



Eighty years of life and ministry at Our Saviour's....

On Sunday May 13, 1945, as the world celebrated the end of World War II in Europe, yet remained immersed in the horrors of the war with Japan, 13 adults and 8 children gathered with Rev. Albert Alsop at the YWCA in Tucson for the first worship service of the congregation that would become Our Saviour's (Evangelical) Lutheran Church.

In Isaiah 43, God speaks through the prophet, saying:

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Rev. Alsop had been tasked with developing a new Lutheran congregation in Tucson. He rode his bike from door-to-door, gathering enough to begin, and soon after to purchase the lot of land at the intersection of Campbell Avenue and Helen Street for \$3,500.

By November, Rev. Titus Scholl had been called as the first pastor and the paperwork for the new congregation had been filed. The first Evangelical Lutheran church in Tucson had been planted.

Eighty years later, just days before May 13, 2025, I am reflecting on what the world must have been like in the earliest days of our congregation. And I am, of course, thinking as well about the present, and the days ahead.

It's hard to know what was on the minds of the earliest members of Our Saviour's. We know that they met just after significant shifts in World War II. Suffering beyond our comprehension had happened and more was to come.

And these twenty-one souls began gathering for worship. More and more joined all the time, drawn together for worship, reflection, communion, and learning how to live out God's love in ways that mattered in such a time as theirs.

So much has changed! Yet we gather still. We have our horrors still.

I pray that in our weekly communion you are refreshed by God's word, renewed by truth and love, ready to follow and serve in such a time as this.

June 2025

STAFF

Ministry Team

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

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

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John Perez Campus Caretaker

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COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Patty Sirls President

Meg Hughes Vice President

Ted Adams Secretary

Pam Hardman Treasurer

Melanie Bowman

David Johnson

Jennifer Strand

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

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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

The Treasurer's report as prepared by Pam Hardman was delivered to Council. It was noted that weekly giving is slightly behind last year. However, year to date income is still above expenses. We are thankful for the Congregation's continued financial support. As this will be Pam's final term as Treasurer, we are looking to identify a possible candidate to fulfill that important position for next Council term. If you are interested, please contact any member of the Council.

The Property Committee reported that the new HVAC unit has successfully been installed in the events, we always have a need Sanctuary. Just in time to deal with the summer heat. John has painted a new "accent" wall in the Courtyard outside the office. He also did a very nice job repair- in a more organized manner ing the uneven sidewalk between the AB and the Sanctuary/Office.

The date for the 80th Anniversary Celebration has been set for Sat- for various events and get tourday October 25th. Please mark the date on your calendar. Work is underway on all aspects of the celebration. It is envisioned that stations would be set up at dif-

ferent locations on the church property. Each location would focus on a different aspect of the church history. If you have any ideas, suggestions or would like to volunteer, please talk to Patty Sirls, Jennifer Strand, or Mary Lou Forier.

With the departure of Paige Marty, there is an open seat on the Council. Members put forth several names as possible candidates to fill the open seat. Patty will provide the list of names to Pastor Amalia for review and discussion.

With our active calendar of for volunteers to provide services and support. We have been doing this on a case-by-case basis. To help coordinate this support Council would like to formalize a Hospitality Committee. The Committee would be responsible for contacting Congregation members to line up volunteers gethers, including weekly treats and coffee. If you are interested, please contact a Council Member.

Welcoming New Members on June 8

On Pentecost (June 8), we will receive and welcome new members. If you are interested in joining the faith community of Our Saviour's through baptism or transfer of membership, please talk with Pastor Amalia so she can share information with you about upcoming Newcomer gatherings.

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Discipleship at OSLC - Pastor Glenn Schrader

June 2025



Can the church foster discipleship through being a "learning community"? What role does education play in helping Christians clarify their faith in relation to the

American civil religion that dominates our society? How should we best comprehend that we live in a "multi-storied world" in which religious pluralism sometimes seems stressful and confusing?

There have been long periods in the history of the church when many Christians have been apathetic toward education.

Religious leaders have grown weary, imaginations have withered, and no one has seemed to have time to teach or learn.

Now as the church is facing many challenges, some say that the next steps towards renewal lie along the path of reducating Christians. Then, if congregations increasingly recognize that learning leads to clarity in discipleship and mission, what it means to be a teacher will also change. A learning community includes not only the people gathered in the church building on Sunday but also scattered in every arena of their daily lives all week long.

Music Notes - Gréta Pásztor

June 2025



A Message from Dr. Gréta Pásztor

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to this congregation, to Pastor Amalia, and to all the dedicated staff and musicians I've had the joy of working with since I began my journey here in 2022. Thank you for your kind messages, the special brunch on May 4th, and the constant support and feedback you have shared with me over the past three years. Your encouragement has helped me grow

and give my very best in this ministry.

I am deeply grateful to have shared so many meaningful moments with you: you have been with me through some of the most significant milestones of my life: getting engaged, getting married, completing my education, and beginning my first academic position. I feel truly blessed to that I got to serve this community.

In June we will enjoy the music of the Chancel Band and the Southern Comfort Band, as well as guest pianist Dr. Ji Sun Lee. I will return and play between June 15 through the end of July.

As a final wish-basket, I invite you to share the hymns and pieces you would love to sing or hear this summer. I will do my very best to include as many of them as possible in our schedule!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Lutheran Campus Ministry - Pastor Rebecca Boardman

June 2025



Congrats to our Graduates!



Aiden

B.S. Psychological Sciences

Favorite Memory: The Parking Lot Fundraisers as I truly felt like that was the first time I really felt connected to the group as I was still relatively new at the time and I had the privilege of serving the church at large.

My goal is to become a child therapist and hopefully volunteer teaching people languages and traveling!



Isaiah

B.S in Business Mgt.

My Favorite Memory was Guatemala 2025!

As for my future plans, I'm applying to jobs in the Tucson area and will be starting my own digital marketing business.



Jordan

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film and Television Production Minor in French language

Fav. Memory: the Labor Day Retreat to San Diego (specifically the 6 person Pedicab!) That solidified many of my friendships in LCM and made me feel like part of the family.

Future plans: After graduation I will be moving to Orlando, Florida to intern with Walt Disney World through the Disney College Program. I hope that this may be an opportunity to network with the Walt Disney Company and potentially open doors to future internships/jobs in their various movie and/or tv studios.



Amelia

Master of Public Health (MPH)

Favorite memory: I have been fortunate to collect many LCM memories during my under grad and graduate years, but my favorite was our 2023 Spring Break trip to Ireland and N. Ireland for the strengthened friendships, new perspectives on conflict, beautiful landscapes, and rich cultural heritage we experienced.

Future Dreams/Plans: I am currently applying for a few public service positions to put my degree to work, however, I am most looking forward to planning new adventures around the world with my #1 travel partner and spending time with my family this summer.



Carly

B.S. Aerospace Engineering

Favorite LCM memory: Exploring Ireland

Future Plans: I am continuing my education at the University of Arizona with a Master's of Science in Aerospace Engineering.



Annika

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Favorite LCM memory: My favorite memories are all the trips we took together. Whether it was across the ocean or just a few hours up north, it was nice to get off campus and grow closer to everyone in the group!

Future Dreams/Plans: My plans are to take a year off and work as a PT tech and then begin applying to Physical Therapy Programs!

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

TIHAN News: Poz Café is coming in June

June 2025

As many of you know, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church supports Tucsonans living with HIV/AIDS through TIHAN (the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network). Most of the people served by TIHAN, our CarePartners, are socially isolated due to the stigma of HIV/AIDS and disability, and



many are also low income and qualify for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Many CarePartners also struggle to afford personal hygiene and household products which cannot be obtained through the SNAP program. Every month, several TIHAN member faith communities and businesses sponsor a Poz Café. The Poz Café provides CarePartners with a hot lunch, an opportunity for fellowship in a safe and accepting setting, bingo games to win prizes, and care packages containing personal hygiene and household necessities they might not otherwise afford. As a CarePartner explained to us at a recent worship service, these items provide "a shred of dignity" to someone living in poverty.

Our Saviour's is co-hosting the Poz Café to be held on Thursday, June 19, 2025 in the OSLC Activity Building. Please note that this day is Juneteenth, a Federal holiday.

As a host congregation, OSLC has been asked to provide disposable razors, facial tissue in cube-shaped boxes, and shampoo for care packages. As of this newsletter, we've met our goal for razors- thank you! We still need facial tissue, and especially full-size bottles of shampoo. (Bottles of conditioner are not needed, but conditioning shampoo is ok.) No time to shop? We will gladly accept cash gifts to purchase needed items! There will be a table on the patio on Sundays to collect your donations, or you can bring them to the church office Monday through Thursday during normal business hours. All items are needed by Monday, June 16th.

Thank you to all who have volunteered so far to help. We could still use one or two more volunteers at the luncheon on June 19th from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm to set up tables and chairs in the AB, help serve meals, clear tables, distribute care packages, put away tables and chairs, and clean up the meeting room and kitchen areas when the meal is over. Please see Mary Pflibsen or contact her at marypflib@hotmail.com or 520-622-1983 for more information or if you would like to volunteer.

Thanks for supporting TIHAN's Poz Café. It's a joy to be part of such a giving community!

TIHAN Newsletter Folding Party:

TIHAN is gearing up for its next quarterly newsletter. This is the primary way in which they contact over 4,000 newsletter subscribers with information about TIHAN, agency news and features, and other pertinent information. The Newsletter Mailing Party will take place in June as follows: Monday/Tuesday, June 9 and 10 from 1-4pm; Wednesday/Thursday, June 11 and 12, 9am-1pm in the OSLC AB. In preparation for that week, they can use some extra help folding envelopes right now. If you have an hour or two in the next few weeks to help fold some envelopes, or if you'd like to sign up for any of the June newsletter dates, please contact Kristen at OperationsManager@tihan.org or 520-299-6647 ext. 204. Thank you!

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

Spanish Class will resume in the fall Please contact Annette Chavez at amchavez111@yahoo.com for more information.

ICS - Interfaith Community Services

The Food Bank is dependent on community donations as federal assistance has been cut. 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.

Angie Grandison

Youth On Their Own

Let me start with a huge THANK YOU for your generosity! The first week the YOTO bin was in the narthex, it filled with donations almost immediately! I have delivered them to the YOTO site, and the church will be probably be receiving a thank-you note soon. While the list of desired/needed items is posted on the table, occasionally, YOTO asks for emphasis of a particular type of item. I recently saw a YOTO Facebook post announcing that May 12-18 is Period Awareness Week, with the statements that "No student should miss class due to lack of basic necessities" and that "I in 4 students struggle to afford menstrual products." As of the YOTO 2023-2024 Annual Report, 58.3% of the students served are female, so the need for feminine hygiene products is ongoing, not just during a few days in May. Please consider emphasizing this type of product as you shop for donations this month. Thank you so much!

Lay Shared Bible Study

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 June 2025 Calendar

June 2025 CalendarFor a complete listing of all campus events, please visit our website: www.lutherantucson.org

	U	erantucson.org/events-page	nts, held at Our Saviour's. ur Events Page - https://luth	These are community organized events, held at Our Saviour's. More information can be found on our Events Page - https://lutherantucson.org/events-page	30 Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm	29 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM
28	27 OFFICE CLOSED	26	25 *Lay Bible Study I 0:30AM Pocket Room	24 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Roadrunner Assembly 9:00AM Patio Room Staff Meeting 10:30AM Centering Prayer 12:00 PM	23 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm	22 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM
21	20 OFFICE CLOSED	19 Poz CAFÉ All Day Office Closed for Juneteenth	18 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	17 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Quilting 9AM AB Staff Meeting 10:30AM Centering Prayer 12:00 PM Council Meeting 6:30PM Patio Rm	16 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Pray Without Ceasing 5:30 PM Chapel	15 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM
14	OFFICE CLOSED	12	*Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room	10 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB *Property 9AM Library Staff Meeting 10:30AM Centering Prayer 12:00 PM RIC 4:00PM Patio Room *	9 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm	8 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM Pentecost Sunday - wear red
7	OFFICE CLOSED	5	4 *Lay Bible Study I 0:30AM Pocket Room	3 ***Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:30AM Centering Prayer 12:00 PM	2 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Pray Without Ceasing 5:30 PM Chapel	I Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM
SATURDAY	FRIDAY	THURSDAY	WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY	MONDAY	SUNDAY



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A Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA:: Being Christ-centered community through faith and action in the heart of Tucson.

Staff Milestones and Updates

Dr. Gréta Pásztor Wung has accepted a new position as Associate Professor of Music in Piano at Eastern Arizona College in Thatcher, AZ beginning in the fall and will end her role as Music Ministry Director at the end of the month. Greta will continue on in the role of accompanist for the month of July. We give thanks for Greta's many gifts in her nearly three years with us and wish her well in her next chapter. We will miss the joyful and effortless way she led music ministry every week.

We are pleased to announce that Aysen Millioguilli will begin the role of Music Director in July. Aysen first joined us last year as a Choral Scholar, then moved into the role of Assistant Music Director. In her new role, Aysen will direct our choir and work with the ministry team to select music and guest musicians for worship. We are seeking to hire an accompanist beginning August 1. Please check our website or contact the church office for a job posting.

We give thanks for the good work and dedication of John Perez, our Campus Caretaker who celebrates three years with Our Saviour's this month.