



As my thoughts have turned towards the New Year, I sense this congregation is longing for a deeper level of connection with God, one another, and our neighbors.

We are living in times that people in the congregation have described to me using words like unprecedented, disheartening, and hopeless. In these conversations, you also tell me this congregation is an anchor, a sheltering

place, a refuge, and a solace for you. I am so glad for this. Even so, I feel we often remain on the edge of where God is leading us. Unwilling to risk conflict, challenge, or disruption we stick to what is comfortable and safe. I get this – I often want to be in those safer places too. But the Gospel (God with us in Christ) according to Matthew talks about “hearing and acting” (Matthew 7:24). When we listen to and act according to the teachings of Jesus, we are building a solid foundation for God’s ministry of life, healing, wholeness, and liberation for all Creation. In unity and community we live out diverse ways of being Christ-centered people – “there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling.” Further, this whole body is in Christ “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love” (Ephesians 4:4, 16)

In 2022, we spent time thinking about this congregation and where we were headed. We established 5 areas of focus with a goal statement for each:

- **Expansive Welcome:** Long-timers and newcomers will experience and cultivate a place of belonging and affirmation.
- **Housing:** Our midtown location will provide affordable and accessible housing, especially for those facing housing barriers.
- **Music & Arts:** We will be known as a community that values and supports the arts.
- **Neighborhood:** Our neighbors will consider our presence meaningful.
- **Capacity:** We will cultivate, offer, and steward the human and financial resources needed to build and sustain our areas of focus.

As I think about this sense of longing for deeper connection, I see important and good work ahead in all these areas. I want to hear what you think as well. Over the next 6 weeks or so, I will initiate intentional conversation about where this congregation is and what new opportunities God may be leading us towards. One opportunity will be during the Sunday Forum on January 18. I will also be reaching out to a range of 5-7 individuals in the congregation for a series of 45-minute one-on-one conversations. In addition, our newly formed Council will be meeting for a retreat in February to engage in this conversation.

We ground this vision in God who is above all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:6).

-Pastor Amalia

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David Zezulka  
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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.



For devotions Pastor Amalia used the hymn Unexpected and Mysterious (#258) found in the hymnal. We learned about the composer Calvin Hampton. He lived in New York and was also a musician. He died in 1984 and the official New York Times obituary did not indicate that he died of AIDS. In the telling of someone's life there are portions of any person's story that are known and not known. We then watched a choral presentation of the hymn. The words of the hymn indicate that we should wait with Joy and Wonder in the coming days.

Financially we are on track for 2025. So far 58 households have returned a statement of intent for 2026. This is very good, but we are still looking for a total of 70 statements of intent. We are grateful if you would turn one in (even if you prefer to not make a specific commitment). The Council examined the preliminary 2026 Mission Plan. Work still needs to be completed before the Annual Meeting on February 8, 2026.

Lutheran Campus Ministry continues to work on the Center of Grace proposal and their call process. Also, there is a small congregation looking into using Koch Chapel for their 10:30 AM service. Council approved moving forward with a space sharing agreement. We said goodbye to John Perez, our Campus Caretaker and welcomed interim Caretaker, David Zezulka (was here in that role previously). Please do all you can to keep the campus in good shape. Thank you to Primavera who cleaned the alley next to the South Parking Lot. The gutters of the Patio Room are being replaced. A reminder that January 31, 2026, is the rain garden workday.

Have a joyous New Year!



Thanks for supporting the holiday food drive. Your monetary and food donations made a difference for many in our community especially those experiencing job loss or cancellation of SNAP benefits. Food collection including personal hygiene items continues throughout the year. Canned, packaged and in-date non-perishable items including pasta, peanut butter, 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.

Angie Grandison

## Music Notes - Aysen Milliogullari

January 2026



As we welcome the New Year, our music ministry begins with renewed energy, hope, and gratitude. January is a time for fresh starts, and our choir embraces that spirit as we move forward together.

Starting in February, the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir will perform in worship services. We will also continue to have the Chancel Band and guest musicians throughout the year. Thank you for your support of our music ministry. May this new year bring peace, joy, and harmony to all of us.

## Lutheran Campus Ministry - Deacon Wendi Van Beek

January 2026



Lutheran Campus Ministry  
at University of Arizona

Grace and peace to you in this New Year!

As I write you this note, it is the middle of December. We are in the middle of our Advent season of waiting, and the students at Lutheran Campus Ministry in Tucson are in the middle of their finals. It's papers and projects and tests galore! And, by the time you read this note, the students will be planning their return to classes, and LCM will be preparing for the spring semester of meals and worship and service. As we transition from 2025 to 2026, and the students transition from fall semester to spring, we give thanks to God for all that has been, and all that is to come. LCM, and I, are grateful for your great care, and would appreciate your prayers as the process to call the next director to LCM moves forward in this New Year.

God with us all... yesterday, today, and always!

God's Peace,  
Deacon Wendi

## Thank You for the TIHAN Gifts



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

*Helping People with HIV to Live Well*

Thank you to everyone who provided gifts, gift cards or cash donations to make Christmas brighter for people living with HIV or AIDS. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is a congregational partner for TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network.) TIHAN is a non-profit which provides support and resources for CarePartners, who are Tucsonans living with HIV/AIDS. Many are older and low-income individuals. Thanks to you, OSLC provided over 40 gift cards and 57 Christmas gifts. These will be the only gifts many of the CarePartners will receive this holiday season. Your generosity is a blessing!

## JANUARY HAPPENINGS



### **Pray Without Ceasing - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 5:30 PM - Chapel**

Open prayer space on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 5:30.

The service lasts about a half hour. Rooted in Christian tradition, open to Tucson community.

### **Come & See - Tuesdays, 11 AM - 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 or borrow one of our Lutheran Study Bibles.

### **Centering Prayer - Paused for January**

### **Grief Group - January 10, 10AM - Ramada Room**

Meets the second Saturday of each month in the Ramada Room at 10:00AM. Led by Pastor Ricki from Hospice of the Valley. Free and open to all.

### **Gospel of Luke Book Study - Monday January 5, and 19 at 6:30PM**

Ched Myers, Healing Affluenza and Resisting Plutocracy - Luke's Jesus and Sabbath Economics. This journey with Luke will challenge us personally, in our households, and our communities, both locally and globally. Contact: Paula Miller for more information.

### **Common Ground on the Border - January 15-18, The Good Shepherd Church (Sahuarita, AZ)**

Join others for "Changes in a Changeless Desert: A Celebration of commitment, compassion, and community across the US/Mexico borderlands." Immersion trips, classes, keynote lectures, food, film and music. You can attend for all or some. There will be a group carpooling on Saturday afternoon from Our Saviour's.

### **Who Told You That You Were Naked? Breaking Free from Shame to Embrace the Body as a Gift from God, Jan 24, 1:30 - 3:30 PM, Activity Building**

Rev. Beverly Dale (ordained Disciples of Christ minister) will teach from her book "Who Told You That You Were Naked." The workshop will address body discomfort and pain that have their basis in shame and harmful theology. Rev. Dale will talk about aging, gender roles, self-esteem, and trauma. With grace, acceptance, non-judgement and laughter, participants will be guided through reflective exercises to begin finding healing correctives. Hosted by Our Saviour's. Intended for adults.

### **Raingarden Workday - January 31, 8 am - Noon**

We will continue working with Watershed Management Group to make good use of God's rain and sun as we beautify our west campus and welcome more pollinators and desert-friendly plants and flowers. Workers and treat-makers needed!

Save the Date - Sunday, February 8 - Congregational Annual Meeting (following worship)

### **Recycling Program**

Our plastic program is on hold for now. Please recycle #1, #2, and #5 in your own blue bin. We hope to resume when we can provide more training and have more volunteer support. Thank you to all who have helped support this program!



## Our Saviour's Lutheran Church January 2026

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
				<sup>1</sup> Happy New Year	<sup>2</sup> OFFICE CLOSED	<sup>3</sup>
<sup>4</sup> Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	<sup>5</sup> *Mindful Meditation Ramada Room 1:30PM  Pray Without Ceasing 5:30PM Book Club 6:30PM Bell Choir sanctuary 6:30PM Spanish Class AB Café 6:30PM	<sup>6</sup> *Men's Bible Study 7 AM - AB Staff Meeting 10 AM Come and See 11 AM  Spanish Class AB Café 6:30PM	<sup>7</sup> Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	<sup>8</sup>   Choir Practice 6:30pm	<sup>9</sup> OFFICE CLOSED	<sup>10</sup> Grief Support Group 10:00am Ramada Room
<sup>11</sup> Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM Sunday Forum 10:30AM Watershed Mgmt Group	<sup>12</sup> *Mindful Meditation Ramada Room 1:30PM  Bell Choir Sanctuary 6:30PM	<sup>13</sup> *Men's Bible Study 7AM - AB Staff Meeting 10 AM Come and See 11 AM  Spanish Class AB Café 6:30PM	<sup>14</sup> Property 9AM Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room  LCM dinner and worship 6 PM	<sup>15</sup>  Poz CAFÉ 11AM  Choir Practice 6:30pm	<sup>16</sup> OFFICE CLOSED	<sup>17</sup> Common Ground on the Border (Sahurita)
<sup>18</sup> Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM Sunday Forum 10:30AM - Vision Conversation	<sup>19</sup> OFFICE CLOSED  *Mindful Meditation Ramada Room 1:30PM  Pray Without Ceasing 5:30PM Book Club 6:30pm Bell Choir sanctuary 6:30PM	<sup>20</sup> *Men's Bible Study 7AM - AB Quitting 9AM AB Staff Meeting 10 AM Come and See 11 AM  Council 6:30PM Patio Rm Spanish Class AB Café 6:30PM	<sup>21</sup> Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room  LCM dinner and worship 6 PM	<sup>22</sup>   Choir Practice 6:30pm	<sup>23</sup> OFFICE CLOSED	<sup>24</sup> Healthy Sexuality Workshop 1:30 pm-3:30pm
<sup>25</sup> Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	<sup>26</sup> *Mindful Meditation Ramada Room 1:30PM  Bell Choir sanctuary 6:30PM	<sup>27</sup> *Men's Bible Study 7AM - AB Staff Meeting 10 AM Come and See 11AM  Spanish Class AB Café 6:30PM	<sup>28</sup> Roadrunner Assembly 9AM Patio Room Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room  LCM dinner and worship 6 PM	<sup>29</sup>   Choir Practice 6:30pm	<sup>30</sup> OFFICE CLOSED	<sup>31</sup> Rain Garden Work Day 8AM - 12PM

# Thank You

Thank you to each of you who has contributed to the work of this congregation in the past year. From worship leaders to sandwich makers to small group ministry leaders to "jump in and do what needs to be doners," thank you. Our Saviour's is able to accomplish great ministry thanks to the hands and hearts of all who make it possible.

Best wishes for a joyful 2026!

**Prayer Requests:** Family and friends of Jackie Fahey; Family and friends of Pat DeAnda (mother of Lisa Delaossa); Mary Wildner-Bassett (following the death of her partner, Kathy Huttlinger); prayers of joy for Scott Koenig (for his engagement to Rev. Michael Bush earlier this year); Corky Ronstadt (hospice care), Isobel Barnhill (recovering from a fall), Mary Neff (hospice care), Schatzi Taylor (in a rehabilitation center following a fall and diagnosis), and those at home and in care facilities.

**Our Extended Friends & Family:** Frenchie (Friend of Judy and John Indermark); Pat (mother of Lisa Delaossa); Lia (granddaughter of Angie Grandison), Beverly (Mother of Hildi Williams), 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); 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); Daniel (neighbor's son of Gloria Schmidt); Rich (cousin-in-law of Jennifer Strand); Misty (friend of Schatzi Taylor); Will (nephew of Chris and Theda Doak); Leaticia, Azogan, Meivis, Sidibe, Bintou, Zinsou, and Mabel (friends of Rachel Starner); Pat (friend of Suzanne Hesh).

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

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## Youth On Their Own

Currently there is a letter on the Youth On Their Own website ([yoto.org](http://yoto.org)) from Ann Young, who founded YOTO almost 40 years ago. Back then Ann had been working as a high school counselor in Tucson and was "deeply concerned about the many smart, promising students struggling to stay in school because they had to work, cope with food insecurity, or find a safe place to sleep." After making her church (St. Andrew's Presbyterian) aware of the problem and speaking to the congregation, she received enough funds in donations from congregation members to launch the program that became Youth On Their Own.

It is amazing what a relatively small number of people (such as a congregation) can do when they care deeply about something and work together. Your generosity in the form of gifts in kind for the students at YOTO has been wonderful this year. The bin I have in the narthex for donations fills up often enough, that the volunteers and staff who stock the Mini-Mall at YOTO know me (and Our Saviour's) by name. Thank you so much for your love and generosity for the youth of Pima County who really need our support.

Asher Havenhill

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## The Lot On 22nd Street:

As most of you know, Our Saviour's played a large role in providing food and volunteers necessary to serve a group of homeless individuals and families Thanksgiving dinner this year. The event was a resounding success. The donations of food and cash that were received were used to prepare side dishes including mashed potatoes, stuffing, corn, green beans, salad, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and drinks (sodas, water, milk). Turkey, pie and a large group of volunteers were provided by Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

Those who served at The Lot stopped counting those being served after 200. Some leftover food was taken to Primavera Men's Shelter, some was taken to homeless individuals at local parks, some was given to Janice Molina of Beautiful Savior, who routinely visits her homeless friends at the parks, and some was used in the meal that was served at The Lot on the following Sunday. Donations (and volunteer work) were received from church members and from people outside both churches who heard about the event and wanted to help. We believe that part of the church's role in the community is to provide an avenue through which those outside and within the congregation can give to those in need. Many who donated goods or funds or who volunteered for the event thanked us multiple times for giving them the opportunity to give. For us this event is a Thanksgiving tradition that we would sorely miss, if we could not do it. Thank you so much for your support and for making our Thanksgiving more meaningful.

Asher & Mary Havenhill



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A Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA:  
Being Christ-centered community through faith and action in the heart of Tucson.

## Save the Date: Rain Garden Workday January 31

sign up by emailing [oslc@lutherantucson.org](mailto:oslc@lutherantucson.org)



ELCA

### 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.



RECONCILING IN CHRIST