



Blessing the Ordinary

Jan Richardson

Let these words lay themselves like a blessing upon your head, your shoulders	that reaches out to gather up these words in the bowl of its palm.
as if, like hands, they could pass on to you what you most need for this day	You may think this blessing lives within these words but I tell you it lives in the opening and in the reaching;
as if they could anoint you not merely for the path ahead	it lives in the ache where this blessing begins;
but for this ordinary moment that opens itself to you—	it lives in the hollow made by the place where the hands of this blessing meet.
opens itself like another hand that unfurls itself,	

We are nearing the end of what is called “Ordinary Time” in the church calendar. These are the weeks that follow Pentecost until the new church year begins with the first Sunday of Advent. Between now and then, we’ll celebrate Reformation Day (which coincides with the weekend celebration of our 80th Anniversary) and All Saints Day. Then the paraments and banners in our Sanctuary will be changed from green to blue as we anticipate the new telling of an old and sacred story.

In times when much may feel new or strange, even confusing and terrifying, may the blessing and reminders of the ordinary ground you in God’s goodness and the healing and connection that is found in Christ.

Pastor Amalia

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Joanna Keyl

**LUTHERAN CAMPUS
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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** - Jennifer Strand**October 2025**

The Council meeting started with a devotion emphasizing that God is with us through good and bad times. Financially we continue to do well. In fact, the offerings during the summer did not drop off. Thank you for your continued generosity.

We discussed several property matters. We replaced two HVAC units for the Annex Building and received a report for all HVAC units (age, cost, condition) so we can plan. The freezer in the Activity Building has been fixed! Later in the year we will have the continuation of the watershed work, with a Congregation Work Day on Saturday, December 6. Look for more information in the future.

To complete the Council, Joanna Keyl was unanimously elected to be a Member At Large. We look forward to working with her. Joanna is filling Melanie Bowman's Council position until the Annual Meeting in February 2026 when elections will be held.

In 2024, the Council voted to pause reinvesting quarterly payments from a non-endowment bequest account and instead invest in our community and congregation.

The amount is about \$8,000 a year. So far this year, the Council has designated the following use of these funds: \$1,000 to Blenman Elementary for classroom supplies; \$1,000 for the Lot on 22nd Thanksgiving Meal (and weekly meals); \$500 for the Affirming Lutherans of Tucson booth at Tucson Pride; and \$1,000 towards costs for the 80th Anniversary Celebration.

Work continues on the 80th Anniversary celebration on October 25, 2025. There is still a need for people to participate in the history walk in any capacity. The skits are not Shakespeare, but light fun. Memorization is not required. Please RSVP (online or in the office.) This is just to give an idea of the number of people coming. Come and enjoy learning more about our church history and celebrating with our church family.



The choir season at Our Saviour's has begun, and we are thrilled to share the gift of music with our congregation once again! Our first service was on September 21st, featuring Seek Ye First (choral setting by Douglas E. Wagner). The Chancel Choir has been preparing a beautiful selection to open this season of worship. Over the coming months, the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, and Chancel Band will continue to enhance our services with meaningful music.

I would also like to welcome our new choral scholar, soprano Joy Marie Bulawa. She has been a prominent member of the Helios Ensemble and the Neoteric Choir, and we are delighted to have her join us this season. I began my journey at Our Saviour's as a choral scholar, and now, passing this role to Joy, I am confident she will bring a new energy to our choir with her talent, positive, and passionate attitude.

We are grateful for the gifts of our Interim Collaborative Musician, Betsy Dunlap. We welcome the Chancel Band on Sunday October 5.

Lutheran Campus Ministry - Deacon Wendi Van Beek**October 2025**

Friends and neighbors,

You may have seen some new, and some familiar, faces on our Our Saviour's campus these past few weeks.

The students have returned to University of Arizona and Pima Community College, and have returned to our Wednesday night dinner worship at the LCM House! The house is alive with home cooked meals, and the sounds of laughter and singing and worship. We, LCM-ers, are so grateful for the way that Our Saviour's has welcomed us back and prayed for us during worship. You have reached out to ask how we are settling in, and if we are in need of anything, and offered us your prayers. Your hospitality, and your care for us in our ministry is a direct result of being Christ-centered community in the heart of Tucson. We are grateful to be in ministry with you!



God's Peace,

Deacon Wendi





Sandwich Making every Sunday after worship We make about 100 sandwiches that will be served the next day at the welcome center at Grace St. Paul Episcopal Church. We can often use an extra hand or two with sandwiches following worship.

Quilt Ministry Third Tuesday of every month in AB

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 6:30 in the AB Cafe

If you wish to join us in person, come to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at the Activity Building in the Cafe. We will have copies of the lesson printed for you. If you wish to join us by zoom, you will print the lesson. Please contact Annette Chavez at amchavez111@yahoo.com for more information.

Wednesday Bible Study Wednesdays at 10:30 AM AB Pocket Room

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

ICS - Interfaith Community Services

ICS Food Bank kicks off its biggest food drive of the year. Holiday season is almost here and ICS Food Bank kicks off its biggest food drive of the year. The flyer is attached and thanks for your donations and support for the Tucson community.
Angie Grandison

Youth On Their Own

At Youth On Their Own, there is a place, known as the MiniMall, where your in-kind donations are shelved in a store format. Students have access to the MiniMall once a week, either online or by visiting in person. As of 9/10/2025, the wish list from the YOTO website contains the list shown below. At the moment, the item in particular need is underwear for teenage boys and girls. School supplies are also in demand, as the school year is now underway. Thank you so much for your generosity. The YOTO personnel are always so happy to see me with the donations from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. **Food:** Individually packaged snacks (chips, granola bars, trail mix, fruit snacks, jerky, etc.), Mac & cheese cups, Raman cups & pouches, Dry pasta, Pasta sauce (no glass please), Canned fruit, Shelf-stable milk (dairy & non-dairy) **Hygiene:** Toilet paper, Body wash, Shampoo (full-sized), Conditioner (full-sized), Face wash, Shaving cream, Chapstick, Toothbrushes **Linens/Household:** Full size bath towels (new only), Pillows (new only), Paper towels, Multipurpose cleaner, Toilet cleaner.
Asher Havenhill

The Lot on 22nd Street

On a vacant lot near 22nd St & Columbus Blvd in Tucson, is a storage unit. It looks humble, and if you didn't know it was there, you probably wouldn't notice it. But every Sunday and Thursday evening for a couple of hours, a small miracle occurs there. This is the site where The Lot on 22nd Street does its thing. A core group of volunteers and some people from a local organization (business, school, church, etc.) get together to serve dinner to a group of homeless people. Tables and chairs from the storage unit are set up for dining, some tables are set up for a serving line, the local organization who has signed up to help that day shows up with food and volunteers to help serve. The number of people served could be anywhere from about 50 to several hundred on a given evening.

In the past, we (Mary and Asher) have been involved in coordinating a Thanksgiving Dinner, served on Thanksgiving Day at The Lot. Last year, we used the kitchen at Our Saviour's to prepare the food we had collected over a period of several months. Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church was also involved and provided donations they had collected. Later in the afternoon, some volunteers from The Lot took the food we had prepared to be served. Something like 350 people were served that day, and there were some leftovers. The leftovers were either taken to homeless individuals at nearby parks or used for the meal the following Sunday at The Lot.

This year, we will be collecting donations from anyone in the Our Saviour's congregation (and beyond) who would like to help. This is a wonderful ministry, so please consider making a donation and/or helping in the kitchen on Thanksgiving Day. More details will follow. Stay tuned for more information.
Mary & Asher Havenhill

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

October 2025 Calendar

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
These are community organized events held at Our Saviour's. More information can be found on our Events Page - https://lutherantucson.org/events-page						

5 Sunday Worship 9AM Chancel Band Presiding Rev. Martha Sturm Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	6 *Mindful Meditation Ramada Room 1:30pm Pray Without Ceasing Chapel 5:30 PM Bell Choir sanctuary 6:30pm	7 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Property 9AM Library Staff Meeting 10:00AM Come and See 11:00AM Centering Prayer 12:15PM	8 Bible Study 10:30am Pocket Room LCM Dinner and Worship 6:00pm	9 Choir Practice 6:30pm	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 Grief Support Group 10:00am Ramada Room
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19 Sunday Worship 9AM Preaching Rev. Ron Rude Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM Newcomer Meeting 10:30 AM	20 *Mindful Meditation Ramada Room 1:30pm Pray Without Ceasing Chapel 5:30 PM Bell Choir sanctuary 6:30pm	21 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:30AM Staff Meeting 10:00AM Come and See 11:00AM Centering Prayer 12:15PM	22 Bible Study 10:30am Pocket Room LCM Dinner and Worship 6:00pm	23 Choir Practice 6:30pm	24 OFFICE CLOSED AB Setup for 80th Celebration	25 80th Celebration
26 Reformation Sunday Sunday Worship 9AM Newcomers Received Coffee 10AM Sandwich Making 10:30AM	27 *Mindful Meditation Ramada Room 1:30pm Bell Choir sanctuary 6:30pm	28 *Men's Bible Study 7:00AM - AB Staff Meeting 10:00AM Come and See 11:00AM Centering Prayer 12:15PM	29 Roadrunner Assembly 9:00AM Pato Room	30 Choir Practice 6:30pm	31 OFFICE CLOSED	



OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

Come & See - Tuesdays, 11 AM

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. Please note the new day and time.

Centering Prayer - Tuesdays, 12:15

Centering Prayer is a form of Christian contemplation that involves sitting in silence, focusing on a sacred word, consenting to God's presence and action within. We pray for 20 minutes. Held in Koch Chapel. Beginners welcome!

Newcomer Gatherings - October 19, following Worship

If you are new to the Our Saviour's community and thinking about joining, or engaging more deeply in worship and community life, and would like to get to know more about Our Saviour's, please join a Newcomer Gathering on September 7 and 21. We will meet in the Activity Building "Pocket Room" following worship. Email Pastor Amalia if you would like to sign up or learn more. We will receive newcomers to the congregation in worship on October 26 (Reformation Day).

Grief Group - October 11, 10AM

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.

Via de Cristo Weekend October 9 - 12. This is a three-day retreat based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The purpose of Via de Cristo is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, and communities. See Kathy DeVinney or Pam Hardman for more information.

80TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebration!



We will start with a walk through our History presented by our own intrepid thespians, your neighbors in the pew. Each skit on our walk will celebrate our long journey through eighty years, can you believe it?, eighty years of colleagues, partners, contributors, leaders, friends. All working together to make our church a haven to strengthen our service to the community.

We'll meet in the Sanctuary at 10am, meet our Tour Guide and see our history come alive through our talented fellow members, then gather together for a celebratory meal with friends old and new, some visiting especially to relive their time with us. Good food and more history through photos and artifacts of our years together.

Don't forget our history sneak-peek and workshop on Sunday, September 28. Help us create spectacular protoboard displays for the big day!

And we'll see you at the party on Saturday, October 26!



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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.

Pray Without Ceasing

The first and third Monday of the month at 5:30PM in Koch Chapel

Come and See

Every Tuesday at 11:00AM in the Patio Room

Centering Prayer

Every Tuesday at 12:15PM in Koch Chapel



Save the date: Saturday October 25, 2025 80 years of Service & Love

We will hold a special day of events on Saturday, October 25, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM to celebrate the past, present, and future of Our Saviour's. The coordinating committee is: Mary Lou Forier, Patty Sirs, and Jennifer Strand.

Call for Actors! Help us bring our story to life. Talk to the Coordinating Committee.