



The Roadrunner



God's peace and joy to you.

We are partway through our Lenten journey together. I don't know how you are feeling, but some days I feel like I am barely catching my breath. Lent is one of the times in the church year when we intentionally slow down, step back, do less so we can pay more attention to God's presence around us. But I can attest – this is much easier said than done. May this be a reminder to you and to me to slow down, to breathe, to reflect.

Perhaps part of the difficulty of slowing down is the reality of the pain of the world around us. One of my practices this Lent is participating in a small group that is learning and praying about the war in Israel and Palestine. The small group is led by *Sumud*, a new ELCA effort led by Palestinian Lutherans. *Sumud* is a term used by Palestinians to mean steadfastness and resilience. I am learning more about the perspective of our Christian siblings living in Palestine. As I learn, I continue to pray for an end to violence in the Holy Land, for a return of hostages and an end to the destruction of Palestinian people and places.

An important part of Lent is how we gather. Many of you have been joining for the noon or evening service on Wednesdays. As we turn to Holy Week at the end of this month, we'll experience the joyful rush of Palm Sunday (March 24) and then the startling reality that some of the same crowds the jubilantly welcome Jesus will call for his death. We face this same confusing rush in ourselves – called to serve and love our neighbor and equally caught up in feelings of fear, isolation, even hatred and abandonment. We face all of it together – the mix of joy and sorrow as we go through Holy Week – a service of healing and action on Maundy Thursday, Prayer Around the Cross on Good Friday, the stillness of Holy Saturday (no service) and the celebration of the resurrection truth on Easter Morning. In addition to these services, this year we will be leading a Neighborhood Prayer Walk on Good Friday. We will decide on the timing as we get closer. This will be a slow, prayerful, one-mile walk through our neighborhood as we reflect on where and how we experience Christ in the immediate vicinity of Our Saviour's.

The practices of Lent include prayer, fasting from excess, and giving. Our special Lent giving this year supports the UA Campus Food Pantry. You can donate food or funds to support those facing food insecurity at the University of Arizona. Food donations are accepted on Sundays, Wednesdays or anytime in the church office. If you are giving funds, designate "Lent" on your check or online gift.

May you find peace, challenge, learning, rest. and growth in these days of Lent.

In Christ's peace,
Pastor Amalia

Council Corner - Ted Adams**March 2024****STAFF**

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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.



On Sunday February 18, the new Council was installed as part of our Sunday Service. Continuing Council members include, Tracy Ratliff, Patty Sirls, David Johnson, Pam Hardman, Angie Grandison, and Ted Adams. Our two newly elected members are Paige Marty and Melanie Bowman. Council members held a retreat the previous day, to welcome new members, to get to know one another better and to discuss roles and responsibilities of the Council in supporting the Congregation. At our first official meeting on February 20th, we elected a slate of officers for the coming year. Tracy Ratliff will continue as President, Patty Sirls will serve as Vice President, Pam Hardman will continue as Treasurer, and Ted Adams will serve as Secretary.

With the budget approved at the Annual meeting, Council got to work - we are proceeding with small repairs to four of our rental home roofs and are soliciting bids for a complete roof replacement on an additional rental home. Lutheran Campus Ministry is forming a committee to oversee the approved feasibility study for the Center of Grace. Council has submitted several names of congregation members to participate in that committee. Recognizing the importance of this project, we are committed to keeping the Congregation updated and engaged as things moves ahead. We began our meeting with John 4:34-38 as our text for the year. We will also be using the book *Belonging* by Karoline Lewis as our study book for the year.

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.

ICS 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.

Faith Formation at OSLC - Pastor Glenn Schrader March 2024



During the Sunday Forums (10:30 am in the Activity Building) and the Wednesday Learning Times (12:45 pm in Koch Chapel), we are continuing to focus on the Beatitudes as recorded in Matthew 5:1-11. The Beatitudes can be seen as an introduction to Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount", his major teaching. Our approach has been to explore how these challenging declarations affect us in our personal lives, in our congregation, and in our "institutions" such as the entire church. If you have missed one of the prior February sessions and would like to receive a summary, please contact me: pastor-glenn@lutherantucson.org

Schedule Summary for the Beatitude Series:

Sunday Forums in the Activity Building (10:30 am):
 February 18 Introduction to the Beatitudes
 February 25 "Blessed are those who mourn..." (in Koch Chapel)
 March 3 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst..."
 March 10 "Blessed are the pure in heart..."
 March 17 "Blessed are those who are persecuted..."

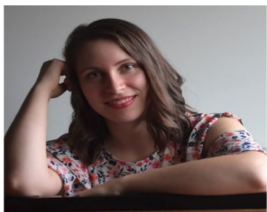
Wednesday Learning Time in Koch Chapel (12:45 pm):

February 21 "Blessed are the poor in spirit..."
 February 28 "Blessed are the meek..."
 March 6 "Blessed are the merciful..."
 March 13 "Blessed are the peacemakers..."
 March 20 "Blessed are you when people revile and persecute you..."

Starting in April, we will begin a series on the formation of the early Christian churches and how a better understanding of this history can be useful in understanding the modern transformations that we are currently experiencing. Our discussion will be based on a book by Professor Troy Troftgruben of Wartburg Theological Seminary (ELCA) entitled *Rooted and Renewing* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2019). In this timely historical account of the roots of Christian gatherings, Professor Troftgruben provides practical approaches to renewing our commitment to conversation and prayer as we seek God's guidance in our calling to be disciples of Jesus today. As he states, churches must faithfully ask questions including "Who are we?", "Why are we here?" "What is our purpose in God's mission for the world?" We are planning to have about five sessions including (hopefully) one with the author (via Zoom) during one of the Sunday Forum times in April or May.

Music Notes - Gréta Pásztor

February 2024

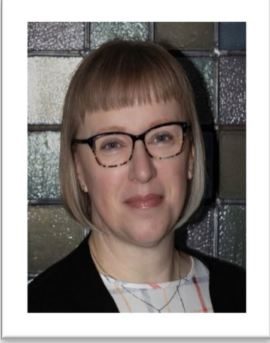


Join us in worship as we continue our journey through Lent all the way to Easter this month. The Bell Choir and Chancel Choir will serve as musicians, along with guest singers and instrument players.

You are also invited to attend a Junior Recital in the Sanctuary on Friday, March 15th at 7pm featuring violinist Qianqian Zhang.

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Arizona

March 2024



Vicar Wendi Van Beek

On February 20th, 2024, **Yes In God's Backyard** (HB 2815) passed in the House Appropriations Committee! This bill eases zoning restrictions to make it easier for religious institutions to build affordable housing on their land, a strategy that many are embracing as a way to address the housing crisis and utilize unused land. Many Lutheran churches in our synod already have housing on their properties; this looks different for every congregation, but some own houses, others have small apartments, or apartment complexes. This has a host of potential benefits for congregations, as well as allowing us to serve our neighbors in need. HB 2815 would allow many more of our churches, as well as our ecumenical friends, to participate in this important type of ministry! This is an exciting and important step in the bill's process. We are also looking forward to upcoming votes on the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program. This fund is very important to the construction and creation of affordable housing, so it is important that our upcoming budget includes the renewal and expansion of the fund!

We hope you will join LAMA and Bishop Hutterer in advocating for these important bills! Please reach out to your lawmakers and let them know about these bills— Yes In God's Backyard is a totally new bill this year, so your representatives might not know about it. It is also important to let both senators and representatives know you support the expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit! If you do not know who your legislators are, please email Vicar Wendi at Vicar@lutherantucson.org, and she will help you find your Representatives and your Senator for your district.

Lenten Challenge and Offering - not too late to join

This Lent, we are joining other Lutherans across the West and Southwest in a collective commitment to Lenten Disciplines. To honor ELCA World Hunger's 50th year, we are committing to spiritual and physical practices during Lent, including raising money for ELCA World Hunger. In addition, we will collect an offering and gather food for the UA Campus Food Pantry.



To learn more and sign up, visit www.lentenchallenge.org. or contact Vicar Wendi and she can help you sign up - vicar@lutherantucson.org

Join Pastor Amalia, Vicar Wendi, Pastor Glenn, Michele, and others in daily practices like devotion, discipline, declutter, and donation.

Grief Ministry - Tuesday March 5 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 vicar@lutherantucson.org with any questions.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church March 2024 Calendar

For a complete listing of all campus events, please visit our website: www.lutherantucson.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum 10:30AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	4 Staff Mtg 10:15AM Bell Ringers 6:30PM Sanctuary	5 Men's Bible Study 6:30AM AB Pocket Rm Grief Ministry 1:00PM Patio Room Spanish Class 6:30PM AB	6 Bible Study 10:30AM AB Lent Service 12PM- Koch Chapel Light Lunch - 12:30PM Koch Learning - 1:00PM - Koch Lent Service - 6:00PM	7 Chancel Choir 6:30PM AB	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 OFFICE CLOSED
10 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum 10:30AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM Book Club 10:30AM	11 Staff Mtg 10:15AM Bell Ringers 6:30PM Sanctuary	12 Men's Bible Study 6:30AM AB Pocket Rm Property Meeting 9:00AM Knit and Crochet 10:00AM AB Spanish Class 6:30PM AB	13 Bible Study 10:30AM AB Lent Service 12PM- Koch Chapel Light Lunch - 12:30PM Koch Learning - 1:00PM - Koch Lent Service - 6:00PM	14 Chancel Choir 6:30PM AB	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16
17 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum 10:30AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	18 Staff Mtg 10:15AM Bell Ringers 6:30PM Sanctuary	19 Men's Bible Study 6:30AM AB Pocket Rm Quilters 9:00AM - AB Council Meeting 6:30PM Patio Rm Spanish Class 6:30PM AB	20 Bible Study 10:30AM AB Lent Service 12PM - Koch Light Lunch - 12:30PM Koch Learning - 1:00PM - Koch Lent Service - 6:00PM	21 Chancel Choir 6:30PM AB	21 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 Palm Sunday Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum 10:30AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	25 Staff Mtg 10:15AM Bell Ringers 6:30PM Sanctuary	26 Men's Bible Study 6:30AM AB Pocket Rm Knit and Crochet 10:00AM AB Spanish Class 6:30PM AB	27 Roadrunner Assembly 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM AB Lent Service - 6:00PM	28 Maundy Thursday 6:00PM - Koch Chapel	29 Good Friday 6:00PM - Sanctuary Holy Neighborhood Walk	30
31 Easter Sunday Easter Service 7:15AM - Chapel Easter Service 9AM - Sanctuary Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM						



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Lent with Our Saviour's and Lutheran Campus Ministry

Daytime services are led by Our Saviour's; Evening services led by LCM. All are invited to attend either – or both.

Wednesdays, through March 20 - 12:00 PM – Brief service, followed by soup meal and Beatitudes teaching (led by Our Saviour's)

Wednesdays, through March 27 - 6:00 PM – Service with communion, followed by dinner (led by Lutheran Campus Ministry)

Holy Week at Our Saviour's

Palm/Passion Sunday - March 24 - 9:00AM Service - Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday - March 28 - 6:00PM - Koch Chapel

Good Friday - March 29 - 6:00PM - Sanctuary

Easter Sunday - March 31 - 7:15AM - Koch Chapel and 9:00AM - Sanctuary

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