



# The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Grace to you and peace from God, who is and who was, and who is to come (Revelation 1:4).

This greeting and beautiful imagery of God from the beginning of Revelation feels just right for our life together at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. While we as a congregation spend important time learning our history, recognizing our present, and imagining our future, it is good that we remind one another regularly that we gather in the name of God who is past, present, and future.

This month marks the beginning of the season of Advent and the new Church Year. During Advent, we'll explore themes of hope, preparation, joy, and wonder. Hear anew the old stories of unexpected life changes, cosmic experiences, vulnerability, and welcome. One theme of Advent that can feel surprising (or even off-putting) is the churchy word "repentance." To our ears, this can bring up past experiences of being told we were wrong, bad, or even worse - unforgivable. One of my mentors (the Rev. Dr. Troy Troftgruben from Wartburg Seminary), likes to use the image of a phone or car navigation system to understand "repentance" in a new way. Rather than being a judgement without hope, the call to repent is a call to turn in a new direction, like a recalculated new route. Jesus Christ is this new Way - the way of mercy, justice, love, and hope for all people. During this season of turning, we are called anew to recalculate our route and follow Christ's path.

A heart-filled thank you for the welcome you've given to David, Cholla, and me. We are very grateful for the bountiful gifts of food, household items, gift cards, messages, and prayers that greeted us upon arrival. We're getting nicely settled in and already feel at home. And we are all very cozy with our beautiful new quilts! You've all stepped up wonderfully to serve during worship, throughout the week, and to help me become acquainted with the ministry and programs of Our Saviour's. My installation on November 14 was an extraordinary day thanks to the presence, effort, and care of our congregation, synod colleagues, family and friends.

This time of year can be one of joy, of sharing and giving, and being with loved ones. For some, it can be a time of grief as death or broken relationships or memories of the past feel especially painful. Remember to keep perspective during these days of Advent. When our culture pulls your focus too much towards excessive buying and planning, take time to pause, look around, recalculate your route, and go with mercy, justice, love, and hope for yourself and for all people.

*Pastor Amalia*

Pastor Amalia Vagts  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in the heart of Tucson, Arizona  
"Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 14:16)



## COUNCIL CORNER

November 16, 2021



Dear Members of OSLC:

We expect that you're already aware of this month's biggest news at Our Saviour's: we welcomed Pastor Amalia Vagts and her family to our congregation. We wish to express our gratitude to everyone who served on the Transition Team and the Call Committee during the interim time, as well as those who traveled to Iowa to attend Pastor Amalia's Ordination, attended her Service of Installation on November 14, and orchestrated her reception. Please join us in welcoming Pastor Amalia and David to OSLC.

This month we also welcomed Lutheran Campus Ministries to Our Saviour's campus, and look forward to finding ways for OSLC and LCM to collaborate in our ministries.

We are already engaged in making preparations for the New Year ahead. Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled on January 30, and the Finance Committee is working on next year's budget. If you are interested in serving on Council or the Endowment Committee (or other committees) beginning next year, please talk with Michael Marty or Bonnie Phelps. In the meantime, we are working to address several maintenance issues around the OSLC campus, including two roof leaks.

Because Covid-19 conditions in our community have not improved during the past month, we will remain in Phase 1 of Reopening: masks are required regardless of vaccination status, and we will continue to maintain physical distancing when gathering together. Thank you for your help in caring for all of the members of our church community during these challenging times.

We pray that you and your loved ones will have a safe and blessed holiday season.

In Christ—  
**OSLC Church Council**



ICS Food Bank needs your help. Donations are down and more people are using the food bank as they are still struggling through the pandemic. **The Holiday Food Drive** continues through December and Thrivent has approved a matching grant of \$250 for donations. Continue your generosity and fill up the shopping cart on the patio every Sunday. Items needed: in-date canned and packaged products: cereal, rice, beans, spaghetti, pasta sauce, meals in a can, canned meats, peanut butter and personal hygiene items. Monetary donations can be sent to Interfaith Community Services, 2820 W Ina Rd. Tucson, AZ 85741



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                                            |                          |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 12/5 - Paul Porter                         | 12/6 - D. Schatzi Taylor |
| 12/7 - Ronald Reece                        | 12/8 - Kristin Sanchez   |
| 12/10 - Carol Redman                       | 12/12 - Carlton Olswold  |
| 12/14 - Bonnie Travers                     | 12/15 - Miranda Sierra   |
| 12/19 - Robert Pearson                     |                          |
| 12/20 - Virginia Bonnin, Catherine Mashall |                          |
| 12/21 - Dorothee McCann, Daime Verdin      |                          |
| 12/22 - Surprise Dowayee, Jacob Mohler     |                          |
| 12/24 - Shelly Adrian, Jerry Cannon        | 12/26 - Chloe Harper     |
| 12/27 - Nancy Lange                        | 12/28 - Tracy Ratliff    |
| 12/29 - Alfred Curtis, William DeVinney    |                          |
| 12/31 - Elisabeth Lashbrook                |                          |

## DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

James & Anna Phillips - 12/12



## PASTOR AMALIA'S INSTALLATION

The Installation of Pastor Amalia Vagts took place on Sunday, November 14. Congratulations to Pastor Amalia and thank you to all who attended and made her installation a very special occasion. OSLC warmly welcomes her!

## OUR STAFF

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## JOYFUL GIVING AND LOVING SERVICE

We have just kicked off the Stewardship Appeal for 2022. Thank you all for your continued generosity! It has been so rewarding to be back meeting in person and to have opportunities to worship and socialize together!

You will be receiving a letter and more information in the bulletins at church about the appeal. Your giving for the coming year will help us re-engage with each other and the wider community. It will help with Mission Outreach, including Synod programs and local organizations. It will also make a difference here as we look at ways to improve the facility for improved safety of members and guests as the pandemic eases and we are meeting in person more often.

Please peruse the materials you will be receiving and prayerfully consider your gift for 2022!

