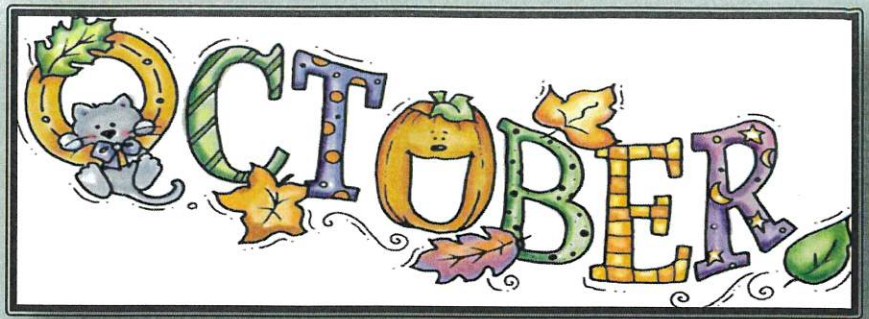


Shepherd of the Desert Monthly Newsletter

October 2026



Church Council

President: Keith LaShier

Vice President: Sheri Thirkell

Treasurer: Nancy Hempy

Council Secretary: Jane Hansen

Council Member: Nancy Fisher

Council Member: Kim Barnes-
Blumberg

Mission Statement

"To be a congregation that puts the Love of Christ into action from one generation to another from our community to our world"

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: John Maroni

jpmaroni17@gmail.com

Admin. Secretary: Kristen Wood

secretarysod1@gmail.com

Finance Secretary: Judy Yates

jyates717@gmail.com

Church office Phone #

623-933-1359

To watch online Sunday Worship and more information about S.O.D you can visit our website. www.sdaz.org

A New Season of Song and Reunion

*"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" — Psalm 98:4*

The Psalms speak of the power of music. Church music certainly has a special way of lifting our prayers, unifying our voices, and drawing us near to the presence of God. With that note, I am delighted to share some wonderful news with our Shepherd of the Desert family as we enter this Fall season of worship and ministry together!

Beginning **Saturday and Sunday, October 3-4**, at our 4:00 PM and 9:00 AM services, we will officially welcome **Dr. Chuck Sedgwick** as our new Music Director and Organist. Chuck is a remarkably talented musician with a rich variety of experience leading sacred music. He will be with us on Sundays and the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays of each month. Please help us give him a warm Shepherd of the Desert welcome.

As the autumn air begins to cool, we also extend a joyful welcome back to our seasonal members and friends returning to Arizona. The Bible reminds us of the beauty of gathering together after seasons apart: *"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing."* — Isaiah 35:1-2

I am thankful for all of you who participate in the life of Shepherd. Your presence at our worship services and activities enriches our community, and we are truly grateful to see our church family reunite once again for the season ahead.

With new music on the horizon and with snowbirds landing each day, the **Shepherd's Choir** will be resuming this Fall! Rehearsals will begin in October and are likely to take place on Thursdays. If you love to sing and want to share your gifts, the choir is the place for you.

May God bless our worship, our fellowship, and our journey together in this season.

Pastor John Maroni

Ongoing October Activities

Bible Study with Pastor John

Monday at 10:00 a.m. Bring your bible and a beverage. We are meet in the Founders Room. We are reading the lessons for the upcoming weekend services.

FREE First Wednesday Bingo

First Wednesday of **every month** through November. Fellowship, food, bingo and Prizes. **October 7th at 5 p.m.** in Walton Hall. Please make sure to sign up so we can plan for enough food. October Bingo Night we will be serving Sloppy Joes.

Paint Night

October 14th at 5:30 p.m. Please make sure to sign up so we can plan on snacks and supplies. Bring a beverage there is snacks provided. This is the painting for  October Paint Night.



Game Night

October 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Founders Room. Bring a game or join a game. Snacks provided but bring a beverage of your choice.

Pancake Breakfast

October 31st 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Walton Hall. The price is right **FREE!!!** This is a free breakfast for the community and S.O.D.

Council Presidents Message – October 2026

Fall season is arriving in Arizona and we expect to soon see more of our members filling the pews as they return from travels to cooler climates.

Your Council is busy preparing for the annual Congregational meeting on December 2nd. We hope to see many of you at this meeting as we reflect on our successes this past year and look forward to new initiatives in 2027.

Music Program Updates

We are pleased to share the news with everyone that Chuck Sedgwick will be joining SOD as our Organist-Music Director. For those who attended the Sunday service on September 20th they were treated to hear Chuck play the organ that day. He will be joining SOD in October and will play on Sundays and some monthly Saturday services.

Chuck has been in Phoenix for quite a few years. He had served as the Music Director for Cortez High School in Phoenix for approximately 20 years and led the choir and band programs.

Many Lutheran churches in Phoenix know of Chuck as he has filled in at many of them after he “retired” when they needed short term coverage for an organist.

He has obtained advanced educational degrees that include two Master’s degrees and one Doctoral degree. He specialized in organ and piano in one degree program and has an advanced degree in choral music. Many Pastors in the Phoenix area speak highly of his skills in playing the organ (primary) and piano (backup) and in leading choir groups.

For those of you who are interested in joining our choir please be ready to respond to a notice to all church members about the details of when and where the choir will begin practicing in October.

Thanks to everyone for what you offer to SOD with your contributions of time and other gifts.

God’s peace to you,

Keith E. LaShier – Council President



Article - Christmas is Coming! - Oct. 26

Christmas is coming!

As I write this, there are only 8 more Fridays until Christmas! Are you ready? Don't let the holidays sneak up on you. At the Lutheran Thrift Shop, we're all geared up for the winter holidays. We've got Thanksgiving covered with fall decor and turkeys to hang on the door. You'll also find the best selection of China sets for all the entertaining you'll be doing this holiday season.

We have Christmas trees in every size and variety! Tons of ornaments, oodles of crafted wreaths, stockings for your mantle and tablecloths for every shape table in your home! Christmas cards, music, candles, garland, lights, figurines, lawn décor, music boxes and Santas - of course, we have Santas!

We have gift wrap, centerpieces, wall hangings, Nativity sets, Christmas dishes and clothing and did I mention Christmas trees? A whole forest of Christmas trees! Shop early while the selection is best and get everything you need for the holidays at great prices.

Ho, Ho, Hope to see you soon!

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

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623.815.7061

Welcome to our New Organist Dr. Charles Sedgwick



Dr. Charles Sedgwick is a native of Wisconsin and a graduate of Carroll College in Waukesha. He holds an M.A. in Education from Whittier College (1986), an M.M. in Choral Music from Arizona State University (1989), and a D.M.A. in Organ Performance from Arizona State University (1999).

Dr. Sedgwick taught vocal music and piano at Cortez High School in Phoenix and has served as music director and organist at several Phoenix-area churches, including St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, and Orangewood Presbyterian Church. At present, he is the dean of the Central Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Dr. Sedgwick has been married to his wife, Louise, for 44 years and has two daughters, one granddaughter, and a grandson who will be arriving in January.



October 2026 Lutheran World Relief

LWR affirms God's love for all people as they work with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering.

Worship Attendance

	Sat.	Sun.	Visitor	You tube
September 5 & 6	41	36	1	62
September 12 & 13	25	41		60
September 19 & 20	24	40	1	34
September 26 & 27	25	45	1	29

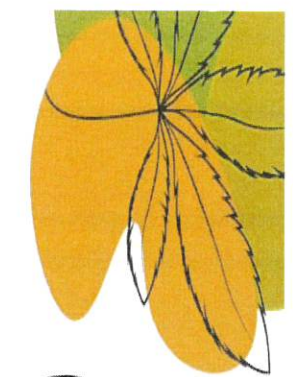


Trunk or Treat is on the Calendar for **Oct. 28th**. We will start collecting candy for this event. You can donate candy or you can note "Candy" on you offering envelope. This is a free event for the community. Thank you for all you do to support it!

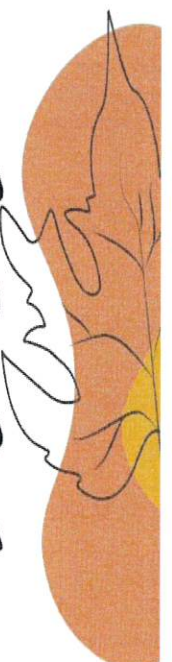


Curt Myers	10/06
Nancy Hempy	10/06
Sara Simons	10/09
Betty Myers	10/09
Angela Depelsmaecker	10/14
Kenny Jajou	10/16
Rev. Bruce Ayers	10/17
Mary Lund	10/31

Pastor John & Lisa Maroni
10/30/2013



October 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 2 pm AA Meeting 4 pm Worship Service
4 18 Sun. after Pentecost 9 am Worship Service 10 am Coffee Hour	5 10 am Bible Study W/Pastor John	6	7 10 am Tremble Clefs 5 pm Bingo Night 6 pm AA Meeting.	8	9	10 2 pm AA Meeting 4 pm Worship Service
11 19 Sun. after Pentecost 9 am Worship Service 10 am Coffee Hour	12 10 am Bible Study W/Pastor John	13	14 10 am Tremble Clefs 5:30 pm Paint Night 6 pm AA Meeting.	15	16	17 2 pm AA Meeting 4 pm Worship Service
18 20 Sun. after Pentecost 9 am Worship Service 10 am Coffee Hour	19 10 am Bible Study W/Pastor John	20	21 10 am Tremble Clefs 6 pm AA Meeting.	22	23 6:00 pm Came Night	24 2 pm AA Meeting 4 pm Worship Service
25 21 Sun. after Pentecost 9 am Worship Service 10 am Coffee Hour	26 10 am Bible Study W/Pastor John	27	28 10 am Tremble Clefs 5-7pm Trunk or Treat 6 pm AA Meeting.	29	30	31 8-10 am Pancake Breakfast 2 pm AA Meeting 4 pm Worship Service

