



# The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Volume 76 No. 10  
October 2020

Love your neighbor  
as yourself.

Bible

Dear Neighbors in Christ,

At last week's council meeting we had a very lengthy discussion about the impact of Covid-19 and the recent increase in cases at U of A, our neighbor, and in Arizona in general.

This information, coupled with advice from our synod bishop regarding in-person worship and Pima County recommendation of not gathering more than 10 people, added to the fact that Our Saviour's is not worshipping in-person, and led us to conclude that our sanctuary and chapel are closed in definitely.

I know that this is disappointing news to some and a relief to others, but this precaution is being taken out of Jesus command to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Since we know that the spread of Covid-19 is truly unseen but is contracted as an aerosol and we need to take every possible precaution.

Here is some information that was recently shared with me from our bishop that was shared from other bishops. This also informs our decision. It reads in part:

"We continue to learn quickly about this disease, but there remain things we do not fully understand. We must continue to remain vigilant about its effects on our healthcare system and society, and also err on the side of caution. The data that support these recommendations are as follows:

- Already 200,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the U.S. (20% of all deaths) with almost 1 million deaths globally; yet the U.S. makes up less than 5% of the world's population.
- Our healthcare system remains inadequately protected with personal protective equipment as most hospitals continue to re-use items meant for single use.
- 20-40% of people without symptoms spread the disease.
- COVID-19 lingers in the air and can spread likely much further than 6 feet, maybe up to 27 feet.
- Masks of all types prevent the spread of disease but may also protect the wearer from contracting COVID.
- Children can be infected (>500,000 in the US), have severe disease (1 in 3 hospitalized children require intensive care) and have long-term complications we are still trying to understand (multisystem inflammatory syndrome/MIS-C).
- A study in Germany found that 80% of those infected with COVID-19 could have long-term heart problems. In that study 2/3 of the people were never sick enough to be in the hospital.

So even mild disease may cause long-term problems. Long-term problems are also seen in the lungs, brain, and kidney. Until we have a national effective response based on science or an effective vaccine, we must continue advocating and thinking creatively about how to love God's people, protect one another, and minister to the suffering in the midst of COVID-19. We are in a new normal where virtual is best, outdoor is not safe but safer, and indoor is dangerous. Please continue to help our society.

As we approach flu season, COVID-19 is almost certainly going to flare up again, perhaps worse than last spring. COVID-19 magnifies our social inequities—racial injustice, poverty, educational gaps, public health deficits. The strong stance of the church can save lives. The church can take an even stronger stance to promote a unified Christian response to COVID-19 – masks and staying at home – to love our neighbors and reduce inequities."

Sincerely,

Erica C. Bjornstad, MD, PhD, MPH"

In addition to this statement both Dr. Fauci and Dr. Osterholm both notable infectious disease scientists have alerted us to the fact that this fall we will likely see increased spread of Covid-19 coupled with the annual flu season.

Recently, CDC Director, Robert Redfield reminded the public that absent a vaccine the most important thing we can do is wear a mask. Certainly, physical distancing and frequent hand washing are also important.

So, please know that although the facility is closed for in-person worship the church continues to do ministry. Our weekly worship is fresh and new each week. Our daily devotions provide us with inspiration. We still have bible studies and pastoral care. We support our local, regional, and global missions. We truly are church together while we are apart, as we continue to love God, and our neighbor as ourselves.

Continue to actively pray for, support, and participate in our ministry in these challenging days. Like our Facebook page and check out our website for opportunities to be in mission together.

Blessings in these days. Stay safe and well.

Pastor Len  
Interim Pastor



## Council Corner

September 20, 2020

It has been an eventful month at Our Saviour's! We invite you to join us in welcoming several new members to our church community. Our new interim pastor, Pastor Len Hoffmann, arrived (virtually) early in September; he will be with us (remotely) during the next year and guide us in the process of calling a new pastor to our congregation. Pastor Martha Stum has agreed to serve as our regular worship leader during this time, and will preach monthly. We also welcomed our new Handyman, Graham Sims, to our staff. And our Council has a new member, too; Kris Sanchez has been appointed to fill a vacant position for the remainder of the year.



We're pleased to share the good news that OSLC's finances have remained strong so far this year. Although we've encountered many unexpected circumstances this spring and summer, some unplanned savings help offset the unplanned expenses. We continue to look for ways to maximize OSLC's resources; this month, for example, we approved the purchase of a humidifier that will protect our piano while enabling us to save on air conditioning expenses in the sanctuary. As you may recall from Temple Talks over the years, it is common for OSLC to experience a decline in offerings during the summer months; offerings then typically increase throughout the fall, especially during the holiday season. This summer we observed the usual summer decrease in offerings, but we remain optimistic that offerings will begin to rise again this fall. If you haven't done so already, please consider arranging to give online, or mail your checks to the church office. Thank you for your generosity as we continue God's work.

Like many of you, we look forward to the time when we can all worship together again. Our Reopening Task Force remains in place, and this month we approved OSLC Guidelines for Small Group Meetings; we are well prepared to safely resume gathering in person when the appropriate time comes. In the meantime, we trust that God is with us wherever we worship Him, and ask that you continue to pray with us for the wellbeing of our church and community.

Report respectfully submitted,  
OSLC Church Council

## Welcome Graham Sims - Our New Handyman!



Graham recently moved back to Tucson in late 2018. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Art Institute of Seattle. He has over ten years' experience as a Graphic Designer, the last three as Art Director. Growing up and working in Montana, Graham has trained and worked as a locksmith. He also has extensive experience in landscaping and building maintenance. He enjoys live music and is a devotee of American Film. Graham also enjoys sharing outdoor activities with his wife Melissa, daughter Amelya and their two crazy little dogs.

### OUR STAFF

Pastor Len Hoffmann  
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Pastor Martha Neff Stum  
*Weekly Worship Leader*

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*Music Leader*  
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Graham Sims  
*Handyman*

Tammie Anderson  
*Nursery Attendant*

Sophia Rankin  
Marshall Adams  
*Accompanists*

Mateo Chavez  
*Visitation Pastor*  
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### OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

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### Do you need help with grocery shopping?



With COVID-19, it is important for people 60 years of age and older to avoid trips outside of their home and to maximize physical distancing.

#### Requirements:

- 60 years of age or older
- Annual income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (\$25,520/person/year)

Call PCOA's Helpline at (520) 790-7262 or email help@pcoa.org



\*Requirements may differ for people who do not reside within the City of Tucson



This program is in partnership with the City of Tucson through \$500,000 of federal CARES Act Funds.

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# News From the Office

**By Kathryn Barrera,  
Parish Administrator**

Hello Everyone!

Some exciting news around the office this month! We have officially hired Graham to be our new church handyman and he has been wonderful. He is still getting acquainted with the property but has been catching on very fast to the goings on around here. We are very glad to have him on board.

The other exciting news is that I am pregnant! We just found out that it is a girl and she is due on January 23rd. My son, Mark is over the moon about having a new baby. He keeps telling people, "the new baby will be here in a few hours".

Other than that it is still very quiet around the office here. LSS is holding a few meetings each week as well as some 12-step groups and our very own quilters are back as well.

Total Income & Expense through August, 2020	
Income	\$406,055
Expense	\$397,164

I hope you all are staying safe and healthy.  
Have a wonderful month!

*- Kathryn*

