



The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Volume 77 No. 1
January 2021



Celebrating the Epiphany of Our Lord

The season of Epiphany begins on January 6 as the church celebrates the arrival of the Magi from the East who signal that this child born in Bethlehem is come also for all the nations of the earth.

The First Sunday after Epiphany is the celebration of the Baptism of Our Lord (depicted at left). Jesus is revealed as the one whom God has sent to be the Messiah and Savior of all. He is proclaimed as "Beloved Son of God."

Epiphany means the manifestation or the revealing of the divine majesty. It lets us know that light is coming into the darkness of the world. God is present in this world and in our lives. Epiphany reveals God's power and love through the person and work of Jesus, the Christ.

So, during the weeks of the Epiphany season, we see how God's power shows up through Jesus and the season concludes as it began with the Transfiguration Sunday as we celebrate once again Jesus as being revealed as God's beloved Son.

As we move through the church year Epiphany reveals Jesus as true God and then as we turn to Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Holy Week we see Jesus revealed as true man, as the creed says, "true God and true man."

Moving through Epiphany, we continue our discernment and transition process to discover the answer to the question, "Where is God Calling Us?" This time of transition and discernment is an opportunity to listen for God's call as we discover with each other the significant events of our history, as we develop our Mission-Vision-Values, as we identify the qualities and competencies of the next pastoral leader for Our Saviour's and as we complete our Ministry Site Profile (MSP).

We do all of this as church together while we are apart in the light of the Epiphany star and the revelation of Jesus as the light of the world. Jesus comes among us to enlighten our lives, and to shed light on our discernment.

Blessed Epiphany!

Interim Pastor

Council Corner

December 19, 2020

As the year draws to a close, the Council and Finance Committee have been reviewing our 2020 finances in detail and preparing OSLC's 2021 budget. We're pleased to share good news regarding OSLC's finances for both 2020 and 2021. As you may recall, our congregation began 2020 with a truly balanced budget and a modest savings account for the first time in many years. Although 2020 was hardly a typical year in any sense, our unanticipated expenses were largely offset by unanticipated savings. And although our offering income has been slightly below budget for much of the year, offering totals have been increasing during the final weeks of 2020. Thanks to God's continued blessings, your faithful generosity, and ongoing careful stewardship of our resources this year, we expect to finish 2020 roughly on budget and with our entire savings still intact. As we look ahead to 2021, we're pleased to report that once again we will be presenting the congregation with a balanced budget for approval at our Annual Congregational Meeting in January. We sincerely appreciate your stewardship pledges; each pledge helps us to make 2021 financial plans with more precision (if you have not yet submitted your pledge, you may still complete the online form or mail your pledge to the church office).

Because of the pandemic it is necessary to hold this year's Congregational Meeting mostly online, although voting for any action items will take place by written ballot shortly after the online meeting. Watch for more information about the meeting format soon, along with announcements regarding opportunities to learn more details about the year's finances and this year's Council nominees. If you are interested in serving on OSLC's Council, please contact Kent Phlipsen at kppflib@msn.com, chair of the Nominating Committee.

May God bless you and your loved ones with health and safety in the New Year. Please join us in continuing to pray for our church and community.

**Report respectfully submitted,
OSLC Church Council**



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Now that Christmas is over people are starting to put away their decoration and clear away the mess. I must admit that this year there is not much mess at our house. It was just Paul, Moses and me - no children, no grandkids, and no siblings. As I was putting things away I thought about a former colleague of mine. We were having lunch one day and she turned to me and said that when she was cleaning up all the used wrapping paper and ribbons on Christmas Day she threw away the baby Jesus from the Nativity that was under the tree. I was horrified for her! I wondered how many bags of trash she went through until she found the baby. She started laughing at me. "I didn't bother looking. It was going to be too much trouble. I just threw away the rest of the set and I'll buy a new one next year."

I wonder how many people there are like this teacher. She literally threw out the baby Jesus because it was too much trouble to look for him. Maybe people don't throw out the baby at the end of the season but him in a box and leave him there for another year. Having Jesus around all year long is too much trouble. If Jesus is with you all year long you end up going to church every week instead of sleeping in on Sunday. With Jesus around you tend to see those who are hungry or homeless or have some other need. With Jesus around you want to help others. You tend to think of your neighbor before yourself.

My Nativity stays out all year long to remind me that Jesus did not just come at Christmas. It reminds me that Jesus is with me every day, all the time. It reminds me of the pure love that was shown to us when the Word became Flesh. It reminds me to show that love to others every day in everything that I do.

Will you be keeping Jesus in a box this year only to reappear next December or will you keep Him in your heart and put up with the trouble He will cause?

Blessings,

Pastor Martha



YouTube Adult Education

Dr. Kent Pflibsen, physicist and OSLC member, is offering a 4 week adult education opportunity from 10 to 11 AM on the second and fourth Sunday mornings beginning on January 10th. This presentation will be recorded and made available on YouTube for members and friends who may not be able to view it live by Zoom.



Where is God Calling Us? Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Transition Conversations

In December we began our transition conversations by looking at the history of our congregation. Viewing the decades by pastor leadership we explored those areas of joys and successes and those areas over the years where there have been challenges and stumbling blocks to ministry.

The goal of this conversation is to discern how God has used OSLC to do God's mission in the world and to build on those in the future, and to understand and avoid stumbling blocks to ministry that occurred in the past.

We also looked at the demographics of the congregation and the community to discern where God may be calling OSLC in ministry in the future.

In January we will be asking the Holy Spirit to guide us in determining our Mission and Ministry and reflect that discernment in statements that will guide us.

You may still participate in one of the small groups. If you would like to participate contact Kathryn and she will forward your interest to one of our group leaders.

Give A Little, Share A Lot! Advent

Progress on Advent Bags for Tucson's homeless: as of Dec 16, 2020 we have gathered your generous donations and money donations. We are assembling the bags as the supplies come in. We have included new socks, hand sanitizer, sm kleenex packets, toothpaste, toothbrush, mints, cough drops and several snacks. Our lovely quilters donated several bags. We hope to deliver 40 bags to a local charity organization that Scott Koenig has worked with called "Our Family" on Monday Dec 21st. Thanks to everyone for your prayers and generous donations!



The Roadrunner

OUR STAFF

Pastor Len Hoffmann
Interim Pastor
Prlen@lutherantucson.org

Pastor Martha Neff Stum
Weekly Worship Leader
mstum@aol.com

Kathryn Barrera
Parish Administrator
Parishadministrator
@lutherantucson.org

Steve VanMeter
Publications Coordinator
Publications
@lutherantucson.org

Josh Nichols
Music Leader
music@lutherantucson.org

Graham Sims
Handyman

Tammie Anderson
Nursery Attendant

Sophia Rankin
Marshall Adams
Accompanists

Mateo Chavez
Visitation Pastor
jmchavez111@yahoo.com

OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sheila Bustamante
President
520-235-0056
sbustamante
03182013@gmail.com

Bonnie Phelps
Vice President
520.991.9490
bphelps10@cox.net

Amy Fatzinger - *Secretary*
520.247.2361
fatzinge@email.arizona.edu

Mary Durham-Pflibsen
Treasurer
520-622-1983
durham@arizona.edu

Pam Hardman
520-326-7266
pamh10@q.com

Kathy DeVinney
520.419.4321
kmdrainbow@aol.com

Michael Marty
520.240.6601
martymt10@gmail.com

Kris Sanchez
571.239.0573

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

1200 N. Campbell Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719
Phone: 520-327-6521,
E-mail: parishadministrator@lutherantucson.org
Website: www.lutherantucson.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US Postage PAID
Tucson, AZ 85719
PERMIT NO. 259



News From the Office

By Kathryn Barrera,
Parish Administrator

Hello Everyone!

Happy New Year! I hope you all had wonderful (and safe) Christmas and New Year's celebrations. We kept it quiet this year and just had nice family dinner with hot chocolate which was Mark's favorite part :-)

As we go into a new year I am very excited about what lies ahead for OSLC. I am eager for the prospect of a vaccine so we can get back to worshipping together. Since we have mostly been stuck at home for the past year, I am definitely looking forward to participating more in outreach programs and different ministries that were taken for granted before Covid hit. I think this quarantine time has definitely put things into perspective and I am thrilled to think of the ways we can make 2021 a MUCH better year.

Total Income & Expense through November, 2020	
Income	\$534,303
Expense	\$519,770

That's all for now. Have a wonderful month!

- Kathryn

