



# The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



## The Pulse

Volume 77 No. 11  
November 2021



It is my great joy to be writing my first pastoral column for you. I want to begin by sharing the gratitude David and I have for how you have welcomed us to Our Saviour's. As I write this, we are packing up our home in Decorah and beginning our journey toward Tucson. It's a rush of feelings as we say goodbye to our community here and start imagining what God is doing through this congregation in the heart of Tucson. We will discover this together in the coming months and years as I learn from the ministry you have been sharing in and we dream together about what is next. I am so excited to begin this next chapter with you.

We're coming into some significant days in the life of any congregation, and some special ones at Our Saviour's. On Sunday, November 7, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, when we remember the gathered saints in all time and all places. This is an especially meaningful time for those who have had significant deaths in the previous year. We'll take time together to remember these saints during worship. On this day, and every time we gather together at communion, we celebrate the hope and promise of our shared place in the heart of God. The afternoon of Sunday, November 14 at 3:30 p.m. we'll gather for a service of installation. This service is a celebration for our whole congregation as we begin our ministry together. Please invite your friends and family to join us for the celebration. And, already, by the end of the month we'll begin the season of Advent as we return to the stories and songs that tell of the coming of the Child who promises you new life, forgiveness, and healing.

Christ's ministry has continued during this season of transition thanks to your work to provide care to one another and the community. I give special thanks to Pastor Martha for her pastoral shepherding of Our Saviour's and her warm welcome to me, and to the Congregational Council, Call Committee, staff and volunteer ministers for your faithful leadership.

I look forward to meeting you in worship, in your home, at your school or office, or any of the many places where our paths will begin to cross in the coming weeks and months. One of the earliest church builders, Paul, instructed the people of Corinth, "Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 14:16). This is a good place to start as Christ points us to a life and community grounded in love for God, one another, and the creation around us. Let's move forward together in this love.

*Pastor Amalia*

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in the heart of Tucson, Arizona  
+a loving, inclusive, and inviting community in Christ+



## Council Corner



October 19, 2021

Dear Members of the OSLC Community—

It was good to see so many of you at the October 24 gathering, held in appreciation of Pastor Martha and the many others whose dedication and hard work helped our congregation through both our pastoral transition and the pandemic. We hope you'll all join us in thanking Pastor Martha and wishing her well.

Of course the biggest news this month is that we will be welcoming Pastor Amalia Vagts as our new Senior Pastor on November 1. The parsonage has been prepared for her and her family, and the congregation is invited to attend her Installation on November 14 (see below for more details).

We're also pleased to share the good news that we are in conversation with Pastor Rebecca Boardman about relocating the hub of the University of Arizona's Lutheran Campus Ministries to Our Saviour's. We know that many in the congregation have long hoped to strengthen the relationship between OSLC and Lutheran Campus Ministries, and we hope that you will share our excitement about this partnership.

This month we hired a security patrol to monitor the OSLC campus during overnight hours, and this step seems to have been effective in helping to address some of recent security concerns. Please continue to care for each other, though, especially while on campus during evening hours. And while security measures help create a safe and clean environment around OSLC, they do not address the underlying needs of the homeless community; please prayerfully consider ministry opportunities inherent in this situation.

We continue to monitor local Covid-19 conditions and OSLC's finances closely. Because local Covid-19 conditions have not changed significantly since last month, please continue to practice social distancing and wear masks (regardless of vaccination status). Meanwhile, offerings remain under budget for 2021, as do our expenses; thank you for your continued generosity.

We give thanks for all of the ways, large and small, that the Lord continues to bless our congregation.

In Christ—

**OSLC Church Council**

**The Installation of Pastor Amalia Vagts** will take place on Sunday, November 14, 3:30 - 4:30PM, with a reception to follow. The Installation Service will be livestreamed on our website, [www.lutherantucson.org](http://www.lutherantucson.org), and a reminder e-mail will be sent out that weekend as well. Thank you, and please join us in welcoming Pastor Amalia to OSLC!





## ICS Holiday Food Drive

Thank you for continued support of the Food Bank. Last month we donated 109 lbs of food and other items. The holiday food drive begins this month and your donations are urgently needed to help many needy families enjoy a holiday meal. In-date packaged and canned foods including cereal, rice, beans, spaghetti, pasta sauce, meals in a can, canned meats, peanut butter, mac and cheese, personal hygiene items and new or slightly used children's books are gratefully accepted. Please pick up an extra item or two for the Food Bank as you do your shopping.



## November Birthdays

- 11/2: Barbara Lester-Wilkinson, Terry Swarny
- 11/3: Kathy DeVinney
- 11/4: Chandra Roberts
- 11/6: Jacqueline Ebert
- 11/7: Willow Anderson
- 11/9: Dottie Kennedy, Levi Mohler
- 11/10: Isabella Ebert
- 11/12: Mallory Murray
- 11/14: Darik Cross
- 11/16: John Phinney
- 11/17: Sheila Bustamante
- 11/20: Suzanne Porter
- 11/21: Edie Sierra
- 11/22: Virginia Hecht, Jacob Porter
- 11/23: Donny Newman
- 11/28: Phala Andressen, Kent Pflibsen
- 11/29: Joy Neverman, George Saphir
- 11/30: Jaime Bish, Jason Hepler, Roger Wheeler

## November Wedding Anniversaries

Erich & Shelly Saphir - 11/14



Sunday November 7: **All Saints Sunday**. On this day, we will remember in prayer our loved ones who have died. We will light candles for those from the Our Saviour's community who died this past year. We also invite you to submit names of other loved ones you have lost this year. We will include these names in

our prayers that day. Please submit names to: [publications@lutherantucson.org](mailto:publications@lutherantucson.org) by Wednesday, November 3 to be included in our service.

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**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

I cannot say it enough times, Thank you! The party October 24<sup>th</sup> was absolutely wonderful. The food was good, the decorations were festive and the fellowship was terrific. I so enjoyed going around the tables talking with all of you without the emotions of it being *the last time*.

I am currently sitting at my desk wearing my new non-green frog necklace and non-green frog earrings. I would like to say I have my beautiful glass apple with me but it would be just one more thing to take home. It is already on my desk at home.

Last night I slept under my wonderful, beautiful new quilt. Every time I use it I will remember the warmth and love of a very special group of people who opened their hearts, their lives and their church to me at a challenging time for all of us.

May God bless you and keep you, today and always!

*Pastor Martha*

