Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Sunday Worship

September 7, 2025
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME



Your presence builds up the body of Christ. We welcome and affirm God's diversity, including all ethnicities, cultures, races, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, abilities, ages, and life experiences. You are invited to full participation in



our congregation because of who you are. We lament and confess how the Christian Church has withheld Christ's love by misusing the power of institution. We commit to advocating for God's justice and mercy for all of creation, including humans. We commit to anti-racism and other ways of ending systems that cause harm. Christ is our peace and breaks down the walls that divide us. Our communion table is Christ's table. You and all people are welcome without exception.

Newcomers and Visitors + Newcomers and Visitors + We're glad you're here. Please fill out the green slip in the pew rack and place in the offering plate. You're welcome to share in Holy Communion. Families - we have a small play area up front.

Nametags + Nametags help us get to know and remember each other. Please let the ushers know if you need one made for you.

Expansive Language + As Lutherans, we teach that "God calls all creation into being and gives people language as a way of responding to God and forming community" (Principles for Worship, Principle L-1). In worship at Our Saviour's, we seek to use expansive language for God and people, sometimes changing or offering alternatives to the printed text.

Current Liturgy Music + liturgy is the flow of our worship service - working together as people to praise God. Currently our liturgy music is from Setting Three from Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Prayer Requests: Mary, Tracy & Marty, Gene, Addison and Nicole, and those at home and in care facilities.

Our Extended Friends & Family: Lia (granddaughter of Angie Grandison) Callie (granddaughter of Mary Lou Forier), Beverly (Mother of Hildi Williams), Gerri (Cousin of Patty Sirls); Pat (Friend of Our Saviour's); David (Son of Geoff and Suzy Swann); Jeanne (Cousin of Alan Bales); Barbara (sister-in-law of Kenith Ijams); Peggy (sister of Bonnie Phelps); Josh, Melissa, Mary Ann, and Libby (friends of Chris and Theda Doak); Megan (niece of Chris and Theda Doak); Sandy and Doug, Sally, Ashley, and Kamri (friends of Kathy DeVinney); Tom (brother-in-law of Ted Adams); Abel (great grandson of Laverne Walsh); Jeanne (friend of Schatzi Taylor); Grant and Shirley (brother and sister-in-law of Theda Doak; John (son of Martha Neff Stum and Paul Stum); Sam; Eleanor (mother-in-law of Kris Sanchez; Bert and Maria (Friends of Jon and Nilu Dorschner); Daniel (neighbor's son of Gloria Schmidt); Kristian and Melissa (Jon and Nilu Dorschner's son and daughter-in-law).

Names will remain on the list for three weeks, unless requested for longer.

Newcomer Gatherings - Sept 7 and 21

If you are new to the community and thinking about joining, or engaging more deeply in worship and community life, and would like to get to know more about Our Saviour's, please plan on joining a Newcomer Gathering on September 7 and 21. We will meet in the Activity Building "Pocket Room" following worship. Please email Pastor Amalia if you would like to sign up or learn more. We will receive newcomers to the congregation in worship on October 26 (Reformation Day).

OVERVIEW

This Sunday marks the return to our usual pattern of hearing four texts - two from the Hebrew Bible, including a psalm: two from the New Testament, including a Gospel passage. The readings for this Sunday converge on the theme of choices to be made. Moses calls on the people of Israel to choose life by keeping covenant with God. The psalmist lays out the way of God's Torah along with consequences that come from following that way or not. Paul poses a request and choice to Philemon that could change his life and that of one called "useful." In Luke, Jesus links the choice of following him with costs to be weighed beforehand.

September 7, 2025 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*An asterisk indicates the congregation should stand in body and/or spirit. Congregation's speaking and singing parts are in bold font.

Welcome

Prelude

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity,

→ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of \oplus Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN ELW #806 O God, My Faithful God

O God, My Faithful God

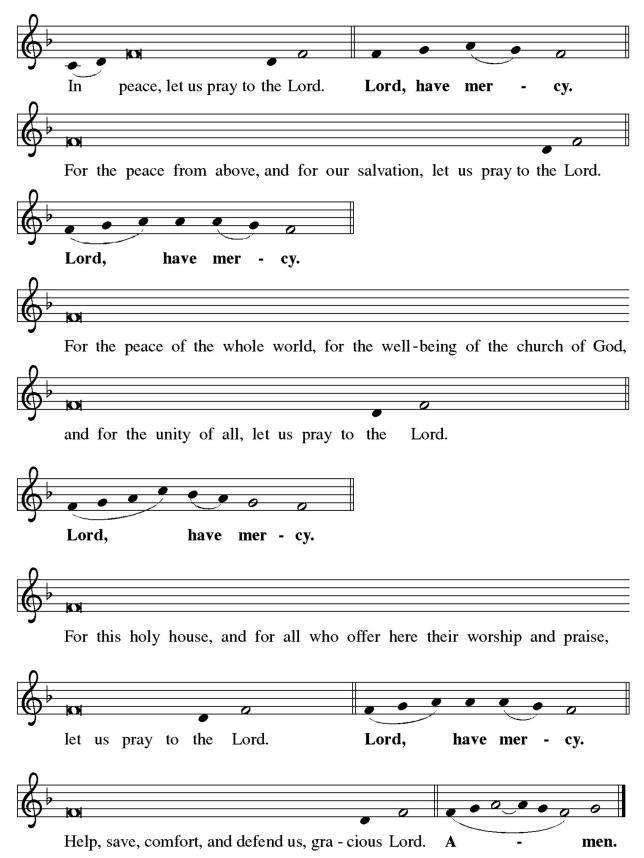


Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT, Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629–1701

*GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*KYRIE



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Set in the time between Israel's wilderness wandering and its entry into the promised land, the focus of Deuteronomy as a whole is on the details of God's covenant with Israel. Our reading is part of Moses' farewell speech given to Israel prior to that entry. Its essence is this: choices must be made. Covenant can be kept, or covenant can be ignored. Either choice will bring consequences. The urging of Moses is clear: the choice to keep covenant is to choose life.

15 "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.





Psalm 1

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!
- $_2$ Their delight is in the law $_{\parallel}$ of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching $_{\parallel}$ day and night. R
- $_3$ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that $_{\parallel}$ do not wither;

everything they | do shall prosper.

- 4 It is not so | with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.
- $_5$ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when $_{\parallel}$ judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council $_{\parallel}$ of the righteous.
- $_6$ For the Lord knows the way $_{\parallel}$ of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall $_{\parallel}$ be destroyed. R

SECOND READING Philemon 1-21

This is the most personal of all the New Testament letters. Its single chapter centers on a request Paul makes to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus. Onesimus literally means "useful," with that meaning a key part of the story. What seems a simple request has implications for transforming community. Onesimus had once been the slave of Philemon. Paul asks that Philemon to receive Onesimus back, not as a slave but as a brother in Christ. Philemon has a choice to make.

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, 2 to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

- 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.
- 8 For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, 9 yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. 10 I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. 11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. 12 I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. 13 I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, 14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. 15 Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, 16 no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 14:25-33

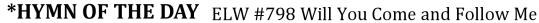
Our Gospel reading is from Luke.

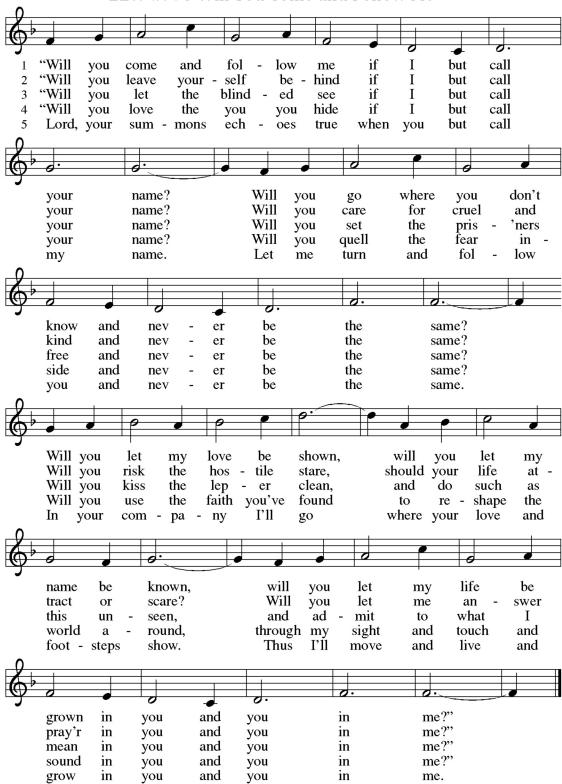
In Luke, Jesus has already spoken of the call to discipleship as taking up the cross. Yet in our reading, Jesus' call here may sound even more severe in terms of its potential cost. The opening verse of today's reading later introduced a chapter in a book taking up that same theme. The title was The Cost of Discipleship. Its author was Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the year was 1937, and it was written in Germany.

25 Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, 26 "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. 33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

SERMON

Silence for Reflection





*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assisting minister leads the prayers.

...God in your mercy, receive our prayer.

...We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

10

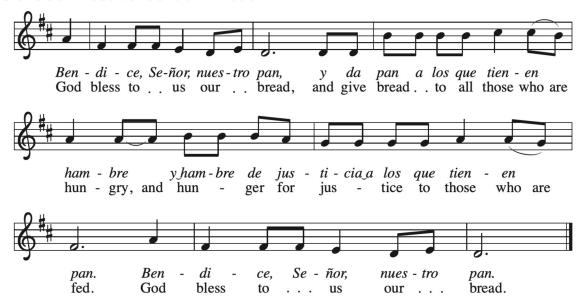
*EXCHANGE OF PEACE

OFFERING

*OFFERING PRAYER

Stand and sing in English and Spanish as offering is brought forward.

ACS #1056 God Bless to Us Our Bread



Text: Argentine traditional, collected by Federico Pagura, 1923–2016; tr. John L. Bell, b. 1949 Music: BENDICE NUESTRO PAN, Argentine melody, collected by Federico Pagura; arr. John L. Bell Text and tune © 2002 World Council of Churches. All rights reserved.

English text and arr. © WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you. **And also with you.**Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened arms to all.

...Trusting in the mercy and compassion of God who is with us as Parent and Creator, let us pray as Jesus did:

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

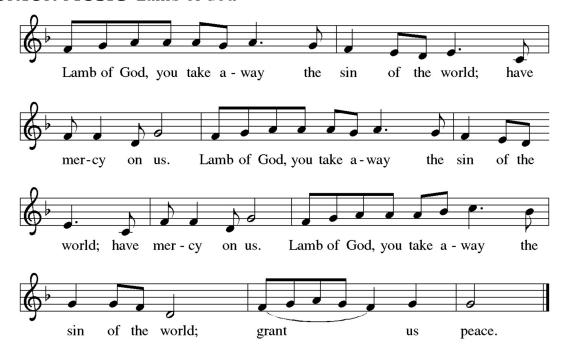
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

Come to this Table of mercy. Become what you receive.

This is Christ's table. You and all are welcome, without exception. If you prefer a blessing only, cross your arms over your heart. Gluten free wafers available by request. The wine is red; grape juice is clear. Please let an usher know if you would like communion brought to your pew.

COMMUNION MUSIC Lamb of God



ELW #685 Take My Life That I May Be ELW #810 O Jesus, I Have Promised

SENDING PRAYER

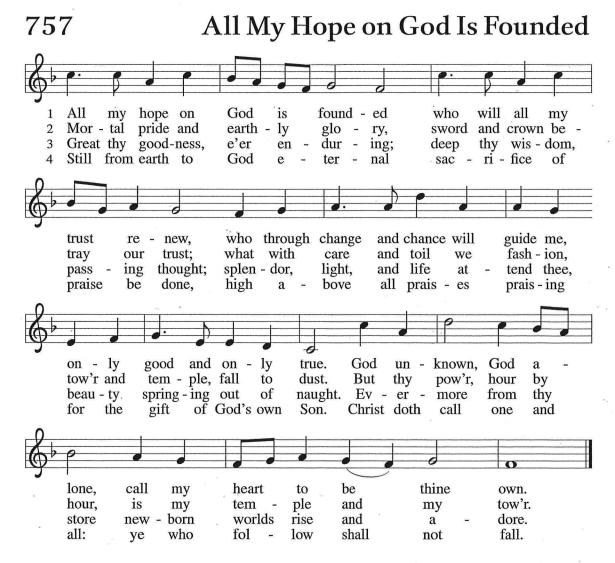
Gracious God,

in this meal you have drawn us to you and nourished us at your table with the living body and life blood of Christ. Send us forth to be your people in the world, to proclaim your truth and love, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

*SENDING HYMN ELW #757 All My Hope on God Is Founded



Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt. Music: Herbert Howells, 1892–1983

Music © 1968 Novello & Co, Ltd., London

MICHAEL 8787337

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you!

Thanks be to God.

SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS

Come & See - Tuesdays, 11 AM, begins Sept 9

Weekly faith formation conversations for everyone. This fall we will focus on the upcoming readings for the week. We'll spend time with the "Hidden Gem" reflection prepared by John Indermark, which will take us deeper into one of the texts. Held in the Patio Room. Bring your Bible our borrow one of our Lutheran Study Bibles. Please note the new day and time. Led by Pastor Amalia.

Centering Prayer - Tuesdays, 12:15

Centering Prayer is a form of Christian contemplation that involves sitting in silence, focusing on a sacred word, consenting to God's presence and action within. We pray for 20 minutes. Held in Koch Chapel. Beginners welcome.

Newcomer Gatherings - Sept 7 and 21, following Worship

If you are new to the Our Saviour's community and thinking about joining, or engaging more deeply in worship and community life, and would like to get to know more about Our Saviour's, please join a Newcomer Gathering on September 7 and 21. We will meet in the Activity Building "Pocket Room" following worship. Email Pastor Amalia if you would like to sign up or learn more. We will receive newcomers to the congregation in worship on October 26 (Reformation Day).

Last Supper Club - Sept 14, 6 PM

We will hold another Last Supper Club (dinner church) on Sunday, September 14 at 6:00 PM in the Chapel. Dinner church is a model of worship that combines dinner and a worship service. Last Supper Club is open to anyone. Filled with Spirit. Alcohol-free. LGBTQ+ affirming. This is a meal and church all at once. The music and worship style is more relaxed than Sunday worship. We will gather around one big table in the Chapel. Led by Pastor Amalia and Sophia Rankin.

We are looking for a small team to help prepare and set-up for the service and meal. If you can help, please contact Pastor Amalia.

Our Saviour's Chancel Choir - Thursday September 4 at 6:30 PM

Choir rehearsals are Thursdays at 6:30PM. Everyone is welcome to sing with the choir! Share the music. Talk to Aysen Millioğulları about joining: Aysen@lutherantucson.org

Our Saviour Bell Choir -Monday September 8 at 6:30 PM

We welcome all who are interested in ringing or just curious to see what is involved. If you have any questions just ask any current bell ringer or contact Kathie (kmmmiller@hotmail.com)

Good Neighbor Interfaith Coalition Monthly Meeting Wednesday, Sept 10, 6:30 - 8:00 PM Grace St. Paul Episcopal Church (2331 E. Adams Street)

Monthly meeting to learn how to support immigrant neighbors. Formed as part of the Coalicion de Derechos Humanos (Human Rights Coalition) in response to changes in immigration policy, Good Neighbor Interfaith Coalition is a coalition of faith-based communities working to be in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors. We strive to be a moral voice by speaking out against injustice, accompanying immigrant families through mutual aid and advocating for just immigrant policies at the city, state and federal levels.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Centering Prayer

Meets weekly from 12:00 on Tuesdays in Koch Chapel. We begin at 12:15 with simple instruction, then 20 minutes of Centering (silent) prayer. No preparation or experience necessary.

Come and See

Meets weekly from 11:00 - 12:00 on Tuesdays in the Patio Room. Weekly faith formation conversations for everyone. This fall we will focus on the upcoming readings for the week. We'll spend time with the "Hidden Gem" reflection prepared by John Indermark, which will take us deeper into one of the texts. Held in the Patio Room. Bring your Bible our borrow one of our Lutheran Study Bibles. Please note the new day and time.

Caring Ministry

This growing ministry is a group of people who visit, call, and send card to our members and friends at home. Talk with Bonnie Phelps if you are interested in getting involved.

Quilting Group

Meets monthly on the third Tuesday of each month in the Activity Building. You can also pick up fabric and stitch at home. Contact Kathie Miller.

Knit and Crochet Group

This group makes prayer shawls, as well as hats and lap blankets for migrants and others. Anyone interested in joining please text Donna Lounsbury, 520-400-2514

Chancel Choir

Rehearses weekly on Thursdays at 6:30 PM in the Activity Building. All singers welcome. Loving and supportive community - no prior choral experience required. Contact Aysen at Aysen@lutherantucson.org.

Bell Choir

Rehearses weekly on Mondays at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Happy group that enjoys creating joyous, uplifting music. Learners welcome. Contact Kathie Miller (kmmmiller@hotmail.com) or any other Ringers.

Spanish Class

¿Åprender español? Or do you want to learn? Join this free one-hour drop-in class for all levels. Tuesdays at 6:30 in the Activity Building. Taught by Pastor Mateo and Annette Chavez. Email amchavez111@gmail.com to register.

Wednesday Bible Study

Meets Wednesdays at 10:30 in the Pocket Room. Contact Lauretta Olson for more information - landjo@cox.net.

Other Ways to Grow Your Faith:

Weekly events led by community and Our Saviour's members - open to anyone.

Mindfulness Meditation (Mondays, 1:30 - 2:30 PM); Men's Bible Study (Tuesdays, 7:00 AM)

THOSE SERVING TODAY

9/7/2025

Presiding Minister Rev. Amalia Vagts **Assisting Minister** Mary Lou Forier

Communion Assistants Mary Pflibsen, Lauretta Olson

Acolyte Mary Pflibsen **Keyboard** Betsy Dunlap

Cantor Aysen Millioğulları

Usher Diane Siefkes, Kathy DeVinney

Greeter Gloria Schmidt **Cross Bearer** Mary Pflibsen

Coffee Host Ron and Nancy Rude

Treats Gloria Schmidt

Tech Team Pflibsen/Bustamante

Scripture Background John Indermark

THOSE SERVING SUNDAY 9/14/2025

Presiding Minister Rev. Amalia Vagts **Assisting Minister** Mary Pflibsen

Communion Assistants Bill DeVinney

Acolyte Mary Pflibsen Keyboard Betsy Dunlap Cantor Jennifer Strand

Usher Angie Grandison, Lauretta Olson

Greeter Sophia Rankin
Cross Bearer Eldon Krueger
Coffee Host Catalina Rankin
Treats Lauretta Olson

Tech Team Pflibsen/Bustamante

Scripture Background John Indermark

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

1200 N. Campbell Ave. Tucson, Arizona 85719 **Phone:** (520) 327-6521 **Website:** lutherantucson.org **E-Mail:** oslc@lutherantucson.org

Sunday Worship Times

9:00 - Sanctuary Coffee following 10:30 Sunday Forum

Office Hours Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ministry Team

Rev. Amalia Vagts (ex 1004) Lead Pastor pastoramalia@lutherantucson.org

Michele Ruttinger Parish Administrator Michele@lutherantucson.org

Aysen Millioğulları Music Director Aysen@lutherantucson.org

> John Perez Campus Caretaker

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Deacon Wendi Van Beek Interim Director wendi.lcmuofa@gmail.com www.lcmuofa.org 520-771-9742 (LCM Office)

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. Or, contact the church office to set up regular online giving.



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