

American Lutheran Church of Sun City



Wednesday Night Alive!

2024-2025 Season

17200 N. Del Webb Blvd. Sun City, AZ 85373
623-974-2512 — www.alcsuncity.org

Welcome to Wednesday Night Alive!

Wednesday Night Alive! has been an integral part of American Lutheran Church of Sun City for over 25 years. This season is very special as we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of American Lutheran Church of Sun City.

The WNA season begins on the first Wednesday in November (November 6) with a special Gala kickoff program and continues weekly until Holy Week (through April 2). Each WNA event consists of a program at 4:00 p.m. followed by a dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m., and a program at 6:00 p.m. Most programs are held in the Sanctuary. During Advent and Lent, the 6:00 p.m. program is replaced by a church service. Attending the 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. programs is free and open to the public. There is a cost for the dinner and advance reservations are needed. See the back page of this brochure for the cost and how to make reservations.

The goal of WNA is to combine fellowship with outreach in a way that inspires, educates, entertains and enriches our lives and as well as strengthening our social connections. All WNA programs and meals are open to church members, non-members, and the general community.

Join us for Worship

Saturdays at 4:00 PM

Sundays at 8:30 & 10:30 AM



November 6

WNA Gala Event

4:00 PM: ALC's 50th Anniversary Celebration: 50 Years of ALC

On this day in 1974, a group came together to discuss the formation of a new Lutheran church in the northern part of Sun City. In pictures, song, and re-enactment, the history of American Lutheran Church of Sun City will be told, from 1974 through 2024! A fun kick-off to a year of celebrating ALC!



5:00 PM: Dinner: Roast Beef with Béarnaise Sauce, Twice Baked Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Broccoli Salad, Anniversary Cheesecake

6:00 PM: The Orpheus Men's Chorus performs Music of the 70s

What music were we listening to when ALC was being formed? Come hear this world-class men's chorus performs music of the 1970s by The Beatles, The Beach Boys, Carpenters and ABBA, among others. The Orpheus Men's Chorus was formed in 1929 and has performed throughout the world. We are thrilled to have this professional men's chorus kick-off our very special WNA season!

"The cost of this program has been underwritten by an anonymous donor"



November 13

Veteran's Day Celebration

4:00 PM: A Tribute to our Veterans

In the ALC Courtyard surrounded by flags, the ALC Veterans Day celebration will begin with the presentation of colors by the Luke AFB Honor Guard. Retired army nurse and pilot Wanona Fritz will speak on "Memories, Lessons Learned, & Gifts of Serving in the Military." Guests will be seated outside in the ALC Courtyard.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, All American Beans, Watermelon, Apple Crisp

6:00 PM: All Stars Big Band

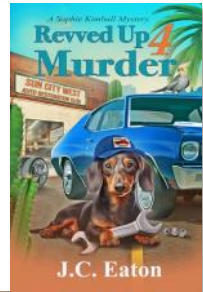
Back by popular demand, the All Stars Big Band will play a special Veterans Day tribute of music associated with our military and with World War I & II.



November 20

4:00 PM: Murders in Sun City West...what fun! The Sophie Kimball murder mystery series by J.C. Eaton

J. C. Eaton is the pen name for the husband and wife writing team of Ann I. Goldfarb and James E. Clapp who live in Sun City West. Their Sophie Kimball murder mysteries consists of 12 humorous whodunits investigated by Sophie Kimball, a Minnesotan who comes to Arizona at the urging of her mother, who lives in Sun City West.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Festive Peas & Carrots, Savory Stuffing, Cranberry Jello Salad, Pumpkin Pie

6:00 PM: The Music of Robert Goulet performed by Andrew Parsley

This resonant baritone recreates the lush and melodic voice of the celebrated Robert Goulet. Andrew will perform the music that Robert Goulet was known for, including Camelot, Man of La Mancha, and Brigadoon.



November 27 Thanksgiving Eve Worship at 4:00 PM

December 4

4:00 PM: The Handbell Ringers of Sun City

The Handbell Ringers of Sun City, under the direction of Libbie Randels, will bring joy to the Christmas season as they ring Holiday sing-along favorites and musical selections from their “12 Days of Christmas” upcoming concert. They have been performing in Sun City since 1967, calling ALC their “concert home” since 2009!



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Lasagna, Garlic Bread, California Blend Vegetables, Garden Green Salad, Pleasing Pudding

6:00 PM “Holden Evening Prayer”



December 11

4:00 PM: Christmas Concert by The Desert Brass

The Desert Brass Band will be performing an energetic and fun Christmas concert to the delight of American Lutheran. This British style brass band was organized in 1997 and includes cornets, flugelhorn, alto horns, baritones, trombones, euphoniums, tubas as well as percussion. They were recently featured in the documentary “Jewel of the Desert.”



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Christmas Potluck with Baked Ham provided by Fellowship Committee

6:00 PM “*Holden Evening Prayer*”



December 18

**4:00 PM: Christmas Carol
Sing Along**

The members of ALC love to sing especially during Advent! This special event will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Led by ALC's choir director Janet MacDonald and accompanied by ALC organist Dr. James Gerber, you will surely get into the Christmas spirit. Following the sing-along, stay for cider and donuts.



Hot Cider and Donuts in Fellowship Hall



January 8

4:00 PM: The Heat-Proof Desert Garden

Noelle Johnson is a landscape consultant whose mission is to help people learn how to create beautiful, low-maintenance, drought-tolerant landscapes that thrive in hot, arid regions. As the AZ Plant Lady®, she inspires and teaches others how to create beautiful landscapes that flourish in our climate. She is an author of *Dry Climate Gardening*, teaches at the Desert Botanical and Tucson Botanical Gardens, and speaks at various nurseries and garden clubs throughout the valley.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Country Green Beans, Caesar Salad, Lemon Bars

6:00 PM: “Old Time Rock & Roll” by The Many Sounds of Nine Southwest

With their big band sound, this talented and popular group is returning to WNA with even more exciting tunes. For this concert, they are performing many old time rock and roll hits in a big band genre. Be ready to rock and swing!



January 15

4:00 PM: The Amazing Eric Gilliam

The name says it all: Amazing! Eric Gilliam has been bringing a Las Vegas style stage show full of magic and audience participation to the Phoenix area for many years. He is rated the #1 magician in Phoenix.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Swedish Meatballs, Buttered Noodles, Carrots, Festive Pickled Beets, Tapioca Pudding with Cherries & Vanilla Wafer

6:00 PM: Spies and Secret Agents! Fountain Hills Saxophone Quartet

Since 2013, the Fountain Hills Saxophone Quartet (FHSQ) has been delighting audiences in the greater Phoenix area with its expert musicianship and often-humorous, always-engaging rapport with audiences. Movies have brought us some very memorable music – especially spy movies! You will hear some familiar and some unique tunes in this special collection of spy movie themes.



January 22

4:00 PM: The Monday Group

Come sing-along to the hootenanny sounds of the Monday Group. This group of Sun City bluegrass musicians perform at a variety of venues throughout the area. Why are they called the Monday Group? Because that's when they practice.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Chicken Divan with Broccoli, Fluffy Rice Pilaf, Spinach Salad, Brownies

6:00 PM: Nicole Pesce and Dan Reed

Nicole and Dan are two favorites of WNA. Here they combine their exuberant styles and extensive repertoire of melodies for an unforgettable night of music.



January 29

**4:00 PM: The Vatican
Observatory: Reaching For the
Heavens Since 1582**

Did you know that the Vatican has conducted astronomical research for over 400 years and that one of their observatories is in Arizona? In the words of Brother Guy Consolmagno, the executive director, “We’re doing it because, to us, it’s an act of prayer. God made the universe; we encounter God in this universe. When we look to the edges of the universe in the most strange and wonderful places, then we really see the magnificence of God...” We will hear from James Renn, Observatory board member who will describe the history, what they do, and what they have learned.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Beef Stroganoff, Buttered Noodles,
Broccoli Salad, Corn, Cherry Crisp

6:00 PM: Sun City Community Orchestra

Under the direction of Clark Chafee, the Sun City Orchestra returns to perform a variety of musical selections highlighting the skill of this talented orchestra.



February 5

4:00 PM: ALC 50 Year Commemoration

On this day 50 years ago, ALC of Sun City was formally recognized as a congregation by the American Lutheran Church, a precursor to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. This event will include previous pastors and a synod representative and recognize the proud history of American Lutheran Church of Sun City.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Pork Loin with Mushrooms, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans with Almonds, Caesar Salad, Sheet Cake

6:00 PM: West Valley Singers

A vibrant community vocal group, the West Valley Singers is a subset of the West Valley Chorale performing a variety of vocal works that transcend pure choral arrangements.. This amazing vocal group is directed by Ted Faszer and accompanied by ALC's Linda Shirck.



February 12

4:00 PM: Sun City Ukulele Club

The Sun City Ukulele club is one of the larger clubs in Sun City. This fun-loving group gets together weekly to practice. Come enjoy these talented performers playing a variety of fun and funky ukulele music.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Chicken Alfredo, Garden Salad, Peas and Carrots, Valentine Cupcakes

6:00 PM: The Hudson Harmony Family

We are excited to have the Hudson Harmony Family return to WNA. Each member of this talented family of sing & play multiple instruments. They will perform a variety of energetic and entertaining musical selections.



February 19

**4:00 PM: Arizona Desert
Wildlife**

Darren Julian, an Urban Wildlife Specialist with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, will speak on how to coexist with the desert wildlife that we find here in the West Valley, including coyotes, javelinas, snakes, and bobcats. How do keep our pets and ourselves safe yet not harm them?



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Penne Pasta Italian Sausage Bake, Caesar Salad, California Blend Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Pie

**6:00 PM: Don
Giovanni in One
Hour!**

Andrew Parsley returns to WNA with his wife Kathryn to present a humorous synopsis of the Mozart opera Don Giovanni.



February 26

4:00 PM: Glen Henriksen, Piano Man

Our WNA season wouldn't be complete without a visit by Glenn Henriksen. This piano virtuoso is always extremely popular, playing a variety of light classical and gospel music, as well as old familiar popular tunes – many with audience participation.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Apricot Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Broccoli Salad, Golden Corn, Chocolate Pudding

6:00 PM: Rodriques Mariachi Band

This vibrant band has been performing in the West Valley for many years. You will be tapping your toes and smiling as you hear this fabulous quintet bring to life the songs of Old Mexico.



March 5

Ash Wednesday

4:00 PM: Heavenly Harp...

Karing Journey

Teacher, musician, and founder for Heavenly Harp, Karin Gunderson will share captivating stories from her work teaching Afghan refugees in Albania. Through heartfelt stories, meaningful songs, and profound inspiration, you will be reminded of your God-given ability to change the world as you hold it in love.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Soup, Crusty Bread, Fruit, Cookies
(free, advance reservations requested)

6:00 PM “Ash Wednesday Worship”



March 12

4:00 PM: The Sonoran Sounds

The Sonoran Sounds is a group of women that sing all types of music: sacred, classical, pop, Broadway, patriotic, and folk. These talented ladies have been providing fun, lively, and resonant concerts in the NW Valley since 2003.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Beef Cottage Pie, Country Green Beans, St Patrick's Jello, Shamrock Sheet Cake

6:00 PM *“Holden Evening Prayer”*



March 19

4:00 PM: The Rainbow Quartet

With over 1000 performances, this quartet has been entertaining audiences throughout the Northwest Valley and beyond for over twenty years.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Cucumber Salad, Peach Cobbler

6:00 PM “Holden Evening Prayer”



March 26

**4:00 PM: Julie Lee and the
White Rose Band**

Julie and her husband Hugo make up the “White Rose Band” playing a joyful set of old-time waltzes, polkas, country, and old-time gospel tunes. Julie sings and plays the sax, accompanied by Hugo on the accordion.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Baked Cod with Garlic Butter Sauce, Parsley Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Carrots, Bundt Cake

6:00 PM “Holden Evening Prayer”



April 2

4:00 PM: SwingTime presents “The Great American Songbook”

The SwingTime quartet will play standards from the Great American Songbook, with well-known tunes from composers like Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, and George Gershwin, as well as hits from Broadway.. This quartet consists of drummer and vocalist Clark Chaffee, pianist Richard Palalay, vocalist Ellie Chaffee, and trumpeter Dan Reed.



5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Spaghetti and Meatballs, California Blend Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Carrot Cake

6:00 PM “Holden Evening Prayer”



April 9



4:00 PM: “Organ Music from the Lutheran Tradition”

Dr. James Gerber, organist

Our season concludes with a program performed by Dr. Gerber featuring a variety of organ literature selections from our rich Lutheran heritage on ALC’s magnificent Casavant pipe organ.

5:00 PM: *Dinner:* Fried Chicken, Macaroni and Cheese, Spinach Salad, Corn on the Cob, Ice Cream

6:00 PM “Holden Evening Prayer”



Join us for these special Worship Services

Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, November 27 at 4:00 PM

Christmas Eve

*Tuesday, December 24 at 3:00 & 5:00 PM

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25 at 9:30 AM

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 5 at 12:00 & 6:00 PM

Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 12 at 4:00 pm

Sunday, April 13 at 8:30 & 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 17 at 6:00 PM

Good Friday

Friday, April 18 at 12:00 & 6:00 PM

Easter

Saturday, April 19 at 4:00 PM

*Sunday, April 20 at 7:00, 9:00, & 11:00 AM

** denotes a Festival Worship Service with choir,
organ, brass, and handbell choir.*

Join us for Dinner

Each week between programs at 5:00 p.m., a tasty and nutritious catered dinner is served in our Fellowship Hall. Each dinner includes an entrée and sides such as a salad, vegetable, dinner roll, dessert, and coffee or tea. Tickets for the dinner must be purchased in advance by noon the prior Monday. The cost for the dinner is \$12, with one exception – the Gala dinner (November 6, 2024) costs \$15. The Christmas Potluck (December 13) and the Ash Wednesday Soup dinner (March 5, 2025) are free, although advance reservations are still needed.

Tickets for the dinner may be purchased in person at the WNA table before the Saturday evening service, between Sunday services, or in the church office on Thursdays or Mondays before noon. Cash or checks are the only form of payment accepted when purchasing tickets in person. Tickets may also be purchased online on the alcsuncity.org website with a credit card – the cutoff for web purchases is the previous Sunday night at midnight. Telephone reservations are not accepted and walk-ins for the dinner cannot be accommodated.

Committee Members

Donna Borden

Co-chair

Debra Hjortland

Co-chair

Jane Coughlin

Caterer

Flash Helm

Council Liaison

Steve Miedzybrocki

Mike Graham

Carol Torgerson

Phyllis Wimer

Janet MacDonald

Choir Director

James Gerber

Organist & Worship

Coordinator, technology
support