



# The Roadrunner



(An adaptation of my Easter Day sermon, from Luke 24:1-12)

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, and some other number of unnamed women who went to the tomb in search of the body of Jesus returned with empty hands, but filled with a calling: Remember, Go, Tell. The women go to the tomb on the first day expecting death, having prepared spices to anoint a dead body. Instead of the dead body of their beloved teacher, they find two messengers so full of life they shine.

Staring into the empty tomb can be a first step to rediscovering life. What living stories of hope do you remember? Who will you go to and how will you tell the story?

As followers of Christ, we are taught mercy, humility, and care for the most vulnerable. We are called to join God in the world responding to suffering, bringing healing and reconciliation, loving our neighbor and welcoming the stranger.

Right now, we see the opposite happening everywhere around us. There are people telling upside down stories about Jesus, even as they seize the highest places of power in our nation. We are witnessing the rapid growth of a regime that falsely uses Christian words and symbols to cause harm and destruction to God's creation. Those telling this lie turn Christian teaching upside down by attacking vulnerable people. Cutting off life-saving medication and food from those in need. Acting as if the Earth is humankind's playground.

Too often Christians have been silent or absent in times of national crisis. If it were up to me, I might stay quiet or just talk with those I know who have seen what I have. But in this season of Easter, God's messengers meet us at the seemingly hopeless and empty tomb to fill us with courage and purpose, sent with a clear message: Christian people, the true story of God's love in Jesus Christ must be told.

Remember, go, tell – even if people think you are full of nonsense, even if they won't listen at first. Grounded in God's hope, **remember** the love you have received from Jesus, **go** to those who need stories of life, **tell** all about the way of Jesus – love, mercy, and forgiveness. Remember, go, tell.

Pastor Amalia

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**Council Corner - Ted Adams, Secretary****May 2025**

We started this month's meeting with a pot luck meal, to share time together and to say farewell to Council member Paige Marty. Paige and Michael Marty will be leaving in the next month for their new home in Austin, Texas. We wish them well and are grateful to both Paige and Michael for their generous service to the OSLC Community. We will miss them.

The Property Committee report had some good and not so good news. The good news was that the Rain Garden Project has been completed. Council thanks the volunteers, both outside and inside, who participated in the work day on April 12. The newly placed plants are being tenderly cared for while we wait for the rains to arrive. On the not so good side, unfortunately one of the two central HVAC units that service the main Sanctuary has failed. The cost to repair the unit was \$27,000 and the cost to replace with a new unit was \$32,000. Given the small differential and the age of the existing unit, it was recommended that a new unit be installed. Council unanimously approved this expenditure. The company doing

the work, will salvage usable parts from the unit being replaced for potential use in repair of the remaining unit at some future point.

Plans for the 80th Anniversary celebration are moving ahead and the date has been set for Saturday, October 25. A planning committee has been formed consisting of Patty Sirlis, Jennifer Strand, and Mary Lou Forier and initial plans are in the works. If you are interested in working on this event, please contact one of the committee members.

Following Greta's recital on May 4th a brunch will be served. It was recommended that the brunch be partially catered. This will allow those who typically volunteer to provide and serve food, to fully enjoy the concert, rather than be in the kitchen. There was a consensus among Council members to approve funds for this purpose.

With Paige's departure, Council will make an appointment of an individual to serve out her remaining term. If you might be interested in serving on Council, please talk to Pastor Amalia or Council President Patty Sirls.

**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.

**Welcoming New Members on June 8**

On Pentecost (June 8), we will receive and welcome new members. If you are interested in joining the faith community of Our Saviour's through baptism or transfer of membership, please talk with Pastor Amalia so she can share information with you about upcoming Newcomer gatherings.

## OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Discipleship at OSLC - Pastor Glenn Schrader

May 2025



Paul's Letters to the Corinthians reveal a tension that centers on the challenges of discipleship when Christians are living in a society and culture that are contrary to

the teachings of Jesus. At times Paul seems rather "bull-headed" in his appeals to this "wounded" congregation to change their ways; at other times he seems genuinely pastoral in his concern that the church simply reflects the standards of the Greco-Roman hierarchy that seem inescapable. But Paul, raised as a devout Jew, doesn't want to turn the people back to the Jewish law either because he now sees that it separated him from God and brought him death.

What is generally accepted in society as good or bad and what our conscience approves or disapproves function in the same way. A "written code" that we are supposed to keep – regardless of who writes it – brings the danger that our attention is taken up with our success and failure in keeping it (although this can also occur with a "code" that is unwritten but is a societal "given"). Such things become "standards" against which to measure ourselves as successes or failures. Behind such "measuring" lies a selfish desire to rule our own lives and assert our independence from God by winning our own salvation. As God's reconciled children, our living must come not from some code of behavior authored by humans but rather from God whose Spirit "gives life" in Christ Jesus.

### Come & See



Come & See is a weekly gathering of members of OSLC who are exploring faith and life through Bible studies and other readings. Since January, we have been focusing on Paul's Letters to the Corinthians which address the challenges, opportunities, and blessings of this early Christian community. We examine Scripture together through conversation and discover many relationships to the context of OSLC and our daily ministries. The sessions are open to anyone, and you are welcome to join at any time. Pastor Glenn and Pastor Amalia lead the discussions. Bring your own Bible or borrow one of the Lutheran Study Bibles. The hour-long sessions begin at noon in the Patio Room on Thursdays (enter through the church office or Koch Chapel). On May 29 we will conclude our discussion of both 1 & 2 Corinthians.

### Upcoming Sunday Forums

- May 4:** Chamber Concert (sanctuary) Brunch following  
**May 11:** "May 11th Mother's Day Sunday Forum"  
 We'll come together to celebrate the mothers in our lives by sharing our favorite mother or mothering stories.

The Sunday Forum schedule will be taking a "summer break" now. However, if there is a topic, film, event, or speaker that you would like to schedule, please let the Sunday Forum Committee know (Pastor Glenn, Mary Lou Forier, Jon Dorschner, and Mary Durham-Pflibsen).

## OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Music Notes - Gréta Pásztor

May 2025



We went all out for Lent and Easter, and you might be wondering, can it get any better? The answer is YES! On the first Sunday of May, the choir will offer their final songs of the spring season, joined by a string quintet, in what promises to be another special musical service.

But the celebration doesn't end there. Following the service, I'm excited to present a special recital alongside the quintet as a heartfelt gift to this congregation in greta-tude for the love and support I've received over the past three years.

And there's more to come! In the Sundays that follow, we'll be blessed by music from the Bell Choir, as well as Dr. Ji Sun Lee, Sophia Su, and our very own Aysen Milliogullari.

**CHAMBER CONCERT**

FEATURING WORKS BY BACH, MOZART, AND LISZT

Anna Murphy Simmons FLUTE  
Rollin Medcalf FIRST VIOLIN  
Fatima Corona del Toro SECOND VIOLIN  
Raiden Thaler VIOLA  
Katie Thaler CELLO  
James Karrer DOUBLE BASS  
Gréta Pásztor PIANO

5/4 10:30am | Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1200 N Campbell Ave, Tucson  
celebratory brunch to follow

### Habitat For Humanity Volunteer Opportunity

Have you ever said, "I've always wanted to work at Habitat"? Here's an opportunity!

Habitat is one of the ministries Our Saviour's supports financially, and here's a way to get physically involved! Habitat Tucson is offering a volunteer construction day for Tucson faith communities on Thursday, May 8 from 7am - 1 pm. The work will be done INDOORS at Habitat's CHUCK Center, 2811 W Curtis Road.

You do not need any construction knowledge – just a willingness to learn and practice a new skill. It would be great if we could have several people from Our Saviour's represented at this event. It's a great way to put our faith into action!

If you would like more information, please contact Nancy Rude at [nancyrude54@gmail.com](mailto:nancyrude54@gmail.com) or 520-204-2420. If you're ready to sign up, you can follow this link: <https://cerv.is/0255gmgYt7m>

Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email with all the details about the day



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## OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Update on Becoming Reconciling in Christ

May 2025



It is with great enthusiasm that we announce that [drumroll] Our Saviour's has joined the ranks of RIC churches! RIC (Reconciling in Christ) is a designation for organizations that have gone through a period of reflection and discernment culminating with the adoption of a public statement of welcome for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions and a commitment to racial equity or anti-racism. The RIC designation means that the congregation will be listed on a roster of congregations, organizations and synods in the United States and Canada.

Our work is not done! The RIC committee will continue to work on being expansively welcome. We will be using information gathered at the celebration on April 27 to determine our future steps/activities. We would like your input either at the celebration or you can contact any member of the committee with your questions or ideas.

Blessings,

Mel Bowman – RIC Committee Chair

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### Youth on Their Own- Asher Havenhill

As you may have noticed, there is now a small table in the narthex (just to the left as you enter the church) with materials about Youth On Their Own (YOTO) on it and a bin below it. This is an opportunity for you to donate food/household/personal hygiene items for teenagers who have no parent or legal guardian. As items are donated in the bin, I will deliver them to the YOTO site. A list of specific items that are currently needed is found on the table and will be updated from time to time. A more current list of items can be taken directly from the website, [yoto.org](http://yoto.org). As of the date of this paragraph, the items most in need are

#### Food:

- Individually packaged snacks (chips, granola bars, trail mix, fruit snacks, jerky, etc.)
- Mac and cheese cups
- Ramen cups & pouches
- Dry pasta
- Pasta sauce (no glass please!)
- Canned fruit
- Shelf stable milk – dairy and non-dairy

#### Hygiene:

- Toilet paper
- Body wash
- Shampoo (full-sized)
- Conditioner (full-sized)
- Face wash
- Shaving cream
- Chapstick
- Toothbrushes

#### Linens/Household:

- Full size bath towels (new only please!)
- Pillows (new only please!)
- Paper towels
- Multipurpose cleaner
- Toilet cleaner

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## OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



### Help Make Sandwiches



Three days a week, 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 30 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. Please see Sheila's article on page 7.

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### Quilt Ministry

The OSLC Quilt Ministry would love for anyone who wants to stitch at home to pick fabric from our "stash" and make a quilt top at home. You don't need to join us in person on our third Tuesday get-togethers to help. When your top is done just bring it back and the group will get it backed, batted, quilted, bound and delivered.

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### Spanish Class

Tuesday Nights at 6:30PM. Please contact Annette Chavez at [amchavez111@yahoo.com](mailto:amchavez111@yahoo.com) for more information.

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### ICS - Interfaith Community Services

The federal government has slashed more than \$1 billion of aid to food banks and schools. This impacts free and reduced school lunch programs and food distribution at a time when families are already facing food insecurity and other challenges. Food banks need your help now more than ever as they are relying more on community donations. Canned, packaged and in-date non-perishable items including pasta, peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, rice, beans, cereal, children and adult diapers and wipes are always needed. Please put items in the shopping cart that is on the patio on Sundays.

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### Youth On Their Own

Youth on their Own is a dropout prevention program that supports the high school graduation and continued success of youth experiencing homelessness in Pima County. We will be adding a collection box in our Narthex for those from the congregation who wish to donate items to support young people in our community. Please check the posted sign by the donation box for specific needs.

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### Lay Shared Bible Study

Bible study group meets Wednesday at 10:30AM in the AB pocket room. Contact Laurretta Olson for more information - [landjo@cox.net](mailto:landjo@cox.net).

## OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# TIHAN News: Poz Café is coming in June

May

As many of you know, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church supports Tucsonans living with HIV/AIDS through TIHAN (the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network). Most of the people served by TIHAN (referred to as CarePartners) are socially isolated due to the stigma of HIV/AIDS and disability, and many are also low income and qualify for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as "food stamps".



Many CarePartners struggle to afford personal hygiene and household products which cannot be obtained through the federal program. Monthly POZ Cafes provide CarePartners with a hot lunch, an opportunity to socialize in a safe and accepting setting, play bingo to win prizes such as gift cards and household necessities, and receive a care package containing necessities they might not otherwise afford. As a CarePartner explained to us at a recent worship service, these items provide "a shred of dignity" to someone living in poverty.

Our congregation is co-hosting the Poz Café to be held on Thursday, June 19, 2025 in the OSLC Activity Building. Please note that this day is Juneteenth, a Federal holiday.

As a host congregation, OSLC has been asked to provide 120 each of the following items for the June care packages:

- Facial Tissue in the small cube boxes of 50 to 100 tissues, any brand
- Full-size shampoo in 12-32 oz bottles (no conditioner please)
- Disposable razors- multiple packs are ok
- No time to shop? We will gladly accept cash gifts to purchase needed items!

There will be a table on the patio on Sundays to collect your donations, or you can bring them to the church office Monday through Thursday during normal business hours. All items are needed by Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

We also need a few volunteers to help with the Poz Café on June 19<sup>th</sup>:

- One person from 8-9:30 am to make the care packages.
- Up to 6 volunteers from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm to set up tables and chairs in the AB, help serve meals, clear tables, distribute care packages, put away tables and chairs, and clean up the meeting room and kitchen areas.
- We may be able to assign less active duties which can be done seated. Please let Mary know if you would like to explore this option.
- If you are unavailable June 19<sup>th</sup> but would still like to help, we are also seeking a volunteer on Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> to help hand out care packages to CarePartners who couldn't get to the luncheon. This shift will require sitting and standing in a shaded area outdoors from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Cornerstone Fellowship Church near North First Ave. and Glenn St.

Please see Mary Pflibsen or contact her at [marypflib@hotmail.com](mailto:marypflib@hotmail.com) or 520-622-1983 for more information or if you would like to volunteer.



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### *Our Mission:*

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

## **Living Water Indeed!**

About twenty-five workers from the congregation gathered on April 12 to dig, move rocks, plant, and serve snacks! Watershed Management Group designed the garden and led the project. The garden will help redirect rain, avoid office flooding, and beautify our campus. Come visit the new "prayerground" any time.



# Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

## May 2025 Calendar

For a complete listing of all campus events, please visit our website: [www.lutherantucson.org](http://www.lutherantucson.org)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*These are community organized events, held at Our Saviour's. More information can be found on our Events Page - <a href="https://lutherantucson.org/events-page">https://lutherantucson.org/events-page</a>						
				<sup>1</sup> Come and See 12PM Patio Room  Choir Practice 6:30PM AB	<sup>2</sup> OFFICE CLOSED	<sup>3</sup>
<sup>4</sup> Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM Greta Pastor Rectal 10:30AM Celebration Brunch following	<sup>5</sup> *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary Pray Without Ceasing 5:30PM Chapel	<sup>6</sup> *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Property 9AM Library Staff Meeting 10:30AM Centering Prayer 12:15 PM *Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Café	<sup>7</sup> *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room LCM Dinner and Worship 6:00PM	<sup>8</sup> Come and See 12PM Patio Room  Choir Practice 6:30PM AB	<sup>9</sup> OFFICE CLOSED	<sup>10</sup>
<sup>11</sup> Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM	<sup>12</sup> *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm	<sup>13</sup> *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Property 9AM Library Staff Meeting 10:30AM Centering Prayer 12:15 PM RIC 4:00PM Patio Rm *Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Café	<sup>14</sup> *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	<sup>15</sup> Come and See 11AM Patio Room Poz CAFÉ All Day	<sup>16</sup> OFFICE CLOSED	<sup>17</sup>
<sup>18</sup> Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	<sup>19</sup> *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Pray Without Ceasing 5:30PM Chapel	<sup>20</sup> *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Quilters 9:00AM AB Staff Meeting 10:30AM Centering Prayer 12:15 PM *Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Café Council Meeting 6:30PM Patio Rm	<sup>21</sup> *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	<sup>22</sup> Come and See 12PM Patio Room	<sup>23</sup> OFFICE CLOSED	<sup>24</sup>
<sup>25</sup> Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	<sup>26</sup> Office Closed - Memorial Day	<sup>27</sup> *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:30AM Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch *Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Café	<sup>28</sup> Roadrunner Assembly 8:30AM Patio Room *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	<sup>29</sup> Come and See 12PM Patio Room	<sup>30</sup> OFFICE CLOSED	<sup>31</sup>

## **“Par Saviour’s” and ELCA Seminarians Win Again!**

On March 17, the 2025 Ken Ahlstrand Fund for Leaders in Ministry (FLIM) Golf Classic was held at Oro Valley Country Club. This annual golf fundraiser brings 120 golfers on teams from over a dozen ELCA congregations in the Grand Canyon Synod for a fun day in the sun. Nearly \$20,000 was raised at the event to support the ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship fund that provides scholarships to seminary students so that those recipients will not begin serving as a pastor of a congregation with indebtedness for their education.

And, for the third year in a row, Our Saviour’s team, or, Par Saviour’s as they prefer to be called, is bringing home a trophy once again! The team of Jeanne Gacke, Jim Phillips, Susan Sommerfeld and David Lester brought home the Mixed Team Trophy for the third consecutive year. Par Saviour’s shot a sizzling 7 under par, beating the second-place team by 8 strokes. Team captain, David Lester, attributed the team’s win to Jim Phillip’s driver, Jeanne Gacke’s short game and Susan Sommerfeld’s unique celebrations of team birdies.

More information for next year’s event will be shared with the congregation next February and learn about ways both golfers and non-golfers can contribute to this important event. Each year a select number of ELCA seminarians receive funds through these scholarships totaling over \$3 million annually. Pastor Amalia was a recipient of a full-ride Fund for Leaders scholarship to attend Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Current seminarian and Our Saviour's member Melanie Bowman has also received a Fund for Leaders scholarship.

Glory to Golf...um, God!  
-David Lester



Photo: Jeanne Gacke, David Lester, Susan Summerfeld, Jim Phillips