



The Roadrunner

December 2024



I have a folder in my file cabinet labeled “Pastor Notes.” It has grown thick over the last three years with notes, emails, and cards. There are a few critical emails, some angry, some civil. But mostly they are notes of gratitude, reflections on a sermon or other new faith or Biblical insight, or something a person thought I might appreciate reading.

I received one such note this week, during what has been a rather difficult time in the life of our congregation. We have had a series of deaths in and close to our congregation – Ruth Strand, who lived for 100 years, and was a long-time member of Our Saviour’s. Vicki Becker, who served as the youth minister for a number of years and who became a treasured member at Lutheran Church of the Foothills. Jerry Larsen, who used to faithfully bring his grandchildren to worship and youth activities and who many remember for his stylish hair and active presence on Tumamoc Hill and the Tucson Zumba scene. Ms. Ellie Johnson, who brought joy to every place she went and who took time to pay attention to the smallest details and most overlooked people. And Emma Larson, whose now adult children grew up with Vicki Becker as their youth director, who has remained a steadfast supporter of Our Saviour’s even though she was unable to worship in person for years.

Many are also feeling the weight of the recent election. Elections come and go with winners and losers each time. But the policy results of an election have lasting implications. As followers of Christ, we are freed in Christ to obey God’s commands to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. In Luke 10, Jesus clearly teaches that to love one’s neighbor is to show mercy to the vulnerable, the harmed, the one in need. “Go, and do likewise,” Jesus teaches. There is important work to be done together in Love.

There is also a need to rest well so we can work well. So, as we enter the season of Advent, it was with deep gratitude that I received a note this week that read, “Pastor, I’ve always loved the text of this anthem and thought that you might appreciate it too.” Indeed, I did and now share it with you.

Lord, before this fleeting season is upon us, let me remember to walk slowly.
Lord, bless my heart with Love and with quiet.
Give my heart a leaning to hear carols.
Grace our family with contentment, and the peace that comes only from You.
Lord, help us to do less this busy season; go less; stay closer to home; kneel more.
May our hearts be Your heart. May we simply, peacefully, celebrate You.

-Words by MaryAnn Jindra, Music by Libby Larsen

Pastor Amalia

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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 **December 2024**

We had a full agenda for the month of November.

Council Treasurer, Pam Hardman, reviewed the October financials. Although our weekly giving is slightly behind our projected 2024 budget, it is likely to be made up in November and December, when giving is typically higher. It was noted that giving this year is ahead of last year to date.

We then plunged into a first review of the draft 2025 Mission Plan (budget) that was prepared by the Finance Committee. The Council will continue to review the Mission Plan and will send a final recommendation to the Congregation for adoption at the Annual Meeting.

Earlier in the year Council voted to take the quarterly interest earned from the ELCA Ministry Growth Fund and use it for outreach and giving. After considering several possibilities, Council voted to use the first distribution of \$2000 to support the Super Youth program, which is a collaboration of Tucson Lutheran churches to host group events for Lutheran high schoolers. Funds in the amount of \$250 will be provided to each congregation that hosts a Super Youth event during the 2024/2025 school year. The balance of funds remaining will be distributed to Casa Maria.

The Generosity Team reports that our annual appeal has gotten off to a great start. On Giving Sunday, a total of 36 Statements of Intent were received pledging over \$220,000. Although one of the "Living Water" projects featured in the appeal is water harvesting, keep in mind that this is not a special appeal for a single project but is our Annual Stewardship Drive to support the full operation of the Congregation for 2025. Council is grateful for the congregation's continued generosity.

A final version of the lease agreement between OSLC and TIHAN was reviewed and unanimously approved. If the TIHAN Board also approves this final version, Pastor Amalia and Scott Blades, TIHAN Executive Director, will sign the agreement. We are hopeful that all will proceed as planned and TIHAN will begin moving into the office space in December.

A final note, the meeting to discuss updates to the Congregational Constitution, previously scheduled for November 10 will be rescheduled to January 12. This will give sufficient time to consider the changes prior to the Annual Meeting which will be scheduled in early February 2025.



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Discipleship at OSLC - Pastor Glenn Schrader

December 2024



What obstacles do you encounter along your path of faith? Indecision, temptation, distraction, inertia, exhaustion? There are many that can deter us from hearing God's call and taking the next steps. But one I think is abundantly present in our current context is fear. We have been surrounded by the voices of fear – especially in the past months – which have clouded our vision and drained our energy. The negative power of fear can become so great that we may no longer know what a life without fear would even feel like. Fear can

enclose and entrap us as hostages in a “house of fear”, as the great spiritual writer Henri Nouwen once observed.

Yet, as we start the church year in Advent focused on readings from Luke, the first messages from God's angels are “Do not be afraid!” First to old Zechariah concerning his wife Elizabeth who would soon bear a son; then to young Mary in her house in Nazareth about the birth of Jesus. Throughout his ministry, Jesus taught his disciples not to fear. When they were caught in a storm on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus told them not to be afraid as he calmed the violent wind and turbulent seas. The women visiting the empty tomb on Easter morning were told by an angel “Do not be afraid!” And Jesus when he greeted his disciples in the upper room after his resurrection said “Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid!” The message of “Don't be afraid!” resounds throughout the New Testament.

In a popular book of years ago *Love is Letting Go of Fear*, Dr. Gerald Jampolsky, a child and adult psychiatrist, maintained that the opposite of love was not hate but fear. The subtle control that fear exerts on our lives can become pervasive so that we feel powerless, isolated, and drained of hope and we cannot do what we truly want to do. But God invites us to move out of our “house of fear” into where God lives in the “house of love” (Nouwen). Jampolsky also said that with “forgiveness as my only function...I learned to listen to the inner voice of love directing what I thought, said, and did.” God's “house of love” offers safety, intimacy, and healing, and it is where we who are Jesus' followers gain the strength to say “Love is the way I walk in gratitude” as we travel ahead along our path of discipleship.

Reconciling in Christ Update – What does “Welcome” Look Like?

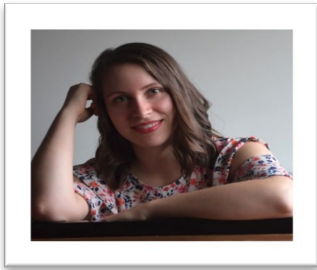
The Reconciling in Christ program, founded in 1974, helps Lutheran congregations understand how to welcome gay and transgender people in meaningful ways. Throughout history, many Christian spaces and communities have been closed or unwelcoming to LGBTQ people. Now, over 1,100 Lutheran communities are Reconciling in Christ!

Our Saviour's is good at welcoming people. Many comment that they feel “at home” when visiting our congregation. We try to make sure that people feel welcome in our space. Last year, we made pew cutouts to make room for people using wheelchairs and walkers. We also have large print bulletins and hearing devices available. We have plenty of accessible parking. For those with young children, we have added a play area up front in our worship space. Our weekly liturgy, well-worn pews, and beautiful organ music let those who have grown up Lutheran in America know they are at home. We provide gluten-free and alcohol-free options for communion. These are just a few ways that we visibly and vocally make people feel welcome at Our Saviour's. We hope people feel welcome and tell their friends about us. What has made you feel welcome at Our Saviour's?

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Music Notes - Gréta Pásztor

December

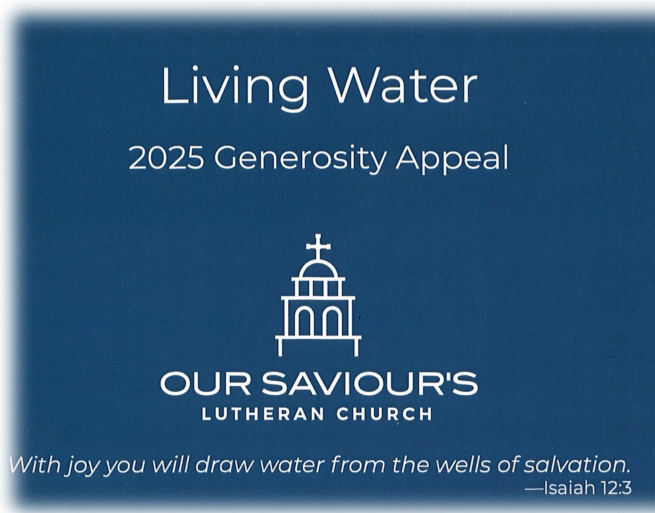


This Advent and Christmas season promises to be truly special, and we cannot wait to worship and celebrate with you! This year, our mid-week Advent services will feature the beloved *Holden Evening Prayer* by Marty Haugen, offering a serene and reflective space for worship. Throughout the month, we will also have the joy of singing all our favorite Christmas carols — especially on Christmas Day, when you will have the opportunity to request the carols that mean the most to you.

The Band, Bells, Choir, and musicians from our congregation are preparing to bless us with beautiful renditions of both Advent and Christmas music, filling our hearts with the joy and peace of the season.

We are also excited to remind you of a wonderful event on December 1st at 4pm: a *Christmas Choral Concert* featuring seven Lutheran choirs from Tucson. A freewill offering will be gathered to support Lutheran Campus Ministries. It's sure to be a night of beautiful music and community, so save the date and plan to join us!

This Advent and Christmas season, let's come together in worship, music, and joy to celebrate the hope and love that Christ brings to the world. We can't wait to share this special time with you!



Living Water Update

Thank you for the wonderful response to our 2024 Generosity Appeal – Living Water! It was wonderful to see many in worship on November 17 bringing forward statements of intended giving for the coming year.

We have received 47 Statements of Intent – our goal is 70, so we are already over halfway there! Please send in your Statement of Intent – you can place it in the offering plate or bring it to the office. We have received \$268,000 in offering commitments – our goal is \$296,000, a \$15,000 increase from this year.

Our Saviour's Pledge History

2020 – 241,000

2021 – 214,000

2022 – 240,000

2023 – 275,000

2024 – 281,000

2025 – With you, we can reach 70 households and 296,000 in intended giving.

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Forums for December

December 1: "Report from UA Lutheran Campus Ministry"

Pastor Rebecca Boardman will offer insights from book *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt, share ministry updates, and give a preview of our service-learning trip to build two homes in Guatemala. When our world feels especially troubled, campus ministry is a place of radical welcome for young adults to cultivate belonging, faith, and service to others.

December 8: "History of Christmas Carols: Part I"

Have you ever wondered about the origins of the Christmas that we sing every year? Join us for some short stories and time to join in singing. Included will be: "O Little Town of Bethlehem", "O Come All Ye Faithful", "Good King Wenceslas", and "Go Tell It on the Mountain".

December 15: "History of Christmas Carols: Part II"

We'll continue to explore the history of our traditional (and maybe some untraditional) Christmas carols. Let's celebrate the coming of our Lord in song! Join in for: "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day", "Joy to the World", "Little Drummer Boy", and (of course!) "Silent Night"

December 22: "Sharing Christmas Treats and Traditions"

Are there some special Christmas cookies or other treats that you'd like to share? Our Saviour's has a reputation for "great cooks"! And perhaps you can share for a few minutes about a favorite tradition or event that continues to make Christmas special for you.

Lutheran Campus Ministry - Pastor Rebecca Boardman

December 2024



**Curious about the LCM
Spring Service-Learning Trip?**



Construa 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



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.

Introduction to Centering Prayer: *a quiet time in a busy season*

Gather for a day of quiet and contemplation. Learn about Centering Prayer through practice, video, journaling and discussion.

Saturday December 7, 10AM - 3PM - Patio Room

Bring your own lunch, paper, and pen. Donations accepted.
Register by December 2.



Interfaith Community Services Food Bank

Holiday Food Drive - through December 31

The ICS Food Bank gratefully accepts prepackaged, canned, non-perishable and in-date items:

peanut butter, canned meats, cranberry sauce, pasta, rice, beans, pasta sauce, turkey stuffing mix, mac and cheese, boxed cake mix and baking mixes

Please put items in the shopping cart that is on the patio on Sunday mornings.



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



Poinsettias for our Christmas Services

Dedicate a Christmas Poinsettia for the Altar

Poinsettias are \$15.00 per plant. Orders must be received by Dec. 15, 2024. You can pick up a flower form on Sundays or email oslc@lutherantucson.org or see Michele in the church office.

Come and See

Are you looking for a new opportunity to explore your life of faith? Have you been seeking a different way of understanding the Bible and other texts that are a part of our traditions and faith practices? Are there questions that you would like to discuss with others who also feel a renewed call to discipleship? Please join us in this new study group that began this fall: you welcome to join at any time. We meet at noon on Thursdays for an hour in the Patio Room. Please contact Pastor Glenn or Pastor Amalia for further details – or just show up. If you would like to join via Zoom, please let us know.

In December, we will be completing our discussion of 2 Thessalonians. We will start up again after Christmas with 1 & 2 Corinthians. Included are discussions of Paul's ministry, his theological understandings, and his advice to the early churches. And in the future, we'll likely also include some discussions of current books that might be helpful.

Sharing Joy Through Your Gifts TIHAN

A gift can mean so much more than the actual item, and that's especially true with TIHAN and our CarePartners (clients living with HIV). Every December, providing gifts and gift cards to CarePartners living with HIV lets them know that someone is thinking about them and wants to share with them the love of the season. CarePartners often tell us that the gift they receive from TIHAN is the one gift that they know they will get to enjoy each year. Can you help us make this a reality in 2024? As you shop and help spread the word, please remember:

- Gifts must be new and unused and should be donated unwrapped.
- Because CarePartners belong to a variety of faith traditions, or may not identify with any faith, we ask that holiday gifts do not portray any religious images or messages.
- It's important for us to be able to keep gifts equitable, so please look for gifts with a value between \$15 and \$25. Please remember, most of our CarePartners are over the age of 50 and living below the poverty line. Popular items last year included towel sets, crockpots and blankets.
- We are **also** hoping to give a \$25 gift card to stores like Target, Walmart, and Fry's to every CarePartner, so we also need donations of \$25 gift cards.
- The greatest need is for gifts that would be appropriate for adult males.
- If you don't have time to shop for gifts or gift cards, OLSC TIHAN Liaison Mary Pflibsen will take cash donations and shop for you! Please bring all donations to OLSC before or after worship on any Sunday in November, or to the church office during the week **by Monday, December 2.**

Any questions? Please see Mary at the TIHAN table on the Patio on Sunday mornings or contact her at marypflib@hotmail.com, 520-622-1983. Thank you for helping TIHAN make the upcoming holiday season more special for Tucsonans living with HIV.



Holiday Support for People Living With HIV

* Holiday Gift Ideas *

In order to keep holiday gifts equitable, please look for gifts with a value of \$15 to \$25.

- ✓ Bath towels
- ✓ Bed pillows
- ✓ Toaster
- ✓ Toaster oven
- ✓ Pedicure set
- ✓ Coffeemaker
- ✓ Purse or wallet
- ✓ Picture frames

- ✓ Kitchen towels/pot holders
- ✓ Kitchen knife set
- ✓ Wristwatch
- ✓ Hair dryer
- ✓ Blender
- ✓ Pots and pans
- ✓ Screwdriver set
- ✓ Bluetooth speaker

Gift cards, gift cards, gift cards!

We are also asking for \$25 gift cards to stores like Fry's, Target, and Walmart.

**Please make sure the dollar amount appears on the card!*



Dear Our Saviour's,
It is with great joy that I share that I have been approved by the Grand Canyon Synod to be an ordained Deacon in our ELCA!

I thank you all for your great support and encouragement during this entire candidacy process, and your commitment to my learning as your Vicar. I am also excited to share with you that I have begun a position, focused on community engagement, at Lutheran Campus Ministry – University of Arizona! This new role allows me to share my calling of discipleship formation with an amazing group of students from University of Arizona and Pima Community College.

Thanks be to God for you all!
Wendi Van Beek

Thank you!

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

December 2024 Calendar

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Sunday Worship 9AM - Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM Lutheran Christmas Concert 4PM Sanctuary	2 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	3 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:15AM Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Cafe	4 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room Advent Service 6:15 PM Koch Chapel	5 Come and See 12PM Patio Room Choir Practice 6:30PM AB	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 Centering Prayer Retreat 10AM - 3PM Activity Building
8 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM	9 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	10 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Property 9:00AM - Library Staff Meeting 10:15AM Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Cafe	11 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room Advent Service 6:15 PM Koch Chapel	12 Come and See 12PM Patio Room Choir Practice 6:30PM AB	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14
15 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM Super Youth 4 - 6PM - here	16 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	17 *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 Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Cafe	18 *Lay Bible Study 10:30AM Pocket Room Advent Service 6:15 PM Koch Chapel	19 Come and See 12PM Patio Room Choir Practice 6:30PM AB	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21
22 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM	23 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 PM	25 Christmas Day Service 9 AM Sanctuary	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 Sunday Worship 9AM Coffee 10AM Sunday Forum & Sandwich Making 10:30AM	30 *Mindful Meditation AB2 1:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30PM Sanctuary	31 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:15AM Centering Prayer 12:15PM Koch Spanish Class 6:30PM AB Cafe	*These are community organized events, held at Our Saviour's. More information can be found on our Events Page - https://lutherantucson.org/events-page			



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Advent

Wednesdays - Dec. 4, 14, 18

Holden Evening Prayer

6:15 PM - Koch Chapel

Sundays - Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22

9:00AM - Sanctuary

Christmas Eve

5:00 PM - Sanctuary (Livestream) - Candles and Holy Communion

Christmas Day

9:00 AM - Sanctuary (In-person only) - Hymn Sing & Holy Communion

