



# The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Volume 77 No. 10  
October 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I sit at my desk writing this I am filled with a mixture emotions. I am excited for OSLC that your long journey to find a pastor has ended. I am pleased that there was such an overwhelming acceptance of Pastor Amalia. I am thrilled that this is the last Roadrunner article I have to write! But I am also sad at having to say "Good Bye".

I have been with you now for a little over a year. When I was first hired it was to just film the liturgy for your Sunday worship services and to be available if a pastor was needed in person. As I got to know the staff and members of the congregation, I felt a strong call to do more than just film. That is when my ministry with you truly began. I was eventually given a Letter of Call and as of January became an official member of staff.

I have grown to love Our Saviour's as I have grown to love each of you. I have watched this congregation grow in hope and in faith. I have felt a Spiritual energy grow each Sunday that we have worshiped together. I may not be able to see your smiles under your masks but I can see the sparkle in your eyes, the joy on your face and the love of Christ shining through.

Good-byes are always hard, especially when we do not understand why they have to be that way. The policy is that once I leave OSLC on October 31, I cannot come back for worship or fellowship for a least 1 (one) year. I know this seems harsh but it really is necessary. Pastor Amalia needs time to grow into the role of your pastor without me hanging around. She needs to be the one you turn to when you need to talk to someone. She needs to be the one you go to with questions or concerns. She needs to be the one to make decisions. It is hard enough being the new pastor. Every time you try to do something someone says, "But Pastor So and So didn't do it that way". Imagine how it would feel to know you are not only being judged by you predecessor's standards but that predecessor is right there watching you. For me to be around would be awkward and unfair to Pastor Amalia. I would love to talk with you outside of church but as soon as the conversation changes to the goings on at OSLC I WILL change the subject. Please help me by respecting the boundaries I have to put in place.

My last Sunday, and last day with you will be October 31. I do not know where I will be going from here. Until I find out what God has planned for me I will once again be worshiping with my home congregation, Abounding Grace.

May God continue to Bless Our Saviour's.

*Pastor Martha*



**COUNCIL CORNER****September 21, 2021**

Dear Members of the OSLC Community—

We have much to celebrate during the coming months at Our Saviour's, including the congregation's decision to call Pastor Amalia Vagts as our new Senior Pastor. We look forward to welcoming Pastor Amalia and her family to OSLC on November 1. Pastor Amalia and her family have elected to use one of OSLC's residential properties as their home; we are making some upgrades so the parsonage will be ready upon their arrival.



As an expression of gratitude for Pastor Martha Stum, the staff, the members of the Transition Team and Call Committee, and the many other volunteers who helped see OSLC through both the pastoral transition process and the pandemic, the Council will be hosting a brunch following worship on October 24. Brunch will be catered, so all of our busy volunteers may simply relax and enjoy the event.

This month we will welcome a refugee family from Afghanistan who will be settling into one of our rental homes with assistance from Lutheran Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Program. We invite the congregation to contemplate additional ways OSLC might be able to work with LSS-SW to serve refugees arriving in our community.

Amidst these reasons to celebrate, we also request the congregation's help in addressing a challenge and ministry opportunity at OSLC: the increasing presence of homeless people around the church building. While we do not wish to discourage anyone from gathering around God's house, we are also mindful of escalating vandalism and safety considerations for our pastor, staff, and members; we're also concerned about our staff being shouldered with the extra responsibilities of clean up garbage, drug paraphernalia, etc. Upon advise from the Tucson Police Department we will be posting "no trespassing" signs, we've hired a security patrol, and we ask that you help care for each other (when leaving church gatherings in the evening, for example, walk out together as a group). Although these measures will help create a safe and clean environment around OSLC, they do not address the underlying needs of the homeless community; we ask that you 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, we ask that everyone 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 look forward to our upcoming celebrations this fall, and appreciate your help in supporting OSLC's missions through your time, talents, and prayers.

**In Christ—  
OSLC Church Council**



With the rising homeless population around the OSLC campus, we are asking that everyone be vigilant when it comes to safety for ourselves and others. If you are on the campus after dark, please make sure to walk in pairs to cars. Take all valuables with you, including keys, wallets and purses. Make sure your car doors are locked. Please inform OSLC staff of any unusual activity you may witness. Look out for each other, and be careful!

## WELCOME PASTOR AMALIA VAGTS



On Sunday, September 12, 2021 Our Saviour's Lutheran Church voted to call Amalia Vagts as our 11th pastor.

And what a joyous day it was! The congregation came together by a near unanimous vote to approve Our Saviour's newest pastor. We give thanks for the work of the Call Committee: Abigail Byrd, Scott Koenig, Meg Hughes, Jack Wahl, Angie Grandison, and Patty Sirls, who listened carefully to the hopes and dreams of our congregation and then followed the Spirit in looking for our new pastor. Thank you also to all who attended the Meet & Greet and Congregational Vote and prayed for the Call Committee's work. Pastor Amalia begins November 1 and will lead her first service on Sunday, November 7. We will celebrate from afar with Pastor Amalia when she is ordained at Good Shepherd Lutheran on October 23. We forward to our own celebration here at Our Saviour's when she is installed.

The Roadrunner

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### FOOD DONATIONS FOR INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Food Bank is increasing food distribution as families are still struggling to recover from the pandemic and unemployment. The Food Bank is in need of in-date and packaged products including: cereal, rice, beans, spaghetti, pasta sauce, meals in a can, canned meats, peanut butter, personal hygiene items and new or slightly used children's books. Thanks for your donations.



### OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

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### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10/2: Lela Freiman, Carolyn Kent  
10/3: Jim Stevenson 10/4: Jacob Mohler  
10/6: Christine Newman  
10/9: Dawn Agar, Meg Hughes,  
Robert Reischel 10/10: John Ryan IV  
10/11: Peggy Rogers  
10/13: Robert Hastings, Krystianna  
Sierra, Paul Stum 10/16: Karen Heidel 10/17: Lana Shiel  
10/18: Samantha Alvord, Mike Roll, Keith Zander  
10/21: Debbie Krueger 10/24: Bonnie Phelps  
10/26: Howard Kohler, Noah Pupach  
10/30: Lindsay Kohler, Shirley Marker,  
Dorothy Nelson, Loretta Olson



### OCTOBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Ann Hastings - 10/26

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## Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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## WELCOME PASTOR AMALIA VAGTS starting November 1!



### About Pastor Amalia Vagts

Pastor Amalia is passionate about helping others live freely and with joy, in order to share God's love with people and creation. Drawn to ministry at all stages of life and among believers, skeptics, and seekers, she seeks new ways of telling the true story of God's love in Jesus Christ for the world. We all long to be recognized, understood, and loved for who we are. Amalia believes Christ-centered communities do this, freeing us to live transformed lives with acceptance and love for ourselves and others. The pattern and practice of Lutheran liturgy and music form us and send us out to reveal God in our daily lives. As an openly bisexual person, Amalia is committed to authentic hospitality, celebrating diversity, and justice. Amalia is excited to serve Our Saviour's Lutheran Church because of its rich history, faithful and passionate members, and vibrant neighborhood. She's energized by the congregation's vision of being a loving, inclusive and inviting community in Christ and mission of embracing the future of an ever-changing church and world.

Amalia earned an M.Div at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa and a B.A. in English and Religion at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Prior to pursuing a call to ordained ministry, she spent over two decades working in the nonprofit sector. Amalia served as Executive Director with Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (affirming and equipping LGBTQ+ people called to ministry) and as legislative director and field manager with Planned Parenthood in Washington, D.C. and Wisconsin. She's been active in the movement for LGBTQ+ welcome and justice in the church and society for many years. Amalia is presently a fundraising consultant, has worked in camping ministry, and served pastoral internships in rural Iowa and campus ministry, and a chaplaincy internship at a hospital and assisted living center in the Midwest.

Amalia and her spouse David Lester are relocating from Decorah, Iowa with their one-year old chihuahua mix, Cholla. They co-parent three adult children from David's first marriage: Oran (26, graphic artist, living in Decorah); Aidan (24, auto mechanic, living in Portland, OR); and Finn (19, art student, living in Chicago). David worked in general management for 25 years and currently coaches the Luther College women's golf team. At Good Shepherd, he's been known for his coffee and event hosting skills. Amalia and David are excited to explore Tucson's history, diverse culture, eclectic style, and taco scene and to be living closer to family in the Southwest and West. As a couple, they enjoy hiking, live music, exploring new places, and time with family and friends.