The Roadrunner

October 2026



Trusted Messengers - Rev. Amalia Vagts

On the first day of homiletics class in seminary our professor gave us this preaching lesson: “Don’t lie.”

When a preacher gets up in the pulpit or stands in front of the congregation to deliver a sermon, you can’t always guarantee it will be great, or even good, or theologically sound. Pastors make mistakes or say things the wrong way – I certainly have. But one thing I hope you can count on from me each week is the truth.

Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry is calling on all Lutherans to be trusted messengers in these times. Bishop Curry recently wrote,

> False information remains a persistent challenge during elections. It can spread rapidly, undermining confidence in the electoral process and discouraging participation. Grounded in the commandment not to bear false witness, our churches and faith leaders are uniquely positioned to help address this challenge by seeking out and sharing accurate information and correcting misinformation when it arises. In a time when trust is often in short supply, serving as trusted sources of wisdom and guidance is a meaningful form of Christian witness. By helping our neighbors access accurate information and engage confidently in the democratic process, we live out our faith through responsible civic engagement and service to the common good.
>
> “A call to be trusted messengers in this election season” Living Lutheran, 8/21/26

Bishop Deborah Hutterer, Grand Canyon Synod, echoed his call saying, “May our conversations be marked by honesty, patience, and care for one another. Please make your voting plan, help a neighbor find reliable information, and pray for voters and election workers alike. (“Vote with Confidence,” Bishop Letter 9/16/26).

While we hold a range of political views in our congregation, we are called to courageous and truthful discussion with one another and our neighbors. Widespread disinformation campaigns create chaos and threaten democracy. As Christians we must address lies and disinformation and speak with honesty, mercy, and compassion.

On Sunday, October 4, during our Sunday Forum, we will have information available about voter registration and mail-in voting ahead of the October 5 voter registration deadline. We will also learn about and discuss Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona’s Ballot Measures Voting Guide. (Find it online at lamaz.org/voting-resources)

I pray that we can be reliable and trusted messengers for one another and our community.

- Pastor Amalia

Council Corner - Jennifer Strand

October 2026

Our devotion at the beginning of the September 15 meeting examined the saying, “killing time,” and how that impacts how a person lives. Pastor Amalia used a chapter from the book “The Hungering Dark” by Rev. Frederick Buechner to examine how our view of time determines many aspects of our lives. Buechner writes that we need to recognize that the time we are killing is our own time. Do we think of the time we have as if we are just passing through? Instead, we can think of living fully within our lives. We are really alive when we become engaged with other people and listen to each other in the times of speaking and silence. God’s love will be revealed.

Our finances continue to be solid thanks to your generosity. The money gifted by members of the congregation towards the purchase of the property at 1934 Mabel has reached approximately $99,000. These gifts allow us to use less of the Lois Olsrud bequest for the home purchase. The property closed on September 4th and an Open House was held on Sunday, September 6th after the service. Pastor Amalia performed the house blessing at that time. Food, drink, and conversation were found in abundance. We welcome a person or persons who could water the plants at the house at least once a week until it is rented. The amount of watering is not large, and hoses are already set up.

In order to keep the momentum going, the Council determined the initial members of the Property/Land Stewardship Task Force: Eric Howard and Joanna Keyl (Council); Mary Lou Forier, John Indermark, David Lester (Congregation); Rev. Jenn Luong and Susan Sommerfeld (Community). This initial group will meet to organize prior to the October Council meeting. Council is the decision-making body. Forming this group is the next step in developing a long-term approach to our land stewardship to help support our mission within the church and the community.

The Reconciling in Christ Team is planning a special Sunday worship with a Sunday Forum on October 11. The forum will be led by Youth on Their Own.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST

The RIC team thanks all of you for attending the forum where we shared for the second time, the film A Time for Burning. Some had seen it before, and some were seeing it for the first time. The continuing conversation was compassionate, intelligent and open-minded. We look forward to continuing this growth in our hearts and faith path.

October 11th brings two opportunities which are intertwined. It is National Coming Out Day and also the day we are honored to welcome a representative from Youth On Their Own for our forum time after church. We hope you all come. Your donations to YOTO will be welcomed during the service and presented to their representative at the forum.

STAFF
Ministry Team

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Pastor

Michele Ruttinger
Parish Administrator

Dr. Aysen Millioğullari
Music Director

Dawn Hartley
Collaborative Musician

Paula Miller
Minister of Community Engagement

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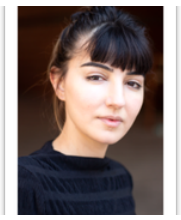
LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

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520-771-9742 (LCM Office)

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Deacon of Community Engagement
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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.

Music Notes - Dr. Aysen Millioğullari **October 2026**



Music in October:

We have several special things happening in worship this October.
I am especially happy to welcome our Bell Choir back this month on October 4th. The sound of the bells adds something very special to our worship, and I know many of us have missed hearing them. A lot of time and practice goes into preparing bell choir music, and I am grateful to everyone who gives their time and energy to this ministry, especially director Kathie Miller.

.
We will also have some wonderful brass music. Our dear church members, Andy Bade, Asher Havenhill, and Kent Pflibsen, will be playing two brass trios by Palestrina, based on Psalm 42, on October 18th.

The Chancel Choir will be singing two pieces that I am looking forward to sharing with the congregation. On October 11th, we will sing “The Gift of Love” by H. Hopson. Reformation Sunday will be another special day in October. The Chancel Choir will sing “One Faith, One Hope, One Lord” by Craig Courtney, with trumpet accompaniment provided by our guest musician Jason Carder, a faculty member at the University of Arizona, on October 25th.

I hope you can take a moment this October to enjoy the music that connects us and brings us together as a congregation.

Minister of Community Engagement - Paula Miller **October 2026**



Being Christ-centered community through faith and action in the heart of Tucson. This statement is the heart of the Our Saviour’s community, and the Public Faith Team embodies these words through living out the Gospel message. We spent our August meeting naming the ways OSLC is Christ-centered in our love of God and neighbor and being open to the world and our community through our faith and action.

Some examples we named included our accompaniment with our friends at San Juan Bautista, our prayerful presence at the Good Neighbor Interfaith Coalition monthly vigils and Pray without Ceasing services, our relationship with the Cafe Justo community, our dedication to making sandwiches every Sunday for Grace St. Paul’s and collecting supplies for Interfaith Community Services and Youth on Their Own, just to name a few.

We wondered how we can continue to grow and learn how to connect our charitable actions to justice and advocacy. We hope to organize immersion trips to our community partners in Nogales, Sonora, and Agua Prieta to better understand and learn how we can advocate and support their projects. We hope to share more stories with the congregation so that when needed we can respond with action and advocacy.

If you feel called to join us on this journey, the Public Faith Team meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 6 pm in the Patio Room. This month’s date is October 26th.

On Tuesday, October 20th, the Arizona Faith Network will have their Annual Gathering in Phoenix from 9 am to 12 pm. So far, Our Saviour’s has one car going to attend. This year's theme, From Conflict to Community, invites us to explore how we move beyond division and build stronger, more resilient communities rooted in dignity, belonging, and hope. More information can be found on their website at arizonafaithnetwork.org. If you are interested in going please see me.

Lutheran Campus Ministry - Pastor Jenn Luong **October 2026**



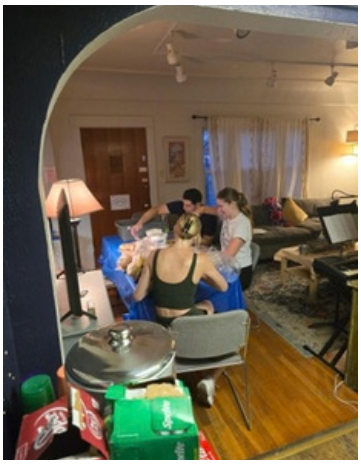
Dear friends,
It was a joy to be with you in worship on September 13. Thank you for your welcome and kindness. LCM activities are back in full swing, it's been a whirlwind. Deacon Wendi, the students and I have been out and about at events on campus in the last few week. We're excited to welcome and invite the students we meet. We continue to meet on Wednesday evenings to be fed, physically and spiritually. Speaking of feeding, the students had an evening of service, preparing the sandwiches for our neighbors at Grace St. Paul's, a project I know you are familiar with. It is always good to do God's work in our little corner of the world.

If we weren't able to meet when I was at worship in September or even if we did, please know you are invited to my installation into the call as Pastor/Director of Campus Ministry. Bishop Hutterer will preside over the service on October 4 at 4pm in the Chapel. A meal will follow the service.

I look forward to connecting with you and working together as God's people in the world.

Peace,
Pastor Jenn





Lutheran Campus Ministry
at University of Arizona

Deepen Your Faith This Fall

Chancel Choir - Thursday nights, 6:30 PM
Everyone is welcome to join our choir. Experienced and new singers are invited to help us share music during worship.Talk to Aysen if you would like to learn more.

Bell Choir - Monday Nights 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, ask any current bell ringer or contact Kathie (kmmmiller@hotmail.com)

Come & See – Tuesdays at 11:00 AM,
Weekly faith formation conversations for anyone, no preparation needed. We spend time reflecting on one of the upcoming readings for Sunday and with the "Hidden Gem" reflection prepared by John Indermark.

Sunday Forums, Sundays at 10:30 AM
Throughout the fall, we will hold a variety of learning opportunities on Sunday mornings following worship. Check the bulletin or Weekly eNews for upcoming forums.
Worship Ministers

Other Weekly Events at Our Saviour's
Meditation Group, Mondays at 1:30 PM. Call Kevin 520-290-6949 for more information.
Men's Bible Study, Tuesdays at 7:00 AM, Activity Building
Spanish Class, Tuesdays, 6:30 PM – open to all levels, free
Community Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30 AM, Activity Building
Lutheran Campus Ministry Dinner & Worship, Wednesdays (UA, PCC, other young adults)

As I was looking through the YOTO website (yoto.org) for some potential content for this article, I noticed something about the same YOTO representative (Rashel Olalde) I have been in contact with while setting up a speaker to visit OSLC after church on a Sunday in October. At a recent event, Rashel described her own experience with homelessness as a high school student, as described below. The text in quotes was taken directly from the YOTO website.

"Vibrant and spirited YOTO alumna, Rashel Olalde, shared her story of overcoming the obstacles of being homeless in high school. Her experience challenged her, but with the help of YOTO, her school liaison, and her own tenacity, she was able to graduate! Rashel is currently attending the University of Arizona and majoring in Family Studies and Human Development. Late last year, Rashel collaborated with YOTO's CEO Elizabeth Slater on an op-ed featured in the Washington Post on housing insecurity among homeless college students during school breaks. Rashel is currently advocating for stable, accessible university housing for homeless students during times when school dorms are closed. With her past experience informing her future goals, Rashel spoke about her dream to one day become the CEO of Youth On Their Own – to which she received a resounding round of applause!"

Rashel is just one of many YOTO alumni who have become successful and productive adults. One of the most important ways we can help current YOTO students become successful is through donations to the Mini-Mall, which is currently collecting donations for the Back-to-School Challenge. Items are listed on the YOTO.org website, as well as on the YOTO table in the narthex at church. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Asher Havenhill

The Lot on 22nd Street Thanksgiving Dinner

While Thanksgiving Day is a day to be grateful and a day that involves a lot of food for most of us, for many (even here in Tucson) it is just another day to be hungry. You may remember The Lot on 22nd Street from Thanksgiving last year. Our Saviour's partnered with Beautiful Savior to provide, deliver, and help serve Thanksgiving dinner to around 350 or so homeless people there. This year Our Saviour's will be the sole organization responsible for providing the meal. We are expecting around 350 people to be fed again this year. Donations of food and/or cash are very much welcomed and needed, but we need volunteers as well. Food donations can be left in the church kitchen, church office, or given directly to Mary or Asher Havenhill.

Volunteer activities include:

At home: Preparation of turkeys

Preparation of food for taking to The Lot: carving turkeys, heating vegetables & stuffing, cutting pies, putting
cranberry sauce in serving containers, etc.

The list of items we will need is given below. Note that potatoes are not on the list. This is because First Watch has agreed to supply the potatoes for this event.

Note: We will be inviting ANYONE in the community who is willing and able to help with this, whether a member of OSLC or not. It is our belief that an important role of the church is to provide opportunities for everyone to be generous.

If you are interested in helping with any of the above activities on Thanksgiving Day, we will be starting around noon. The food will not be served until around 5 pm, so we don't want the hot food to be ready too early.

If you are interested in volunteering and/or would like to donate cash for this effort, please text Mary Havenhill (520-481-5684) or Asher Havenhill (520-771-5994). Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity.

Our estimates (based on previous years we have done this and the expected turnout) for donations needed are:

- 12 -15 Turkeys, already cooked
- 350 rolls
- 75 boxes of stuffing
- 120 cans of green beans
- 120 cans of corn
- 50 cans of cranberry sauce
- 30 pumpkin pies

Asher & Mary Havenhill

Prayer Requests

October 2026

Prayer Requests: Pam Hardman; Chris Doak; Alecia Chrin; Justin Schneider; Gerry Meyer; Corky Ronstadt; Mary Neff; Lydia Slipp; the Hughes Family; and all at home and in care facilities.

Our Extended Community: Friends and Family of Kathy Greggory upon the death of her husband Gary (friends of Ann and Bill DeVinney); Liz (friend of Mary Wildner-Bassett); Sarah (great niece of Donna Lounsbury); Becky (Daughter of Mary Wildner-Bassett); Josh, Mary Ann (friends of Chris and Theda Doak); Megan (niece of Chris and Theda Doak); Jennifer, Sally, and Ashley, Gwen, and Tyler on the passing of their daughter Elora (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); Will (nephew of Chris and Theda Doak); Leaticia, Azogan, Sidibe, and Zinsou,(friends of Rachel Starner); Mary Etta (friend of Suzanne Hesh); Rita (friend of John and Judy Indermark); Nancy (friend of Cindy Bales).

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words."

-Romans 8:26

ICS INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

WHERE HELP BRINGS HOPE

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE



October to December31

TheICSFoodBank gratefully accepts prepackaged,canne non-perishable and in-date items and monetarydonatic

Holiday Items Needed

- *Instant, canned, or freshpotatoesandyams*
- *Cranberry sauce*
- *Canned veggies especiallygreenbeansandcorn*
- *Boxed and bagged stuffingmix*
- *Boxed baking mixes (Bisquick,Jiffy)*
- *Gravy mix or canned gravy*
- *Canned pumpkin*
- *Cream of mushroom soup*

Pantry Staples

- *Peanut butter*
- *Canned meats: tuna, chicken, Spam, etc.*
- *Meals in pop-top cans: chili, ravioli, etc.*
- *Pasta*
- *Canned fruits and vegetables*
- *Cereal*

Please put items in the shopping cart that is on the patio on Sundays.

Interfaith Community Services. 2820 W Ina Rd. Tucson, AZ 85741

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
October 2026

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice	**2** Office Closed	**3** 6:30 PM LCM Parking Lot - U of A Game
4 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 AM Sandwich Making 10:30 AM Forum - Election Information	**5** 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room 6:30 PM Book Club - Ramada Room 6:30 PM Bell Choir - Sanctuary	**6** 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study - AB Cafe 11:00 AM Come and See - Patio Room 6:30 PM Spanish Class - AB Cafe	**7** 10:30 AM Bible Study - Pocket Room 6:00 PM LCM Dinner and Worship	**8** 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice	**9** Office Closed	**10** 10:00 AM Grief Support - Ramada Room
11 9:00 AM Educaton Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 AM Sandwich Making 10:30 AM Forum - YOTO	**12** 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room 5:30 PM RIC - Patio RM 6:30 PM Bell Choir - Sanctuary	**13** 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study - AB Cafe 11:00 AM Come and See - Patio Room 6:30 PM Spanish Class - AB Cafe	**14** 9:00 AM Property 10:30AM Bible Study - Pocket Room 6:00 PM LCM Dinner and Worship 6:30 PM Good Neighbor Coalition - AB Main	**15** 11:00 AM POZ Cafe 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice	**16** Office Closed	**17**
18 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 AM Sandwich Making 10:30 AM Forum - inquiring members	**19** 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room 1:30 PM Finance Team 5:30 PM Pray Without Ceasing 6:30 PM Book Club - Ramda Room 6:30 PM Bell Choir - Sanctuary	**20** 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study - AB Cafe 9:00 AM Quilters - AB 11:00 AM Come and See - Patio Room 6:30 PM Council - Patio Room 6:30 PM Spanish Class - AB Cafe	**21** 10:30AM Bible Study - Pocket Room 6:00 PM LCM Dinner and Worship	**22** 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice	**23** Office Closed	**24** 6:30 PM LCM Parking Lot - U of A Game
25 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 AM Sandwich Making 10:30 AM Forum - New Members	**26** 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room 6:30 PM Bell Choir - Sanctuary 6:30 PM Public Faith Team - Patio Room	**27** 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study - AB Cafe 11:00 AM Come and See - Patio Room 6:30 PM Spanish Class - AB Cafe	**28** 9:00 AM Roadrunner Assembly - Patio Room 10:30AM Bible Study - Pocket Room 6:00 PM LCM Dinner and Worship	**29** 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice	**30** Office Closed	**31**

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.

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

October 4 - **Feast of St. Francis of Assisi & Voter Education Forum**
Last Sunday in the Season of Creation. Sunday Forum will be Election Information. Register or check your registration before the October 5 deadline. Lutheran voter guides about ballot measures available to review and discuss. Non-partisan with no discussion of candidates.

October 11 - **Reconciling in Christ Sunday & Youth on Their Own Forum**
Celebrating God's diversity during worship through word, song, and story. Wear your rainbows, bright colors, or favorite clothing. Sunday Forum will be Youth on Their Own - a partner ministry that supports the graduation & success of students who are homeless in Pima County. Bring Mini-Mall donations (info on page 5) to worship.

October 18 - **Stewardship Appeal Launch & Inquiring Members Breakfast**
We'll hear about this year's Stewardship Appeal during worship. Sunday Forum will be a special breakfast for those ready to join Our Saviour's. Sign up by emailing oslc@lutherantucson.org.

October 25 - **Reforming Sunday & New Member Sunday**
We celebrate being a reforming movement in the church. With gratitude for the work of the 16th Century reformers, we also look to reforming movements today. We will receive new members during worship.