



The Roadrunner

January 2025



Photo by J. Wahl

January marks the beginning of the new year, a time of turning. The name of the month comes from the Roman god Janus, the god of thresholds, portals, doorways, and new beginnings. In the liturgical calendar, we turn from the anticipation of Advent and the Christmas birth story to the season of Epiphany, which is the manifestation – the revealing and discovery of God.

As 2025 approached, David and I reflected on our new beginnings since moving to Tucson and Our Saviour's. We decided to make a list of the places and experiences we've enjoyed since moving here in October 2021 to look back – and forward!

Local festivals and events we've attended: Meet Me at Maynard's (Monday & Wednesday), Tucson Meet Yourself, DUSK Festival, 4th Avenue Art Fair, All Souls Procession, HoCo Fest, Tucson Folk Festival, Festival of Books, Tucson Pride, El Tour de Tucson, Cyclovia, Cologuard Golf Classic, Band Day, Winterhaven Christmas, Tucson Botanical Garden holiday lights (many of these thanks to the amazing calendar you all made for us!)

Museums: Ignite Sign Museum, Tucson Museum of Art, Desert Museum, Tucson Botanical Garden, Tucson Jewish Museum and Holocaust Center, Pima County Air & Space, Amerind Museum, Arizona History Museum, Center for Creative Photography

Live music: Monterey Court, 191 Toole, the Fox, Rialto, Tohono Chul, and Hotel Congress

Writing Spots: Exo (Barrio Viejo), Himmel Park Library, Tucson Hop Shop

Hikes: Tumamoc Hill, Sentinel Peak, Brown Mountain, Brackett's Ridge, Pusch Ridge Trail, Sabino Canyon, Finger Rock Trail, Seven Falls, Tortolitas, Sweetwater and Painted Rock, Mt. Lemmon, Tanque Verde, Madera Canyon

Breweries: Pueblo Vida, Crooked Tooth, Moto-Sonora, Borderlands, Barrio, Dagoon

Further adventures: Bisbee, Chiricahua National Monument, Nogales (Mx), Patagonia, Canyon de Chelle, Winslow, Flagstaff, Prescott, Jerome, Sedona, Page, Hannigan Meadows
Have we experienced some of your favorite parts of Tucson and Arizona? What do we need to check out in the coming year? Have we discovered things you have not yet checked out?

May this year be one of discovery for all of us,

Pastor Amalia & David & Cholla



STAFF

Ministry Team

Rev. Amalia Vagts (ex 1004)
Lead Pastor
Pastoramalia
@lutherantucson.org

Rev. Glenn Schrader
Associate Pastor for Discipleship
Pastorglenn
@lutherantucson.org

Michele Ruttinger
Parish Administrator
Parishadministrator
@lutherantucson.org

John Perez
Campus Caretaker

Dr. Gréta Pásztor
Music Ministry Director
gpasztor@lutherantucson.org

Aysen Milliogullari
Assistant Music Director
Amilliogullari
@lutherantucson.org

COUNCIL MEMBERS

oslc@lutherantucson.org

Tracy Ratliff
President

Patty Sirls
Vice President

Ted Adams
Secretary

Pam Hardman
Treasurer

Melanie Bowman

Angie Grandison

David Johnson

Paige Marty

**LUTHERAN CAMPUS
MINISTRY**

Rev. Rebecca Boardman
Pastor.lcmuofa@gmail.com
520-771-9742 (LCM Office)

Online Offering

We have partnered with the ELCA and Tithely to offer secure online giving. Scan the image below using your smart phone to make your offering.

**Council Corner** - Ted Adams, Secretary **January 2025**

During December's Council meeting a good deal of time was focused on Congregational finances and scheduling of important Congregational meetings.

As reported by our Treasurer, for 2024 to date, our total expenses are within \$1000 of the projected budget. Weekly giving is slightly under budget but December contributions are typically higher, so we expect a strong ending to the year. We anticipate that for the year 2024 our income will exceed expenses.

The 2025 Mission Spending Plan prepared by the Finance Committee was presented to Council. A high-level overview was conducted before delving into more specific items. Several adjustments and changes were made and refinements will continue over the next few weeks. In early January, Council will hold a special meeting to finalize the Plan and vote to move it forward for Congregational review and approval at the Annual Meeting.

Leading up to the Annual Meeting, several important sessions will be held to provide information on items to be voted on at that meeting. As previously reported, the Council reviewed and approved updates to the Congregational Constitution. On January 12, 2025, a Sunday Forum will be held to review the changes to the Constitution. In addition, at that session, there will be an introduction of a slate of nominees to fill upcoming openings in Council membership. On February 2, 2025, a Sunday Forum will be held providing members a preliminary look at the Mission Spending Plan. There will be opportunities to ask questions and give members a chance to discuss the Plan in detail.

The Annual Meeting has been scheduled for February 9, 2025 immediately following our worship service. At the meeting the Congregation will take a formal vote on approving the Mission Spending Plan, the updated Constitution, and the slate of Council nominees. Don't worry Super Bowl fans, we promise to have you home in plenty of time to get your chips and dip set out next to your favorite chair before the big game starts.

We hope to see you at these important gatherings. This is your Congregation and your insights and participation add value to the conversation and strengthen us as a Community in Christ.



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Discipleship at OSLC - Pastor Glenn Schrader

January 2025



The other day I got an interesting AI response on the internet when I asked what "discipleship in end times" means: "The practice of following Jesus Christ as a disciple, with a particular focus on living faithfully and actively in light of the belief that the end of the world is approaching, emphasizing preparedness, vigilance, and a strong commitment to sharing the Gospel message with others." The response seemed to me slightly more "artificial" than "intelligent", since it clearly is a rather bland blend of intentions that might fit many expectant eras in the history of Christianity. But in our times,

in the aftermath of two world wars, the Holocaust, the development of nuclear weapons, ominous threats of ecological disasters, powerful movements of social unrest and revolution in nearly every part of the world, and scandal and corruption across much of American society, should we now read our "signs of the times" as the "end times"?

The Biblical witness about "end times" is far more about the ongoing expression hope rather than historical trends or predictions. If our understanding about the coming "end times" is tied to achieving political progress or "cultural renewal" as signs that Christ's return is on the horizon, then most of us will probably find ourselves in despair as we start the new year. Similarly, if some Christians try to bring about specific events by their own actions or through their elected leaders, they will be torn away from the person and work of Christ and the activity of the Holy Spirit. Further, as Princeton Theological Seminary Professor Daniel Migliore says in *Faith Seeking Understanding*, if the church pins its stance on being "safe in heaven when all hell breaks loose" on Earth, then it will be no surprise that church is once again absent in the discipleship struggles that lie immediately before us.

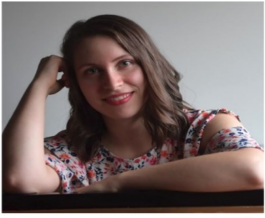
Migliore maintains that "discipleship in end times" should be no different than "discipleship in present times". "Christian hope is in the steadfast love of God that raises the dead and brings a transformed heaven and earth filled with God's righteousness, freedom, and peace" – today and all the next days of our lives. May it be so as we enter 2025 as disciples of the One whom we praise for giving us amazing hope. "For from God, and through God, and to God are all things. To God be the glory forever." [Romans 11:36]

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday Jan 19, 2025 - 3:00 - 5:00 PM - King of Glory Lutheran (Tempe, AZ) - Bishop Yehiel Curry (Metropolitan Chicago Synod), preacher. As we reflect on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s enduring vision of justice, unity, and diversity, the Grand Canyon Synod invites you to gather with us for a special service.

Monday, Feb 10, 2025 - All Day - Lutheran Day at the Legislature Lutherans and friends of Lutherans from across the state will gather at the Arizona Capitol in Wesley Bolin Plaza for a day of advocacy on Monday, February 10, 2025 from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm to learn, to witness, and voice our common needs in the public square, activating our faith in love. Meet your legislators, meet congregational LAMA liaisons, meet your LAMA policy council, and meet other Lutherans across Arizona who share a common belief that we are called through our baptismal covenant "...to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." Sign up at the back of the Sanctuary (or email oslc@lutherantucson.org) if you are interested in hearing more, attending, car-pooling.

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Music Notes - Gréta Pásztor**January 2025**

Our music team is excited to kick off the new year with fresh ideas, new plans, and a diverse range of music that will make our worship services truly special. Throughout the spring, we'll also be welcoming new guest musicians. If you've been thinking about joining either the Chancel Choir or the Bell Choir, it's not too late! We're always eager to welcome new members into our musical family. Our prayer is that the work of our hands and voices will bring joy to God and be a blessing to our congregation.

Lutheran Campus Ministry - Pastor Rebecca Boardman**January 2025**

Curious about the LCM Spring Service-Learning Trip?



Constru Casa has a passion for building safe homes for families living in deep poverty. We will work side-by-side with the masons & families. Beyond our travel costs, students will also fundraise \$6500, the cost of 1 house for a Guatemalan family.



We'll also spend 1/2 day with coffee farmers in the De La Gente coffee cooperative, hike a volcano to their finca, and learn about the extensive process from farm to cup.



The students would LOVE your support to reach their \$6500 goal! Ways to Donate: www.lcmuofa.org or a check to LCM!

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Forums for January 2025

January 5: *"God is Flipping the Script on the Church"*

Professor Craig Nesson Wartburg Theological Seminary (ELCA)

Prof. Nesson returns to OSLC with a prophetic view of the future of the church. Prof. Nesson states: "Whether we like it or not, God has flipped the script on what it means to be church. In the inherited 'attraction model' of church, the primary agents of ministry have been the clergy through the programs of the institution they lead. The goal has been to attract members to join the congregation, financially support the institution, and be active in the organization's scheduled events. This model of church has disintegrated in our lifetime. At the end of Christendom, the church is in crisis. While nostalgia for that era continues, there is no going back." Join us for a stimulating discussion!

January 12: *Church Council Presentation: Changes to the Constitution and Other Procedures*

January 19: *Celebrating the Life of Bayard Rustin*

In marking Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 20, we will honor the life of a key leader in the civil rights movements of the 1960s. Bayard Rustin is credited with teaching Dr. King the practical strategies of non-violence during the Montgomery Bus Boycott. In 1963 he organized the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in which a quarter of a million people rallied to demand an end to segregation, to establish fair wages and economic justice, and to secure voting rights, education, and long overdue civil rights protections for all Americans. As a gay man, however, Rustin experienced discrimination within these political movements. His writings in *Time on Two Crosses* provide insights on how he was able to successfully navigate the social mores of race and sexuality in order to pursue his commitment to justice and equality.

January 26: *Praying the Psalms: "Orientation, Disorientation and New Orientation"*

Every Sunday we read a Psalm as part of our worship service, but have you used them in your prayer life? Walter Brueggemann, Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary, suggests that "in season and out of season, generation after generation, faithful women and men turn to the Psalms as a most helpful resource for conversation with God about things that matter most." As we begin 2025, praying the Psalms can become a new spiritual practice for you along the path of your discipleship.

Come and See

As we start the season of Epiphany, you are invited to gather with others who are exploring the Bible and the life of faith in weekly conversations. Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at noon in the Patio Room. These one-hour sessions are led by Pastor Glenn and Pastor Amalia, and you are welcome to join at any time. Please bring your Bible or borrow a Lutheran Study Bible.

We are following Paul's letters to the early churches chronologically. For the next months, we will be exploring 1 & 2 Corinthians. There are strong parallels in the struggles that the church in Corinth faced nearly 2000 years ago and our present age. Our discussions also include tracing Paul's life and the transformations he experienced through the work of the Holy Spirit.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Glenn or Pastor Amalia.

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Help Make Sandwiches

Three days a week, hungry people in our neighborhood are fed at the welcome center at Grace St. Paul Episcopal Church (five blocks from here). We help make sandwiches for their Monday program. You can help by giving about 45 minutes of your time after worship each Sunday to work alongside others from Our Saviour's. They could also use volunteers at Grace St. Paul, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9AM -12PM.

Quilt Ministry

The OSLC Quilt Ministry would love for anyone who wants to stitch at home to pick fabric from our "stash" and make a quilt top at home. You don't need to join us in person on our third Tuesday get-togethers to help. When your top is done just bring it back and the group will get it backed, batted, quilted, bound and delivered.

Spanish Class

Tuesday Nights at 6:30PM. Please contact Annette Chavez at amchavez111@yahoo.com for more information.

TIHAN THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who provided gifts, gift cards or cash donations to make Christmas brighter for TIHAN's CarePartners. Together we contributed over \$2000 worth of gifts to folks who are living with HIV/AIDS. Thanks to a matching gift card grant, CarePartners received two \$25 gift cards plus a gift at the holiday POZ Café. There were smiles all around! Your generosity is a blessing.

ICS - Interfaith Community Services

The Food Bank has ongoing need for canned, packaged and in-date non-perishable items including: pasta, peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, rice, beans, cereal, children and adult diapers, wipes and other personal hygiene items. For clients who are unhoused, with no kitchen facilities: SpaghettiOs, chili, and ravioli in pop-top cans are needed. Please put items in the shopping cart that is on the patio on Sundays.

Lay Shared Bible Study

Community organized Bible study group meets Wednesday at 10:30AM in the AB pocket room. Contact Laurretta Olson for more information - landjo@cox.net.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

January 2025 Calendar

For a complete listing of all campus events, please visit our website: www.lutherantucson.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>*These are community organized events, held at Our Saviour's. More information can be found on our Events Page - https://lutherantucson.org/events-page</p>						
5 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM	6 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	7 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:15AM Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch *Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Cafe	8 Roadrunner Assembly 8:30AM Patio Room *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	9 Come and See 12PM Patio Room Choir Practice 6:30PM AB	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11
12 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM	13 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	14 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Property 9AM Library Staff Meeting 10:15AM Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch *Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Cafe	15 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room LCM Dinner and Worship 6PM	16 Poz CAFÉ 1PM Come and See 12PM Patio Room Choir Practice 6:30PM AB	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18
19 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM	20 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	21 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Quilters 9:00AM AB Staff Meeting 10:15AM Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Council Meeting 6:30PM Patio Rm	22 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room LCM Dinner and Worship 6PM	23 Come and See 12PM Patio Room Choir Practice 6:30PM AB	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
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OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1200 N. Campbell Ave

Tucson AZ 85719

www.lutherantucson.org

OSLC@lutherantucson.org

(520)327-6521



Our Mission:

*Being Christ-centered community through faith and action
in the heart of Tucson.*



Generosity Team Update for Stewardship and Generosity in 2025

A total of 58 households have turned in Statements of Intent totaling a generous \$265,000. That is great news! Thank you to all who have responded.

In addition to continuing to support our ongoing ministry, we have developed two new ministry initiatives for 2025: 1) a water harvesting project to prevent flooding of our office space and create a new outdoor garden that uses the redirected water; and 2) expanding our small group gatherings and casual meetups in the coming year.

Our first goal for 2025 is to have 70 households turn in a Statement of Intent. Our second goal is to increase giving by \$15,000 in order to fund our current ministry and new ministry initiatives for 2025. In 2024, we received a total of \$272,000 in pledges. We are 12 households and about \$20,000 short of our goal for increased commitments for the coming year. If you haven't yet turned in your Statement of Intent, there is still time - you can drop it in the offering plate, at the office, or fill out on at www.lutherantucson.org. If you have never filled out a Statement of Intent, or have questions about it, you can contact any member of the Generosity Team or Pastor Amalia. The amount you commit to give is what is meaningful and generous for you.

Generosity Team: Jeanne Gacke (chair), Diane Siefkes, Kris Sanchez, Patty Sirls, Michael Marty, and Pastor Amalia