



# The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



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On Sunday, May 23 the Church will celebrate the Festival of Pentecost which comes 50 days after Easter, and provides a focus on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. The Spirit gives the disciples boldness and courage as they witnessed to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

This day of Pentecost initiates what may be called the “birthday of the Church.” It is called this because on Pentecost the church expanded beyond the 12 disciples to include people from every nation as witnessed to the people who understood the message of the disciples in their own languages.

It is the 3rd Article of the Apostles Creed that speaks about our belief in the Holy Spirit. In Martin Luther’s explanation to the 3rd Article he writes, “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.”

It is the Holy Spirit that brings us to faith and trust in Jesus Christ. It is the Holy Spirit that brings us into relationship with Jesus. One of the ways the Holy Spirit brings us into this relationship is through Holy Baptism. The Holy Spirit provides us with this relationship of grace (a free gift) and creates the faith by which we grasp that grace. As we are placed into this relationship with Jesus, we also received the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

However, baptism does not just create a vertical relationship with God but establishes a horizontal relationship with people within Christ’s church. Luther continues in his explanation, “In the same way [the Holy Spirit] calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church and keeps its with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.” The Spirit creates and sustains the Church of which we all belong.

So, on this Day of Pentecost we are again reminded of how we are connected to Christ and how the whole church is created and sustained. The Spirit gives us the boldness and courage to witness to this Good News of Jesus. We are again reminded of our congregation’s vision for our ministry as stated in the Vision Statement prepared for our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) “Our vision is to be a loving, inclusive, and inviting community in Christ.”

During the subsequent Sundays after Pentecost, we will discover ways in which the church continues to be in mission and calls and empowers us to do likewise.

Interim Pastor



## Council Corner

**March 20, 2021**

It is with joy that we share the good news: beginning the first Sunday in May, OSLC will hold outdoor worship services at 7:30 a.m. We will continue to hold small outdoor services as long as the local positivity rate for the Covid-19 virus remains at or below 7% for 7 consecutive days. We give thanks to God for the improving health and safety conditions in our community, and celebrate the opportunity to worship together once again. As we resume in-person worship and activities, our entire OSLC community is called upon to actively demonstrate our commitment to God's commandment to love our neighbors by working together to create a safe gathering place for all. Right now this includes keeping our gatherings small, making reservations for worship, maintaining physical distance, frequent sanitizing, and wearing masks. Each time we wear a mask or practice other safety protocols, it is a visible sign that we are loving and caring for our neighbor. We wear masks at OSLC (regardless of our own vaccination status or comfort level) as an act of love for everyone in our lives who has not yet had an opportunity for a vaccine, as an act of love for those who enter (and clean) spaces after we leave them, and as an act of love for God's most precious gift: all of the children in our church and community. Everyone who arrives at OSLC for worship or other activities should feel confident that they will find every individual in every gathering caring for their neighbors by wearing masks and practicing other safety protocols. And of course, we continue to care for our neighbors who are not yet comfortable returning in-person just yet; worship services will be recorded and livestreamed for those who prefer worshipping from home.



As we celebrate the happy news about resuming in-person worship, it is good to express appreciation for those who have continued to give and serve during the time we've been worshipping from afar, and to remember our own opportunities to give and serve. The Transition process continues to move forward on schedule; we thank everyone who led and served on the Transition Team, as well as those who will be serving on the Call Committee. At the close of the first quarter of 2021, however, we noticed a significant drop in our offering income. Although this decline in offerings has been partly offset for now by several generous individual gifts, please consider increasing your offering or giving a gratitude gift if you are able. This month we have a number of out-of-the-ordinary expenses as we make preparations for resuming in-person worship safely, upgrade our technology for livestreaming services, and reseal and restripe the south parking lot. We received news that Lutheran Social Services-SW will likely be moving sometime during the second quarter, and we anticipate some work may be needed as we prepare those properties for use as regular rental homes again. The Property Committee is looking for new members to help with these and other projects; if you are interested in serving, please contact Pam Hardman at 602-931-0243 or pamh10@q.com. Thanks to everyone who continues to generously share their resources, time, and talents in unique ways.

Please join us in praying for our church and community, and in loving and caring for all of our diverse neighbors. In Christ—

**In Christ—  
OSLC Church Council**



The month of May is bringing some BIG changes to worship at OSLC. We will be outside on the patio worshipping together, enjoying our wonderful Tucson weather. The service will be at 7:30 so it should not be too hot. I know many of you are used to dressing up when you come to worship in what my mom always called our "Sunday go to meeting" clothes. Think about the weather and please dress accordingly. God will not mind if you come in shorts. (And neither will your pastor.) The service will be taped and uploaded to YouTube for those of you who prefer to worship at home.

This is an exciting time to be a member of OSLC. With COVID numbers coming down we are looking at ways of safely opening up the campus. The transition team is almost finished with their work. The call committee is getting ready to start looking for a new pastor. There is still work to be done. Consider volunteering for one of the needed committees. When asked to help out, prayerfully consider and they say yes.

I look forward to worshipping with you in person on Sundays. I it will be a very different experience preaching to people rather a camera lens. I can't wait!

Peace,

*Pastor Martha*



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## Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

1200 N. Campbell Ave.  
Tucson, AZ 85719  
Phone: 520-327-6521,  
E-mail: [parishadministrator@lutherantucson.org](mailto:parishadministrator@lutherantucson.org)  
Website: [www.lutherantucson.org](http://www.lutherantucson.org)

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US Postage PAID  
Tucson, AZ 85719  
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# News From the Office

-Kathryn Barrera, Parish Administrator

Hello Everyone!

Excitement in the air as we move forward with in-person worship services. It is so nice to be returning to normal. We are livestreaming the service online for those who are still not comfortable with returning to services. If you plan to watch virtually still, please feel free to call us at the office and we can answer any questions you have about accessing the service online.

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

- Kathryn

