



What Does It Mean to Live in the Season of Easter?

Easter begins on Sunday, April 5 and lasts 50 days, until the Day of Pentecost on May 24. How do we live in these days?

In my sermon on the 5th Sunday in Lent (March 22), I wrote about “Faithful Thomas,” from the 11th Chapter of John, which recounts the story of Jesus raising Lazarus to life. Very early in the John’s account, as the other disciples are questing Jesus’ judgement about returning to Judea, Thomas says, ““Let us also go, that we may die with him” (John 11:16). Thomas follows Jesus with the full knowledge of where the path may lead – where in fact the path does lead – to the cross and to Jesus’ death. Thomas offers us a model of a faithful disciple who understands what it means to be in solidarity with those in need. Jesus is going to Lazarus, even though it may pose a risk to him personally to go there. And Thomas, Faithful Thomas, encourages the other disciples to go, even knowing the risk.

As followers of the Risen Christ today, we walk the path of **honest hopefulness**. Jesus spoke honestly about what was coming as he prayed before his arrest - “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me” (Matthew 26:38). We live now in the season of Easter, the place of new life and restoration of what has been broken.

This Easter season, consider what honest hopefulness looks like for you. How can you tell the truth of what you see? Where can you be signs of new life and hope? How can you show up and speak out?

Jesus says to you, “And, remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20)

Pastor Amalia

Our Saviour’s Mission Endowment – 2026 Applications due by April 15

40 years ago, this congregation established a mission endowment fund through the generosity of a \$1 million gift. Since then we have been fortunate to distribute \$2,273,040 in grants, and the present value is just over \$2 million. We fund local, ELCA, and international projects that are supported by an Our Saviour’s member and aligned with our mission. Visit www.lutherantucson.org/endowment to learn more and apply.

Happy Easter Season!

We began our March 16th meeting with a devotion loosely based on Psalm 61 and the acknowledgment that we should ask for help from God and other people. We then acknowledged a wonderful gift from TIHAN in gratitude for our partnership.

Financially, we are doing well. The Property Committee is looking at several projects around the campus, including looking at the irrigation system for the new plants on campus and repairing the tiles in the Sanctuary and the dome.

The Council approved procedures for Petition Signatures. The Congregation Council is the coordinating body for petitions that are non-partisan. Petitions must be consistent with the mission of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and ELCA Social Statements and messaging. Further information about the procedures will be available from Council members and in the Office.

We approved a Building Access Policy that indicates Our Saviour's is committed to being a safe, welcoming, and legally responsible space for worship, ministry, and community life. The protocols exist to protect the dignity, privacy, and safety of every person who enters our space – especially those who are vulnerable. Signs will be posted on Campus to indicate that although we are a welcoming church, we have private space. For further information, please see the email from Pastor Amalia and in the Church Office.

STAFF**Ministry Team**

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Pastor
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Michele Ruttinger
Parish Administrator
Michele@lutherantucson.org

Dr. Aysen Millioğullari
Music Director
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Betsy Dunlap
Interim Collaborative Musician

Paula Miller
Minister of Community
Engagement

David Zezulka
Interim Campus Caretaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Patty Sirls
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Treasurer

Shelly Adrian

Eric Howard

Joanna Keyl

Diane Siefkes

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**LUTHERAN CAMPUS
MINISTRY**

Interim Director
Wendi Van Beek
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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.

**Welcome Cornerstone Fellowship!**

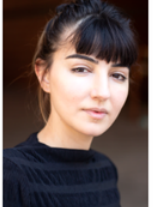
We welcome the congregation of Cornerstone Fellowship to our campus, beginning with their first worship in Koch Chapel on Sunday, March 29. In the fall of 2025, Pastor Karla Spence approached Pastor Amalia for a conversation about space. They were looking to relocate from their own building to a shared space. Scott Blades from TIHAN had suggested that there might be a good fit between the two congregations and suggested a meeting. After some initial conversation and then more with the councils from each congregation, we decided to enter into a space-sharing agreement.

Cornerstone Fellowship is an independent, evangelical Christian church called by God to minister to all people, regardless of race, culture, social standing, sexual orientation or gender identity. They have been active in the Tucson community for 40 years. Cornerstone Fellowship will hold worship at 11 AM on Sundays in Koch Chapel with a Wednesday evening Bible study in the Ramada Room. They warmly invite anyone to join them. Learn more at cornerstonefellowshipaz.org.

On Sunday, April 12, we will worship together as one congregation at 9:00 AM in the Sanctuary (this is partly to accommodate the Blenman Elm Neighborhood Tour, but also a happy chance to get to know one another.

Music Notes - Aysen Milliogullari

April 2026



As we enter the joyful season of Easter, the Chancel Choir is preparing music that celebrates the heart of this sacred time: the resurrection of Christ and the hope it brings.

On Palm Sunday, we will have the Bell Choir playing, and Sophia Rankin will also play for one of the Easter services. Their beautiful sounds will add a meaningful and uplifting moment to our worship.

In the coming weeks, the Chancel Choir will sing Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! arranged by Hal H. Hopson. This anthem proclaims the joy of the resurrection with a spirit of praise and celebration, inviting the congregation to join in the spirit of celebration.

We will also sing This Joyful Eastertide, arranged by Robert J. Powell, which reflects the brightness and hope of the Easter message.

We look forward to sharing these musical moments with you as we celebrate the Easter season together.

SUNDAY
APRIL 19TH
10:30 AM

PIANO RECITAL
Mozart • Gárdonyi
Schumann • Liszt





Benjámín Diószegi & Gréta Pásztor Wung

Our Saviour's
Lutheran Church

1200 N Campbell Ave
Tucson, AZ

Free Admission

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church will host a special piano recital on April 19 at 10:30 a.m. featuring our dear former music director, wonderful pianist and faculty member, Dr. Gretá Pásztor Wung, together with pianist Benjámín Diószegi.

The program will include works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Liszt, Robert Schumann, and Hungarian composer Z. Gárdonyi, offering a rich and expressive selection from the piano repertoire.

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Pásztor back to Our Saviour's and look forward to a wonderful morning of music shared with our community. Admission is free, and all are warmly invited to attend.



I always reflect on Dr. Martin Luther King's life during April. I use the anniversary of his death on April 4th to read his words and recommit myself to the work of justice. Speaking of the work of justice about 15 people gathered for our first gathering of the OSLC Immigration Team

We had a great conversation about how OSLC can build relationships with our immigrant neighbors in Tucson. Some ideas put forth included deepening our connection to our sister Church, San Juan Bautista Lutheran Church, engaging in study and prayer to examine our motivation behind our action, holding a Rapid Response Observer Training for OSLC members, and hosting a gathering for those whose singing is an act of joy during these challenging times.

I continue to meet our neighbors, experiencing and assisting them as needed. I have been taking stock of our resources available to our unhoused neighbors and am grateful for the donations of hygiene items. I'll let you know when we get low. All items are now in my office and are available to distribute to those in need.

Stay tuned (pun intended!) for our first Street Studio at OSLC in May. 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 to 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.

As more light fills our days this Spring, I feel hope that, as Dr. King said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love that can do that."

Prayer Requests: Our Saviour's Community: Sheila and Timothy Bustamante (death of Sheila's father, Melvin); Diane Siefkes (death of her father, Harlan); Mary Wildner-Bassett (daughter's health diagnosis); Corky Ronstadt (at-home care), Mary Neff (memory care), Schatzi Taylor (care facility), Hildi Williams (recovering from injury); Martha Neff Stum (health diagnosis); and all at home and in care facilities.

Our Extended Friends & Family: The family of John Brown (Friends of Bill and Ann DeVinney) Pastor Adele Resmer, former interim pastor (recovering from back surgery); Kay G. recovering from hip replacement surgery (Mary Pflibsen's aunt); Sarah and family (great niece of Donna Lounsbury); Shawn (friend of David Lester); Becky (Daughter of Mary Wildner-Bassett) Frenchie (Friend of Judy and John Indermark); 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 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); 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); Michael (friend of Suzanne Hesh); Beverly and Shorty (Dave Varley's parents).

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 friends at Our Saviour's,
The LCM'ers and I had a wonderful time on our spring break trip to Sedona and the Grand Canyon. How amazing to spend time in God's good creation right here in Arizona. We were able to enjoy the scenery and our time together. We volunteered at an eco-farm near Cottonwood, where they grow organic fruits and vegetables to donate to local food banks in the Sedona area. We tilled soil for the strawberry plants for this year, pulled weeds, hauled mulch, and did what we could to help out this great organization. If you would like to learn more, or volunteer if you are in the Sedona area, go to www.goecofarm.org for more information. As a bonus, they have rescue donkeys, lots of chickens, and some really friendly goats!

While in Sedona, we were able to share in a meal and Lenten worship with Pr David and Pr Julie at Christ Lutheran Church in Sedona. They made us feel so welcome! We sang Holden Evening Prayer, and Deacon Wendi and Pr Julie enacted an example of service to the of Christ followers in foot washing.

Our group had the opportunity to be tourists as well! While our star gazing tour was rained out, we got to take a ride through the red rock wilderness on a bumpy Jeep tour, and spend a little bit of time on the south rim of the Grand Canyon.

All in all, it was a great time, and we are grateful to have spent it together! I encourage you all to take a moment, if you are able, to soak in some nature, and give thanks to God for the bits of beauty all around us.

God's Peace,
Deacon Wendi



Blenman Elm Home Tour

April 2026

Our Saviour's is on this year's Blenman Elm Home Tour! Sunday, April 12 from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm – one week after Easter.

The theme of this year's self-guided tour is "Dwellings through Time" — featuring the ways people adapt their spaces to the times and still preserve the historic character of the neighborhood.

Our Saviour's reveals this theme fully from its beginning: Gathering thirteen people from this neighborhood to start a church in 1945. Dedicating our Chapel in 1948 with a membership of 100 plus, adding the Patio Room (then classrooms) (1953), at 400 members. And building the Sanctuary with a membership of 1,200. Remodels and revised purposes accommodated our high of 500 Sunday School children and a choir that went from 13 to 60 in a ten year period. We have vibrated with change from our 1945 beginning.

Want to help make our tour stop the greatest? Check in with Jennifer Strand, Patty Sirls or Mary Lou Forier — tour guides and prep workers needed. Thank you!

And buy your tickets and come and see us too on your Blenman Elm tour!

Tickets (\$32.97) can be purchased online (www.blenman-elm.org) or at the check-in station at 1650 N. Bentley Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85716 on the day of the tour. Check in even if you bought online — to pick up your entry bracelet and tour map.

Mary Lou Forier

BLENMAN-ELM NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU



BLENMAN-ELM NEIGHBORHOOD HOME & GARDEN TOUR 2026

DWELLINGS THROUGH TIME

A self-guided tour of historic dwellings, casitas, and gardens. Proceeds benefit neighborhood projects and Blenman Elementary School.

04.12.2026
10:30 AM - 4:30 PM



Tickets at Eventbrite

Visit blenman-elm.org for more information



The food bank gratefully accepts prepackaged, non-perishable, and in-date items. Personal hygiene supplies are always needed.

Pantry Staples

Peanut butter, canned meats: tuna, chicken, Spam, etc.

Meals in pop-top cans: chili, ravioli, etc. Pasta, canned fruits and vegetables.

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

APRIL HAPPENINGS



Pray Without Ceasing - 1st and 3rd 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 half an hour. Rooted in Christian tradition, open to the Tucson community.

Come & See - Tuesdays, 11 AM - Patio Room

Weekly faith formation conversations for everyone. We 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

Grief Group -April 11, 10 AM - Ramada Room

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

Blenman Elm House Tour - April 12 10:30 AM

Our Saviour's in on the tour this year. See more information in this newsletter

Piano Recital with Greta Pasztor Wung - April 19 at 10:30 AM

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church will host a special piano recital on April 19 at 10:30 a.m. featuring our dear former music director, wonderful pianist and faculty member, Dr. Gretá Pásztor Wung, together with pianist Benjámín Diószegi.



YOUTH ON THEIR OWN™

Asher Havenhill

This year, Youth On Their Own celebrated its 40th birthday. I was able to attend the celebration luncheon on March 6 with my family along with Kent & Mary Pflibsen from Our Saviour's. The presentation included people who had worked as counselors and/or teachers in the Tucson schools and had connected students with YOTO, past volunteers, and supporters of YOTO. But the most interesting speakers, in my opinion, were past students who had been through the YOTO program. Having once been teenagers with no parental support, these speakers are now successful adults with families of their own, advanced degrees, good jobs and a ton of empathy for kids who are now living on their own. Something as simple as a monthly stipend from YOTO for staying in school and basic needs such as food and hygiene items allowed them to focus on school instead of survival. The knowledge that someone cared about them enough to provide these things was huge. The speakers are living proof that our 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



OUR SAVIOUR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

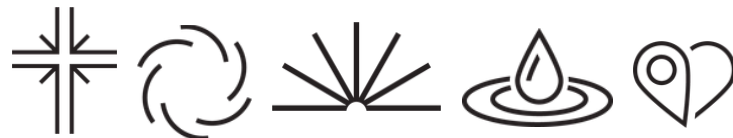
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A Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA:

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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday April 2 - 6 PM
service for healing, prayer & action

Good Friday April 3
Noon - Procession Downtown
Service - 6:00 PM - Sanctuary

Easter Sunday April 5
7:30 AM - Koch Chapel
9:30 AM - Sanctuary



Our Saviour's Lutheran
www.lutherantucson.org

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church April 2026

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30 AM Bible Study - Pocket Room	2 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	3 Office Closed 6:00 PM Good Friday Service	4
5 Easter Services 7:30 AM Chapel 9:30 AM - Sanctuary 10:30 AM Sandwich Making	6 Office Closed 5:30 PM Pray Without Ceasing 6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:30	7 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study - AB Cafe 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Spanish Class - AB Cafe	8 9:00 AM Property 10:30 AM Bible Study - Pocket Room 6:00 PM Good Neighbor Coalition - AB Main	9 6:30 PM Choir - AB Main	10 Office Closed	11 9:00 AM Work Day- prep for Blenman-Elm Tour 10:00 AM Grief Support - Ramada Room 10:00 AM Volunteer Meeting for Blenman- Elm Tour
12 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 AM Sandwich Making 11:00 AM Blenman Elm House Tour	13 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room 5:30 PM RIC - Patio Room	14 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	15 10:30 AM Bible Study - Pocket Room 6:00 PM LCM Worship and Dinner	16 11:00 AM POZ Cafe 6:30 PM Choir - AB Main	17 Office Closed	18
19 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:30 AM Greta Pasztor Wung Recital 10:30 AM Sandwich Making 12:00 PM OS Get Together	20 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room 5:30 PM Pray Without Ceasing 6:30 PM Bell Choir	21 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	22 10:30 AM Bible Study - Pocket Room 6:00 PM LCM Worship and Dinner	23 6:30 PM Choir - AB Main	24 Office Closed	25
26 9:00 AM Sunday Worship Bishop Hutterer - Sanctuary 10:30 AM Sandwich Making	27 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room 6:30 PM Bell Choir	28 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	29 9:00 AM Roadrunner Assembly 10:30 AM Bible Study - Pocket Room 6:00 PM LCM Worship and Dinner	30 6:30 PM Choir - AB Main		