



The Roadrunner



Towards the end of March, I found myself in the Jewish Museum and Holocaust Center in downtown Tucson with a group of strangers learning about mending.

I sat at a table with four other people – we'd all shown up for a variety of reasons – two were in knitting groups with one of the teachers. Another was looking to reconnect with Jewish community. The other had seen a poster in the neighborhood. I'd seen something online – I've worked on a few projects now with Lynn Davis, one of the organizers of the event.

The workshop was called "Mending as Metaphor: Holding it Together One Stitch at a Time." In a description about the workshop, the organizers wrote about the Jewish understanding of *tikkun olum*, repairing or healing the world. The purpose of the workshop was to give a tangible way to mend something in order to think about how to do greater repair.

I brought dog toys. Recently, a member of the congregation had wonderfully stitched up a bedraggled one for me and she inspired me to try it myself. When it comes to handiwork, I often feel like I have two right-hands – and I'm left-handed! As we sat around the table, we talked about our lives. I love the easy conversation that flows when you are working on a project with others. As I mended Cholla's dog toys, I found out about a nearby preschool and a fantastic local program called "Mending Souls." I shared about our quilting group and prayer shawl ministry, and other signs of repair at Our Saviour's.

At the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, we read from Isaiah 58 (using Eugene Peterson's version, the Message). The reading included these words:

You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew,
rebuild the foundations from out of your past.
You'll be known as those who can fix anything,
restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate,
make the community livable again.

What can you build anew, rebuild, fix, restore, and renovate? Maybe something in your own life or the life of another. We have many repairers and menders among us. Very recently, I've been wondering – what if we started tending the bus shelter closest to our congregation? I think of how many times Ms. Ellie arrived and departed by bus. Perhaps we can do some mending work together, removing litter, adding some joy, creating some loveable space on the corner near us.

As we continue through Lent and towards Easter, may you see new life and hope, one step and one stitch at a time.

Pastor Amalia Vagts

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

Patty Sirls
Acting President

Ted Adams
Secretary

Pam Hardman
Treasurer

Melanie Bowman

Meg Hughes

David Johnson

Paige Marty

Jennifer Strand

**LUTHERAN CAMPUS
MINISTRY**

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

Deacon Wendi Van Beek
Community Engagement
wendi.lcmuofa@gmail.com

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**April 2025**

The official business of the Council began with the election of officers for the 2025 year. Council has unanimously approved the following officers: Patty Sirls, President, Meg Hughes, Vice President, Pam Hardman, Treasurer, and Ted Adams, Secretary. Other elected members of Council include, David Johnson, Paige Marty, Melanie Bowman, Jennifer Strand, and Pastor Amalia.

Several members of the Congregation, including Jennifer Strand, Patty Sirls, Mary Lou Forier, and Pastor Amalia have gotten together and proposed an interactive play highlighting the history of Our Saviour's as a way of celebrating our 80th anniversary. It is proposed to engage Kristen Underwood, who specializes in creating these types of events using information gathered by the team. A funder from within the Congregation has been identified. The date is to be determined but most likely it will be in the Fall around the end of October or early November. If you are interested in helping to plan this event, please contact one of the folks mentioned above or contact a Council member.

Last year the Council voted to take the quarterly interest from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund and use it for Mission Outreach rather than reinvestment. Council voted to donate the most recent payment to Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest to support refugee settlement. This

recognizes the unprecedented need due to the sudden and unexpected elimination of Federal funding. The donation will be for approximately \$2000.

At the request of Congregation Member Asher Havenhill, Council voted to support the ongoing collection of food and hygiene items for Youth on Their Own. This organization supports the high school graduation and continued success of youth experiencing homelessness. We will continue our ongoing collection of items for Interfaith Community Services (ICS) and periodic collection for Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN). We hope you will be generous in support each of these deserving organizations, as they work to supply their clients with much need items.

At the request of the Reconciling in Christ team, the Council voted to schedule a Congregational Meeting on either April 6 or April 26 to affirm the decision to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation and discussed the wording of the Welcome Statement. Via email following the meeting, the Council and Reconciling in Christ team unanimously affirmed final language for the Welcome Statement. The Congregational Meeting was scheduled for April 6, so it does not conflict with Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday and in hopes that many members will be able to attend.

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Discipleship at OSLC - Pastor Glenn Schrader

April 2025



"Call" has to do with service to a God who summons us with irresistible power. It is not simply an informal notion or an energizing experience. Rather, this calling has real

substance that relates to the will and purpose of God. Often it concerns yielding up our individual safe worlds and then calling our Christian community to do the same. We need to recognize that such a sense of call in our time is profoundly countercultural. The primary voices of our time are the voices of "autonomy", that is, "to do one's own thing", self-actualization, self-assertion, or self-fulfillment. The primary ideology of the West's modern focus is to actually

propose that a person can live an "uncalled life", one not referred any purpose beyond one's self. The "disease of autonomy" – also referred to as "individualism" – is unbiblical. In fact, it leads us to settle for idolatries that may feel and sound like a call. These are diversionary activities that keep us from facing the yielding in obedience that belongs to all who are called by God. The holy purposes of God move in upon and against all of our individualized arrangements. Just as the prophetic messages of the Hebrew Bible, evidence is growing that the long-standing concentration of individual power, knowledge and status which constitutes our human world is under heavy assault. Reception of a new world from God – a new way to be human in the world – is underway.

Come & See

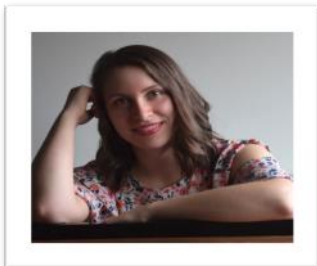


Come & See is a weekly gathering of members of OSLC who are exploring faith and life through Bible studies and other readings. We are currently focused on Paul's Letters to the Corinthians which address the challenges, opportunities, and blessings of this early Christian community. As we examine Scripture together through conversation, we discover many relationships to

the context of OSLC and our daily ministries. The sessions are open to anyone, and you are welcome to join at any time. Pastor Glenn and Pastor Amalia lead the discussions. Bring your own Bible or borrow one of the Lutheran Study Bibles. The hour-long sessions begin at noon in the Patio Room on Thursdays (enter through the church office or Koch Chapel). And feel free to bring your lunch too!

Music Notes - Gréta Pásztor

April 2025



The Music Ministry team at Our Saviour's is preparing a selection of beautiful music for the second half of Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter, ensuring that each service is truly memorable. We are also excited to welcome both new and returning guest musicians who will enhance our worship experience.

Quoting from one of our Palm Sunday pieces: "O may we ever praise Him with heart and soul and voice, and in His blissful presence eternally rejoice!" (Hosanna! Hosanna!, arr. T. Mayfield).

Save the date: May 4th, 10:30AM - I will give a recital at Our Saviour's.

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rain Garden Work Day

April 2025

Help create and plant
our new rain and
pollinator garden.
Gardeners and snack
providers, sign up at
oslc@lutherantucson.org



Led by Watershed
Management Group

Rain Garden Work Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 9AM - 12PM

April Sunday Forums

April 6: *Special Congregational Meeting for Reconciling in Christ Statement*

OSLC Church Council has called for a special meeting to consider adoption of a welcoming statement to establish our church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

April 13: *Palm Sunday: Rain Garden Tours*

Join for an opportunity to mark the beginning of Holy Week with a special service and gathering. Following worship, enjoy coffee and tour the new rain garden.

April 20: *Easter Sunday: No Sunday Forum*

We celebrate Easter with special services and gatherings.

April 27: *Recognizing the Reconciling in Christ Journey*

We will recognize the progress that Our Saviour's Lutheran is making in becoming a Reconciling in Congregation. What have we achieved? What lies ahead? What does an RIC congregation continue to work to do in creating an environment for welcoming the LGBT+ community and all who have experienced rejection by society and churches?

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Update on Becoming Reconciling in Christ

April 2025

The Council has scheduled a special meeting of the congregation following worship on Sunday, April 6 to affirm becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. This is an exciting and wonderful next step in our journey to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation. The Reconciling in Christ program recommends a margin of at least 75% voting in support in order to show strong engagement from the congregation.



Over the past year, we've had forums, discussions, movies, Road Runner articles, and one-on-one conversations to learn what it means to become Reconciling in Christ and to live up to the commitments we make. We did a straw poll of a welcome statement summarizing those commitments at our Annual Meeting in February, receiving 90% support. After some feedback and follow-up conversation, we made some adjustments to the statement. The Council and RIC team have unanimously affirmed this statement and will present it to the congregation as part of the decision to move forward with becoming Reconciling in Christ. We will not be modifying or amending the statement at this point - we can update it in the future in order to best reflect the welcome and commitments of the congregation. Here is the proposed statement:

Welcome. Your presence builds up the body of Christ. We welcome and affirm God's diversity, including all ethnicities, cultures, races, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, abilities, ages, and life experiences. You are invited to full participation in our congregation because of who you are. We lament and confess how the Christian Church has withheld Christ's love by misusing the power of institution. We commit to advocating for God's justice and mercy for all of creation, including humans. We commit to anti-racism and other ways of ending systems that cause harm. Christ is our peace and breaks down the walls that divide us (Ephesians 2:14). Our communion table is Christ's table. You and all people are welcome without exception.

The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) designation is a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran church. In recent years, the RIC program expanded their work to include address systemic racism. RIC congregations publicly welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions to full participation in the congregation (including leadership and marriage) and commit to anti-racism. The program began in 1983 and there are now over 1,000 Reconciling in Christ communities in the ELCA - congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries, camps, and others. Lutheran Campus Ministry in Tucson, Santa Cruz Lutheran, Sierra Evangelical (in Sierra Vista), and Lutheran Church of the Foothills are Reconciling in Christ congregations (with others like Our Saviour's working on becoming RIC).

We have also scheduled a Sunday Forum on April 26 to recognize the progress that Our Saviour's has made in becoming an RIC congregation - looking both at what we have achieved and what work lies ahead. Thank you to all in the congregation for your continued work to make public and intentional our long history of welcome.

RIC Team: Melanie Bowman, Adam Delaossa, Meg Hughes, Nancy Rude, Deacon Wendi Van Beek, Pastor Glenn, and Pastor Amalia

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Help Make Sandwiches



Three days a week, 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 30 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. Please see Sheila's article on page 7.

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.

ICS - Interfaith Community Services

The Food Bank needs your support especially now when free school lunch programs may be scaled back for low-income households. Many families are already facing food insecurity and other challenges. Children cannot succeed if they are hungry. Canned, packaged and in-date non-perishable items including pasta, peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, rice, beans, cereal, children and adult diapers and wipes are always needed. Please put items in the shopping cart that is on the patio on Sundays.

Youth On Their Own

Youth on their Own is a dropout prevention program that supports the high school graduation and continued success of youth experiencing homelessness in Pima County. We will be adding a collection box in our Narthex for those from the congregation who wish to donate items to support young people in our community. Please check the posted sign by the donation box for specific needs.

Lay Shared Bible Study

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

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

LAMA - Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona

April 2025

Reprinted from: LAMAAZ.org. Advocacy Essentials. March 4, 2025

Ways to be involved without being overwhelmed

Wisdom from our partners at Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest ([LSS-SW](#))

When the world seems in chaos, it can be overwhelming, daunting and disorienting to know where and how to get involved. A sociologist, Jennifer Walter gave the following suggestions on how to stay focused, oriented and regain a sense of power:

1. Set boundaries: **Pick 2-3 key issues you deeply care about and focus your attention there.** You can't track everything. *Impact comes from sustained focus, not scattered awareness.*
2. Use aggregators & experts: Find trusted analysts who do the heavy lifting of synthesis. Look for those explaining patterns, not just events.
3. Remember: Feeling overwhelmed is the point. When you recognize this, you regain some power. Take breaks. Process. This is a marathon.
4. Practice going slow: Wait 48hrs before reacting to new policies. The urgent clouds the important. Initial reporting often misses context.
5. Build community: Share the cognitive load. Different people track different issues. Network intelligence beats individual overload.

Sandwich Making Ministry - Sheila Bustamante

April 2025

Updates from Joseph's Pantry (Grace St. Paul)! Although we refer to this ministry as the "Sandwich Making Ministry", it's just a small part of Joseph's Pantry at Grace St. Paul. Bruegger's Bagels and Holsum Bakery graciously donate bagels and bread each week. Eight to ten Our Saviour's volunteers pickup, prepare, and deliver sandwiches to be served to approximately 150 of our unhoused neighbors. Others from Our Saviour's gather to serve sandwiches, coffee, hot chocolate, etc.

Volunteers and donations keep this important community ministry going. Please consider participating in the following opportunities:

- Picking up supplies - Wednesday, Saturday
- Preparing sandwiches – Sunday
- Delivering sandwiches – Sunday
- Serving meals – Monday, Wednesday
- Donating men's clothing

Joseph's Pantry
2331 E Adams St
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9AM - Noon
Contact: 520-327-6857



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.

Lent and Holy Week at Our Saviour's

Daytime services are led by Our Saviour's; Evening services are led by Lutheran Campus Ministry. All are invited to attend either – or both.

Lent Services - Wednesdays April 2nd and 9th - 12:00 PM and 6:15 PM

PALM SUNDAY - Sunday April 13

In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, those welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem, laid their cloaks on the ground and cut leafy branches from nearby trees and fields. The people lay down their cloaks in Luke's Gospel and in the Gospel of John, they gather palm branches and shout, "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!"

This Palm Sunday, we encourage you to bring either something green and leafy from your yard or a gently worn clothing item that can be donated following our service. We will gather in the Courtyard at the beginning of worship and process together into the Sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday Service - April 17 - 6 PM - service for healing, prayer and action

Good Friday Service - April 18 - 6 PM - prayer around the cross

Easter Sunday Services - April 20

7:15AM - Koch Chapel

9:00 AM - Sanctuary

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

April 2025 Calendar

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 *Men's Bible Study 7AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:30AM The Scattering Book Study 1:15PM - Patio Room *Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Cafe	2 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room Lent Service 12:15 PM and 6PM	3 Come and See 12PM Patio Room Choir Practice 6:30PM AB	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM Special Meeting following worship	7 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	8 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Property 9AM Library Staff Meeting 10:30AM The Scattering Book Study 1:15PM - Patio Room *Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Cafe	9 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room Lent Service 12:15 PM and 6PM	10 Come and See 12PM Patio Room Choir Practice 6:30PM AB	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 Watershed Project Volunteer Day 9AM - 12PM
13 Palm Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	14 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	15 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Quilters 9:00AM AB Staff Meeting 10:30AM The Scattering Book Study 1:15PM - Patio Room Council Meeting 6:30PM Patio Rm	16 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	17 Come and See 11AM Patio Room Poz CAFE All Day Maundy Thursday Service 6:00PM	18 OFFICE CLOSED Good Friday Service 6:00PM	19
20 Easter Sunday Worship 7:15AM Coffee 8:15 AM Easter Sunday Worship 9:00AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	21 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	22 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:30AM The Scattering Book Study 1:15PM - Patio Room *Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Cafe	23 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room LCM Dinner Service 6PM	24 Come and See 12PM Patio Room Choir Practice 6:30PM AB	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM	28 Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	29 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:30AM Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch The Scattering Book Study 1:15PM - Patio Room *Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Cafe	30 Roadrunner Assembly 8:30AM Patio Room *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room LCM Dinner Service 6PM	*These are community organized events, held at Our Saviour's. More information can be found on our Events Page - https://lutherantucson.org/events-page		