



# The Roadrunner



Pastor Amalia Vagts

June/July 2024

God's peace and joy to you as summer begins. Our neighborhood has gotten quieter as students have gone home or off to work or an adventure for the summer. Many in our community are traveling or spending time in cooler temperatures. In worship, we're entering the season of Ordinary Time in the Church calendar as we gather each week to be renewed and sent out with love to care and serve.

We continue to make decisions guided by our areas of focus and commitments as a community. This month, the Council took a few key actions that will help move us forward in the areas of housing, expansive welcome, and capacity. **Housing:** The Council affirmed being part of a group of congregations in Arizona exploring ways of developing our property to expand affordable housing. This project is supported by Vitalyst Health Foundation in Phoenix. Vitalyst will find and fund a coach to help guide us through the early stages and questions, producing a report about how the congregation could proceed. Others will get to learn from our exploration and example. This process does not mean deciding about any specific project – it helps lay the foundation for future work. Members of the Lutheran Campus Ministry Center of Grace Design Team and Our Saviour's will participate in this project. **Capacity:** The Council enthusiastically supports the Growing in Giving appeal led by our Generosity Team. In addition to the mission spending plan commitments to property upkeep and improvement, this appeal will help achieve goals for caring for our property for the benefit of our congregation and wider community. The Council also voted to make a distribution change with one of our non-endowment reserve funds. The congregation created these non-endowment funds with undesignated bequests received to be used for a future project. Some of these funds are invested with the ELCA Ministry Growth Fund, which offers a quarterly distribution that can be reinvested or used for ministry. From the beginning, we have chosen to reinvest. Because this fund has continued to grow, the Council voted to start receiving the quarterly investments to use them for ministry now. Each quarter, the Council will explore emerging needs or opportunities and decide about that quarter's distribution. **Expansive Welcome:** Read Pastor Glenn's update on the Reconciling in Christ program to learn more about our work in this area. Each week, we serve to live out expansive welcome, so that all who enter our church building feel at home.

Michael Marty, Tori Wendell, Vicar Wendi, Pastor Glenn and I will travel to Phoenix for the Synod Assembly, June 13-15. Please pray for our Synod as we elect a bishop and do the work of the synod together. During the first two weeks of July, David and I will be away for a time of renewal.

As a congregation, Our Saviour's follows Jesus by being Christ-centered community through faith and action in the heart of Tucson. Our current areas of focus: Expansive Welcome, Housing, Music & Arts, Neighborhood, and Capacity.

## Council Corner

June/July 2024

### STAFF

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### COUNCIL MEMBERS oslc@lutherantucson.org

Tracy Ratliff  
*President*

Patty Sirls  
*Vice President*

Ted Adams  
*Secretary*

Pam Hardman  
*Treasurer*

Melanie Bowman

Angie Grandison

David Johnson

Paige Marty

### LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

lcmuofa@gmail.com  
Pastor Rebecca Boardman is away  
May 5 - August 5  
www.lcmuofa.org  
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.



We started our most recent meeting with a devotion centered on our verse for the year - John 4:34-38. Jesus talks about doing the will of God and finishing God's work. We talked about reaping and sowing and being aware of God's work in our daily lives.

The Finance Committee reported that we continue to be in a good financial position. The plans for a full financial review are moving forward. We approved a change in the distribution policy for a non-endowment ministry fund from reinvest to distribute. Pastor Amalia wrote more about this in her column. The funds will be used for congregational priorities and emerging ministry possibilities at the direction of the council. This change means that a portion of the earnings will be put used for ministry now.

You probably noticed that the lighting issues in the Sanctuary have been resolved! Wi-fi updates have been completed and landscaping work has been done by Primavera Works, which is a job training program of Primavera.

We discussed and approved an invitation to be part of a statewide project led by the Vitalyst Foundation to provide resources to congregations who are considering housing projects on their property. This will help us get a big picture vision that includes the Center of Grace project. You can read more in Pastor Amalia's column.

A committee is working on updating our Governing Documents. Some of these are updates required by our ELCA. Our Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions will be combined into one document. We will present the document to the congregation early in the fall for review and approval at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

With joy, we voted to begin the process of becoming an RIC (Reconciling in Christ) church, affirming and welcoming LGBTQ people and others to our congregation. There is more about this in Pastor Glenn's article in this newsletter. The process will help us to be genuinely welcoming to all of God's people. Our Council hopes we do this work well and with integrity.

Thank you to the congregation for your support and service.

### **Interfaith Community Services Food Bank**

ICS welcomes and needs food donations year round. They need to restock the shelves especially during the summer months when children are out of school. Suggested items for donation: canned, packaged and in-date non-perishable items including pasta, peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, rice, beans, cereal, granola bars, children and adult diapers and wipes. 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.

## Faith Formation at OSLC - Pastor Glenn Schrader      June/July 2024



As our Sunday Forum series on “What does it mean to be ‘church’ today?” concluded in mid-May, the book *Rooted and Renewing: Imagining the Church’s Future in Light of Its New Testament Origins* certainly proved to be a great resource for discussion. We are also grateful that the author, Professor Troy Truftgruben of Wartburg Theological Seminary (ELCA), joined us for one of the sessions via Zoom. The premise of his book is that whatever the church hopes to be in the future, it must start with understanding

its roots while being receptive to the inevitable changes the church has always experienced – and successfully overcome – throughout the ages. Some Prof. Troftgruben’s postulates about the future church are: 1) churches will be smaller; 2) less tied to dedicated physical buildings; 3) less influenced by denominational history and structure; 4) spiritual practices will grow; 5) community ties will be necessary; 6) authentic witness to those “unfamiliar” with Christianity will be essential; and 7) our faith must “matter to the world”.

During the summer months, there will be Sunday Forums as suggestions and topics arise. If you have ideas, please let me or Pastor Amalia know. The Sunday Forum Committee is already at work planning for the Fall with ideas centered on ecology/environmental action, “The Holy Spirit of Christmas” (during Advent), the Reconciling in Christ process, an “OSLC Arts, Crafts, and Literature” event just before Thanksgiving – among other possibilities. We always welcome additional suggestions!

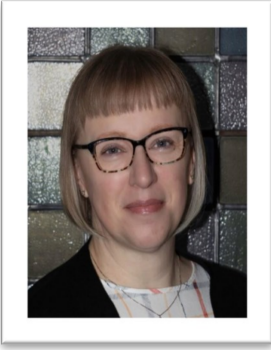
Our Saviour’s will be screening the film *God + Country* at 6 pm on June 22 in the AB (please see the announcement in this Roadrunner) as a continuation of our discussions last year on Christian nationalism. We hope that other gatherings during the summer around films may be possible also, so please join us for this first event which will include conversation and refreshments afterwards.

Some personal notes as the summer approaches: I will be attending the Grand Canyon Synod Assembly in Mesa during the second week in June with others from OSLC. Also, I have been invited to deliver the sermon at the June 15 Diakonia graduation following the Assembly (I was among the first graduates of this program in 2019). In late July, I will be attending the “Preacher’s Retreat with ‘Working Preachers’” from Luther Seminary. In August I hope to make a visit to Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque Iowa to meet with my adviser as I work toward transforming my Master of Divinity thesis into a possible book.

My hope for you during this summer that you will take time to renew, refresh and re-invigorate as your faith journey continues to open to God’s abundant grace and mercy in your life. These months – although they can become unexpectedly busy at times – can also offer opportunities for contemplation, study, or just taking a needed break. Please do so! And I look forward to being with you at OSLC during most of the summer for worship and other special events or occasions.

## Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona -

**June/July 2024**



Vicar Wendi Van Beek

### Become a Poll Worker

As Lutherans, we are called to faithfully steward our society, that it might be one of justice and equity. In our country, that means assuring that all people have fair access to the democratic process, ensuring that the government works for the dignity of **all** people.

Through the 2024 Election Cycle, we are committed to advocating for policies that ensure accessible, secure elections. We are also committed to engaging our community in the civic process and increasing voter participation and education.

Poll workers, also known as election boards, are an essential part of democracy and the election process. Counties rely on poll workers to work on election day, throughout the early voting period, and, in some cases, after election day. Each county has different needs, from long-term positions at their tabulation center to working at voting locations on Election Day. No matter the role, poll workers are vital to the success of elections in Arizona.

To serve as an election worker, you must be a registered voter, attend the required training and meetings, and serve voters at polling locations impartially, safely, and efficiently. Students over the age of 16, may serve as election clerks with the permission of a parent or guardian.

Becoming a poll worker is an easy way to empower voters in your community!

By signing up to be a poll worker, you can ensure that all voters — including voters with disabilities, voters who need language assistance, and voters who want to cast their ballot in person — have a positive experience at the polls.

**NOTE:** This invitation is through Power the Polls, a first-of-its-kind, nonpartisan initiative to recruit the next generation of poll workers to ensure safe and fair elections for all voters, and shared with us via the League of Women Voters. You may also use the Arizona Secretary of State's website to register for poll worker training.

God's Peace,  
Vicar Wendi Van Beek

## Feeding Our Neighbors



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. Talk to Vicar Wendi about how to get involved or sign-up at [vic-ar@lutherantucson.org](mailto:vic-ar@lutherantucson.org).



June/July 2024

Passionate about justice work but not sure how your skills align?

Prefer to work behind the scenes rather than out front?

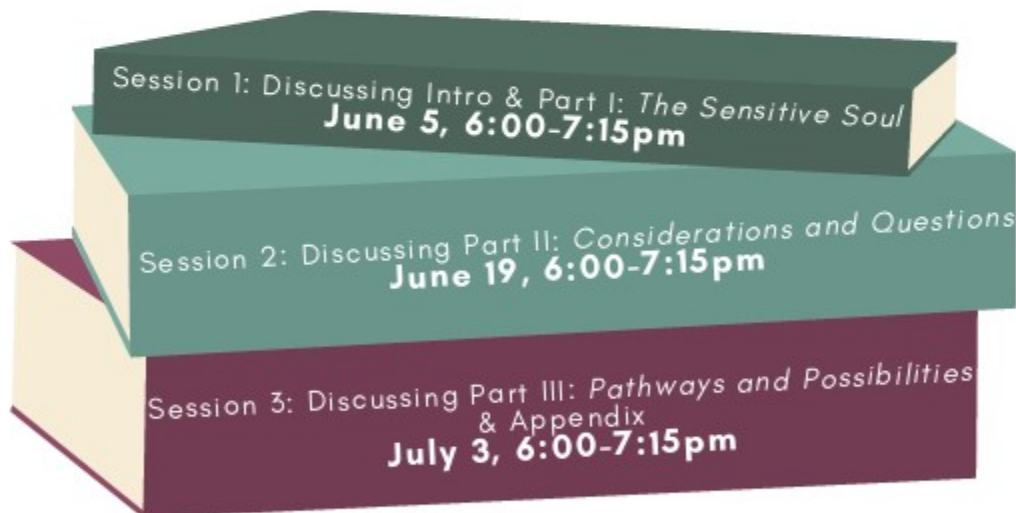
Wondering about connections between faith and advocacy?

# BOOK STUDY & WORKSHOP SERIES



YOU are invited to a **Kino Conference Learning Event Series** discussing these topics and more, based on Dorcas Cheng-Tozun's *Social Justice for the Sensitive Soul* and accompanying curriculum.

**Bring yourself, a copy of the book, and your curiosity!**



**Offered via Zoom.**

For **Zoom link** or questions, contact Vicar Wendi Van Beek,  
Deacon Intern at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.  
[vicar@lutherantucson.org](mailto:vicar@lutherantucson.org)

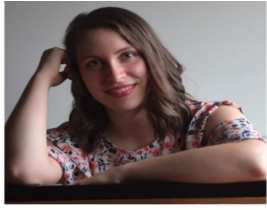
**Grief Ministry** - Tuesdays, June 4 and July 2 at 1pm - Patio Room

**Grief care ministry** is a support group, available on campus at Our Saviour's as well as online, that provides an opportunity for confidential mutual care, listening, and support for those facing loss in their lives. We meet once a month, on the first Tuesday of every month, from 1 - 2 pm in the Patio Room. Please contact Vicar Wendi at [vic-ar@lutherantucson.org](mailto:vic-ar@lutherantucson.org) with any questions.

## Music Notes

June/July 2024

Gréta Pásztor



Our services will be filled with music throughout the summer months: you can hear the Chancel Band, pianists Gréta Pásztor and Devin Gardner, as well as cantors Nilu Dorschner, Jennifer Strand, and William DeVinney!

Devin Gardner has played with us several times this spring and will be the main substitute during the summer when Gréta Pásztor is away.



**Devin Gardner** has over 35 years of experience within the field of music, beginning piano studies at age 6, and adding oboe several years later. He obtained degrees with full tuition scholarships from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, George Mason University, and the University of Arizona. Devin currently maintains a private piano and oboe studio, and serves as an accompanist for the woodwind department at the U of A. He is especially fond of modern French flute repertoire, with Dutilleux, Bozza, and Jolivet being some of his favorite composers. In addition, Mr. Gardner performs throughout Arizona and Texas with the Arizona Opera, Sierra Vista Symphony, El Paso Symphony, and St. Philips in the Hills. Living in the scenic Foothills with his two beautiful dogs Venkman and Zeddemore--named after two of his favorite Ghostbusters--he is also an avid participant in bowling, pool, and darts, and enjoys walking with his dogs all over Oro Valley and Marana.

## Growing in Giving

Throughout June, we will gather Growing Gifts and Giving Hours as we complete some modest updates to our campus' Patio Room, Chapel, and Patio area. Once the hub of our congregation, the patio room had become less cared for over the years. Recently, the patio area is once again becoming a hub of activity. Last year, we made a few basic updates but now it's time to create a space that is flexible, functional, and inviting for small groups, meetings, and ministries.

The total cost of the proposed updates is \$13,500. We are grateful for five households that have made gifts totaling \$7,500 to get us off to a great start.

Funds will provide an expandable conference table, comfortable chairs, rugs, and sound-absorbing panels. A keypad will make the space more accessible. Patio furniture, cushions, and lighting will brighten the outside patio area. Commitments of time and talent will help with stucco repair and landscaping. We want to involve the entire congregation at all levels as we clean up, clear out, and fill this space with gratitude and usefulness for our congregation.

Gifts of any amount will help us reach our goal. Consider a gift of time, too, to help complete projects and fill this space with care and gratitude. You can mail your gift or commitment to the Growing in Giving Appeal at the church office. Or you can return it to the offering plate on Sunday morning.



You can also give online using this QR code.

## Reconciling in Christ Process Begins

June/July 2024

Our Saviour's is a place that so many have called "home" over the years. Many Sundays we have visitors from years past who come back to visit the place they were welcomed when they were making their home in Tucson. One of our current areas of focus as a congregation is become a place of **expansive welcome** to create and cultivate a place of belonging and affirmation so that Christ-centered community is a living, vibrant reality in the heart of Tucson.



Since 1974, the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program has embraced a mission to advocate for the acceptance, full participation, and liberation of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions within the Lutheran church. Although a focus remains on LGBTQIA+ Lutherans, the movement advocates for building bridges across racial and social divides that have forced some Christians to be marginalized by injustice and discrimination. Over 1000 congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries, and other church organizations have already joined the RIC program, and another 300 are currently involved in the process.

A core team is being formed to help Our Saviour's Lutheran explore how we can thoughtfully and intentionally start this journey of faith. Using the RIC toolkit "Building an Inclusive Church", a half-day initial training session was held in May which affirmed the program as a spiritual and grace-filled opportunity to embody what expansive welcome would mean for our congregation and for the people we are called to serve. As Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, God is at work reconciling the world through Christ, and he entreats us further to embrace a ministry of reconciliation as ambassadors of Christ.

More information will be provided in up-coming Roadrunners and through Sunday Forums beginning in September 2024. Engagement with members of the OSLC congregation is an essential part of this program so look for upcoming opportunities to participate in conversations and learning opportunities. The website for the Reconciling in Christ program can be found at [www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/](http://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/)

**Treasures for TIHAN 2024**  
To benefit people living with HIV  
a party and fundraising event to celebrate 30 years of impact

**30 Years of LOVE**  
Commemorating the past  
Celebrating the present  
Creating the future

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 8, 3-6**  
at Desert Diamond Hotel & Casino  
7350 S Nogales Hwy (next to Tucson airport)

Emcee **Lupita Murillo**  
Live performances by Reverb, Erick Grillo, and Jesus Alva  
Hors d'oeuvres • Silent Auction • Live Auction  
Photo Booth with Props • Paddle Raise

**Free online auction: May 29-June 8**

**TIHAN**  
Tucson Initiative for HIV/AIDS/Norovirus  
Making Progress with HIV/AIDS

tihan.org  
520-299-6647



## OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OSLC@lutherantucson.org  
(520)327-6521

### *Our Mission:*

*Being Christ-centered community through faith and action  
in the heart of Tucson.*

## God + Country Film

Continuing our Fall 2023 series on Christian nationalism, we will be showing the film God + Country on Saturday, June 22 at 6 p.m. in the Activity Building at Our Saviour's. The 2024 film, produced by Rob Reiner, directed by Dan Partland, and based on the book The Power of Worshipers by Katherine Stewart, addresses the growing threat to democracy posed by voters who maintain that the United States was fundamentally established as a Christian nation. They believe that all policies on abortion, public education, immigration, LGBTQ rights, and more should be determined by a conservative interpretation of the Bible, and they also closely tie Christianity to partisan politics. The film includes commentary by Russell Moor, David French, Simone Campbell, Robert Schenck, Reza Aslan, and others, and focuses on the increasing connection of religion and politics. However, the film also presents possible alternatives to Christian Nationalism, including those of Rev. William Barber III who expresses hope, inclusivity, and healing for American democracy. The film trailer is available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MFQ2uESrjU>

Contributions will be accepted at the door (such as \$5-10/person but only quite approximate!) to defray the cost of obtaining the film. For further information contact Pastor Glenn at [pastorglenn@lutherantucson.org](mailto:pastorglenn@lutherantucson.org) or call the church office. There will be an informal discussion following the 90-minute film. Popcorn and other refreshments will be available also, so please join for this engaging opportunity this summer!





# Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

## June 2024 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	3 Staff Mtg 10:15AM	4 Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Grief Ministry 1:00PM Patio Room	5 Bible Study 10:30AM AB Social Justice Book Study 6:00PM	6	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8
9 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	10 Staff Mtg 10:15AM	11 Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Property 9:00AM - Library Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch	12 Bible Study 10:30AM AB	13 Grand Canyon Synod	14 OFFICE CLOSED Grand Canyon Synod	15 Grand Canyon Synod
16 Sunday Worship 9AM - Guest Preacher - John Indermark Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	17 Staff Mtg 10:15AM	18 Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Quilters 9:00AM AB Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Council Meeting 6:30PM Patio Rm	19 OFFICE CLOSED Bible Study 10:30AM AB Social Justice Book Study 6:00PM	20	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 God & Country Movie 6:00PM - AB
23 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	24 Staff Mtg 10:15AM	25 Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch	26 Roadrunner Assembly 9:00AM	27	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM						

# Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

## July 2024 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Staff Mtg 10:15AM  Pastor Annala away through July 15	2 Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Grief Ministry 1:00PM Patio Room	3 Bible Study 10:30AM AB Social Justice Book Study 6:00PM	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6
7 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	8 Staff Mtg 10:15AM	9 Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Property 9:00AM - Library Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch	10 Bible Study 10:30AM AB	11	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13
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28 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	29	30	31 Roadrunner Assembly 9:00AM			

