



# The Roadrunner



## Listening to the Prophets

This summer we will follow an alternative pattern for our readings in worship in order to listen and learn from prophetic teachers in our tradition. Each week we will hear from Luke's Gospel and then from one of the Hebrew Bible prophets - Elijah, Elisha, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Theologian Rolf Svanoe writes that Jesus learned by "listening deeply to the prophets" in his book *I Love To Preach the Story: A Summer of Prophet Sharing, Year C*.

This book, as well as other resources for preaching and teaching about the prophets, as well as their own words will guide our path through the summer. We will use storytelling and reader theater to help connect us more closely with the passion and faithfulness of the prophets. It is my sincere hope that through faithful reading, preaching, and listening deeply to the prophets that our congregation will grow this summer in understanding how we can convey to one another and others God's hope and grace found in Christ through the Holy Spirit.

## Churchwide Assembly: For the Life of the World: July 28 - August 1 in Phoenix

The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held July 28–Aug. 2, 2025, at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Ariz.

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. It is held every three years. Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units.
  - Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
  - Elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws.
  - Establish ELCA churchwide policy.
  - Worship together.
  - Adopt a budget.
- Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

I was elected at the 2024 Synod Assembly to join the delegation from our Grand Canyon Synod as a voting member. All plenary sessions and worship will be live-streamed. In addition, volunteers are still needed, and registered visitors are invited to attend (volunteers cover their own costs and the fee for visitors is \$125). Learn more at [www.gcsynod.org/cwa](http://www.gcsynod.org/cwa) or talk to me if you are interested in learning more.

Pastor Amalia

**STAFF****Ministry Team**

Rev. Amalia Vagts (ex 1004)  
Lead Pastor  
Pastoramalia  
@lutherantucson.org

Rev. Glenn Schrader  
Associate Pastor for Discipleship  
Pastorglenn  
@lutherantucson.org

Michele Ruttinger  
Parish Administrator  
@lutherantucson.org

John Perez  
Campus Caretaker

Aysen Milliogullari  
Music Director  
Amilliogullari  
@lutherantucson.org

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

oslc@lutherantucson.org

Patty Sirls  
*President*

Meg Hughes  
*Vice President*

Ted Adams  
*Secretary*

Pam Hardman  
*Treasurer*

Shelly Adrian

Melanie Bowman

David Johnson

Jennifer Strand

**LUTHERAN CAMPUS  
MINISTRY**

Interim Director  
Wendi Van Beek  
Community Engagement  
wendi.lcmuofa@gmail.com  
520-771-9742 (LCM Office)

**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.

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

I'll start this month's report with where we usually end our Council meetings, asking the question, "where did you see/experience God in this meeting?" This past month members expressed their God sighting in positive attitudes, willingness to tackle challenging issues, and strong feelings of community. Pastor Amalia reported that the Endowment Committee met and approved \$57,847 in grants to 13 different mission partners. She also reported the good news that she and David are in the process of purchasing a home just a short distance from our campus.

Pastor Glenn's report highlighted that the 2025 Diakonia graduation will take place at Our Saviour's on Saturday, June 28. At present, about 100 people will be attending including Bishop Hutterer and Associate Bishop Jacqui Pagel. Pastor Glenn is coordinator for this event.

TIHAN, along with SAAF and other nonprofits and caring faith communities, is hosting a 90-minute session for the public called "The Power of Us: Civic

Engagement on HIV and Related Issues" on Monday, July 14, from 5:30-7:00pm. TIHAN has asked OSLC to be a Faith Community Co-Sponsor. Council discussed this and was at consensus in favor of being a Co-Sponsor.

Council unanimously approved Shelly Adrian to fill the open Council Seat and voted to joyfully receive 6 new congregational members: Maria Villa and Stephen Bauer, Emily Nadler, Mary Wildner-Bassett, Rachel Starner, and Thomas Phillips. Welcome to you all!

We spent a good deal of time discussing ways to increase the number of members who volunteer to serve. We have a dedicated group that willingly take on more than their fair share of the work each week. But that can be difficult at times, and we certainly don't want people to burn out. There were many suggestions floated at the meeting that we will be trying out. So, if you would like to become a more active participant, please talk to a Council member about the many opportunities.

**Welcome our new Members:** Left to right - Rachel Starner, Tom Phillips, Steve Bauer, Marie Villa and Emily Nadler. (Not pictured; Mary Wildner-Basset)



## OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Discipleship at OSLC - Pastor Glenn Schrader

July 2025



A few years ago before I entered seminary, I took a six-week course on spiritual direction through Tucson's Hesychia School. I was motivated by my own experiences along a

pathway toward further service in the church but also by the increasing awareness of "spirituality" among Christians.

Yet, one observation has been emphasized among the all great Christian teachers is that spirituality in human beings is not an extra or "superior" mode of existence. It's not a hidden stream of reality, a separated life running parallel to our bodily experience. Many of the foundational facts and teachings of the Christian religion involve the human body. The incarnation, the crucifixion, the resurrection of Christ are bodily events. For followers of Jesus, spirituality is a relationship of our embodied selves with God that has the natural and irrepressible effect of making us alive to the Kingdom of God – here and now in the natural world.

This is not merely a mere matter of philosophical speculation or psychological theory. It deeply concerns *discipleship*

*practice* and its effect on others. As one famous author on discipleship commented many years ago, some people have been "repelled from The Way by Christians who are unfeeling, stiff, unapproachable, dissatisfied, obsessive, and even boringly lifeless". Some of us have to admit that we've stepped close to those traps also. (I'm particularly susceptible to the "boringly lifeless" characterization when temperatures in Tucson rise above 105° F!) We can easily miss the wholesome liveliness that springs from a balanced vitality within the freedom of God's loving rule.

Agnes Sanford, a prominent Christian psychologist of the 70s and 80s remarked that we need to be reminded that we are "dust", as God mercifully does. She observed that we all have our "shadow side", which for a while wants "to forget all about God and play golf." But this "body side" too is holy in God's sight and was given to humans to "make us whole, lest we lose our balance while walking on the [spiritual] 'tightropes' of our divine-human life". As the wisdom literature of the Bible teaches: "Do not be excessively righteous, and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself?" (Eccles. 7:16, NASB)



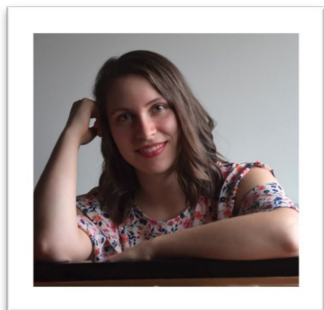
### Save the date: Saturday October 25, 2025 80 years of Service & Love

We will hold a special day of events on Saturday, October 25, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM to celebrate the past, present, and future of Our Saviour's. The coordinating committee is: Mary Lou Forier, Patty Sirls, and Jennifer Strand. Events will include a "History Walk" and lunch. Please circle the date and make plans to participate that day.

## OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

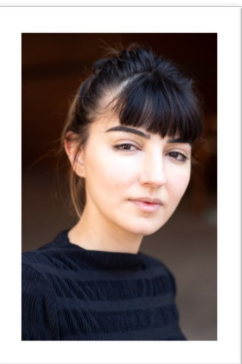
### Music Notes - Gréta Pásztor

July 2025



We are excited to welcome back Aysen Milliogullari, who is stepping into the role of Music Director at Our Saviour's this July! Aysen first joined our church in the fall of 2023 as a choral scholar, serving as the soprano section leader and occasionally singing the liturgy and offertory. She became Assistant Music Director last year, taking on more responsibilities within the music ministry. Starting in July, she'll take on even more by conducting the choir, planning music for services, and leading the music department as the new Music Director. We're grateful for her dedication and talent, and we are thrilled to have her in this new role!

Learn more about Aysen's background:



Aysen Idil Milliogullari is an opera singer, educator, and conductor. She is a doctoral candidate in Vocal Performance with a minor in Choral Conducting at the University of Arizona, where she received the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. As a graduate teaching assistant, she taught Music Individual Studies, Diction for Singers, and Stage Training for Opera Singers.

She holds a Master's degree in Vocal Performance from the Mannes School of Music in New York and a Bachelor's degree from Ankara University State Conservatory, with the highest distinction. She won first prize in the Amelia Rieman Vocal Competition (2022) and third prize in the Marguerite Ough Vocal Competition (2021).

A tenured opera singer at the Turkish State Opera, she performed as a soloist and chorister with the Ankara, Samsun, and Antalya State Opera Houses, as well as with the New York Lyric Opera Theater, Mannes Opera, and the University of Arizona Opera Theater. She has also appeared with prominent orchestras, including the Civic Orchestra of Tucson and the Tucson Symphony Orchestra.

Currently, she performs with Arizona Opera, serves as a vocal instructor and associate conductor at Tucson Girls Chorus, a staff singer with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra Chorus, and is the Assistant Music Director at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

In her free time, she enjoys biking, hiking, socializing with friends, exploring new places, attending live music performances, and community events.

*If you would like to leave a welcome note for Aysen, feel free to drop one off at the office in the music director's mailbox, or email her at [aysen@lutherantucson.org](mailto:aysen@lutherantucson.org).*

### Accompanist Update

We are interviewing accompanists. Greta will continue as our accompanist for the month of July as Aysen settles into her new role as Music Director.





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**OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**
**RECONCILING IN CHRIST - Melanie Bowman**
**July 2025**


The RIC committee celebrates our recent addition of RIC status! We plan to continue to work towards becoming welcoming for all God's people. We acknowledge that justice and inclusion for all God's people requires learning and hard work. We are meeting over the summer to determine next steps. We are working on a few things, like updating the church library, making our RIC logo more visible, and planning congregational events. We would like to have your input. If you have any observations, questions or ideas, please let us know.

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**Centering Prayer**

Centering Prayer is paused until August.

Please consider joining Pray Without Ceasing the 1st and 3rd Monday at 5:30pm in Koch Chapel, a thirty minute service for prayers of lament and hope.

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**Lutheran Campus Ministry - Pastor Rebecca Boardman**
**July 2025**


**Lutheran Campus Ministry**  
at University of Arizona

In the Wisdom literature book of Ecclesiastes, we learn, "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to weep and a time to laugh: a time to seek and a time to lose: a time to keep and a time to throw away." These ancient words seem most appropriate as I reflect on our 6 years of shared ministry with LCM-U of A.

"Calling" is a mutual understanding between the pastor, community, and God. After prayerful discernment, I have realized my calling to LCM-U of A has reached a close. The gift of sabbatical gave me prayerful space to recognize my heart's desire and clarify God's calling. We've had 6 unforgettable years together but the time has come for change for both of us. I have spent 18.5 years serving in campus ministry and wouldn't be the pastor (and person!) I am today without it. In my next season I will transition to hospital chaplaincy at Children's Medical Center in Dallas.

Campus ministry is ever-changing and it's a holy privilege to accompany young adults through this liminal stage of life. Please hold our faithful LCM Board of Directors in prayer as they discern the next steps forward. We're delighted to share that Deacon Wendi Van Beek will serve as the interim beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. My prayers go with you as you enter our 70<sup>th</sup> year of campus ministry and walk with God into a new season!

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## OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



### Summer Sammie Help Needed



Every Sunday after worship, we make about 100 sandwiches that will be served the next day at the welcome center at Grace St. Paul Episcopal Church. **We are looking for a Summer Drop-off Coordinator - ideally two people, but one capable person could do it too. You would deliver the finished sandwiches (they are usually done by 10:30, then swing back to drop the key off at church).** We can often use an extra hand or two with sandwiches following worship.

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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

Spanish Class will resume in the fall. Please contact Annette Chavez at amchavez111@yahoo.com for more information.

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### ICS - Interfaith Community Services

Thanks for your continued support for the Food Bank. Donations are urgently needed as federal budget cuts are impacting assistance for individuals, families and children in our community. 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.

Angie Grandison

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### Youth On Their Own

Let me start with a huge THANK YOU for your generosity! The first week the YOTO bin was in the narthex, it filled with donations almost immediately! I have delivered them to the YOTO site, and the church will be probably be receiving a thank-you note soon. While the list of desired/needed items is posted on the table, occasionally, YOTO asks for emphasis of a particular type of item. I recently saw a YOTO Facebook post announcing that May 12-18 is Period Awareness Week, with the statements that "No student should miss class due to lack of basic necessities" and that "1 in 4 students struggle to afford menstrual products." As of the YOTO 2023-2024 Annual Report, 58.3% of the students served are female, so the need for feminine hygiene products is ongoing, not just during a few days in May. Please consider emphasizing this type of product as you shop for donations this month. Thank you so much!

Asher Havenhill

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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.

# Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

## July 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>						
		1 **Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:30AM	2 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	7 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Pray Without Ceasing Koch Chapel 5:30 PM	8 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Property 9AM Library Staff Meeting 10:30AM RIC 4:00PM Patio Room	9 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	10	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12
13 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	14 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm	15 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Quilting 9AM AB Staff Meeting 10:30AM Council Meeting 6:30PM Patio Rm	16 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	17 Poz CAFÉ All Day	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19
20 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	21 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Pray Without Ceasing Koch Chapel 5:30 PM	22 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:30AM	23 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	24	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	28 Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm	29 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Roadrunner Assembly 9:00AM Patio Room Staff Meeting 10:30AM	30 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room Roadrunner Assembly Patio Room 9:00AM	31		

Churchwide Assembly - Phoenix AZ



## OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1200 N. Campbell Ave  
Tucson AZ 85719  
www.lutherantucson.org  
OSLC@lutherantucson.org  
(520)327-6521



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

### **Poz Café Thank You**

Thank you to all who brightened the day for people living with HIV/AIDS as OSLC co-sponsored TIHAN's June Poz Café. June 19<sup>th</sup> was forecast to have a high temperature of 114 degrees! Despite the heat, TIHAN CarePartners, many of whom rely on public transportation, began arriving by 9:00 am for the Poz Café luncheon that was to begin at 11:00. The monthly Poz Cafes, held in the OSLC activity building, continue to be a welcome and meaningful respite each month for Tucsonans living with HIV and AIDS.

Thanks to you, we provided a wonderful meal, a fun Bingo game and raffle with gift card prizes, and care packages filled with household and personal hygiene necessities. We also had 9 members of OSLC, including Pastor Amalia, helping to assemble care packages, set up the dining room, serve the meal, call bingo, distribute care packages and clean up when the event ended. As a congregation, we met our goal to provide 150 shampoo bottles, facial tissue boxes and shaving razors, plus gift cards for raffle and bingo prizes. A grant from the OSLC endowment will pay for food served at the luncheon and other essential TIHAN needs.

A special thanks goes out to OSLC member Mary Havenhill's talented young students who decorated brown paper bags with their artwork, transforming them into colorful gift bags which were used for care packages.

The CarePartners served by TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) are largely older, low-income adults. Many live with physical disabilities and social isolation. The monthly Poz Café provides social interaction in a caring, accepting environment, a meal they can count on, and a care package with non-food household and personal essentials that they can't obtain with federal food assistance. We couldn't do this without the items and cash gifts you donated and your time to volunteer. Together, we made this possible!

- Mary Durham Pflibsen