



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Tanque Verde Lutheran Church

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TVLC.ORG

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Overview

*A COMMUNITY CHURCH
WHERE YOU ARE WELCOME*



OVERVIEW

A Message From the Lead Pastor



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on this past year, my heart is filled with gratitude. I am thankful for the ways God has been at work in our congregation — through the worship, service, fellowship, and growth that takes place when this community gathers, and through the love and light that is shared when we go forth from this place into our everyday lives.

Thanks to the continued generosity of our congregation our Grace Upon Grace effort has continued to move forward. In July, we celebrated the dedication of our renovated education building. Since then, it has been put to good use for our preschool during the week and our children’s ministry on Sundays. The final capital project of the campaign, the accessible sanctuary bathroom, is underway and set to be completed this Spring. With the gifts we’ve received to date, we have a significant amount to direct towards our debt elimination and are hopeful that with

a final push we can accomplish this goal in the coming year. I am excited for the additional opportunities and ministry that the debt elimination will make possible, and look forward to sharing some of the hopes and dreams that TVLC leadership has for our future.

In September, TVLC celebrated our 50-year anniversary. It was incredibly meaningful to reflect on the ways the Spirit has moved in this place throughout the past half century. And it was inspiring to recall both God’s faithfulness and the faithfulness of so many individuals who navigated TVLC through times of growth and times of challenge to help bring us to where we are today. The celebration weekend included 7 former TVLC pastors, 3 TVLC members who went on to become pastors, our synod bishop, and many other friends who returned to be a part of the worship and banquet.

With Pastor Amy joining TVLC in February of 2024, she has now been here a full year and made one full cycle through the seasons and rhythms of TVLC. Her heart and gifts have been an incredible blessing to our congregation, and it has been wonderful to partner with her. We have also welcomed a number of other new staff members in the past year who have brought plentiful gifts and experience to our ministry team.

Looking ahead, I am excited for all God has in store for us. As we continue to follow Jesus and share his love, we are in an exciting season of embracing new opportunities that lie in front of us. I look forward the ways we will continue to grow into our vision of being a church that welcomes all, supports and cares for each other, reaches out to those in need, and helps connect the disconnected.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Gosh".

OVERVIEW

A Message From Our Associate Pastor



Dear Church,

I am overflowing with gratitude as I reflect on my first year with this incredible church community. This has been a year of newness, celebration, and connection.

From day one, I've had the pleasure of learning new names, seeing friendly faces, and hearing the unique stories of so many of you. I've been welcomed into this community of faith so warmly. Your encouragement and heartfelt support have been a profound gift, affirming that I am exactly where I need to be. I am truly grateful for the relationships we've started to build and for the trust you have placed in me to preach, teach, and provide pastoral guidance. I look forward to growing these connections even more in the years ahead.

As we have moved through the seasons of the church together this year, I have learned so much about the people, practices, and perspectives that shape this community, but there is still more room to grow. It has been a joy to join with Pastor Josh in collaboration and pastoral leadership. This church is truly blessed to have his gifts of steady guidance, faithful teaching, and compassionate care. The whole church staff, both new and veteran, are a blessing to us as they work diligently to serve God with their varied gifts.

This year, we celebrated the amazing milestone of TVLC's 50th anniversary. It was fascinating to learn the stories of our past—the lives touched by God and the history that has shaped our community. Hearing these stories, meeting previous TVLC pastors, and celebrating God's enduring faithfulness in this place inspired us all with appreciation for the vibrant history of this church and renewed hope for our future.

Leading bible study and working with the students and families of our church have been especially rewarding parts of this year. Digging deeper into God's Word is always worthwhile, as the Holy Spirit reveals new truths to us in study and community. The children of our church continually bring us joy, our confirmation students are thriving, and we are building connections with our high school students. I'm excited about the future, and I can't wait to see how we continue to nurture a space where all are enabled, equipped and empowered to follow Jesus and share His love.

As we celebrate our past and embrace the present, I'm eager to see what happens in the years to come. Let's continue growing in faith, welcoming all in love, supporting and caring for one another, reaching out to those in need, and connecting the disconnected to an abundant life in Christ here at TVLC and in our everyday lives.

With all my gratitude and joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Amy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

OVERVIEW

Congregation President



Dear Friends in Christ,

This year our Grace upon Grace campaign completed the renovation of the education building, adding fixed walls, a new bathroom, cabinets, flooring, and ceiling. The next steps are to transform the sanctuary kitchen into an accessible restroom and pay down the mortgage balance. From April 2024 to January 2025, you have donated \$131,850, and since the start of the campaign, you have donated \$985,893. Thank you for your incredible generosity. We added 33 new members to our congregation this past year. Our baptized membership is now at 717. We have been averaging about 328 people at in-person services. Our choir and musicians continue to beautifully integrate faith and music as a core part of the TVLC worship experience!

In April we had our annual congregational meeting and elected three new members, Tami Carrisosa, Kris Hansen, and Matt Neilson, to the Congregation Council. We had three people, Marge Johnson, Toby Moore, and Patrick Williams, who left Council. It has been a privilege to serve with all the individuals who serve on Church Council. They continue to challenge and inspire me as we work together to discover the Lord's will here in this Christian community. We had a significant amount of staff transition in 2024, saying goodbye to some longtime employees and welcoming new faces. We continue to be blessed with a faithful and gifted staff that helps keep TVLC ministry running smoothly.

September 29, 2024, we celebrated the 50 Year Anniversary of God's grace at TVLC and the ways God continues to move in this place. Former pastors, members, and invited guests celebrated with us sharing memories, milestones, and photos. God's Work Our Hands Days of Service were observed on October 18th & 19th by packing rice and sack lunches for distribution, we collected donations to TVLC Food Ministry, by offering free paper shredding and electronic recycling for the community. The TVLC Endowment Committee started back up in 2024 and was able to make contributions to ministry projects in the community and at TVLC.

In February 2025 a LSS Refugee Resettlement Program refugee family has been referred to the TVLC Refugee Welcome Committee who will assist them in becoming established in their new home. Additionally, the TVLC Council approved \$10,000 in funding from the Discretionary Fund and the Food Ministry has donated \$3,000 earmarked for food from their funds for the LSS Refugee Resettlement Program Your generous support of our food ministry enabled us to provide bountiful holiday meals and extra groceries for families at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our food bank provided emergency food bags for those in need in our community as well as supplemental food baskets to several other organizations to overcome food insecurity. Household Blessings Ministry has been able to provide kitchen/bath items, linens, furniture, clothing and other household items to those in need, including the refugee families we support. Household Blessings works with our ministry partners to supply New Home Starter Kits. I hope in the following pages, you will rejoice in the desire our congregation has for following Jesus and sharing his love in our community and the world. If you have a passion for something you see in these pages or see the need for a ministry that inspires you, please reach out to a Council or Staff member to find your place within our community of faith.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberle Kennedy

OVERVIEW

Congregation Council · Personnel

Congregation Council



The members of our Congregation Council meet monthly. Their duties include the general oversight of the life and activities of TVLC, including its worship life. They are also responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation. Members of the congregation are welcome at all meetings with exception for rare occasions that the council needs to meet in Executive

The **Personnel Committee** oversees activities and functions that impact the employees of TVLC. This includes providing employees with a manual that explains the work parameters and condition of employment, ensuring salaries are competitive, and ensuring that the church is a safe and supportive environment for each employee to be successful. The committee monitors changes in state laws that affect employees. We are grateful for Phoebe Coleman's long-time service as chairperson of the Personnel Committee. Phoebe stepped down in June 2024 and Gayle Tonon was appointed as the new chair. In addition to Gayle, current committee members include Ralph Jensen, Marge Johnson, Tami Carrisosa, and Carol Paulsen

Multiple staff positions became vacant during the previous calendar year.

- Vickie Denning began the year filling the Communications Director position on an interim basis. Delana Connick came on board to fill the role in May 2024.

- Tara Hudson stepped down as Children's Ministry Director in May 2024. The position was filled in August 2024 by Tori Wendell.

- TVLC's Business and Facilities Manager, Joe Paugh, retired in August 2024. Jim Liebeskind was hired in August to replace him.

- Alexis burrows stepped down as the 10:30 service worship leader in September 2024. Jakub Rojek was hired in October 2024 to fill the position.

Through the transitions, the staff performed at a high level and have continued to help Pastor Josh, Pastor Amy, and the TVLC congregation continue forward in carrying out our mission. **Gayle Tonon**

Council

Top Row:

Toby Moore

Johnice Mitchell

Matt Lauber

Ed Hudson

Bottom Row:

Cristene York

Linda McDaniel

Kimberle Kennedy

Kris Hansen

Becky Copp

Not Pictured:

Tami Carrisosa & Matt Neilson

Personnel Committee

Gayle Tonon

Ralph Jensen

Tami Carrisosa

Jim Liebeskind

Carol Paulsen

Pastor Josh

OVERVIEW

Grace Upon Grace

Grace Upon Grace

Three years ago, we asked you to look towards the future of TVLC and venture forward in faith through our Grace Upon Grace campaign. We identified four mission-critical projects that would help us live into our call to follow Jesus and share his love in the coming years by enhancing our worship spaces, strengthening our children’s ministry and community outreach, and wisely stewarding our financial resources.

Thanks to your generosity and faithfulness, TVLC has been able to boldly step forward into this future, and we cannot be more excited about the progress that has been made! The playground, chapel, and education building renovations have all been completed and have greatly enhanced TVLC’s ministry on multiple levels. With the way the renewed spaces are utilized and enjoyed daily, it is hard to imagine life without them.

Construction for the accessible sanctuary restroom is underway and we anticipate it being completed in Spring 2025. This space will enrich TVLC’s welcome to those with limited mobility, families, and any in need of assistance.

The final focus of the Grace Upon Grace effort is the elimination of our remaining mortgage debt. With the money raised to date, we have been able to significantly cut down our principal balance. With an additional \$170,000 of contributions, we can pay off our remaining mortgage debt by the end of 2025.

This goal is important for a couple of key reasons. First, mortgage payments currently amount to \$162,000 annually, around 15% of our operating budget. Eliminating our debt will provide financial flexibility to embrace upcoming ministry opportunities and overcome unforeseen challenges. The council and staff leadership have already identified vital facility needs, additional staffing, and expanded community outreach that would be possible with this additional funding. Second, our current interest rate of 3.75% is set to expire in January 2026. Given current market conditions, we would likely have a much higher interest rate going forward which would increase our monthly payments and put a strain on our general fund budget.

Reaching this goal is challenging but possible! We are planning a special appeal this fall where we will work together to complete this final Grace Upon Grace objective. As we face an uncertain future, we have the ability to further strengthen TVLC and position our church to be a place of refuge and a source of love and light in our community for years to come. I hope you will prayerfully consider how you can help us achieve this in the coming year and into the future! **Pastor Josh & Pastor Amy**



OVERVIEW

Life of Faith

Life of Faith

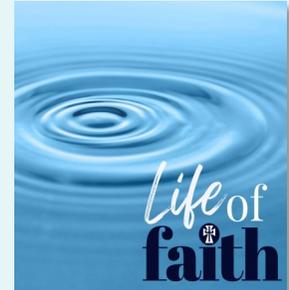
TVLC has been involved in the Life of Faith Initiative since the fall of 2022. Its purpose is to support and equip people to live out their faith in family, workplace, school, local community, and the world to recognize and affirm God's ministry that we are already doing in our daily roles and relationships.

Members of the Life of Faith Guiding Team are Pastor Josh Auchenbach, Pastor Amy Janssen, Kimberle Kennedy, Carol Paulsen, and Kathy Puls.

In the spring of 2023, the TVLC Guiding Team met with initiative leaders, other participating congregations, and ELCA coaches to gather and share information to discern how to best connect faith at church and life in the world in our congregation. Since then, the Guiding Team ensures that ongoing sermons series are designed to highlight how our ministries happen both through our congregational activities and our daily lives. Additionally, throughout the year interview sermons are scheduled inviting congregation members to share how they see their personal and professional lives as part of a larger call to serve their neighbors and the world God loves.

The 2023-2024 TVLC Council and other groups have read and discussed, *The Scattering: Imagining a Church that Connects Faith and Life* by Dwight DuBois. The Guiding Team created and is distributing Life of Faith conversation starter cards within TVLC ministries and committees. The cards pose questions designed to encourage thoughtful discussions about how and where God's grace shows up in the everyday experiences of their lives.

In 2025 an adult education class focusing on Luther's Small Catechism was offered for long-time Lutherans and those who are new to the faith. The class's purpose is to generate meaningful conversations about the biblical and historical context of the Small Catechism as well as its link to our lives today. Additional adult education is planned for the near future.



Life of Faith Team

Kimberle Kennedy

Carol Paulsen

Kathy Puls

Pastor Carol Karres

Pastor Josh

Pastor Amy



OVERVIEW

Staff



JOSH AUCHENBACH
Lead Pastor



AMY JANSSEN
Associate Pastor



LARS ANDERSEN
Accompanist & Organist



ALEXIS BURROWS
Worship Leader



DELANA CONNICK
Communications Director



TORI WENDELL
Children's Ministry Director



BRENDA JORDAN
Bookkeeper



CARI LINDSEY
Director of Preschool & Kindergarten



SHERRI MCCLELLAN
Director of Worship and Administration



JIM LIEBESKIND
Business & Facilities Manager



JAYLE SINCLAIR
Student Ministry Coordinator



JENNIFER WORTMAN
Chancel & Children's Choir Director



HASHEM ZAREI
Campus Care Coordinator

Connect

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE



CONNECT

Children’s Ministry—Tori Wendell



2024 was a year of change in Children’s Ministry as Tara Hudson retired as director of Children’s Ministry after the end of spring semester and, I, Tori Wendell came on in the fall semester to continue this ministry. The transition was smooth and filled with God’s love, grace, and guidance as Tara Hudson, Pastor Amy, church staff, and the families of Children’s Ministry came together to help welcome me and guide me into keeping this wonderful ministry going.

First, we should celebrate all of children’s ministries accomplishments in the spring with Tara Hudson. February was the start of service projects for the kids. Partnering up with Tucson Family Volunteers, kids made Valentines for older members in our community to connect the generations and teach that Valentines celebrate all forms of God’s love.

The spring saw another round of First Communion Classes and around 15 children and their families joined to learn about the holy significance in participating in one of our core sacraments. Children learned about First Communion not just from teachers and pastors but from the adults in church through an interview assignment about communion. As well as learned to make communion bread in First Communion class to further learn and appreciate what our Altar Guild does. Children also participated and learned more about Christ through planting seeds during Easter to celebrate the Lord’s resurrection and joined our Lord’s Prayer class, another Milestone Ministry class, where around 11 children learned the Lord’s Prayer through music and dance. Spring Semester ended with a popsicle party in May at Sunday School to celebrate all of the hard work the children put into learning in class. Older kids got to review all they learned through a rambunctious game of Jeopardy that went over key points in the scripture they learned.

Students Sundays continued throughout Spring Semester, occurring on the last Sunday of the month, including when fall semester started back up. Our 3rd-5th graders have continued to learn more about ministry within church service and connect with our ushers and other church members throughout the year. We have also continued with the curriculums, Simply Loved and Be Bold, which have provided wonderful structure to our Sunday School classes. Fall Semester saw a new introduction of Gym Days, first occurring at the first Sunday of every month before later switching to every other first Sunday of the month. Both younger and older kids classes, even Kid Central, came together to learn group games together and foster a connection between the classes. A few older siblings even joined in on the fun and further encouraged children usually separated by grade levels to learn how to work and play together. Kids also continued to work in service projects during our annual God’s Work Our Hands, where they made personalized messages and cards for the lunches packed for the hungry in our community. In October, we saw families and volunteers come together for our annual Trunk or Treat with dozens of families joining in on the fun as well as older members contributing trunks, time, and energy into making this event memorable and full of safe fun for our children. Then it was time to start putting together our Christmas Program, our families and church members helped bring the Wild West back to life as 30 or so children came together to star in our “Southwest Christmas” where our cowboys and cowgirls learned and celebrated the significance of Christ’s birth. I’m proud to have gotten to be a part of this growing ministry and watch as children and families have gotten to know, befriend, and support each other and their community throughout this year. TVLC’s loving community grows as we all learn to love and serve Christ, our Lord, together in Children’s Ministry.

Tori Wendell
Children’s Ministry Director



Student Ministry—Jayle Sinclair



This year our Student Ministries enjoyed fun, food, fellowship, and faith formation! We kicked off the new year with a bowling night and had a great time connecting and building relationships on the lanes. We held summer and fall movie nights with pizza and popcorn, and an exciting day trip before school exploring Marshall Gulch on Mt. Lemmon.

Middle school confirmation resumed after New Years with Wednesday lessons on living out our faith and affirming our baptism. We were blessed to welcome Pastor Amy into our ministry in February. We worked on our Lenten Project—designing, shopping, and planting our Butterfly Garden in the inner courtyard—with guidance from our volunteer landscaper, Charlotte Cordes. The main goal of the garden was “Serving Others” and “Building Relationships,” as expressed in our baptism. Our hope was to foster relationship building by encouraging conversation through questions posted and updated every two weeks around the garden. In the fall, our confirmation middle school students began studying the beginning of the Old Testament and exploring the foundational stories of our faith. This year we had four confirmands affirm their baptism in the presence of the congregation: three in the spring and one in the fall.

Our high school students and volunteers hosted a Pancake Breakfast on Easter Morning as a fundraiser for their trip to New Orleans. Many enjoyed the pancakes! Four high school students volunteered at Ben’s Bells, creating Kindness Coins to support their mission of sharing kindness. Our teens shared these coins at the ELCA Youth Gathering to meet new people and recognize kindness. Four high school students and three adult guides attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, which kicked off our High School Hangouts ministry in the fall. Our TVLC teens meet on the first and third Sunday afternoons. About 3–7 students actively participate in High School Hangouts, enjoying fun activities, building connections, and discussing challenging questions about faith and life. This year we also partnered with other ELCA churches in Tucson for SUPER YOUTH events to build a larger high school faith community. Every two months, a different Tucson church hosts worship, an activity or service project, and a meal. TVLC plans to host SUPER YOUTH in the spring of 2025.

On the first Wednesday each month, middle and high school students and their families gather for **UNITE!** (formerly *Unplugged*). We begin with a meal and worship, including communion, followed by an all-ages service project, faith activity, or games. UNITE! nights average 20–40 students and family members. In November we completed a service project making almost 200 soup recipe packets with tasty protein for community members facing food insecurity. A speaker from the HUD VASH program, which houses local homeless veterans, joined us. Half of our soup packets were donated to veterans through HUD VASH and half to our TVLC Food Ministry for Thanksgiving. In December we shopped for and wrapped gifts for two children through the Children’s Christmas Gift Program.

Our Prayer Guardians Ministry remains a vital connection between students and the congregation. The students’ prayer hands are offered every few months to congregation members, who can pray for one or more students. Some students met with their Prayer Guardians, and homebound members found comfort knowing their prayers for a specific student were making an impact.

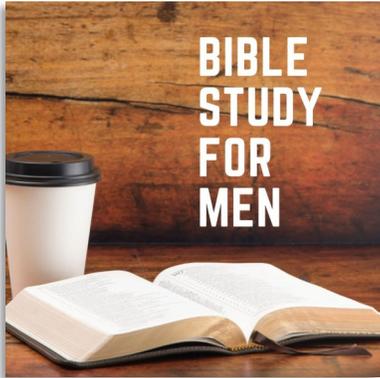
As 2025 begins, we are encouraged by the movement of the Holy Spirit in our Student Ministries. We look forward to more fun, food, fellowship, and faith formation in the coming year!

Jayle Sinclair
Student Ministry Coordinator



CONNECT

Adult and Cross-Gen Ministries

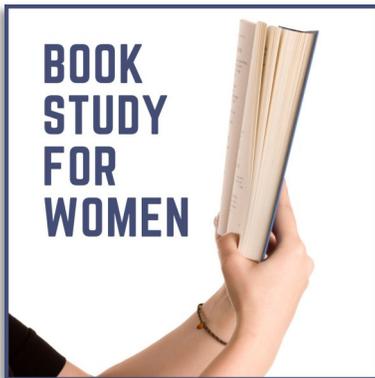
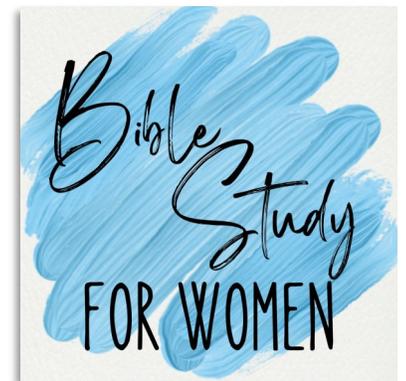


Bible Study for Men

The Bible Study for Men enjoys breakfast together on the first and third Tuesdays of each month followed by Bible study. We have around 10-12 individuals who join either in person or online. This past year has included a study of the book of Ephesians, reading C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*, and going deeper on weekly sermon topics. **Pastor Josh**

Bible Study for Women

Bible Study for Women began the year with a study on the lives of Jesus's Disciples led by Eunice Bradley-Fox. In March, Pastor Amy began leading. The rest of the year included a study on the words of the Shema Prayer (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) with videos from BibleProject.com; a discussion on the basics of Lutheran theology using the book *"The Christian Faith: from a Lutheran perspective"* by Rev. Peter W. Marty; and *the Wandering Heart* study based on Sanctified Art materials, which went along with TVLC's Advent sermon series. Generally, there are 20-25 people participating. During 2025, Pastor Amy will continue to lead the studies at 1:00 pm on Monday afternoons in Linder Hall. **Pastor Amy**

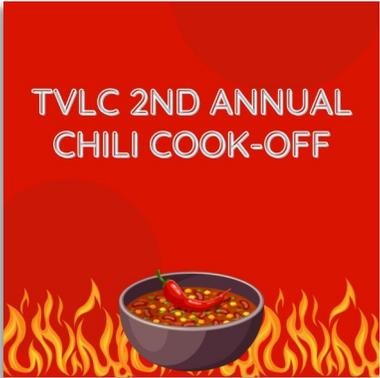


Book Study For Women

We are a member led group of ladies, that meet Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am in the Tevah Room. We choose and discuss faith based books. Last year we read 4 books: *In the Sanctuary of Women*, by Jan L. Richardson. *Letters From a Skeptic*, by Dr. Gregory A. Boyd and Edward K. Boyd. *Holy Envy*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. *An Unlikely Advent*, by Rachel Billups. Our weekly attendance is 6-10. **Beth Smith**



Adult and Cross-Gen Ministries



Chili Cook-Off

TVLC celebrated the second annual Chili Cook-off on February 17, 2024. Eighty people of all ages attended this fun evening of dancing, games, and chili tasting. Seventeen chilis were tasted. The Winner's Apron was passed on to Laura Haas in first place. Attendees again celebrated the joy of fellowship with this church-wide event. **Erin Cowan**

Feast Groups

Feast Groups are small social groups of adults or families that get together to plan and participate in sharing a meal and/or activity. Groups were formed in October with seven adult groups and three family groups. Each adult group had between six and eight members and each family group had between three and four families. Groups often invite other TVLC members to join them. Each group member participates in planning a monthly meeting. Some events included dinners at restaurants, potluck dinners in members' homes, and more. Feast groups are open each fall to anyone who is interested in getting to know others in our community in an informal and social setting. **Nancy Jindrick and Cheryl Auchenbach.**



Merry Widows

Merry Widows is a group of 6-10 widows. We have experienced the loss of a partner and this group serves as a connection with others and a way to gain insight into our own grief and loneliness. We meet once a month for lunch at various restaurants. **Mary Jane Carter**



CONNECT

Adult and Cross-Gen Ministries



Prime Timers

Prime Timers is strictly a social group for those of us who are over 50. We plan a monthly gathering from September through May. There is no membership fee, nor mandatory attendance. Whatever event is appealing or fits your schedule, you are welcome. We try to always have a meal included, and we don't repeat very often. This year we visited the Flan-dreau, enjoyed the Christmas lights at the Botanical Gardens, toured the Ranch House Kannally at Oracle State Park and had Valentine's brunch at Tanque Verde Ranch. There are nine members on the committee: Dave and Rosemary Brown, Phoebe Coleman, Shari Huffman, James Nelson, Carole Treece, Patrick Williams, and Jeanne and Steve Wilson. Suggestions for events are always welcome and if you haven't joined us as yet please come. **Shari Huffman**

Via de Cristo

Via de Cristo is one of the ministry areas at TVLC. It is a means for spiritual renewal to help strengthen the faith of Christian men and women and encourage them to become more fully committed to serving God in every area of life. Involvement with Via de Cristo begins by attending a three-day weekend based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. Tanque Verde Lutheran Church has hosted these weekends in the fall for the last twenty plus years. The 2024 weekend was held on the TVLC campus October 10-13. The weekend for 2025 is scheduled for October 9-12, 2025. Via de Cristo also bought out a performance of the Gaslight Theater's Christmas show *Scrooge* in November for an enjoyable evening spent with guests from Lutheran congregations across the city. We invite you to prayerfully consider attending the upcoming weekend. More information will be available later in the year. In the interim, you can contact our parish rep, Greg Paulsen for an application or to get further information about the weekend.



Adult and Cross-Gen Ministries



Growing in Faith: The diakonia Program

Growing in Faith: The diakonia Program is a 40+ year old ministry within the ELCA committed to fostering learning environments for followers of Jesus to grow in faith. TVLC's congregation includes 3 graduates of Diakonia legacy Program and 2 graduates of the new Growing in Faith Program. There are currently Growing in Faith online or in-person communities in the Grand Canyon Synod offering classes, retreats, and mutual care to equip followers of Jesus to live out their faith. The program accepts people where they are in their faith understanding and challenges them to grow to a deeper level. The curriculum has been recently updated. For more information visit www.diakonia.education. **Kimberle Kennedy**

Visit our website at tvlc.org/events to check out all our groups , get the latest meeting times and locations, and sign up for our weekly electronic newsletter. All groups and ministries welcome new members.

TVLC Turns Fifty!

This year TVLC Celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The weekend was filled with an abundance of familiar faces joining us to celebrate the occasion with worship, food, and fellowship. Many former pastors were a part of the celebration and contributed to a video recalling God's faithfulness at TVLC for the past half century.



CONNECT

TVLC Preschool & Kindergarten



Tanque Verde Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten is celebrating year 46! The continued support of our school is such a blessing.

The Tanque Verde Lutheran Preschool/Kindergarten continues to provide classes for children ages 2-5 years old. Morning and afternoon enrichment classes are also available in addition to the regular classes for children who are 3-5 years of age. The enrichment classes accommodate the varying needs and schedules of our parents. Our Kindergarten class is an all-day program that accommodates 18 children. Most years all of the preschool and kindergarten classes are full.

Weekly chapel is still a blessing. We are able to take a little extra time each week to learn about God's love and show the children all that God has done for us. We are lucky to have a pastoral staff and school board that supports and blesses the kids with surprise guests for some of our chapels.

The TVLC School Board is comprised of 3-5 voting church members who meet with non-voting members that include the School Director, Assistant Director and Church Council Liaison. The School Board meets monthly to discuss, give advice, approve and evaluate important issues concerning the school. The school board has been a huge support to the school as we navigate each year. TVLCPK is thankful for the support of TVLC members and staff. The TVLC staff are always a huge help throughout each school year. We continue to appreciate all of the ACSTO and IBE tax credit donations that benefit our Kindergarten. Families who would not otherwise be able to send their children to our Kindergarten are thankful for these grants! We are currently preparing for a busy second-half of the school year. We have conferences, registration, Mom's Day, Spring Carnival, Dad's Day, Water Days and Graduation all in a few short months. Our prayer is that we will continue to have a healthy, safe and memorable school year.



One of the many things that I love about this school is the unpredictability each year brings. There is always a new adventure to experience! We are looking forward to trying a new version of Summer Camp in June. Requesting prayer for an opportunity to touch many children's lives with a full school. We are excited to see what God has in store for us in the 2025-2026 school year!

Respectfully Submitted,
Cari Lindsey, School Director



Serve

*WE WALK TOGETHER IN LIFE
WE SERVE TOGETHER IN FAITH*

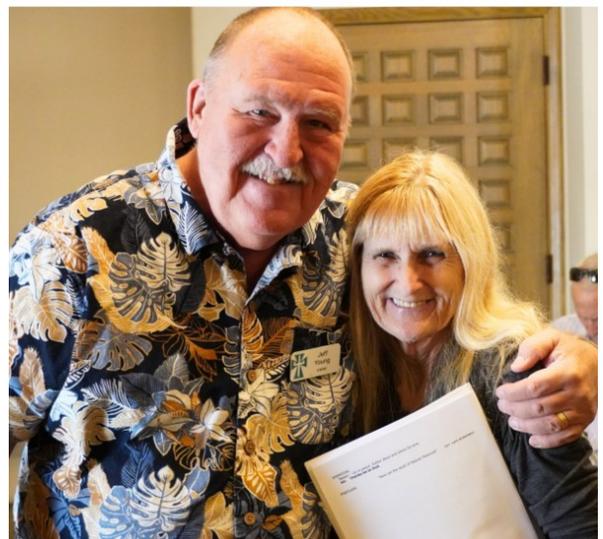


SERVE

At TVLC — Multiple Ministries

Members and friends serve and make an impact at TVLC in a multitude of ways, often behind the scenes. Your skills are needed and we look forward to helping you find the right fit. Talk with our pastors or a staff member to take the next step. Check out some of the opportunities to serve at TVLC below.

Library & Gift Shop — TVLC's Library & Gift Shop serves our members, visitors, the TVLC Preschool and Kindergarten, and the community at large. We have over 8,300 titles for loan in the library's collection of fiction and nonfiction books, games, CDs and DVDs. With the help of generous donors, over 500 items were added to our collection in 2024. 810 items were checked out. The Library also facilitated the giveaway of children's books, beginning in 2024, again with the help of a very generous donor. Hundreds of books have already been shared with our community! View our catalog, reserve items, and more at <https://tvlcaz.booksys.net/> (choose the "Display" option). The Gift Shop, located within the library, offers cards, books, jewelry, home and seasonal decorations, and unique items crafted by the TVLC community. All proceeds benefit the Library, Grace Upon Grace, and other designated TVLC ministries. The TVLC Library Team is so very thankful for your support. Please stop in and see what's new! **Julie Muirhead**



SERVE

At TVLC — Multiple Ministries

Prayer Ministry — This faithful team of 24 prays for those in the congregation and larger community who have requested prayer intercession. The group received 166 prayer requests for individuals and families for health, strength, support, comfort, peace, healing, guidance, and sympathy. **Sherri McClellan**

Studies and Classes — Volunteers assist with or lead Sunday School during the 9:15am service, Kid Central during the 10:30am service, student ministry, and adult Bible and book studies.

Caring Friends — The TVLC Caring Friends ministry provides visitation and communion to homebound TVLC members. In addition to the pastors, the team consists of 6 members and regularly visits around 15 homebound individuals. **Pastor Josh**



SERVE

At TVLC — Property & Botanical

Property Management & Botanical Team

In 2024, the Property Committee undertook an array of projects aimed at enhancing our campus, ensuring it remains a beautiful and welcoming environment for all who visit. This year, we focused not only on visible improvements but also on essential behind-the-scenes maintenance that ensures the functionality and longevity of our facilities. As we reflect on our accomplishments, we are filled with excitement to witness God's work unfolding in our property. Major highlights listed below:

Roof Repairs and Maintenance: Addressing leaks was a significant focus this year. We patched and sealed multiple areas on the roofs of Linder Hall and the NFLC, ensuring these structures remain weatherproof and functional.

Signage Enhancements: We installed a variety of new signs throughout the campus to improve navigation and communication. New sign frames were added, including those for the NFLC and educational buildings, alongside clear restroom indicators.

Interior Improvements: Our team worked diligently to replace water-damaged ceiling tiles in classrooms and the NFLC kitchen. We also painted various interiors, including bathrooms and common areas.

HVAC System Maintenance: We undertook a thorough inspection and maintenance of our HVAC systems, replacing worn belts and filters.

Maintenance Shop Renovation: A significant achievement was the complete renovation of the maintenance shop in the NFLC. This project transformed an outdated space into an organized and efficient area.

As we look back on the year, it is clear that the Property Committee's hard work has significantly enhanced our facilities. Each project, contributes to a greater purpose — creating a space that reflects our values and mission.

Ralph Lucht

Property Management & Botanical Team

Charlotte Cordes

Gordon Hunter

Brian Lauber

Matt Lauber

Jim Liebeskind (Staff)

Ralph Lucht (Chair)

Mike Muirhead

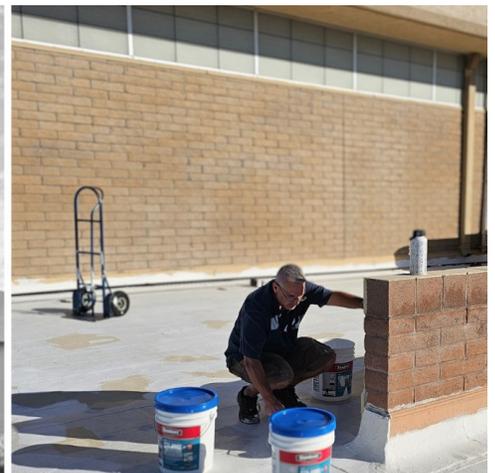
Curt Peters

Art Slatin

John Sundby

Lyle Trotter

Pastor Josh



At TVLC — Risk Management

Risk Management Team

Karl Deutsch
(Chair)

Brian Lauber

Jim Liebeskind (Staff)

Mike Muirhead

Jim Verhaege

Pat Williams

Karen Yodice

The Risk Management team continues to assess and evaluate potential risks to the TVLC campus and its visitors. We've completed the traditional inspections for the fire alarm system, extinguishers, AED systems and first aid boxes. They are all functioning properly and are operational. Evacuation floor plans have been placed near exit doors to identify critical items including fire extinguishers and phones as well as a way to egress the area. The RM team continues to maintain close relationships with local fire, police and Sheriff's departments to ensure we are made aware of any concerns that may affect the TVLC campus. Our team continues to review operations prior to major church events such as our shredding event, Christmas and Easter services to see where issues may arise and what can be done to prevent them. As part of that we provide an increased presence around the parking lot and campus during large church gatherings maintaining a vigilant presence to ensure safety for all. This past year we adjusted signage for parking and exiting the campus to help people leave



the campus safely and efficiently. If you have anything you'd like to pass along, please don't hesitate to reach out to any one of us or email the Risk Management Team at RiskManagement@tvlc.org.



SERVE

At TVLC — Stewardship · Endowment



Stewardship Ministry a call to serve and love our neighbors through a generous response to God's abundance with time, talent and treasure.

In fall 2024, we set aside some time to talk about generosity and think intentionally what our call to commit to supporting God's work at TVLC will look like in the coming year. The *More than Enough* emphasis considered how in a world that often operates from a mindset of scarcity, we serve a God of abundance who intends us to experience and share in this fullness. We sought to embrace the freedom from fear that Jesus imparts to us, and seek to give, serve, and live with generous and open hearts.

The financial portion of the campaign culminated on November 16-17 with a celebration of food and fellowship — including a bounce house — and enjoyed the beautiful weather on the NFLC patio. 190 commitments were received totaling \$681,317. We are thankful for your continued response to support the mission and ministry of TVLC on our campus, community and the world.



Our TVLC family generously shares its time and talents in our many ministries. We invite new members to share their talents and interests so that we can best match them to our ministries. We lift up our ministries regularly in our communications to ensure the congregation can find their calling. **Pastor Josh, Pastor Amy & Delana Connick**

The TVLC Endowment Fund was established in 1987 to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of the congregation. The fund is invested in the ELCA Foundation Endowment Trust. At the end of 2024, the fund balance was \$152,562.35.

Current Endowment Fund Committee members are Kimberle Kennedy, Michele Stone, Gerald Spaniol, and Pastor Josh Auchenbach. After a few years of being dormant due to Covid-related challenges, a committee was reformed and convened in June 2024. The group created application forms, posting them in the Connect newsletter and distributing them to selected ministries and organizations. The \$6000 annual distribution amount was approved by TVLC's Council in July 2024. The 2024 Endowment Fund recipients were \$2,000 - Sister Jose' Women's Center Eat and Connect Program, \$2,000 - San Juan Bautista Lutheran Church's sound system replacement which had been destroyed in an electrical storm, and \$700 Tevah Room replacement chairs for ministry and program meetings. The \$1,300 balance will be carried forward for disbursement in 2025. We invite you to consider memorial gifts to the Endowment Fund and to include the Endowment Fund in your planned giving. Also, if you know of ministry opportunities that could use the support of the endowment, contact one of the committee members. **Kimberle Kennedy**

At TVLC — Worship & Music

The year’s journey through 2024 began with our lead pastor, Rev. Josh Auchenbach at the helm with the support of church members Pastor George and Pastor Carol Karres as the TVLC Call Committee continued its search for an associate pastor. Worship was offered weekly in the Sanctuary on Saturday at 5:00pm and on Sunday at 9:15am, and in the Chapel at 10:30am.

God answered prayers for TVLC’s need for an associate pastor when God called Rev. Amy Janssen to Tucson. She arrived February 19th with an open heart and started to lead with her first step, bringing gifts of the Spirit.

The sermon series for the year guided our faith through topics of “Let There Be Light,” “Wandering Heart,” “Acts of the Spirit,” “Broken and Blessed,” “Everyday Faith,” and “Dream Big.” An early Easter brought cold and rain which resulted in an indoor sunrise service for the first time in more than 25 years, yet attendance was strong at 650 for the morning’s four services. In September, TVLC had a grand celebration of 50 years of ministry that culminated in festive worship which included 17 vested pastors, the presence of four charter families, and 440 in attendance. A catered meal with tables elegantly decorated by the church Prime Timers followed the service for continued reunions and fellowship. Alexis Burrows, the leader of the 10:30am Modern Worship Service stepped away from her role to focus on family. Jakub Rojek joined the worship team in October to lead the service alongside Dale and Becky Clowers.

A new Advent series, “Dream Big,” prepared all for Christmas Eve celebrations. Joyfully, 835 people attended, singing hymns of joy, hearing a message inviting all to “Make Room” for the newborn King, reflecting the glow from the light of their candles (and flashlights for the children). TVLC continues to be a strong family of members, volunteer worship leaders, altar guild (communion preparation), bread bakers, readers, ushers, acolytes, communion assistants, greeters and sanctuary decorators who are all dedicated to the gift of God’s grace. Our Worship and Music staff and volunteers are committed to setting a scene of worship: Lars Andersen our organist, Jennifer Wortman our Chancel Choir and Children’s Choir director, Woan Ching Lim our Chancel Choir pianist, Alexis Burrows, our Contemporary Worship leader, Sherri McClellan our Saturday Worship leader, Vickie Denning our Children’s Wee Sing director, Mary Andersen and Daniel and Alex Provenzano, our Sanctuary livestream techs, Karen Reynolds our Sanctuary Video Operator, and Greg Paulsen our Modern Worship Sound and Video Tech. **Sherri McClellan**

Worship & Music Team

Lars Andersen

Alexis Burrows

Sherri McClellan

Joyce Swinehart

Jennifer Wortman

Pastor Josh



SERVE

Communications—Delana Connick



In May of 2024, I had the blessing of becoming TVLC’s Communications Director. The main focus of the Communications Team is to build our community by presenting clear and consistent information about all the happenings at TVLC. This includes weekly materials such as the Newsletter, Worship Bulletin, Service Slides, Outside Signage, and more!

Upon my arrival, my first task was to work with Vickie Denning to update the outside signage. This included new vinyl signs for the NFLC and Tevah Room and updating the directional signs on campus. The next big event of the year was the 50th anniversary.

During this time, I worked closely with the rest of the team, designing all the print materials and preparing the publications for the event. Once the big day arrived, I took pictures and videos to further document the occasion. My next task was putting together our stewardship campaign entitled More than Enough. This campaign embodied all of the different elements of TVLC. I got to interview members and learn how the TVLC Ministries thrive in their missions.

It has been my goal to capture numerous pictures and videos to document our story. One way we have done this is by expanding our digital footprint on social media. Each week, I film and edit a portion of the sermon, which is then posted on all our social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok). We call this the "Social Sermon." I continue to have an amazing time working with all our ministry leaders and partners, creating highlight videos featured in services and on our YouTube page. Through these videos, we've been able to truly tell the story of TVLC, and I'm honored to be a part of this family. If you ever see any videos during service or online, those were made by me! Another one of my responsibilities is putting together this annual report, which is used throughout the year for business operations and to keep the congregation updated. Ultimately, all our communications projects aim to help further TVLC’s message of following Jesus and sharing his love.

Delana Connick
Communications Director

Communications Team

Delana Connick

Vickie Denning

Pastor Amy

Pastor Josh



SERVE

Tucson

TVLV strives to make an impact by meeting evolving needs in our community and beyond, focusing on meaningful and effective relationships and partnerships.

Quilters — This year we lost two important members who moved out of state to be closer to family. We will miss them and continue to serve our congregation and community in many ways. We meet twice monthly on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in Linder Hall where we work on community projects and individual projects.

During the year we put together items to sell at the TVLV Christmas Market sale that is put on by the Library. This year we increased our funds by over \$500 by selling items that we

made during the year. We also voted as a group to donate \$100 to the library to say thank you for all they do for the church family. The quilt group continues to be a self-supporting



ministry here at TVLC. In addition to the items made to sell we make the baptism blankets and bags that are given to those that are baptized during the year. We also happily provide quilts for the church to give members retiring from volunteering services.

We made over 40 fleece blankets for the Christmas program that were added to the gifts for the families that TVLC assisted with food and gifts. We will be making Blankets to donate to the household blessings out reach to fill a recent need request. We are looking forward to a fun and productive year ahead and as always welcome new members interested in our ministry. **Karen Yodice**

Refugee Ministry — A new refugee welcome team has been formed and is welcoming their first family in 2025. This team accompanies newly arriving refugee families and helps them adjust to life in the United States. **Pastor Josh**

School Supplies — In July 2024 TVLC held a hugely successful school supplies drive, collecting notebooks, paper, pencils, backpacks, erasers, crayons, and many other classroom necessities. Supplies were delivered to Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest for their many refugee children, Wheeler Elementary School, Miles School, refugee families known to TVLC, and Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse. Jennifer Howerton created an Amazon wish list for the most-needed school supplies, which proved to be very helpful to those wanting to donate to the drive. **Sue Jensen**

Haiti Ministry — The Haiti Ministry continues, Greg Paulsen and I have 3 aluminum can recycling bins on the church campus and I go out every other Tuesday on a route and collect cans. Last year we collected and crushed over 40,000 cans and recycled for \$643.27 which went into the Haiti fund. As a side benefit we turned in 30,000 tabs to the Ronald McDonald House. In the past we have had a "Hole In One For Haiti" golf tournament but have not been able to get it organized the last 2 years. We are already planning on having it in January 2026. Last tournament raised approximately \$3000. **Ralph Lucht**

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest - LSS-SW's mission is to assist individuals and families that are in crisis or transition. In Southern Arizona, it provides services to the aging, disabled, refugees and immigrants. **LSS- SW** is one of the organizations that is part of TVLC's annual benevolence budget. In addition to the congregation's benevolence pledge, our Food Ministry provided shelf-stable food for 5 **LSS-SW** families each month. TVLC also contributed items for **LSS-SW's** Community Baby Shower, to their school supplies drive, and to the 2024 Christmas drive. Doug Pearson, TVLC member, serves on their Board of Directors. **Sue Jensen.**

Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona — Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona—Each Friday the TVLC delivery team delivers diet-specific meals from the Mobile Meals kitchen to homebound clients. In 2024 the team delivered seven to nine meals each Friday. Each team member delivers about once a month, developing relationships with those to whom they deliver. **Carol Paulsen**

SERVE

Tucson

Children's Christmas Gift Program — The Children's Christmas Gift program is created with the assistance from the TVLC Food Ministry. This year 8 agencies were identified and requests of gifts for 179 children were received. Members of the congregation enjoyed selecting names of children with their gift request, then shopping, wrapping and returning the gift, which was delivered with the Christmas food boxes. Along with these gifts we were also able to include blankets for the younger children (made by the quilting group) and many books donated by the church library. **Eileen Monahan, Catherine Davidson, Joanna Weise.**

Community Baby Shower — In March 2024 we participated in the Community Baby Shower sponsored by Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest. We decided to focus on two of the most needed items, which were diapers and books. TVLC members and friends donated a large quantity of those two items plus a myriad of other baby things, including clothing, blankets, quilts, toys, strollers and furniture. **Susan Jensen**

Creation Care — The Creation Care Ministry Team conducted its annual electronics recycling and paper shredding event, offered free to the Tucson Community, in October 2024. The team also recycles printer cartridges; you can drop off your cartridges in the box in the church workroom. (Please note that we cannot accept laser cartridges for recycling.) For the past year the team has spent many hours researching solar power for the church campus. **Susan Jensen**



Food Ministry — The Food Ministry team continued its decades-long service to the community. With the congregations' generous donations, in 2024 they provided food for families at Easter, at Thanksgiving, and at Christmas. This year's holiday food bags were packed

by congregation members with donated canned goods, pantry staples, fresh food items and frozen meats. Holiday food recipients are identified and food is distributed via their referring agencies: Tucson Unified School District, Pima County Health Department (Women's and Children Division), United Cerebral Palsy of Southern Arizona, University of Arizona Cancer Care Center, Southern Arizona Veterans Administration, Title 1, LSS-SW Refugee Resettlement Outreach, Victory Outreach Tucson and members of the TVLC congregation. Monthly food distributions were made to Victory Outreach, Southern Arizona Veterans Administration (for unhoused veterans) and refugee families assisted by TVLC. The UA Campus Pantry was also provided food that was collected off campus in community collection boxes. Donated expired foods that fall within approved guidelines were distributed to Interfaith Community Services and Casa Maria. A summer food collection was held for unhoused veterans with 3,395 various pop- top food items, snacks and drinks donated. As well as 200+ pounds of pet food. Emergency food bags are packed and stored on campus to be available for those in need throughout the year.

Congregation members can be involved with the food ministry by checking expiration dates on donated items, by packing staples and fresh food for the holiday deliveries, by driving holiday food bags to the referring agencies and at the rice packing event held before each holiday delivery. **Susan Fissell**

God's Work. Our Hands. — TVLC's annual Days of Service took place in October 2024. On Saturday, October 19, TVLC's Creation Care Ministry partnered with the Pima County Sheriff's Department and Grumper Recycling to provide free electronics recycling and paper shredding for the community. Nearly 300 vehicles dropped off recycling while donating food items and cash to TVLC's Food Ministry. On Sunday, October



20, a group of children and adults filled bags with rice for distribution to hungry families, and another group made bag lunches for day workers living at the Primavera Men's Shelter. We give thanks for all our volunteers, and the Sheriff's Department for providing the shredding trucks and volunteers, to Boy Scout Troop 141, and to Thrivent for providing Action Team funds. **Susan Jensen**

Household Blessings— This ministry began in 2021 and has grown exponentially by “repurposing goods and rebuilding lives.” Household Blessings provides good quality used furnishings, kitchen items and other household items plus clothing to individuals and families.

Through partnerships they have formed with over 40 community agencies and organizations. They specialize in providing “Starter Kits,” which include items needed to set up the kitchen, bath, and bedroom in a home. The ministry



has shoppers who come to the storage garage during the week to select items they need in their new homes. Once a month, everyone gathers at the storage garage to sort through all of the donated items. At that time, we have team members who distribute selected items to 8-10 different agencies in Tucson for their clients. The team accepts donations from the TVLC family before services on the first weekend of each month. They also receive donations from friends, family and neighbors of TVLC, from the TVLC Preschool & Kindergarten families, from other churches, and by gleaning other sales. **Donna Elmquist**

Interfaith Community Services (ICS) — TVLC and ICS have been ministry partners since 2012. ICS assists isolated seniors, single mothers hoping to further their education. Adults and children with disabilities, people in financial crisis, and families without sufficient food. The ICS Food Bank received two large donations from TVLC members and friends this year: about 1100 jars of peanut butter were collected in June 2024 and generous amounts of

pasta and spaghetti sauce were donated in February 2025. Because of our partnership, Household Blessings has donated many kitchen items, small furniture, linens and cleaning supplies to ICS clients throughout the year.

Susan Jensen



Knitters — The knitters are devoted to charity, education, companionship and fun. The group knits for a variety of charities including Project Linus which distributes handmade blankets to children who are seriously ill or injured, the Baby Hat ministry, sweaters and hats for students in the Navajo nation, and hats and shawls. They average 5-6 knitters weekly and 12 on their monthly Saturday gathering. They welcome all who knit or crochet, including those who want to learn. **Connie Mallette**

Lutheran Campus Ministry at UA — TVLC supports the UA Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) faith community as a part of our annual benevolence budget. Pastor Rebecca Boardman

leads a group of about two dozen grad and undergrad students in a weekly evening worship and dinner and various serving and learning opportunities. TVLC members prepare the weekly meal for the students a couple of times each semester. Pastor Josh and Rick Kennedy represent TVLC on the LCM board. **Pastor Josh**









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Share Love.

