew." John Macarthur

One must not forget the woman who became Martin's wife: **Katharina von Bora – A Reformation Life** by Rudolf and Marilyn Markwald.

**Luther the Reformer – The Story of the Man and His Career** by James M. Kittelson & Hans H. Wiersma – "the right book at the right time for those seeking a faithful compass to Luther's life and times. Updated, fair, insightful & detailed without being overwhelming."

**Martin Luther: Road to Reformation** by Heinrich Boehmer – "a recreation of the formative career of the young man up through his life and finally the Diet of Worms."

**Martin Luther, A Life** by James A. Nestingen – "through vivid anecdotes and lively, historical descriptions this book captures the turbulent times and historic events through which Luther lived as well as his profound vision of God."

\***Luther** by Eric Metaxas – This tome looks formidable because of its massive size but "is very readable, bold, fast-paced and magisterial like its hero, yet always stylish and witty like its author."

Perhaps this reviewer's personal favorite is the 2017 publication, **\*Katharina and Martin Luther: The Radical Marriage of a Runaway Nun and a Renegade Monk** by Michelle DeRusha. This well researched nonfiction book offers refreshing insights into Christian history and so illuminates the Luthers' profound impact on the institution of marriage that it reads like fiction!

\*These two recently published books would be my go-to picks for understanding the man, Martin Luther, because they're well written, interesting and readable. Look for these books on the library cart in the narthex and outside the fellowship hall on alternating Sundays.

*Reviewed by, Vonna Reynolds*