



As conversations about property and land stewardship have begun again at Our Saviour's in earnest this summer, I have been going through some old folders with notes, reports, and dreams from previous conversations about property.

This sentence jumped out at me from a 1996 "Property Use Study Report:"

"Not surprisingly, there has been a relatively consistent theme throughout recent history, reflecting a lot of good ideas and "good intentions" but, it must be observed, with limited follow-through."

We have been here before, with hopes and dreams. It can be easy to think there hasn't been enough action. But even in the short time since coming through COVID, I hope we are noticing some of the ways that God is at work through the property and land cared for by Our Saviour's Lutheran:

- We welcomed Lutheran Campus Ministry to our campus in the fall of 2021. They have made great use of and renovated parts of the Campus House and created offices in the Annex Building. On Wednesday evenings and throughout the academic year, students head to our campus for dinner and worship.
- We renovated the Patio Room for congregational use.
- We worked with Watershed Management Group to create two rain and pollinator gardens, helping to mitigate an office flooding issue and spaces of care for God's creation.
- Thanks to some extra love and behind the scenes care, "Jo's Garden" is thriving with desert plants and drought-resistant flowers, creating beauty throughout the year.
- We welcomed TIHAN as a campus partner in 2025, making use of unused spaces in the Activity Building and better use of lightly used shared spaces.
- After year of study and conversation, we became a Reconciling in Christ congregation, committing to authentic welcome, especially for LGBTQ+ people and others who may have not felt welcome in church spaces.
- Deepening our welcome and hospitality for people who are homeless.
- We cleaned and restored our Memorial Plaques to preserve them for years to come.
- This spring, we welcomed Cornerstone Fellowship, a non-denominational LGBTQ+ affirming congregation to share our Chapel space.
- We began conversations about the history of racism in our neighborhood, properties, community, and congregation and committed to a new way forward.
- This fall, we will welcome Desert Voices, Tucson's premier LGBTQ & Allies choir to make their new weekly rehearsal home at Our Saviour's.
- Through regular maintenance and daily care, we are making our property and land a source of God's love and nourishment for the world.

What else might we imagine and act on together for today, tomorrow, and years to come?

Pastor Amalia Vagts

Council Corner - Jennifer Strand**August 2026****STAFF****Ministry Team**

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**LUTHERAN CAMPUS
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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.



At our July meeting, we were reminded that a daily time for devotion and prayer helps us to connect with God. There are many different aids that help us practice this discipline. The Bible itself is a good place to start, but books of poetry, religious reflections, and devotionals such as the "Word in Season" are appropriate. Even if we do not keep a daily practice, when possible we should take the time and find a space to meet God.

After much discussion, the Council voted that in order to create the possibility for the most expansive vision for property stewardship, we schedule a special meeting to consider purchasing the home at 1934 E. Mabel St. This meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2026. The Council examined different ways to purchase the property that do not involve incurring debt. Further information concerning the financial aspects and the process will be available prior to the meeting. Patty Sirls, Meg Hughes, Joanna Key, Eric Howard and Pastor Amalia will begin work to prepare for the Special Meeting.

Thanks to your generosity and faithfulness, our regular finances continue to be healthy. We had the money to do some necessary property maintenance. This included the replacement of the ice maker in the Activity Building, fixing broken glass in Koch Chapel, and replacing slipped roof tiles. We have completed electrical upgrades for the Annex apartment. We are waiting for the locksmith to install bathroom locks on the Chapel and Sanctuary bathrooms and the east Annex entrance. By maintaining the property, we continue to have a safe and attractive campus for ourselves and the community.

We received updates from the Reconciling in Christ team and the Generosity team. Generosity is beginning their work for the fall Generosity Appeal. Reconciling in Christ will be holding several forums and presenting some ideas for additional signage to make our Reconciling in Christ identity more visible to the public. We tabled some actions on the agenda until our August meeting due to the extended discussion about property stewardship.

**Save the Date - Special Congregational Meeting -
Sunday, August 9, 2026 Immediately Following Worship**

To make the most expansive vision for property stewardship possible, the Council is calling a Special Meeting on August 9 to consider purchasing the home at 1934 E. Mabel Street. This requires a majority vote of voting members present. A quorum (10% of voting members) is required for action.

Rev. Annemarie Burke will be installed Sunday, 8/16/2029 at the 9 am service at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (7570 North Thornydale Road, Tucson, AZ 85741). Annemarie was baptized, confirmed, and ordained at Our Saviour's Lutheran. We encourage any who wish to attend worship and the installation at Beautiful Savior on August 16.



August will feature several familiar faces, and I am looking forward to sharing their music with you.

This month, Danny White will be singing as a cantor and will also perform one of his own songs, "The Picture Book." His powerful voice and stage presence bring great energy to our services.

Also, this month, we are excited to have our multi-talented church member, Nancy Rude, with us at the keyboard. She will play "Toccata on 'O Worship the King,'" arranged by Craig A. Penfield, along with other selections.

In addition, our Chancel Choir member, Nilu Dorschner, and our choral scholar, Joy Bulawa, will contribute to our services as cantors with their beautiful voices.

Our new collaborative musician, Dawn Hartley, will play "Love Lifted Me" by Howard Smith, arranged by James Koerts; "Maitland (Precious Lord)" by George N. Allen, arranged by Albert Mendoza; and other selections. Her interpretation and the music she selects bring warmth to our services.

We are so fortunate to have so many talented people in our church community, each making a unique contribution through their gift. I hope you enjoy this month's musical selections and that they brighten your day and lift your spirit.

Minister of Community Engagement - Paula Miller

August 2026



In Matthew 13:10-17 Jesus explains to the disciples why he speaks in parables. Jesus answers 'Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn, and I would heal them.'

Immersion trips are educational experiences involving travel to different local, national, or international communities and learning about the lived experience of the people, their culture, their challenges, and joys. Immersion experiences serve the same purpose as Jesus's parables - to open eyes to see, ears to hear and understand with their hearts, and turn. In other words, to experience metanoia or a transformative change of heart and existential shift of your perspective or worldview.

Here are two opportunities for you to learn more about immigration, migration, and the Borderlands through immersion trips this upcoming fall.

Friends Across the Border is hosting a 2-day weekend in Agua Prieta, Sonora, across from Douglas, AZ, August 14th to 16th. Visits include the Cafe Justo roasting facility, Douglas Prieta Women's Cooperative, and much more, celebrating friendship across the border.

Travel with Frontera de Cristo to the Mexico-Guatemala border, November 6-14, to learn about the coffee growing process, meet the coffee farmers and their families, and explore the connections between coffee, migration, and faith.

For more information about these trips and others, contact me at paula@lutherantucson.org. If we get enough interest, we can travel together and understand with our hearts and turn and be healed.

Interested in learning more about how to live out the Gospel message in your daily life? Our Public Faith Team will meet to engage in community advocacy in support of immigrants, people experiencing homelessness and others in need. Email me at paula@lutherantucson.org or talk to me after service on Sunday.

Lutheran Campus Ministry - Pastor Jenn Luong

August 2026



Greetings Siblings in Christ.

I'm Pastor Jenn Luong, the newly called Director and Pastor of Lutheran Campus Ministry. Some of you may have read a little about me in a previous weekly email, for those that have not, I offer this brief introduction:

I was born and raised in St. Paul, MN. I have been in Arizona since August of 2024. I previously served at Desert Hills Lutheran Church in Green Valley, Lutheran Social Service of MN, Augsburg University, and several congregations in the Twin Cities. In ministry, I am passionate about living out faith in our daily lives, and offering a safe place where God's unconditional love and abundant grace is clear. I love to ask the big questions and explore the answers. Outside of ministry, I love astronomy, muscle cars, college sports and Elton John. I am a proud professional Auntie to my 'niblets' (nieces and nephews) and a doggy parent to my big goofy girl, Prin. I am so excited to join the work of LCM and imagine how we can reflect God's love in the big and small ways together.

I officially began this call on June 15. It has been a whirlwind of a summer trying to learn all that I can. In late June, Deacon Wendi and I traveled to Denver for the LuMin Annual Conference, a gathering of the Lutheran Campus Ministry folks from around the country. It was a fruitful time of learning and conversation with colleagues. Deacon Wendi and I are hard at work planning for the return of students and programming this fall, as well as looking at some longer term visions. We can't wait to see what God has in store for Campus Ministry. I would love the chance to meet the folks at Our Saviour's. Please reach out if you would like to chat.
prjenn.lcmuofa@gmail.com



Grace and Peace, Friends.
 Pastor Jenn



Lutheran Campus Ministry
 at University of Arizona

Prayer Requests

August 2026

Prayer Requests: Alecia Chrin, Justin Schneider; Gerry Meyer; Corky Ronstadt, Mary Neff; Amy, Liz, and all at home and in care facilities.

Our Extended Family: Friends and Family of John Shelton upon his death (former member); 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, Melissa, Mary Ann Libby (friends of Chris and Theda Doak); Megan (niece of Chris and Theda Doak); Jennifer, Carol, 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); Will (nephew of Chris and Theda Doak); Leaticia, Azogan, Sidibe, and Zinsou, (friends of Rachel Starner); Ann (friend of Suzanne Hesh).



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.



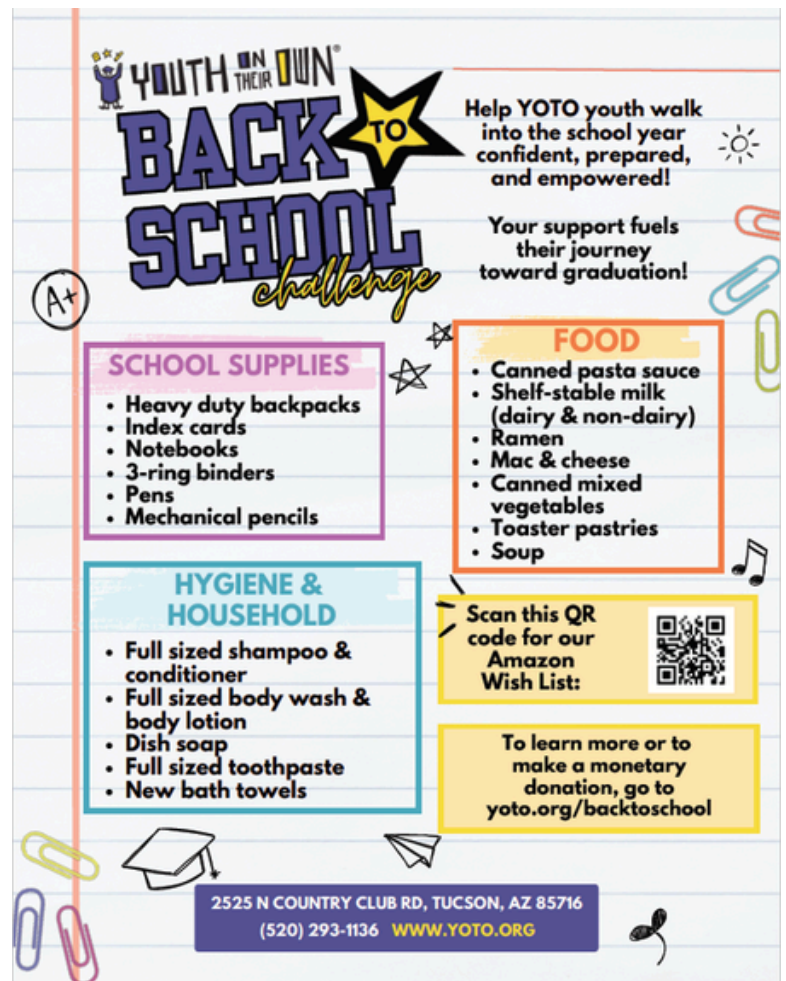
YOUTH ON THEIR OWN™

As the new school year is upon us, the number of students at Youth On Their Own is about to increase. The back-to-school items needed most by YOTO students are listed in the graphic below. For the most part, this list is same as the list you see in the narthex with the exception of the school supplies. Support of YOTO is a great way to attack adult homelessness before it happens.

According to the 2024-2025 YOTO annual report, 25% of the students served identify as LGBTQ. The LGBTQ population in Tucson is about 10%. As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, it is most definitely appropriate that we at Our Saviour's support this organization.

The collection bin is at your left as you walk through the narthex entering the church and will be delivered to YOTO as it is filled. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Asher Havenhill





Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

Helping People with HIV to Live Well

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. Monthly Poz Cafes, held in the OSLC activity building, continue to be a welcome and meaningful opportunity for lunch, bingo and friendship in a comfortable, safe and judgement-free setting. Many CarePartners face disability, low income and reduced government assistance.

Thanks to you, we provided a wonderful meal, gift cards for bingo prizes and care packages filled with household and personal hygiene necessities. We also had 7 members of OSLC, including Pastor Amalia, helping to assemble care packages, greet attendees, set up the dining room, serve the meal, distribute care packages and clean up when the event ended. As a congregation, we met our goal to provide 180 each of shampoo, deodorant and household cleaner, as well as 90 cans of shaving cream and other items. A generous grant from the OSLC endowment will pay for food served at the luncheon and other essential TIHAN needs throughout the year.

A special thanks goes out to OSLC member Mary Havenhill's talented young students who crafted colorful flowers which were included in the care packages to brighten our CarePartners' homes.

We couldn't host the Poz Café without the time, talent and generosity of OSLC members. Thank you for your generosity. Together, we made this possible!



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

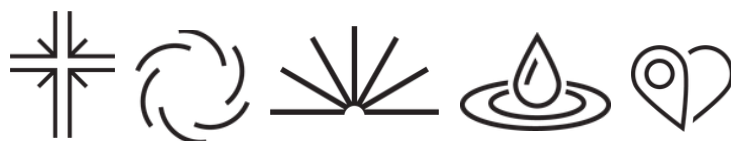
August 2026

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 AM Sandwich Making 10:30 AM Baptized We Live	3 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room	4 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study - AB Cafe 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	5 11:00 AM Generosity Team - Patio Room 4:00 PM Endowment - Patio Room 6:30 PM Good Neighbor Coalition - AB Main	6	7 Office Closed	8 10:00 AM Grief Support - Ramada Room
9 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 AM Sandwich Making 10:30 AM Special Meeting	10 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room	11 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study - AB Cafe 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	12 9:00 AM Property	13	14 Office Closed	15
16 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 AM Sandwich Making 10:30 AM Baptized We Live	17 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room	18 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study - AB Cafe 9:00 AM Quilters - AB 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Council - Patio Room	19 10:30AM *Bible Study - Pocket Room	20 11:00 AM POZ Cafe	21 Office Closed	22
23 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 AM Sandwich Making	24 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room	25 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study - AB Cafe 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	26 9:00 AM Roadrunner Assembly - Patio Room 10:30AM *Bible Study - Pocket Room 6:00 PM LCM Dinner and Worship	27	28 Office Closed	29
30 9:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 10:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 AM Sandwich Making	31 1:30 PM Mindful Meditation - Ramada Room					



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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.

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.

