



# The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Volume 77 No. 9  
September 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I love this time of year in Tucson! Yes, it is hot and occasionally humid but we do have air conditioning to keep us comfortable. What I love are the storms. My husband and I have spent many pleasant hours watching the storms build. We watch with fascination as the sky goes from clear to being filled with dark billowing clouds. Then the wind starts, gentle at first but growing ever stronger. Finally we start seeing flashes of lightening. We hear the boom of thunder. The lightening is fun to watch. All that raw power and yet such awesome beauty! Amidst all of this the rain starts to fall. Sometimes it seems like the sky has just opened up and God is dumping buckets of water down on the earth. When it is all over there is a calm that you can feel. The air is clean and fresh.



Within days the dry, seemingly lifeless desert starts to bloom. There is green everywhere. Plants bloom, wild flowers appear. There is LIFE.

There was a time when I felt like I was living in a spiritual desert. My "inside" was dry and lifeless. Oh, there were desert storms all around me but they did not bring the life giving rain with them. They just brought more pain and destruction. Anything that looked like it could be help turned out to only be a mirage. Rain finally started to fall into my soul again, slowly at first through the love and support of people around me. It was their care and compassion that helped me to see what I was really thirsting for could only be found if I truly opened myself up again to the love of God through Jesus Christ. The thing is, I was still going to church but I was only going through the motions. I could still talk a good game but I had closed myself off from the love of God. I didn't open up all at once. It took a while to break down the wall I had so carefully built. But as the wall started coming down, the rain started to fall in my soul, the life giving rain of God's love. My "inside" started to bloom again!

How is your spiritual garden doing? Is it getting enough of the life giving water of the love of God? Are you truly open to God's love or are you just going through the motions and talking a good game? If your spiritual garden is in trouble or needs some work, I know several wonderful spiritual gardeners here at Our Saviour's who would be willing to help you tend your garden and even pull out some spiritual weeds if needed. All you have to do is reach out and ask!

May you Spiritual Gardens continue to grow with God's love.

*Pastor Martha*

## Council Corner



August 17, 2021

Dear Members of OSLC Community—

We're pleased to once again report that our finances remain stable; our offering income is still a bit lower than what we budgeted, but our expenses have also been lower than expected. We're mindful, though, that we do still have some staff positions to fill, so we anticipate that our monthly operating expenses will rise in the near future when we're fully staffed again. We're grateful for your faithful and generous giving, and ask that you prayerfully consider how you can continue to support OSLC and our ministries.

Although we've been blessed with an abundance of desert rain this summer, the rain did cause some damage around OSLC; you may see some repairs happening around our campus during the coming weeks. We also have some exciting property-related news to share: even though Lutheran Social Services-SW has now moved to their new location, we will continue to serve as a partner in their Refugee Resettlement ministry. OSLC's rental properties will be among the properties LSS-SW considers when seeking homes for refugee families. Please see <https://www.lss-sw.org/refugee-housing> for more information about this important ministry.

We continue to monitor the latest information about Covid-19 and its impact in our community. Based on current CDC guidelines and the role that vaccines now play in helping to protect us from the virus, we believe we can retire our earlier policy which would require us to return to online services if the positivity rate in our community rose above 5% for two consecutive weeks. Given that case numbers are steadily rising in Pima County, though, masks will once again be required during worship and other indoor gatherings, and we ask for your help with social distancing and frequent hand washing in order to help care for each other's safety and wellbeing.

It has come to our attention that we're in need of volunteers in the office, for worship (lectors, communion assistants, etc.), and on several committees. If you were a volunteer prior to Covid-19 and would like to continue serving, or if you would like to volunteer in new ways, please let Pastor Martha, a Council Member, or the church office know.

We hope you'll continue to join us in praying for our church and our community.

In Christ—

**OSLC Church Council**

### Sound & Video Crew - THANK YOU!



Many thanks to our sound AND video crew on Sundays. Behind the scenes, **Kent Pflibson and Tracy Ratliff** have been mentoring and supervising the three middle schoolers **Timothy, Jack and William** with the equipment and responsibilities of making our worship accessible for everyone.





Isn't it great to be back worshipping in person??? We are carefully monitoring the Covid situation and adjusting as needed. As we continue, we are in need of volunteers to help us with the service. If you are able to help with one of the volunteer positions (whether you have helped in the past or not)

we would be so grateful for your help. Please let the service volunteer coordinator (Kathy DeVinney, kmdrainbow@aol.com, 520-419-4321) know of your interest in serving your Our Saviour's family in one of the positions currently vital to the Sunday morning service: usher, lector (who will also help with communion in most cases, although this can be split if needed), acolyte, sound booth, altar guild. If you have any concerns about what a position entails, please reach out. **WE NEED YOU!!!!**

### OUR STAFF

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## Food Donations for Interfaith Community Services



The September item of the month is meals in a can. We

will continue collecting in-date canned and packaged products: cereal, rice, beans, spaghetti, pasta sauce, peanut butter, personal hygiene items and new or slightly used children's books.



## September Birthdays

9/2: Elaine Bridgewater, Arch Brown, Robert Burke, Levi Khan, Cece Putman.  
9/3: Rene Ground, Cheryl Waesch. 9/5: William Alvord, Ann DeVinney, Noah Templin. 9/7: Maritza Marquez. 9/10: Ronald Dewarf Sr., Desmond Dowayee.

9/11: Elizabeth Freeman, Virginia "Kelly" Meyer, Phyllis Smith.  
9/12: Ariana Hahn. 9/13: Alan Bales. 9/14: Ethan Jones. 9/15: Bryana Foreman. 9/16: Mary Enemark, Jessica Hahn, Caitlyn Kowalewski. 9/17: Barbara Bell-Taylor. 9/19: Janice Johnson.  
9/20: Frederick Alvord, Timothy Bustamante, Hannah Masangu.  
9/21: Masoud Babaeian. 9/22: Mary Christensen. 9/23: Lydia Slipp, Barbara Wheeler. 9/26: Erika Cook, William Kent, Grace Ryan, Hunter Walter. 9/27: Audrey Sander. 9/28: Kirstin Neff, Ella Pupach, Marilyn Ronstadt, Warner Weingrad.  
9/29: John Boudreau.

## September Wedding Anniversaries

Robert & Connie Reitschel - 9/3/1966  
Clifton & Phala Andressen - 9/8/1979  
Jonathan & Cynthia Freeman - 9/10/1988  
Donna & Celia Major - 9/30/2005



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## News From the Office

-Kathryn Barrera, Parish Administrator



Hello Everyone!

This is unfortunately the final roadrunner article from me. I am so sad to be leaving you all but I am also excited for what my future holds. These past few years I have gotten very close with many of you and I still plan on coming by to say hi and get quilting tips

God bless you all. Have a wonderful month!

- Kathryn

