



The Roadrunner



There was a moment during our trip in January to early Christian community sites in Greece and Turkey when I got completely overwhelmed by what I was experiencing. I had wandered away from the group, down an alley in the ruins of Ephesus. I ducked under an archway and found myself alone for a few moments. The layers of history surrounding me swept over me. The universe felt vast and close all at once. I don't know exactly what happened in that moment, but as I reflected on it later in my journal, I kept returning to the phrase "ruins, foundations, and remnants."

I have continued turning this phrase over in my mind (and in writing) since we returned from seeing so many sites – ancient Corinth, modern Athens, the hill where a temple to Aphrodite once loomed – the earth itself ancient and modern all at once.

Most of the places we saw were ruins – looking carefully I could imagine what events may have taken place among the grown over rocks and ledges. Family life and commerce, religious gatherings, political debates, betrayal, reconciliation. We often saw only the foundations of the former buildings – the outline of a shop or a room or marketplace. The base that remained showed us what had existed centuries ago. The remnants of the communities that had existed in these places continued as seeds for new life – new communities that formed, new ways of living, new faith practices and families. In fact, part of the emotion I was feeling was that I realized as we walked among these stones forming ruins, foundations, and remnants that I was having an entirely new experience of God's presence in this very old place.

Or – to use words from the letter to the community living in Ephesus in the first century CE -

So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22

This Easter season, I pray we look among the ruins, foundations, and remnants for signs of new life. May we discover the ways in which we are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit, Christ Jesus being the cornerstone.

In Christ's peace,
Pastor Amalia

Council Corner

April 2024

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Online Offering

We have partnered with the ELCA and Tithely to offer secure online giving. Scan the image below using your smart phone to make your offering.



The Council met on Tuesday, March 19th. We began by reflecting on John 4:34-38, our Bible passage for the year. We reviewed monthly financial, committee, and ministry reports. We discussed a range of property updates including the sanctuary lighting and roof repairs which will begin soon on a number of our rental homes. We expect to receive an estimate and plan for necessary repairs for the lighting system this month. Pam Hardman and Olga Ryan will be liaisons from Our Saviour's Lutheran on the Center of Grace design committee. We are beginning the process of making required updates to our governing documents. We also plan to move forward with a scheduled financial review for 2023. We ended the meeting by each sharing a word to describe the meeting: successful, fruitful, efficient, uplifting, thoughtful, informative, on-time, and grateful.

A note from Tracy Ratliff, Council President: Thank you to all for your prayers and concern following my wife Marty's planned neurosurgery on February 21. While we encountered some unexpected developments and have a longer road to recovery than planned, we are grateful for continued progress and healing. Marty is currently in a specialized care facility as she recovers and begins physical therapy. We appreciate your continued prayers for recovery.

Get Involved with Poz Cafe

OSLC will co-sponsor TIHAN's POZ CAFÉ monthly luncheon on **Thursday, April 18, 2024** - a monthly luncheon to provide folks living with HIV/AIDS. Hot meal, fellowship, and a Care Package.

OSLC will be collecting the following: 480 rolls of toilet paper, 360 disposable razors, and 40 small bottles of laundry detergent. (Sounds like a lot but TP and razors come in multi-packs.) I also need to recruit several OSLC volunteers to help out before, during and after the Poz Cafe.

Here's how you can get involved (note: these roles are very active, requiring standing/walking/bending/lifting):

- **Wednesday, April 17th from 9-11 am** - transport Care Package items from Our Saviour's to St Mark's Presbyterian (Speedway/Alvernon) and help pack the care packages (1-2 people).
- Help on **Thursday, April 19th from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm**. Duties will include set-up, check-in, socializing with CarePartners, serving the buffet meal, bussing tables, distributing Care Packages and event clean-up (3-4 people).

Another option for **anyone at any time** is to decorate paper bags to use for care packages. Done on your own - we'll provide bags, glue, decorative photos and other needed supplies.

Faith Formation at OSLC - Pastor Glenn Schrader

April 2024



What does it mean to be “church” today? “In many societies of the modern Western world, Christians believe dramatic change is soon to come – and is in fact underway – for the church as we have known it...Many fear these changes a great deal, thinking they represent the death of authentic church life and turn to something much worse.” So begins the challenging book *Rooted and Renewing: Imagining the Church’s Future in Light of Its New Testament Origins* (Fortress Press, 2019) by Professor Troy Truftgruben of Wartburg Theological Seminary (ELCA). The premise of his book is

that whatever the church hopes to be in the future, it must start with understanding its roots while being receptive to the inevitable changes the church has always experienced – and successfully overcome – throughout the ages.

Beginning on April 14, the Sunday Forum will explore the origins of the early Christian communities as recorded in the New Testament, coupled with the promise that the church would continue to be sustained and formed by the work of the Holy Spirit. We will utilize Professor Troftgruben’s book outline as a guide for our discussions:

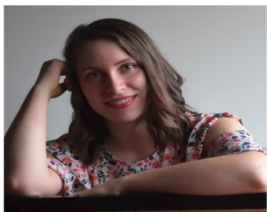
- April 14: “Introduction” and “Sacred Spaces for a Church on the Way”
- April 21: “Being True Siblings in a Divided World”
- April 28: “Being a Body in a Stratified Society”
- May 5: “Practicing the Things that Matter”
- May 12: “Bearing Distinctive Witness” and “Conclusion”

Although purchase of the book (available through Amazon or Fortress Press) is not necessary, I think you would find it informative, thought-provoking, and reassuring – all at the same time. The chapters are neither very long nor a “difficult read”. A limited number of copies will be available upon request for checkout from the OSLC library. We also hope to have Professor Troftgruben meet with us via Zoom for one of these sessions.

Then, as we approach summertime in Tucson, how could our faith continue to be nurtured and “re-formed”? I’ve already received some suggestions for Sunday Forums, workshops, and different types of gatherings that might be possible. What would you like to suggest? How would you like to participate? Let’s explore the possibilities!

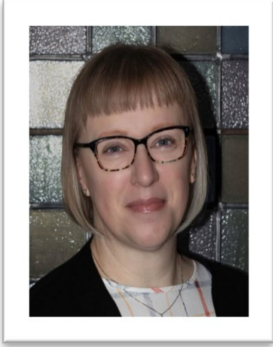
Music Notes - Gréta Pásztor

April 2024



The Music Ministry will feature the Chancel Choir and the Chancel Band, as well as returning guest singer Aysen I. Milliogullari and pianist Devin Gardner in April! Also, if you would like to participate in the services during the summer months with a song or instrumental piece, please contact me!

April 2024



Vicar Wendi Van Beek

Grief Ministry - Tuesday April 2 at 1pm - Patio Room

Grief care ministry is a support group, available on campus at Our Saviour's as well as online, that provides an opportunity for confidential mutual care, listening, and support for those facing loss in their lives. We meet once a month, on the first Tuesday of every month, from 1 - 2 pm in the Patio Room. Please contact Vicar Wendi at vic-

ar@lutherantucson.org with any questions.

Feeding Our Neighbors



Three days a week, hungry people in our neighborhood are fed at the welcome center at Grace St. Paul Episcopal Church (five blocks from here). We help make sandwiches for their Monday program. You can help by giving about 45 minutes of your time after worship each Sunday to work alongside others from Our Saviour's. They could also use volunteers at Grace St. Paul, on Mondays,

Wednesdays and Fridays, 9AM -12PM. Talk to Vicar Wendi about how to get involved or sign-up at vicar@lutherantucson.org.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer will start up again on Tuesday April 16 at 12:15PM in Koch Chapel

Interfaith Community Services Food Bank

The Food Bank is increasing food distribution to struggling families and individuals in our Tucson community. Donations of in-date, canned, non-perishable and packaged products: cereal, rice, beans, pasta, pasta sauce, meals in a can, canned fish and canned meats, mac and cheese, peanut butter and personal hygiene items are needed. For the unhoused with no kitchen facilities: SpaghettiOs, chili, and ravioli in pop-top cans would be helpful. Please put donations in the shopping cart that is on the patio on Sundays.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church April 2024 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Happy Easter	1 OFFICE CLOSED Bell Ringers 6:30PM Sanctuary	2 Men's Bible Study 6:30AM AB Pocket Rm Grief Ministry 1:00PM Patio Room Spanish Class 6:30PM AB	3 Bible Study 10:30AM AB LCM Dinner and Worship 6PM Campus House	4 OFFICE CLOSED Trip to La Casa Shelter Chancel Choir 6:30PM AB	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6
7 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum 10:30AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	8 Staff Mtg 10:15AM Bell Ringers 6:30PM Sanctuary	9 Men's Bible Study 6:30AM AB Pocket Rm Property Meeting 9:00AM Knit and Crochet 10:00AM AB Spanish Class 6:30PM AB	10 Bible Study 10:30AM AB LCM Dinner and Worship 6PM Campus House	11 Chancel Choir 6:30PM AB	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13
14 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum 10:30AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	15 Staff Mtg 10:15AM Bell Ringers 6:30PM Sanctuary	16 Men's Bible Study 6:30AM AB Pocket Rm Quilters 9:00AM - AB Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Council Meeting 6:00PM Patio Rm Spanish Class 6:30PM AB	17 Bible Study 10:30AM AB LCM Dinner and Worship 6PM Campus House	18 Chancel Choir 6:30PM AB	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum 10:30AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	22 Staff Mtg 10:15AM Bell Ringers 6:30PM Sanctuary	23 Men's Bible Study 6:30AM AB Pocket Rm Knit and Crochet 10:00AM AB Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Spanish Class 6:30PM AB	24 Roadrunner Assembly 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM AB LCM Dinner and Worship 6PM Campus House	25 Chancel Choir 6:30PM AB	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum 10:30AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	29 Staff Mtg 10:15AM Bell Ringers 6:30PM Sanctuary	30 Men's Bible Study 6:30AM AB Pocket Rm Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Spanish Class 6:30PM AB				



**OUR SAVIOUR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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OSLC SUNDAY FORUM SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2024

All Sunday Forums will begin at 10:30 am in the Activity Building following the worship service and will last 45-50 minutes. All are welcome, and you do not need to attend each session to participate.

April 7: “Walking in the Footsteps of Paul” Journey with Pastor Amalia and David to the sites of the early Christian churches based on their January 2024 trip

April 14 – May 12: Presentations and discussion of the history of the early Christian communities and the challenges facing the church today. Based on *Rooted and Renewing: Imaging the Church’s Future in Light of Its New Testament Origins* by Professor Troy Truftgruben

Our Mission:

*Being Christ-centered community through faith and action
in the heart of Tucson.*

