



The Roadrunner

May 2024



Being reminded of God's love at the Basilica of St. John near Ephesus, Turkey.

“What was I made for?”

By now, at least some of you have heard the gorgeous and aching ballad that songwriter Billie Eilish wrote for last summer's major hit, the “Barbie” movie.

In the song, Eilish asks a question that comes to all of us at some point in our lives: What is my life about?

In the season of Easter, we read stories and writings in the Bible that reflect the questions and worries of the earliest Christ-followers. The disciples are afraid, doubtful, wondering. They are amazed and questioning. In the time following the resurrection of Jesus, those on the way of Jesus wonder what is next and what it means to be the Body of Christ.

These past weeks we've been hearing sections from John 1, the first letter of John. Which John, scholars aren't exactly sure, but many think it may be the same author as the Gospel of John, the other letters of John, certainly part of the Johannine community. 1 John was a favorite of Martin Luther's and draws us back to one primary teaching of Christ: Love one another. 1 John answers the question: what am I here for? With the reminder of acting with love for all the world.

1 John writes that the source of Divine Love is God. That God **is** Love. And we are called to act – moving towards all, friends and neighbors, with love and not fear. The author moves us beyond “word or speech” to “truth and action” (1 John 3:18). We may doubt and judge ourselves, but we can boldly appeal to God, knowing that through faith, we abide – we live and move and have our being – in the Love of God.

You were made in love, for love, for the sake of creation. Perhaps this month we can ask: What kind of love in truth and action is God leading me toward? When we say that as a congregation we are “full of heart,” what does that look like in our vision and action?

May you find belonging and new life in God's love, turning toward the world, full of heart, filled with God's love.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Amalia

P.S. May 19 is Pentecost - wear red! We will welcome new members and friends that day in worship.

Council Corner

May 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.



We started our most recent meeting by diving into the first chapter of the Karoline Lewis book “Belonging – 5 Keys to Unlock Your Potential as a Disciple”. After reading aloud John 4: 1-26, we discussed our personal reflections on discipleship and what we “heard” in the reading. It was so interesting to experience the range of thoughts and ideas presented by Council members and to be able to learn from one another. We will continue to periodically dwell on this book as the year progresses.

Council is happy to report that our finances are sound and in good order. As of the first quarter of the year we are tracking closely to our budgeted plan for both income and expenses. Thank you for your continued generosity. This year we will be engaging an outside firm to complete a full financial review of our finances and practices. We will begin to solicit bids for this work shortly.

Progress is being made on resolving the lighting issues in the Sanctuary. Our current system is quite complex and a little aged, installed well before anyone anticipated the retirement of incandescent bulbs and the introduction of LEDs. We have been very happy with the contractor doing the trouble shooting and will continue to press forward.

Members of the (LCM) Center of Grace Design Committee have had an initial meeting to kick off their work. They will be contacting outside sources who have had experience in developing similar projects. They are looking gather information, ideas and best practices that could be applied to the LCM project.

Council is considering the development of a policy that would allow for the collection of petition signatures on church property. We had a lively discussion on the pros and cons, the process for approval, and guidelines as to what types of petitions would be acceptable. We plan on continuing our discussions at our next meeting.

In her report to the Council, Pastor Amalia highlighted that a group from the congregation will be participating in initial training in the process for the congregation to become Reconciling in Christ (RIC). We will have more information on this activity once that training is completed.

Interfaith Community Services Food Bank

ICS welcomes and needs food donations year round. They need to restock the shelves especially during the summer months when children are out of school. Suggested items for donation: canned, packaged and in-date non-perishable items including pasta, peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, rice, beans, cereal, granola bars, children and adult diapers and wipes. For clients who are unhoused, with no kitchen facilities SpaghettiOs, chili, and ravioli in pop-top cans are needed. Please put items in the shopping cart that is on the patio on Sundays.

Faith Formation at OSLC - Pastor Glenn Schrader

May 2024



For the past several Sunday Forums, we have been addressing the question “What does it mean to be ‘church’ today?” For two sessions in May, we will continue to explore the 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 throughout the ages. The remaining dates and chapters of this book are:

May 5: “Practicing the Things that Matter”

May 12: “Bearing Distinctive Witness” and “Conclusion”

Our sessions have included active discussions of how we at Our Saviour’s Lutheran can continue to be sustained and formed by the work of the Holy Spirit as we seek to join in God’s mission in the world. You don’t have to have attended the previous ones to join in for these final sessions. A limited number of copies have been made available and will be placed in the OSLC library at the end of the series.

What additional Sunday Forums, workshops, and different types of gatherings that might be possible at Our Saviour’s this summer? Viewing the film “God + Country” is coming on Saturday evening, June 22 (see the announcement in this Roadrunner). What else would you like to participate in? I would enjoy talking with you, or send me an email at pastorglenn@lutherantucson.org!

Music Notes - Gréta Pásztor

May 2024



There are several exciting musical events coming up in May and June! On May 5th you will hear the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir with guest singers and pianists, as well as a surprise 6-hand piano piece! The Southern Comfort Band will serve on May 12th, and the Chancel Band on June 9th. Additionally, guest pianist Devin Gardner will be returning several times during the summer months!

You are welcome to attend any of the student recitals coming up in the Sanctuary:

Thursday, May 2 at 7pm: Su Yin Park - Doctoral Vocal Recital

Sunday, May 5 at 7pm: Madeline Ahluwalia - Violin Recital

Monday, May 6 at 4pm: Xiao Wang - Doctoral Violin Recital

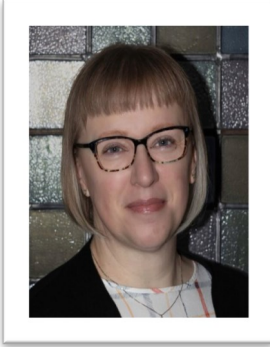
Tuesday, May 7 at 7:30pm: Dante Olita - Guitar and Violin Recital

Grief Ministry - Tuesday May 7 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.

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona -

May 2024



Vicar Wendi Van Beek

News from Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona

"[It is] resolved, that members, congregations, and synods of this church be encouraged to "promote public life worthy of the name" by speaking out as an advocate and engaging in local efforts such as voter registration and supporting legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens ..." – ELCA Social Policy Resolution "Voting Rights to All Citizens" adopted Aug. 2013

Voting isn't a practice we see really in scripture, nor in Martin Luther's writing— at least not the way we are familiar with it. However, voting is a foundational part of the way our society works. Civic engagement is a tool at our disposal that we may use to enact God's justice and care for our neighbors. It is our right and our responsibility to steward the communities we live in, and civic engagement is one of the avenues through which we do.

In order for our democratic system to continue functioning for the good of all, we must ensure that all are able to participate. Public policy has the potential to drastically impact who is able to access the voting booth and what barriers they face.

*We are also participating in the development of the **ELCA Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith**. A copy of the draft can be found on the ELCA.org website, as well as to give your feedback via a survey! The draft is open for feedback through September. LAMA also encourages you to remember to vote in the state primaries on July 30th! Even independents can request a ballot and vote. The primary election is earlier than usual this year, so remember to register and request your ballots by July 1st!*

For any questions regarding the draft of the ELCA Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith, how to give feedback on the draft, or how to register and request your ballot by July 1st, please contact Vicar Wendi at Vicar@lutherantucson.org

God's Peace,
Vicar Wendi Van Beek

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 vic-ar@lutherantucson.org.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church May 2024 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Bible Study 10:30AM AB LCM Dinner and Worship 6PM Campus House	2 Chancel Choir 6:30PM AB	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4
5 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum 10:30AM Youth 10:30AM - Ramada RM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	6 Staff Mtg 10:15AM	7 Men's Bible Study 6:30AM - AB Grief Ministry 1:00PM Patio Room Spanish Class 6:30PM AB	8 Bible Study 10:30AM AB LCM Dinner and Worship 6PM Campus House	9	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11
12 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum 10:30AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	13 Staff Mtg 10:15AM	14 Men's Bible Study 6:30AM - AB Property 9:00AM - Library Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Spanish Class 6:30PM AB	15 Bible Study 10:30AM AB	16	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18
19 - Pentecost - wear red New members will be welcomed Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum 10:30AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	20 Staff Mtg 10:15AM	21 Men's Bible Study 6:30AM - AB Quilters 9:00AM AB Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Council Meeting 6:30PM Patio Rm Spanish Class 6:30PM AB	22 Bible Study 10:30AM AB	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	27 Staff Mtg 10:15AM	28 Men's Bible Study 6:30AM - AB Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Spanish Class 6:30PM AB	29 Roadrunner Assembly 9:00AM	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED	



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Our Mission:

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

God + Country Film

Continuing our Fall 2023 series on Christian nationalism, we will be showing the film *God + Country* on Saturday, June 22 at 6 p.m. in the Activity Building at Our Saviour's. The 2024 film, produced by Rob Reiner, directed by Dan Partland, and based on the book *The Power Worshipers* by Katherine Stewart, addresses the growing threat to democracy posed by voters who maintain that the United States was fundamentally established as a Christian nation. They believe that all policies on abortion, public education, immigration, LGBTQ rights, and more should be determined by a conservative interpretation of the Bible, and they also closely tie Christianity to partisan politics. The film includes commentary by Russell Moor, David French, Simone Campbell, Robert Schenck, Reza Aslan, and others, and focuses on the increasing connection of religion and politics. However, the film also presents possible alternatives, including those of Rev. William Barber III, which express hope, inclusivity, and healing for American democracy.

The film trailer is available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MFO2uESrjU>
Tickets for the film (\$ 5 - 10) are available through the church office. For further information contact Pastor Glenn at pastorglenn@lutherantucson.org or call the church office. There will be an informal discussion following the 90-minute film at Our Saviour's. Popcorn and other refreshments will be available also, so please join for this engaging opportunity this summer.



