

November 2024



And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" - Philippians 4:7

As I write, many of us are feeling a range of emotions about the upcoming election. You have shared with me feelings of worry, frustration, fatigue, anxiousness, sorrow. Some are facing legitimate concerns for themselves and loved ones. Some have checked out and others can't sleep. For each of us, the words Paul shared with the Philippians can be a balm.

Whatever happens on November 5 and following, our congregation is a living and loving Christ-centered community that is here to follow Jesus as we love God, each other, and our neighbor. In places of division, we can be a people who model listening, compassion, and response. One of our guides is Martin Luther, who in explaining the 8th Commandment ("Do not bear false witness"), teaches to see another person's words and intentions in the best light. Instead of anger and defense, we can receive others with curiosity and empathy.

Bishop Deborah Hutterer, of our Grand Canyon Synod, shared these words in a letter to our Synod in October:

"Our participation in the democratic process is not only a privilege but a duty—one that reflects our commitment to justice, peace, and the flourishing of all people... This engagement is a direct expression of our faith, rooted in the understanding that each person is a beloved child of God, deserving of dignity and respect. Our call as followers of Christ is to seek the common good, ensuring that our elections are conducted with integrity, fairness, and transparency. In a time when division can feel overwhelming, we are reminded of our biblical call to love our neighbor as ourselves. Voting provides us with an opportunity to act on that love, making choices that uphold the values of justice, equity, and compassion in our communities."

Bp. Hutterer offered this prayer for our election process: "

Grant us wisdom, humility, and a heart for justice. May your spirit of peace fill our communities as we seek to serve you and one another. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

In our life together, may we continue to turn toward God, one another, and a world in need - listening and learning as we honor diverse experiences and perspectives, connected to one another through our primary identity as beloved creatures of a loving God.

Pastor Amalia

<u>STAFF</u>

Ministry Team

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

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

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COUNCIL MEMBERS

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LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Rev. Rebecca Boardman Pastor.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 November 2024

Each Council meeting is started with a prayer and time for a devotion and discussion. This year we have also been reading and discussing "Belonging: 5 Keys to Unlock Your Potential as a Disciple" by Karoline Lewis. This month we read the final chapter of the book focusing on John 4:31-42. This chapter explores the difference in the disciples literal hearing of Jesus's words and the true underlying message that Jesus is conveying. A message that is meant to take the disciples to the next level of understanding of Jesus's identity and mission. Inspired by the book's rich commentary, we were ready to tackle the business of the Congregation.

The Governing Document Committee has completed its work in integrating our existing Continuing Resolutions into a revised Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions document.

The Council completed its review and discussion of the final draft at the meeting. A vote was taken to approve the integration of the Continuing Resolutions into the document. A second vote was taken to recommend the updated Constitution for approval by the OSLC Congregation at the Annual meeting in January. Both items were approved unanimously. Copies of the final draft document will be made available for review by the Congregation prior to the Annual meeting.

The Generosity Team is launching the 2025 appeal with a theme of "Living Water." Expect to hear more detail about the appeal in the coming weeks. Sunday November 11 is Giving Sunday, and we will begin collecting your Statements of Intent at that time. The Nominating Committee has been hard at work and has so far secured 3 potential candidates for next year's Council membership. They are looking to fill out a slate of 6 candidates from which Congregation Members will select 3 to serve.

Council reviewed a draft Memo of Understanding between OSLC and TIHAN on the terms of housing the TIHAN offices at Our Saviour's. General feedback was given and a few minor additions were suggested. As there were some items to be worked out and finalized, Council did not take a formal vote. However, there was a consensus in favor of the agreement.



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Discipleship at OSLC - Pastor Glenn Schrader

November 2024



Where is your path of discipleship leading you? In the church? In your family? In the workplace? Many of us continue to ask that question as we live in an age where much is changing at a pace that makes us feel disoriented and uncertain about much that we have never questioned before.

There is a marvelous prayer that we've used as a sending prayer here at Our Saviour's which I've heard is attributed to Holden Village. It's sometimes call "The Prayer of Good Courage":

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A few years ago, I read a book by the popular spiritual writer Brian McLaren called *We Make the Road by Walking.* It consists of 52 weeks of reading from the Bible with commentary which constitutes a renewed learning experience, a *catechesis*, much like the early Church used as a way to encourage discipleship. But interestingly, McLaren points out that "faith was never intended to be a destination, a status, a holding tank, or a warehouse. Instead, it was meant to be a road, a path, a way out of old and destructive patterns into new and creative ones. As a road or way, it is always being extended into the future." As we approach the start of a new Church year, let us renew our confidence and trust in the One who is always going ahead of us, along the road of faith that is never finished, always changing, and forever growing in grace.

ORANGE RECYCLING BIN

List of appropriate items accepted for our ORANGE recycling bin. We have been receiving items that **are not** for the ORANGE recycling bin. Below is a list of acceptable items.

Kitchen Pantry

Candy wrappers, Cereal box liners, Chip bags, Cookie/cracker box liners, Dry mix liners (cake, powder mixes), Foam egg cartons, Fresh/frozen vegetable & fruit bags, Granola & energy bar wrappers, Plastic pet food bags, Salad bags, Shredded cheese packages, Snack food bags, Stand up pouches

Storage and Cleaning

Dry & wet disposable cleaning cloths, Food storage bags, Plastic food wrap, Plastic wraps on paper towels & toilet paper, plastic bags

Office and Shipping

Bubble wrap, Clear plastic overwraps, Foam block packaging, Foam peanuts, Plastic air pillow packs

Dining and Eating

EMPTY & CLEAN: fast-food condiment containers, Foam cups, Foam to-go boxes, Plastic colored cups, Plastic or foam plates & bowls, Plastic straws & stirrers, Plastic utensils

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Music Notes - Gréta Pásztor

November 2024



We're thrilled to announce an exciting lineup of music this month! Our Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, and Chancel Band will all be gracing us with their talents throughout November.

Join us in welcoming back pianist Cameron Barton on November 3rd, along with trumpeters Michael Orvek and Michael Marty, and trombonists Asher Havenhill and Kent Pfilbsen on November 10th. On the second Sunday of November, the choir and our talented brass musi-

cians are preparing a special piece, "A Jubilant Song," a beautiful celebration of rejoicing and praising the Lord. We can't wait to share this uplifting music with you!

Handbell Choir

Our Saviour's Bell Choir will rehearses on Monday nights at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. This is a perfect opportunity to come check out this happy group and help us create joyous, uplifting music. We welcome anyone who wants to ring and is willing to learn. For more info contact Kathie (kmmmiller@hotmail.com) or any current ringer.



Living Water is the theme of our fall Generosity Appeal. We receive living water in Jesus Christ. This is the same promise Jesus gave the woman at the well with these words - "whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life" (John 4:14). Our grateful response is to give so that we can extend God's mission and ministry in the world.

During November, we'll share stories in worship and over email about the ways that Our Saviour's has been and could be a source of living water. Last Sunday, Pastor Rebecca Boardman shared how Our Saviour's has been living water to undergraduates by sharing our campus and supporting Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Later this month, you will be invited by letter to consider increasing your offering for the coming year. Or you may be making a first-time intentional commitment. Please pray about how you can respond in a way that is meaningful for you. On Sunday, November 17 we will offer our commitments during the service. If you can't be in worship that day, you can also return your commitment by mail.

Advent and Christmas at Our Saviour's

Advent begins on Sunday, December 1.

We will hold midweek services in the evening using Holden Evening Prayer as our liturgy.

Advent Midweek Services – December 4, 11, and 18 – 6:15PM pm – Koch Chapel: Holden Evening Prayer.

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24 – 5:00 PM Candlelight Service with Communion.

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25 – 9:00 AM Christmas Hymn Sing with Communion. (Tentative, depending on congregational interest.)



Sharing Joy Through Your Gifts TIHAN

A gift can mean so much more than the actual item, and that's especially true with TI-HAN and our CarePartners (clients living with HIV). Every December, providing gifts and gift cards to CarePartners living with HIV lets them know that someone is thinking about them and wants to share with them the love of the season. CarePartners often tell us that the gift they receive from TIHAN is the one gift that they know they will get to enjoy each year. Can you help us make this a reality in 2024? As you shop and help spread the word, please remember:

- Gifts must be <u>new</u> and <u>unused</u> and should be donated <u>unwrapped</u>.
- Because CarePartners belong to a variety of faith traditions, or may not identify with any faith, we ask that holiday gifts <u>do not portray any religious images or messages</u>.
- It's important for us to be able to keep gifts equitable, so please look for gifts with a <u>value between \$15 and \$25</u>. Please remember, most of our CarePartners are over the age of 50 and living below the poverty line. Popular items last year included towel sets, crockpots and blankets.
- We are **also** hoping to give a <u>\$25 gift card</u> to stores like Target, Walmart, and Fry's to every CarePartner, so we also need donations of \$25 gift cards.
- The greatest need is for gifts that would be appropriate for adult males.
- If you don't have time to shop for gifts or gift cards, OLSC TIHAN Liaison Mary Pflibsen will take cash donations and shop for you!

Please bring all donations to OSLC before or after worship on any Sunday in November, or to the church office during the week **by Monday, December 2**.

Any questions? Please see Mary at the TIHAN table on the Patio on Sunday mornings or contact her at marypflib@hotmail.com, 520-622-1983. Thank you for helping TIHAN make the upcoming holiday season more special for Tucsonans living with HIV.



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Forums for November

November 3: "Patio Room Celebration"

Last spring, our congregation held a special appeal to make some much-needed updates to our Patio Room and Patio. During this Sunday Forum, the Generosity Team invites you to check out the progress as we bless new spaces together. We will also talk about Living Water, our fall generosity appeal and provide a tutorial about how to set up online giving.

November 10: "Congregational Conversations"

Our Congregational Council has been working on our governance documents this year -Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions. The Congregational Council is recommending some required and needed updates that the congregation will vote on at our Annual Meeting (early 2025). In addition, our Nominating Committee is recommending that this year we engage the process of Council elections with more vigor. Rather than presenting a slate as we have in the past, we will present a list of 6-7 people willing to serve and members will be able to select three names. We will have time to talk about these recommendations and our life together as a congregation.

November 17: "OSLC's Got Talent!"

Join in for an exhibit of the skilled talent that members of our congregation have which you may not be aware of. This is an opportunity to see the art, crafts, books, music, quilts, knitting, etc. that demonstrate the gifted abilities that are important part of peoples' lives. Please note: no items can be sold during this forum, and there is not an emphasis on Christmas items. For further information about how you can participate (before November 12), contact Pastor Glenn [pastorglenn@lutherantucson.org or members of the Sunday Forum Committee.

November 24: "Reconciling in Christ Workshops"

Opportunities to learn more about the RIC process will continue through the Sunday Forums presented as workshops which include presentations and discussions. Some topics may be repeated depending on congregational interest and participation. Watch for the Sunday bulletins to see the specific topics coming up.

<u>Come and See</u>

Gather with others exploring the Bible and faith for these weekly conversations. We are currently looking at the earliest known writings, beginning with Paul's letters. In studying the text, we also discuss connection in our own lives and explore what it means to live a faith of life. You can bring your lunch. Patio Room, 12-1 on Thursdays. Bring your Bible or borrow a Lutheran Study Bible. Led by Pastor Glenn and Pastor Amalia.





Help Make Sandwiches

Three days a week, hungry people in our neighborhood are fed at the welcome center at Grace St. Paul Episcopal Church (five blocks from here). We help make sandwiches for their Monday program. You can help by giving about 45 minutes of your time after worship each Sunday to work alongside others from Our Saviour's. They could also use volunteers at Grace St. Paul, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9AM -12PM.

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.

Spanish Class

Tuesday Nights at 6:30PM. Please contact Annette Chavez at amchavez111@yahoo.com for more information.

Introduction to Centering Prayer: a quiet time in a busy season

Gather for a day of quiet and contemplation. Learn about Centering Prayer through practice, video, journaling and discussion.

Saturday December 7, 10AM - 3PM - Patio Room

Bring your own lunch, paper, and pen. Donations accepted. Register by December 2.



Interfaith Community Services Food Bank

ICS Food Bank is the second largest provider of emergency food in Southern Arizona. It depends on community food drives and donations to help keep the shelves stocked and to offer a selection of healthy foods to households in hardship. The Food Bank has ongoing need for canned, packaged and in-date non-perishable items including: pasta, peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, rice, beans, cereal, children and adult diapers, wipes and

other personal hygiene items. For clients who are unhoused, with no kitchen facilities: SpaghettiOs, chili, and ravioli in pop-top cans are needed. Please put items in the shopping cart that is on the patio on Sundays.

Lay Shared Bible Study

Community organized Bible study group meets Wednesday at 10:30AM in the AB pocket room. Contact Lauretta Olson for more information - landjo@cox.net.



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church November 2024 Calendar

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*These are community	community organized events, held at Our Saviour's.	t Our Saviour's.				2
More information can b	oe found on our Events F	More information can be found on our Events Page - https://lutherantucson.org/events-page	son.org/events-page			
3 ALL SAINTS DAY Sunday Worship 9AM - Coffee IOAM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM	4 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm	5 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:15AM Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch	6 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	7 Come and See 12PM Patio Room	0FFICE CLOSED	9 Ruth Strand Memorial I:00PM
		Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Café ELECTION DAY	LCM Dinner and Worship 6PM LCM House	Choir Practice 6:30PM AB		
10 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM	11 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm	12 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Property 9:00AM - Library Staff Meeting 10:15AM	13 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	14 Come and See 12PM Patio Room	OFFICE CLOSED	16
	Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Cafe	LCM Dinner and Worship 6PM LCM House	Choir Practice 6:30PM AB		
17 GIVING SUNDAY Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee [0AM	18 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm	19 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Quilters 9:00AM AB	mo	21 Come and See 12PM Patio Room	22 Office closed	23
Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM	Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	Staff Meeting 10:15AM Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch	LCM Dinner and Worship 6PM LCM House	*TIHAN POZ CAFÉ Choir Practice 6:30PM		
		Council Meeting 6:30PM Patio Rm Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Café		Aв		
24 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM	25 *Mindful Meditation AB2 I:30pm	26 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:15AM Containing Proven 17:15PM	27 Roadrunner Assembly 9:00AM *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	28 Campus Closed Happy Thanksgiving	29 Office closed	30
	Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	Koch Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Cafe	LCM Dinner and Worship 6PM LCM House			



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> Our Mission: Being Christ-centered community through faith and action in the heart of Tucson.

Welcome Newcomers

On Sunday, October 27, we welcomed the following new member Adonica De Vault; Asher & Mary Havenhill; and Eldon & Maria Krueger; and as friends, Eric Howard, Lindsay, Ray & Raymond LeDoux; and Sharon Reinbott with this prayer: "We welcome you because of who you are and celebrate the life experience and gifts you bring to enrich, expand, and enliven our life together!"

