



Are You Open to Singing Dangerous Songs?

My longtime friend Richard Bruxvoort Colligan has just released an important book called *Dangerous Songs: The Psalms and a Gloriously Disrupted Life*. In it, Richard invites us deeper into the spiritual practice of these complex songs that grapple with the passion and honesty of human experience. Richard's book claims this will “wreck our perfectly OK faith – and transform it into something deeper.”

Richard has had a lifelong love of the Psalms. Around our house we call him “The Psalm Whisperer.” He has written many original interpretations that help these ancient songs sing new stories. More than a few of you have received these from me via text or a link in an email. I carry Richard's versions of the songs around in my head, singing them in the car, on the trail, in the empty Sanctuary during the week when I'm setting things up for worship.

One of those songs is “Be My Keeper,” based on Psalm 121. Here's the refrain:

Be my keeper, as I'm moving/For I am close to some place deeper
As you held this world forever/Be my keeper, be my keeper.

I need God as “Our Keeper.” Our world is not okay. Our Lutheran faith calls us to state plainly what is happening around us. Violent words and violent actions have become commonplace. Our present Administration is holding approximately 60,311 children of God in detention, with about 70.8% of them having no criminal conviction. These include parents, children, coworkers, and friends. Decades of work to preserve national habitats and resources are being dismantled daily.

What Richard calls “Dangerous Songs” - the Psalms - speak honestly to the pain, worry, confusion, and hope of the human experience. When we are fearful or lost or so joyful we can't find the words, the Psalms can ground and guide us. In planning for Bob Burke's memorial service, his wife Dorothy shared with me how central this line was to Bob, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...” It was the “through” that mattered to Bob, reminding him (and now forever, me too) that God guides us through our most challenging times.

Honesty means going beyond “okay” with our faith. It might feel or even be dangerous. But we do not go alone. We are rooted in God, as Richard reminds us in his song based on Psalm 87:

Our roots are in you; in you we are planted.
All streams flow from you and return home.

Pastor Amalia

Joyous Easter Season!

As we continue to celebrate the Risen Christ, our devotion at the Council meeting on April 21 reminded us to rely on the Holy Spirit's strength, not our own. The Holy Spirit provides wisdom, courage, and endurance that we cannot create within ourselves. We serve more faithfully when we acknowledge our limits.

Thanks to God's goodness and your faithfulness, our finances are healthy. Your weekly giving continues to support ministry and needs. As summer approaches, we give thanks for your continued and faithful giving. The Property Committee continues to evaluate several projects, including replacing tiles on the dome and tiles in the front of the sanctuary. The maintenance of the ice machine in the Activity Building Kitchen is completed. The men's bathroom in the Sanctuary is being modified to be a single-use family bathroom that can be used for those needing caregiver assistance, open to all genders. This will allow greater access for all worshipers. We discussed a proposal from the Finance Committee that would add social responsibility to our investment policy and make better use of ELCA financial ministries, including the ELCA Foundation and Mission Investment Fund. We will consider this further at our May meeting.

The Reconciling in Christ Team hosted the film, "A Time for Burning" and discussion and may show it again at a later date. They will host a Sunday Forum on May 3 about transgender experiences. April marks the one-year anniversary of Our Saviour's being a Reconciling in Christ congregation!

Directed by the congregation at our Annual Meeting, we elected Patty Sirls to join Meg Hughes as our representatives to the Synod Assembly, which meets June 11 – 13 in Mesa. This is the one-year anniversary of TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/Aids Network) being on our campus. We received several thank-you notes from the staff and the care partners. The Blenman Elm Home Tour was successful and fun. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this happen.

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**LUTHERAN CAMPUS
MINISTRY**

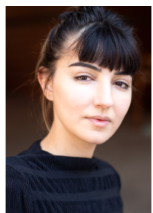
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Online Offering

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.

**Joyful New Beginnings**

We hold in joyful prayer longtime member Scott Koenig and his fiancé, the Rev. Michael Bush, as they prepare for their wedding on May 16, 2026 in Michigan. We rejoice in this good news! Sometimes new beginnings can mean a time of ending as well. Following their wedding, Scott will be leaving Our Saviour's and joining Casas Adobes UCC, where Michael serves as pastor. With joy and some tears, we will bless Scott in worship on May 10th.



We have some beautiful music planned for May that we hope will add something special to our worship each week.

The Chancel Choir has been working hard on two meaningful songs. The first is *For the Least* by Wayne L. Wold, an anthem that feels like a heartfelt song, centered on the themes of unconditional love and outreach. They will also sing Ed Lojeski's arrangement of *Take My Hand, Precious Lord*. This gospel was written by Thomas A. Dorsey in 1932 during a period of intense personal grief; the Lojeski setting is widely respected for its rich, expressive choral harmonies. We are so grateful for the heart and care the choir has put into preparing these pieces.

We are also happy to welcome back guest violinist Kelsey Archer Osburn, who will join Betsy Dunlap for two classical duets. They will perform Paganini's *Cantabile in D Major, Op. 17*. While Niccolò Paganini is famous for flashy, difficult music that pushed the technical limits of the violin, this work creates a singing sound that mimics a beautiful operatic voice. They will also play Fauré's *Sicilienne, Op. 78*. Originally written for a theatrical production in 1893, this French masterpiece is famous for its graceful rhythm and peaceful melody that creates a space for quiet reflection.

This month is also a bittersweet time as we say goodbye to our dear pianist, Betsy Dunlap. Betsy has shared her gift of music with us so faithfully, and her playing has meant more to our church family than words can say. She brings a rare authenticity to the piano; her own beautiful compositions and the soul she pours into every note have been a true blessing to our ministry. We are deeply thankful for her service and for all she has given to our community. Betsy, you will be greatly missed. We hope you will always remain a part of this church family. We look forward to sharing this month of music with all of you.

We anticipate sharing news soon about our next Collaborative Musician.



YOUTH ON THEIR OWN™

Asher Havenhill

Donations are making it possible for marginalized teenagers to reach their God-given potential as adults. The items needed for the MinMall are listed below. A collection bin is located in the narthex at the church. Thank you!

Food:

Individually packaged snacks (cereal 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

Hygiene:

Toilet paper, Body wash, Shampoo (full-sized), Conditioner (full-sized), Face wash, Shave cream, Chapstick, Toothpaste

Linens/Household:

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



The Catholic Worker movement and its co-founder, Dorothy Day, have been a guiding spiritual presence for most of my adult life. The movement began on May 1, 1933 when Dorothy and co-founder, Peter Maurin started a newspaper called The Catholic Worker which eventually became an international community seeking to live out the Gospel message of justice and charity through the works of mercy, nonviolence, and prayer. For me, my involvement at OSLC feels very much like the Catholic Worker communities I have belonged to over the years. One of many reasons for this is because OSLC is a Reconciling in Christ Church. Reconciling in Christ Churches 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 because of who you are.

This month, on May 3rd the Reconciling in Christ Team will hold a Forum after service to learn more about the experiences of transgender people. Dr. David Johnson will share information from the medical perspective, and another member will share their family's personal experience of raising a transgender child. We will also talk about why this topic is in the news so much and ways that Christian people can speak up in support of transgender people. We hope you will join us for this educational and powerful forum.

Additionally, on Saturday, May 16th at 1 PM, we will host our first Street Studio. We will create space for our unhoused neighbors who are musicians, poets, and performers to feed their souls with art. This open mic format will help restore the dignity of the human spirit that is often diminished by the challenges of homelessness. Have an instrument to lend for the musicians? We are looking to have guitars and horns on hand for people to use. Contact me at paula@lutherantucson.org for more information.

These two gatherings represent for me the heart of OSLC - full participation because of who you are. When reflecting on the founding of the Catholic Worker, Dorothy Day wrote "the most significant thing is community. We are not alone anymore. But the final word is love. We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other. We know God in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone anymore. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship. We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community." The loving community that Our Saviour's is building is part of the solution.

Prayer Requests: Our Saviour's Community: Fred Alvord; Corky Ronstadt (at-home care), Mary Neff (care facility), Schatzi Taylor (care facility), Dave & JillAnn Varley (death of Dave's mother); Judy & John Indermark (death of friend); and all at home and in care facilities.

Our Extended Friends & Family: Family and Friends of Beverly Varley (Dave Varley's mother); Sarah and family (great niece of Donna Lounsbury); Becky (Daughter of Mary Wildner-Bassett) Family & Friends of Frenchy (Friend of Judy and John Indermark); David (Son of Geoff and Suzy Swann); Barbara (sister-in-law of Kenith Ijams); Josh, Melissa, Mary Ann Libby (friends of Chris and Theda Doak); Megan (niece of Chris and Theda Doak); Sally, and Ashley, (friends of Kathy DeVinney); Grant and Shirley (brother and sister-in-law of Theda Doak); John (son of Martha Neff Stum and Paul Stum); Daniel (neighbor's son of Gloria Schmidt); Rich (cousin-in-law of Jennifer Strand); Will (nephew of Chris and Theda Doak); Leaticia, Azogan, Sidibe, and Zinsou, (friends of Rachel Starner); Michael (friend of Suzanne Hesh).

Names will generally remain on the list for three weeks, unless requested for renewal. Please contact the church office for corrections, updates, and additions.



Lutheran Campus Ministry
at University of Arizona

Dear neighbors,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Risen Saviour!

By the time you read this article, the semesters at University of Arizona and Pima Community College will nearly be over, and our time of gathering for dinner and worship will be complete for this academic year. We ask for your prayers for our students as they complete their final projects, papers, and exams.

This last week, the students began to make hand tied fleece blankets as our service project, to donate them to Project Linus in Tucson. Project Linus, a registered 501 (c)(3), provides handmade blankets to children 0-18 in the United States who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. It is an amazing organization doing great ministry, and if you are interested in learning more, go to www.projectlinus.org.

We continue to be grateful for your prayers as the LCM Board and student leaders progress in their work to call the next director to Lutheran Campus Ministry. This process, as in any call process, is not easy work. But we continue to trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and anticipate the next chapter for LCM. Such a time of transition and a time of hope centered in our risen Christ who makes all things new! Alleluia!

God's Peace,

Deacon Wendi



WHERE HELP BRINGS HOPE
FOOD BANK DONATIONS



The ICS Food Bank has increased need for donations as more people in our community are experiencing food insecurity due to job cuts or loss of health and SNAP benefits. Canned, packaged and in-date non-perishable items including pasta, peanut butter, pasta sauce, canned meats, rice, beans, cereal and personal hygiene items are needed. No opened packages or bottled items please. Please put donations in the shopping cart that is on the patio every Sunday.



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

Helping People with HIV to Live Well

TIHAN News: Poz Café is coming in June!

As many of you know, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church supports Tucsonans living with HIV/AIDS through TIHAN (the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network). Monthly Poz Cafes provide CarePartners with a hot lunch, an opportunity to socialize in a safe and accepting setting, play bingo to win prizes, and receive a care package containing necessities they might not otherwise afford. 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 have 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 purchased with SNAP benefits.

Our congregation is co-hosting the Poz Café to be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026, in the OSLC Activity Building. As a host congregation, volunteers are needed to help with the luncheon. Here are the details:

- **One person is needed from 8-9:30 am to help packing care packages.**
- **Up to 6 volunteers from 9:15 am to 1:30 pm to set up tables and chairs in the AB, greet CarePartners, help serve meals, clear tables, distribute care packages, put away tables and chairs, and clean up the dining and kitchen areas.**

Most volunteer work involves being on your feet and might require lifting and carrying items, although we may be able to assign duties that can be done seated if requested ahead of time. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please see Mary Durham-Pflibsen on Sunday mornings, or contact her at 520-622-1983 or marypflib@hotmail.com.

We will also be collecting items for the care packages. Please note that some items are different than last year. Only new, unused, full-size items are needed.

- 180 Shampoo in 12-32 oz bottles (no conditioner please)
- 180 Deodorant/Antiperspirant
- 90 shaving cream cans
- 180 liquid household cleaner or bleach

The brand isn't important. Dollar store or house brands are fine, and you can find great deals on multi-packs at Costco, Sam's Club, etc. 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 15th.

Thanks for supporting TIHAN's Poz Café! We can't do it without you, and the care partners are so grateful!

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church May 2026

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 Office Closed 6:00 PM Good Friday Service | 2 |
| 3 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 AM Sandwich Making 10:30 Sunday Forum RIC | 4 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room 5:30 PM Pray Without Ceasing | 5 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study - AB Cafe 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Come and See - Patio Room 6:30PM Spanish Class - AB Cafe | 6 9:00 AM Property 10:30 AM Bible Study - Pocket Room | 7 6:30 PM Choir - AB Main | 8 Office Closed | 9 10:00 AM Griet Support - Ramada Room |
| 10 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 AM Sandwich Making | 11 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room 5:30 PM RIC - Patio Room | 12 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study - AB Cafe 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Come and See - Patio Room 6:30PM Spanish Class - AB Cafe | 13 10:30 AM Bible Study - Pocket Room 6:30 PM Good Neighbor Coalition - AB Main | 14 6:30 PM Choir - AB Main | 15 Office Closed | 16 1:00 PM Street Studio - Chapel |
| 17 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:30 AM Sandwich Making 10:30 Sunday Forum Cafe Justo | 18 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room 5:30 PM Pray Without Ceasing | 19 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study - AB Cafe 9:00 AM Quilters - AB 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Come and See - Patio Room 6:30 PM Council - Patio Room 6:30PM Spanish Class - AB Cafe | 20 10:30 AM Bible Study - Pocket Room | 21 11:00 AM POZ Cafe | 22 Office Closed | 23 |
| 24 Pentecost - Wear Red 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:30 AM Sandwich Making | 25 OFFICE CLOSED 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room | 26 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study - AB Cafe 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Come and See - Patio Room 6:30PM Spanish Class - AB Cafe | 27 9:00 AM Roadrunner Assembly 10:30 AM Bible Study - Pocket Room | 28 | 29 Office Closed | 30 |
| 31 9:00 AM Sunday Worship Sanctuary 10:30 AM Sandwich Making | | | | | | |



OUR SAVIOUR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

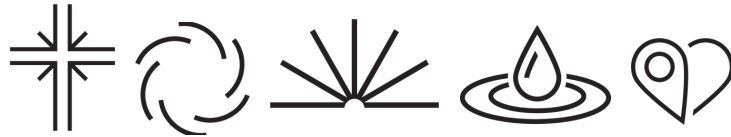
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A Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA:

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

Upcoming Forums

May 3 - Transgender Experiences

The Reconciling in Christ Team will host a Forum after service to learn more about the experiences of transgender people. Dr. David Johnson will share information from the medical perspective, and another member will share their families' personal experience. Paula Miller, Minister of Community Engagement, will share about ways Christian people can speak up in support of transgender people. We hope you will join us for this educational and powerful forum.

May 16 - Café Justo/Just Coffee

Come learn from the CEO of Café Justo/Just Coffee, Adrián González, all about the coffee we serve at Our Saviour's. Café Justo is a coffee grower cooperative based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico. They market a pure, organic coffee which is grown, harvested and marketed in the spirit of justice. Our goal is to provide incentives for people to remain on their family lands. The coffee is harvested, cleaned and prepared for shipping in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas. The beans are then transported to Agua Prieta, Sonora. In Agua Prieta the coffee is roasted, ground and packaged for shipment to customers like Our Saviour's.