

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship

December 28, 2025

Service of Remembrance for the Holy Innocents



WELCOME



ELCA

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



RECONCILING IN CHRIST

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. Our communion table is Christ's table. You and all people are welcome without exception.

Newcomers and Visitors + Newcomers and Visitors + We're glad you're here. Please fill out the green slip in the pew rack and place in the offering plate. You're welcome to share in Holy Communion. Families - we have a small play area up front.

Nametags + Nametags help us get to know and remember each other. Please let the ushers know if you need one made for you.

Expansive Language + As Lutherans, we teach that "God calls all creation into being and gives people language as a way of responding to God and forming community" (Principles for Worship, Principle L-1). In worship at Our Saviour's, we seek to use expansive language for God and people, sometimes changing or offering alternatives to the printed text.

Current Liturgy Music + liturgy is the flow of our worship service - working together as people to praise God.

Prayer Requests; Family and Friends of Mary Lou Rankin (Sophia's grandmother, Catalina's mother-in-law); Friends and Family of Jackie Fahey; Mary Wildner-Bassett (following the death of her partner, Kathy Huttlinger); prayers of joy for Scott Koenig (for his engagement to Rev. Michael Bush earlier this year); Corky Ronstadt (hospice care), Isobel Barnhill (recovering from a fall), Mary Neff (hospice care), Schatzi Taylor (in a rehabilitation center following a fall and diagnosis), and those at home and in care facilities.

Our Extended Friends & Family: Frenchie (Friend of Judy and John Indermark); Pat (mother of Lisa Delaossa); Lia (granddaughter of Angie Grandison), Beverly (Mother of Hildi Williams), David (Son of Geoff and Suzy Swann); Jeanne (Cousin of Alan Bales); Barbara (sister-in-law of Kenith Ijams); Peggy (sister of Bonnie Phelps); Josh, Melissa, Mary Ann, and Libby (friends of Chris and Theda Doak); Megan (niece of Chris and Theda Doak); Sandy and Doug, Sally, Ashley, and Kamri (friends of Kathy DeVinney); Grant and Shirley (brother and sister-in-law of Theda Doak; John (son of Martha Neff Stum and Paul Stum); Sam; Eleanor (mother-in-law of Kris Sanchez; Daniel (neighbor's son of Gloria Schmidt); Rich (cousin-in-law of Jennifer Strand) Misty (friend of Schatzi Taylor) Will (nephew of Chris and Theda Doak); Leaticia, Azogan, Meivis, Sidibe, Bintou, Zinsou, and Mabel (friends of Rachel Starner); Pat (friend of Suzanne Hesh).

Names will remain on the list for three weeks, unless requested for longer.

About Today's Service

Innocents Lost. Innocence Redeemed: A Service of Remembrance for The Holy Innocents

On December 28 the church commemorates The Holy Innocents, Martyrs. This rite of remembrance gives us the opportunity to remember and reflect on the loss of holy innocents in our own time: refugees forced to escape their homelands; sojourners seeking safety; people, planets and animals impacted by climate change, and people used as scapegoats.

This service is organized into four sections, each including a reflection on a theme, a scripture reading, and a song.

December 28, 2025

First Sunday of Christmas - Service of Remembrance

**An asterisk indicates the congregation should stand in body and/or spirit.
Congregation's speaking and singing parts are in bold font.*

Welcome

Prelude - *Interlude on the Coventry Carol, setting by W.S. Lloyd Webber*

***Greeting and Prayer**

To you who are being protected by the power of God through faith:
Rejoice! Grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem by order of King Herod. Receive into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims. By your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 54)

The Welcome

The infant martyrs whom we commemorate were the children of Bethlehem, two years old and younger, killed by Herod, who worried that his reign was threatened by the birth of a new king. We also remember the children and families of the world who find themselves in risky places along our borders and in refugee settlements across our world. We cannot account for all the reasons they are living at the extremes of existence, but we can beseech God for mercy on their behalf. This we can offer as we remember Baby Jesus, who became a refugee, his family fleeing for their lives from one who sought to hold on to power that was barely his to claim.

Reading Micah 5:2-5

Reflection Paula Miller

***Song** ACS # 1017 Come to Me, O Weary Traveler, p. 7

The Warning

War and civil unrest are the frequent causes of disrupted lives. But more and more, the disruption of predictable food sources and increasingly severe weather events uproot whole communities from their familiar spaces. We know that not all refugees are human. We may not have access to all the remedies for their need, but we can beseech God for mercy on their behalf. This we can offer as we remember Jesus, who, with his family, fled to Egypt, the land of plenty that had welcomed their ancestors when famine held them hostage in their homeland.

Reading Mathew 2:1-15

Reflection Sharon Reinbott

***Song** ELW# 710 Let Streams of Living Justice p. 8

The Wilderness

We know that many in our world have been forced to leave no-longer-secure homesteads for the dangerous hedges and lean-tos that they hope will give them cover until more security is found. We may not know which roadmaps will bring them safely to a place of welcome, but we can beseech God for mercy on their behalf. This we can offer as we remember Jesus Christ, who said plainly to us, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matt. 25:40).

Reading Mathew 2:16-18

Reflection A shared story

***Song** In the Desert Winter (tune: In the Bleak Midwinter; words: Sharon Reinbott)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. In the desert winter
Cold and dark the light
A holy family wandered
Then vanished in the night.
In the morning twilight
A baby blanket lay
In the desert winter
Only yesterday. | 3. May we have hearts to hold them
May we know their woe
Their story is our story
Transforming all we know.
We become one body
In pure and fierce embrace
In that precious moment
Behold God's loving face. |
| 2. I wonder what they witnessed,
What sorrow they have borne,
What forces drove them onward
To reach this winter's morn.
Are they now imprisoned,
With others in their plight?
Did they find their safety,
Or perish in the night? | |

The Way Home

What is home to you? To the dislodged, disowned, displaced, or disappeared, a padded bench and a bowl of soup given with love in a safe zone may be the closest to home at the present. We may not know how long their journey will be to a roof that will not cave in or a door that opens to peace, but we can beseech God for mercy on their behalf. This we can offer as we remember Christ, who promises, "In God's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2-3).

Reading Mathew 2:19-23

Reflection Pastor Amalia

***Song** ELW #712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service p. 9

***HOLY COMMUNION**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Give thanks to God, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

In the night...

...Saturate this room with your Spirit and this Table with your love.

...And as you do, we will join our voices, and using our own words, pray the way Jesus taught us, Saying . . .

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

***CLOSING PRAYER**

Holy God, as you have accompanied your people through times of captivity, wilderness, and exile, shelter and sustain all those who flee persecution, oppression, warfare, violence, hunger, and poverty. Open our hearts and homes, our gates and doors, so that they find safety, peace, and welcome—a place to live in freedom and without fear; through Jesus Christ, our refuge and our hope. Amen.

(All Creation Sings, p. 51)

***BLESSING**

God bless you and keep you.

God's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

God look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** ELW # 543 Go, My Children, with my Blessing, P. 10

***DISMISSAL**

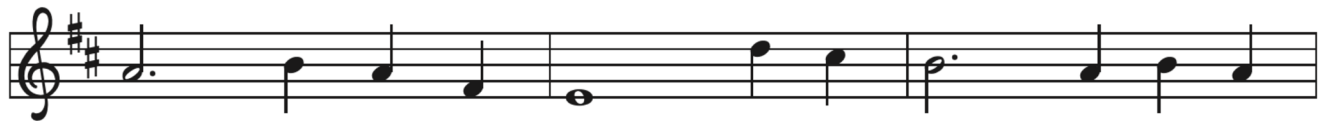
POSTLUDE *Home by Another Way*, James Taylor

Ben Tully and David Lester

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to
 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
 fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
 yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
 me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
 fore you; do not run from me in fright."
 side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
 gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

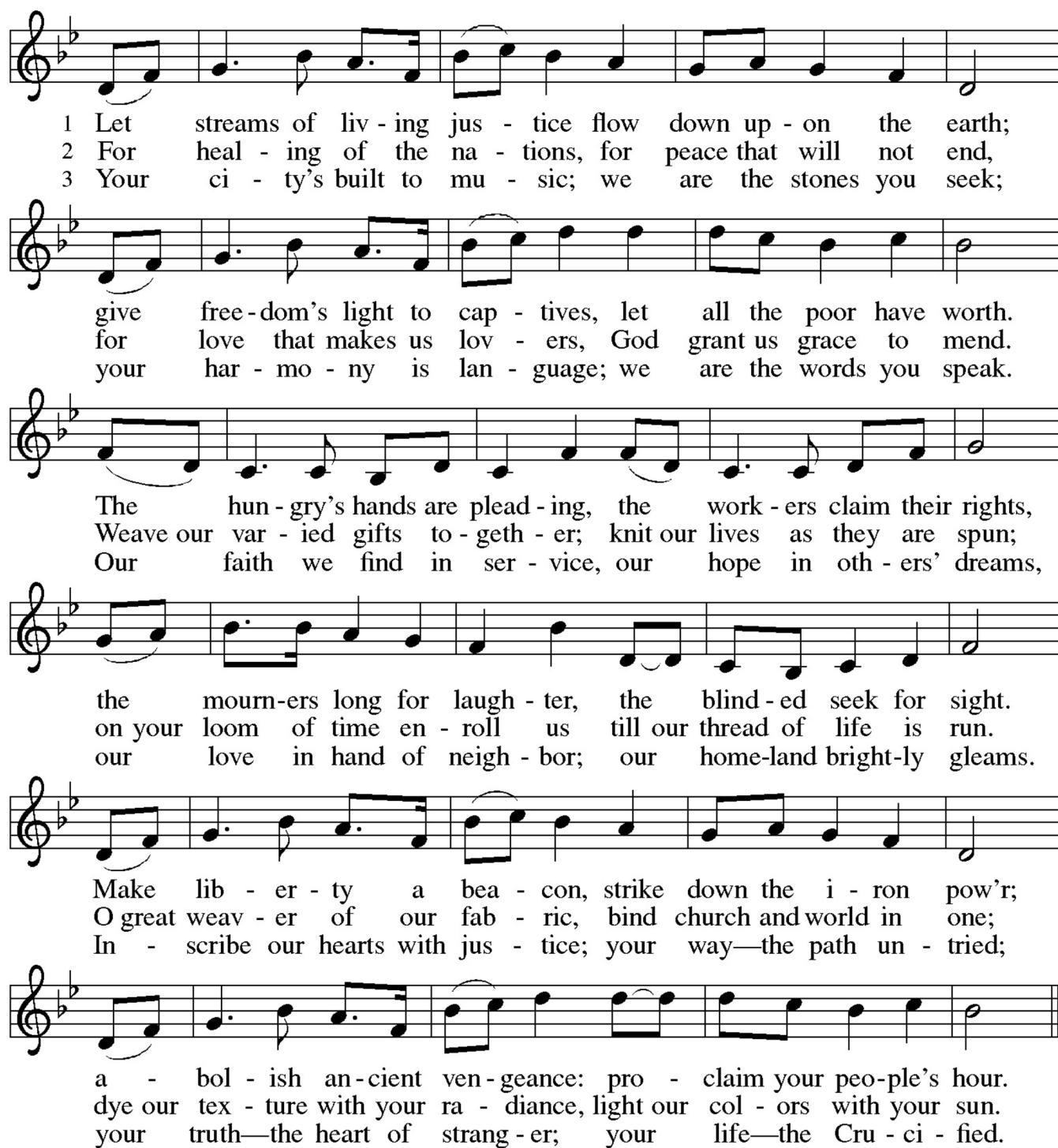
Music: AUSTIN, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



- 1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
- 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
- 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
- 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
 by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
 stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press

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Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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JANUARY HAPPENINGS

Pray Without Ceasing - 1st and 3rd Mondays at 5:30 PM - Chapel

Open prayer space on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 5:30.

The service lasts about a half hour. Rooted in Christian tradition, open to Tucson community.

Come & See - Tuesdays, 11 AM - Patio Room

Weekly faith formation conversations for everyone. This fall we will focus on the upcoming readings for the week. We'll spend time with the "Hidden Gem" reflection prepared by John Indermark, which will take us deeper into one of the texts. Held in the Patio Room. Bring your Bible or borrow one of our Lutheran Study Bibles.

Centering Prayer - Paused for January

Grief Group - January 10, 10AM - Ramada Room

Meets the second Saturday of each month in the Ramada Room at 10:00AM. Led by Pastor Ricki from Hospice of the Valley. Free and open to all.

Gospel of Luke Book Study - Monday January 5, and 19 at 6:30PM

Ched Myers, Healing Affluenza and Resisting Plutocracy - Luke's Jesus and Sabbath Economics. This journey with Luke will challenge us personally, in our households, and our communities, both locally and globally. Contact: Paula Miller for more information.

Common Ground on the Border - January 15-18, The Good Shepherd Church (Sahuarita, AZ)

Join others for "Changes in a Changeless Desert: A Celebration of commitment, compassion, and community across the US/Mexico borderlands." Immersion trips, classes, keynote lectures, food, film and music. You can attend for all or some. There will be a group carpooling on Saturday afternoon from Our Saviour's.

Who Told You That You Were Naked? Breaking Free from Shame to Embrace the Body as a Gift from God, Jan 24, 1:30 - 3:30 PM, Activity Building

Rev. Beverly Dale (ordained Disciples of Christ minister) will teach from her book "Who Told You That You Were Naked." The workshop will address body discomfort and pain that have their basis in shame and harmful theology. Rev. Dale will talk about aging, gender roles, self-esteem, and trauma. With grace, acceptance, non-judgement and laughter, participants will be guided through reflective exercises to begin finding healing correctives. Hosted by Our Saviour's. Intended for adults.

Raingarden Workday - January 31, 8 am - Noon

We will continue working with Watershed Management Group to make good use of God's rain and sun as we beautify our west campus and welcome more pollinators and desert-friendly plants and flowers. Workers and treat-makers needed!

Save the Date - Sunday, February 8 - Congregational Annual Meeting (following worship)

Recycling Program

Our plastic program is on hold for now. Please recycle #1, #2, and #5 in your own blue bin. We hope to resume when we can provide more training and have more volunteer support. Thank you to all who have helped support this program!

THOSE SERVING TODAY

12/28/2025

Presiding Minister	Rev. Amalia Vagts
Reflections	Paula Miller, Sharon Reinbott
Assisting Minister	Linda Zizka
Communion Assistants	Bonnie Phelps, Jennifer Strand
Acolyte	Jennifer Strand
Keyboard	Betsy Dunlap
Music	Ben Tully, David Lester
Usher	Patty Sirls, Hildi Williams
Greeter	Fred and Donna Hudson
Cross Bearer	Jennifer Strand
Coffee Host	Vagts Family
Treats	Vagts Family
Tech Team	Pflibsen/Bustamante
Scripture Background	John Indermark

THOSE SERVING SUNDAY

1/4/2026

Presiding Minister	Rev. Amalia Vagts
Assisting Minister	Jennifer Strand
Communion Assistants	Bonnie Phelps, Pam Hardman, Deacon Wendi Van Beek
Acolyte	Jennifer Strand
Keyboard	Betsy Dunlap
Cantor	Joy Bulawa
Usher	Diane Siefkes, Patty Sirls
Greeter	Gloria Schmidt
Cross Bearer	Bonnie Phelps
Coffee Host	Kris Sanchez
Treats	Wyatt/Bales Families
Tech Team	Pflibsen/Bustamante
Scripture Background	John Indermark

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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Tucson, Arizona 85719

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E-Mail: oslc@lutherantucson.org

Sunday Worship Times

9:00 - Sanctuary
Coffee following

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ministry Team

Rev. Amalia Vagts (ex 1004)
pastoramalia@lutherantucson.org

Michele Ruttinger
Parish Administrator
Michele@lutherantucson.org

Dr. Aysen Millioğulları
Music Director
Aysen@lutherantucson.org

Betsy Dunlap
Interim Collaborative Musician

David Zezulka
Interim Campus Caretaker

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Deacon Wendi Van Beek
Interim Director
wendi.lcmuofa@gmail.com
www.lcmuofa.org
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. Or, contact the church office to set up regular online giving.



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