University Lutheran Church
Lutheran Campus Ministry
340 E 15th Street
Tempe, AZ 85281
480-967-3543
info@ulctempe.org
www.ulctempe.org

Office Hours:
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Tuesday-Friday)

Staff

Pastor	Rev. José Valenzuela
Music Director	Elizabeth Tomboulian
Campus Ministry Associate	Greg Febock
Secretary	Amanda Waters
Young Adults Coordinator	Bryan Gamelin
Worship Livestream Tech	Alexander Webber

10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service

In person or livestream on our website

LCM Wednesday Nights

During ASU Fall & Spring Semesters

6:00 PM Free Student Dinner

7:00 PM Campfire/Music/Special Events



University Lutheran Church intends to provide a safe & welcoming environment for all of God's people, regardless of sexuality, gender identity, gender expression, life situation, race, family status, size, shape, & place in the world. We are committed to racial equity & justice for all God's children. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation registered with ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation. Thanks be to God for the blessings we have & the differences we share!



University Lutheran Church & Lutheran Campus Ministry

Newsletter

Nov/Dec 2026

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A Note From Pastor José Valenzuela



Greetings and Welcome to Fall,

I had the oportunity to take a little road trip last month. I was invited to attend a scattering of ashes of two friends up in the White Mountains.

For someone that has grown up in this state, the White Mountains remain a bit of a mystery to me. In my 56 years of life, this was the first time I had been that high on the rim (8,000 ft).

As we made our way up the winding roads, we marveled at all the dense beauty we saw. Around one of the turns, we looked off in the distance a bit and saw a tree ablaze in fall colors. She stood there in the middle of her siblings and just filled the space with her beauty and power.

Fall is a time of change. I spent much of my 20s not living in Arizona. This is code for: I lived where it was cold. For me, fall was a time of anxious change. I'm not a person that is accustomed to the cold weather of New York, Nebraska, or New Mexico (some of the places I lived in my early years). My biggest fear was driving in the snow.

For many of us, "our biggest fear" is generally at the heart of change. We are coming into a time of year where we rev up all the engines, travel, host, and visit. It's a crazy time of change that we are moving into.

I invite you to a season of reflection. A season of self-care. A season of discernment. A time of peace.

Blessings on your season,
Pastor José

A Message From Greg Febock, Campus Ministry Associate



LCM has had a slow start this semester. However, over the past month, we have begun to see some new and returning faces from previous years. One of the students threw a concert this month, and we saw a lot of new people (27 in total that evening to be exact) because of it. With some slow growth and reorientation this semester, LCM is learning how to better reach out to students, and we are planning to hit the ground running next semester with more advertising and tabling opportunities.

Respectfully,
Greg Febock

What's Happening: November Thru December

November 19, 2026		
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm		**6pm** Women's Bible Study *Zoom*
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**8pm** AA *Campus Center*
November 22, 2026		
all day		SERRV Trunk Show Begins *Sanctuary*
10:00 am – 11:00 am		**10am** Sunday Worship Service *Sanctuary, Livestream*
11:00 am – 12:00 pm		**11am** Coffee & Refreshments *Campus Center*
11:00 am – 12:00 pm		**11am** Free Student Lunch *Campus Center*
November 24, 2026		
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**8pm** AA *Campus Center*
November 25, 2026		
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm		**6:30pm** Thxgvg. Worship *Sanctuary*
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm		**7:30pm** Pie&Hot Choc. Event *Campus Center*
November 26, 2026		
all day »		ASU Thanksgiving Break
all day »		Office Closed for Thanksgiving
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**8pm** AA *Campus Center*

November 27, 2026		
« all day		ASU Thanksgiving Break
« all day		Office Closed for Thanksgiving
November 28, 2026		
10:00 am – 12:00 pm		**10am** Tamales Sale Distribution *Campus Center*
6:30 pm – 10:30 pm		**6:30pm** ASUv.UofA Watch Party *BBQ Area, Campus Center*
November 29, 2026		
10:00 am – 11:00 am		**10am** Sunday Worship Service *Sanctuary, Livestream*
11:00 am – 12:00 pm		**11am** Coffee & Refreshments *Campus Center*
11:00 am – 12:00 pm		**11am** Free Student Lunch *Campus Center*
December 1, 2026		
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**8pm** AA *Campus Center*
December 2, 2026		
6:00 pm – 6:30 pm		**6pm** Free Student Dinner *Campus Center*
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm		**6:30pm** Holden Evening Prayer *Sanctuary*

December 3, 2026		
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm		**12pm** Page Turners' Book Club *Library*
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**8pm** AA *Campus Center*
December 6, 2026		
10:00 am – 11:00 am		**10am** Sunday Worship Service *Sanctuary, Livestream*
11:00 am – 12:00 pm		**11am** Coffee & Refreshments *Campus Center*
11:00 am – 12:00 pm		**11am** Free Student Lunch *Campus Center*
December 7, 2026		
all day »		ASU Final Exams
December 8, 2026		
« all day		ASU Final Exams
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**8pm** AA *Campus Center*
December 9, 2026		
« all day		ASU Final Exams
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm		**6:30pm** Holden Evening Prayer *Sanctuary*
December 10, 2026		
« all day		ASU Final Exams
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**8pm** AA *Campus Center*
December 11, 2026		
« all day		ASU Final Exams
December 12, 2026		
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**6pm** YA at Ice! Ft. Elf
December 13, 2026		
10:00 am – 11:00 am		**10am** Sunday Worship Service *Sanctuary, Livestream*
11:00 am – 12:00 pm		**11am** Coffee & Refreshments *Campus Center*
December 15, 2026		
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm		**6:30pm** Council Meeting *Zoom, Library*
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**8pm** AA *Campus Center*
December 16, 2026		
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm		**6:30pm** Holden Evening Prayer *Sanctuary*
December 17, 2026		
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm		**6pm** Women's Bible Study *Zoom*
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**8pm** AA *Campus Center*
December 20, 2026		
10:00 am – 11:00 am		**10am** Sunday Worship Service *Sanctuary, Livestream*
11:00 am – 12:00 pm		**11am** Coffee & Refreshments *Campus Center*
December 22, 2026		
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**8pm** AA *Campus Center*
December 23, 2026		
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm		**6:30pm** Holden Evening Prayer *Sanctuary*
December 24, 2026		
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm		**6pm** XMas Eve Worship *Sanctuary, Livestream*
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**8pm** AA *Campus Center*
December 25, 2026		
all day		Merry Christmas!
all day		Office Closed for XMas
December 27, 2026		
10:00 am – 11:00 am		**10am** Sunday Worship Service *Sanctuary, Livestream*
11:00 am – 12:00 pm		**11am** Coffee & Refreshments *Campus Center*
December 29, 2026		
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**8pm** AA *Campus Center*
December 31, 2026		
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm		**8pm** AA *Campus Center*

ULC Fair Trade Fair: SERRV & GOOD GIFTS
Beginning Nov 22nd

Can you believe it's already time to start thinking of Christmas gifts?! But have no fear! Luckily, you will be able to get a head start on your Christmas shopping this year since we will be hosting our Fair Trade fair again with many unique, handcrafted gifts.

Our Fair Trade fair is through SERRV and ELCA Good Gifts and is not a fundraiser for the church. All the money goes directly back to the artisans and communities that make the products. We always have beautiful, handcrafted items from jewelry and baskets, to spices and ornaments for you to purchase.

SERRV is Sustainable Employment, Resources, Rights, and Vision and partners with Lutheran World Relief to help distribute handcrafts from artisans in 40 developing regions.

ELCA Good Gifts is a special opportunity this Christmas season to send a holiday gift to faraway neighbors in need. (Contributions go towards communities in need in 86 different countries.) Simply select an ornament of your choice off the Good Gifts tree, write your information down on the clipboard sheet, and make your monetary donation through Breeze on our website: ulctempe.org/breeze-donate-now
Make sure you select "Give to Good Gifts" when prompted to select which fund.

This is a terrific opportunity to do your Christmas shopping while helping artisans and those less fortunate across our world. We will be setting up over the weekend, so the gifts should be available for purchase beginning Sunday, November 22nd.

If you have any questions or want to know more, please reach out.

- Beth Wootten
bethwootten@hotmail.com





Women's Bible Study

Our Women's Bible Study meets monthly on Zoom each 3rd Thursday at 6 PM, AZ time. We have friends from other states and countries join us to discuss the joys and challenges of living out our faith in the world. We center our conversations on the Bible studies in "Gather", a magazine of the Women of the ELCA. In November and December, we will continue discussing "Bold Faith on an Unexpected Journey" by Rev. Tiffany Chaney:

November 19: Session 2 - Choosing Loyalty, Finding Love
Ruth 1:1–22; 2:8–12; 4:13-17

"Ruth, a Moabite widow, chooses to remain with her mother-in-law Naomi and step into an unknown future. Her bold faith is revealed in loyalty, courage and openness to God's provision. In Ruth's story, we see how God weaves love, community and promise through even the most uncertain paths. This session invites participants to reflect on the risks of faith, the gift of relationships and the ways God works through everyday loyalty to bring forth extraordinary love." (from Gather Magazine website)

December 17: Session 3 - Proclaiming Resurrection in Hope
John 20:1–18

"Mary Magdalene's journey transitions from that of a grieving friend to the first preacher of the good news, after she shows up at the empty tomb and encounters the risen Jesus. Her story declares that women are entrusted to carry resurrection hope into a hurting world. This session encourages participants to recognize their own call to bear witness and to proclaim hope in Christ." (from Gather Magazine website)

If you would like to receive Women's Bible Study emails and Zoom links, please reach out to Amanda at info@ulctempe.org. All are welcome!

Thanksgiving Eve Service & Post-Worship Fellowship: Pie & Hot Chocolate

Come join us for a special Thanksgiving worship on Wednesday, November 25th, at 6:30 PM, where we will joyfully praise God for all our blessings! Worship will be followed by a fellowship of delicious pie and hot chocolate over in the Campus Center.

If you are interested in bringing a pie to share, please let Amanda know at info@ulctempe.org or 480-967-3543. Thank you in advance!



ASU v. UofA Territorial Cup Football Watch Party

Date: Saturday, Nov 28, 2026

Time: Doors open at 6:30 PM; 7:00 kick-off

Location: ULC Campus Center & BBQ Area - 340 E 15th St, Tempe, AZ 85281

Cost: $25 per person donation to LCM

Ticket sales via online donation link: ulctempe.org/breeze-donate-now/
or QR code (see flyer next page)

Ticket purchasing details:
You must select the "LCM: ASU v. UofA Football Watch Party Tickets" fund underneath the "Give to Offering" dropdown menu. This is the only way we are able to know you are reserving ticket(s). The amount you donate - $25 for one, $50 for two, $75 for three, etc. - will let us know how many tickets you are purchasing.

Event Details:
Join us for a family-friendly gathering to watch ASU and UofA battle it out for the rights to the Arizona Territorial Cup! Both ASU and UofA fans welcome! Your $25 donation includes fresh-off-the-grill hot dogs & brats, homemade chili, various sides, soft drinks, and dessert. Watch on multiple screens - inside the Campus Center and outside in the patio area (weather permitting of course). Enjoy the beautiful fall November outdoors in our two spacious parks! Or kick back by the campfire, and roast some s'mores.

Watch Party Help: Requesting Chili Cook-Off Volunteers

We came up with the idea of having a chili cook-off for our ULC family. Everyone is invited to bring your best batch of chili to share with our other guests. Feel free to invite your friends. If you feel so inclined to help out, please either sign up on the mobile bulletin board in the back of the Sanctuary, or reach out to Amanda at info@ulctempe.org or 480-967-3543.

Thank you in advance for your generous support of this student ministry near and dear to our hearts!



LCM Tamale Sales Fundraiser

If you ordered delicious LCM Tamales from us, you may pick them up from the Campus Center on Saturday, November 28, between 10 AM and 12 Noon. This is the time window they will be served warm. You are also welcome to pick up during the college football watch party, which begins at 6:30 PM. Orders picked up during the game will have been refrigerated.

Sadly, the window has closed for any more orders. If you missed out, do not despair! We hope to do the same fundraiser again in the future.







Amanda Waters	Nov 3
Martin Luther	Nov 10 (543 years old!)
Dorothy McCune	Nov 20
Becky Wong	Nov 24
Sean Maseng	Nov 30
Greg Febock	Dec 4
Shawn Aiken	Dec 9
Jacob Hilliker	Dec 10
Jeanne Sims	Dec 31
Ashley Vena	Dec 31





Gail Fisher & Mel Kessler	Nov 17
Ashley Vena & Catherine Vale	Nov 17
Charles & Becky Wong	Nov 19
Carl & Deila Mangold	Dec 31

Page Turners' Book Club

Would you enjoy reading something out of the ordinary this winter? The Page Turners' Book Club meets at noon in the Campus Center Library on the first Thursday of each month during the academic year. Our book selections are chosen by participants and include both fiction and nonfiction. Bring your lunch, and join our discussion, whether or not you have read the book. This winter, we plan to read:

December 3, 2026: "American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson" by Joseph J. Ellis (1996) [Non-Fiction] (Led by Lori)

"Following Thomas Jefferson from the drafting of the Declaration of Independence to his retirement in Monticello, Joseph J. Ellis unravels the contradictions of his character. For a man who insisted that life on the public stage was not what he had in mind, Thomas Jefferson certainly spent a great deal of time in the spotlight--and not only during his active political career. At the grass roots, Jefferson is no longer liberal or conservative, agrarian or industrialist, pro- or anti-slavery, privileged or populist. He is all things to all people. Ellis sifts the facts shrewdly from the legends and the rumors. "American Sphinx" is a marvel of scholarship, a delight to read, and an essential gloss on Jefferson's complex legacy." (From Amazon description.)

January 7, 2027: "Clark and Division (A Japantown Mystery)" by Naomi Hirahara (2021) [Fiction] (Led by Pat)

"Naomi Hirahara's poignant mystery, set in 1944 Chicago, is the story of a young woman searching for the truth about her revered older sister's death. It focuses on the struggles of one Japanese American family released from mass incarceration during World War II. Twenty-year-old Aki Ito and her parents have just been released from Manzanar, where they have been detained by the U.S. government since the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, together with thousands of other Japanese Americans. The Itos are being resettled two thousand miles away from their former California home. They are moved to the new Japanese American neighborhood near Clark and Division streets in Chicago, where Aki's older sister, Rose, was sent months earlier. But on the eve of the Ito family's reunion, Rose is killed by a subway train. Rose's death is ruled a suicide, but Aki's instinct tells her there is much more to the story. Inspired by historical events, "Clark and Division" infuses an atmospheric and heartbreakingly real crime with rich period details and delicately wrought personal stories that Naomi Hirahara has gleaned from thirty years of research and archival work in Japanese American history. (From Amazon description.)"

February 4, 2027: "Daughters of the Bamboo Grove: From China to America, a True Story of Abduction, Adoption, and Separated Twins" by Barbara Demick (2025) [Non-Fiction] (Led by Jean)

This book presents a true story of a family with multiple children before they had twin girls and fearing the population enforcement agency taking the babies. The family hid them, and then one of the babies was abducted and placed in the adoption process to a family in Texas. The one child policy is explored and how a persistent journalist determined the location of the adopted twin in Texas. (Description from Kim)



Young Adults Dec Outing

Join young adults (ages 18-35) from Gather Valley of the Sun as we fellowship and celebrate the holidays at Ice Featuring Elf! We'll explore over 2 million pounds of ice sculptures and attractions kept at a chilly 9 degrees! Parkas will be provided.

Date/Time: Saturday, 12/12, starting at 6 PM (optional dinner beforehand)

Location: JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa (5340 E Marriott Dr, Phoenix, AZ)

RSVP: Email gathervalleyofthesun@gmail.com to confirm your attendance.

*First 10 tickets are free (first-come, first-serve).

Altar Christmas Trees & Poinsettias

It's that time of the season where we kindly ask for contributions for our three live Christmas trees and poinsettias. You may designate your donation either in an offering envelope, or online on our website and select "Give to Altar Decorations". You also may make your contribution in honor of a deceased loved one if you wish. Please write, "Altar decorations in honor of [name]," at the bottom of your offering envelope or in the notes text box if donating through Breeze.

The last day to donate to this fund is Thursday, December 17th. Thank you!

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