

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

Church of our Saviour

Lakeside, Arizona

WE INVITE YOU TO CONSIDER

***We are an inclusive, diverse, and progressive Christian community
Discovering God's loving presence within ourselves as we carry His Love to the world.
Our Baptismal Covenant provides the model for our church family.
We strive for justice and peace among all people.
We seek to respect the dignity of every human being.***

Through vibrant worship, music, education, and outreach activities, we witness these core values:

***We are a Community that celebrates our Diversity and Inclusion.
We are a Community that explores the principles of Emergent Theology.
We are a Family that cherishes our Fellowship and Joy with one another.***

Located in the Arizona White Mountains amongst the towns of Pinetop, Lakeside, and Show Low, Arizona, residents enjoy year-round recreational and local cultural activities in a friendly "down home" rural environment.

Even as we face the challenges of a parish in transition between rectors, we enjoy the fact that attendance at Sunday services continues to grow.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and a low interest loan from the Diocese of Arizona we are presently preparing an entirely new 3-bedroom rectory for whomever is called to become our next rector.

As we search to call a new rector, and as you continue to discern your calling, we hope that you will find our parish profile interesting and informative. We pray you will consider walking with us as our spiritual guide and companion at Church of Our Saviour.

*- The Vestry and Discernment Committee
of
The Church of our Saviour*



The Person We Pray will be Called to be Our New Rector will be

AN ENGAGING PERSON: A leader whose warmth, kindness, and compassion are evident in all interactions, creating a genuine and approachable presence. They will demonstrate a ready willingness to listen and connect, balanced with a sense of humor that can help build trust and deepen relationships within the congregation and community.

DEVOTED TO INCLUSIVITY: Demonstrates that they actively and constructively engage with people across different backgrounds, generations, orientations and preferences, ensuring all feel welcomed, valued, and respected.

WELL VERSED IN PROGRESSIVE/EMERGENT THEOLOGY: Guides with a theology that is rooted in scripture, yet informed by the insights, challenges, and questions of the 21st Century. They can lead us in exploration beyond the boundaries of traditional 4th century formulations, helping the congregation grow in faith that is relevant, thoughtful, and alive.

AN ENCOURAGING SHEPHERD: Inspires parishioners to deepen their loving relationship with Christ and with each other, nurturing both personal faith and shared ministry through affirmation, guidance, and positive leadership.

A COMPETENT ADMINISTRATOR AND A GOOD COMMUNICATOR: Knows their way around an operating budget, but isn't a "bean counter." Knows how to keep everyone, from a new visitor to the bishop appropriately informed and engaged – even during disagreements.

FLEXIBLE: Comfortable with a congregation that swells in the summer with very involved seasonal residents and visitors, and contracts in the winter to the faithful who live and work in our area year-round.

COMFORTABLE IN A RURAL SETTING: We are a three-hour drive from Phoenix and a two-hour drive from Flagstaff. But if you're looking for an intimate relationship with your surroundings, a place where relationships with everyone from your neighbor to your plumber really matter, and a pace where you can slow down and think – this is where you belong.

AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY: Will not only be our spiritual guide, but also our spiritual companion.

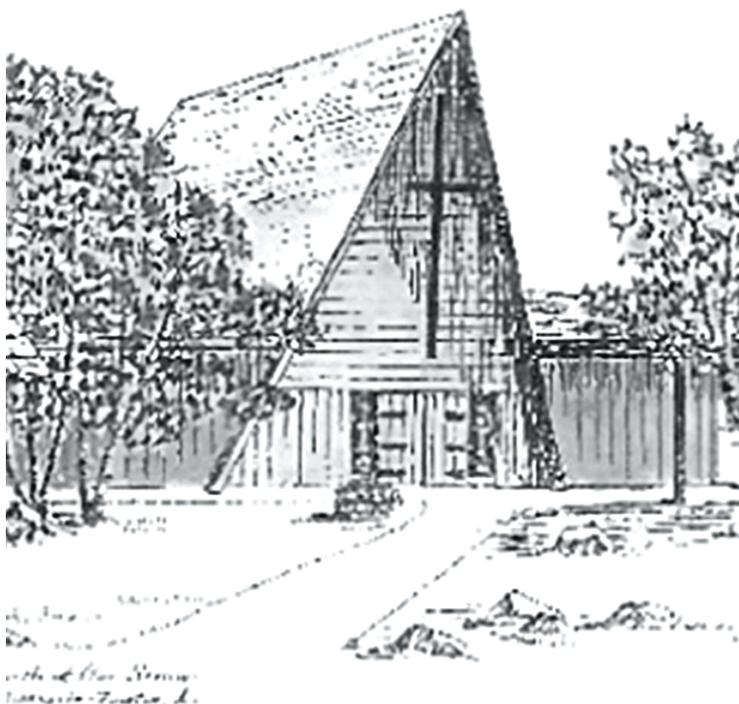
HISTORY

The history of The Church of Our Saviour begins on January 1, 1954. The church was within the small Cady Lumber Corporation logging company town of McNary, Arizona, on land leased from the White Mountain Apache Tribe. In 1962, the mission church was officially recognized by the Arizona Episcopal Diocese.

In 1963, land in Lakeside, Arizona, some 14 miles away from McNary, was donated to the Diocese of Arizona. The principal A-frame sanctuary structure was built with a small attached multipurpose area that included a refrigerator, stove and sink kitchen area; small closet size Sacristy; a meeting area and an office area for the Rector.

The Arizona Episcopal Diocese acquired a donated 1950's era hunting cabin, located on a lot about 200 yards from the current sanctuary on adjoining property, for a Church Rectory. This structure was added to several times, over the years until 2025, when it was scheduled to be demolished and replaced by a modern three-bedroom home.

On October 23, 1999, we changed from our mission church status to a self-supporting Episcopal parish church.



In the early 2000s, we were able to form a full communion partnership (Called to Common Mission) with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ECLA). We continue to honor and enjoy this joint affiliation.

Over the years, there have been numerous structural expansions and remodeling projects completed, including the addition of a parish kitchen and parish hall building.

In the spring of 2020, a major expansion increased the size of the sanctuary and the parish hall to accommodate a growing congregation. In 2025, the kitchen was expanded to better support our increased congregation's participation in social and other numerous events.

The congregation has grown increasingly over the past 70+ years, from its original 8-10 members to a congregation of approximately 100 members. The membership bar graph shows our growth since the ending of the Covid epidemic. It's a remarkable accomplishment during this period of declining attendance in many mainline churches.

Most of our members live in Navajo or Apache counties. Some parishioners regularly travel from as far away as Payson, Arizona, approximately 90 miles away. Our summer church membership includes a significant number of "second home residents" who spend their winters in warmer climates. During the winter, most of these congregants attend their local churches, but an increasing number of them have begun joining our services online.

With the approval of our bishop, our new rector transition period began in August 2025, with a "Day of Discovery" facilitated by Canon Anita Braden for the 70+ parishioners who participated and the subsequent appointment of a Discernment Committee. Our rector formally retired, due to the mandated age limit, on November 30, 2025.

Our story continues with hopes and dreams to continue to grow our congregation, attract more families and youth, further develop the music ministry, and enhance our facilities.

WORSHIP

Our scheduled worship services include a single service every Sunday Morning as well as services for Holy Week and celebrating the birth of Christ. We also convene for weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Worship is both formal and reverently relaxed as we follow the structure of the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer and incorporate prayers from the Lutheran Book of Worship and other faith communities. These include Navajo prayers and the New Zealand Creed as well as Anglican communities throughout the world and time.

Worship is collegial. Sermons are typically delivered by the rector. We are privileged to have a retired Episcopal priest and Episcopal deacon, who regularly assist with preaching and worship responsibilities during the summer season when attendance at its highest. Sermons offer a vision of a God of unconditional love rather than a God of laws and judgement. As many in the congregation have come to say, "God's not mad and we're not bad."

Worship begins by welcoming newcomers, blessing birthdays and anniversaries, and occasionally acknowledging other threshold events in the lives of our parishioners. A weekly bulletin includes readings, hymns, prayers, and announcements. For most of our members, a Sunday worship service is followed by a coffee hour or the monthly \$5 Brunch, that raises funds to help meet kitchen budget needs. We consider it to be an expression of the fellowship, love, and sense of community that eating and talking together provide.

Our strong commitment to pastoral care and the positive role that worship can play in providing that service is demonstrated by the clergy and trained parishioners who routinely deliver Eucharist to those who are ill or infirm.

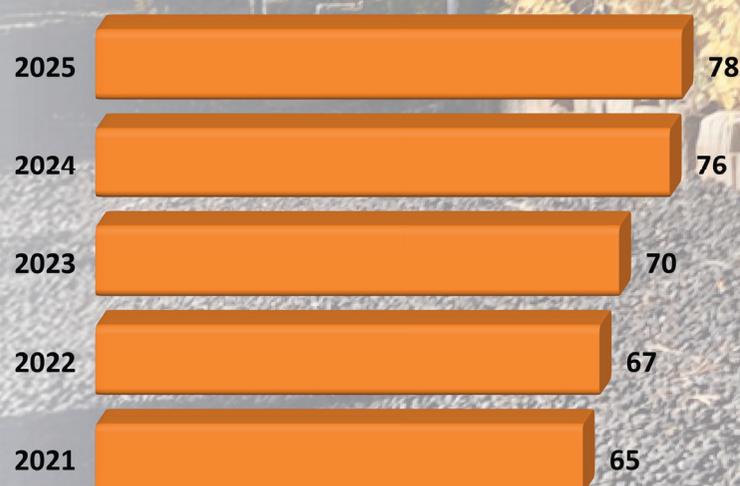
Sunday services, and many others, include a strong emphasis on music. We have developed a high-quality choir, supported by an excellent choir director, a talented pianist/organist, and a variety of local and visiting musicians.

Our worshipping congregation varies in size by the season. It swells quite promptly in the spring with our Arizona equivalent of "snow birds" who flock to their summer homes in the mountains to escape the summer heat. As the colors turn and

the temperatures cool five to six months later, they return to the warmth of lower elevations. That said, over half of our parishioners reside and attend Church of our Saviour year-round. The "Frozen Chosen," as they are fondly known, hold together the strong bonds of community as we all look forward to welcoming so many back to Lakeside, to worship together in love and fellowship each summer.

Average Sunday Attendance

Jan'21-Aug'25







Worship Ministries

Church of our Saviour provides several opportunities for parishioners to participate in lay ministries during worship:

- **Acolytes, Chalice Bearers, and Lay Readers** assist the clergy during worship. These are scheduled by the **Worship Servers Ministry**.
- The **Altar Guild** prepares the sanctuary for worship; maintains and cares for the sacred vessels, altar linens, and vestments; and may otherwise assist the clergy.
- The **Media Ministry** supports the live-streaming of church services, enabling both members and the general public to engage in worship remotely. This ministry strives to create a seamless digital experience that fosters connection, encourages participation, and extends the church's message beyond its traditional walls.
- **Greeters and Ushers** welcome worshipers and assist them in finding seats. They also bring the alms to the altar, guide communicants, and help pick up after the service. A distinctive volunteer is the week's designated "White Hat Person" who wears an identifying hat and focuses on greeting, especially newcomers.
- **Choir Members** meet for practice weekly and provide much-appreciated choral music (with sign language) during Sunday and holiday services.

In addition to the choir members, there are two leadership positions to develop and grow the congregation's music ministry:

- The **Music Director** coordinates choral and instrumental groups, recruits volunteer and guest musicians, collaborates with clergy on musical planning, accompanies singing by the choir and congregation, augments the worship service with other music, and helps plan special holiday services.
- The **Choir Director** leads the choir during practice and during services and works with the music director and rector to select music for worship.



Outreach & Fellowship Ministries

- Outreach and Fellowship Ministries reach both into our congregation and outward into the larger community:
- The Outreach Ministry has been focusing on helping to alleviate hunger in our area. They have organized a food drive to support local senior citizens and lead trips to the Navajo Reservation to take food and relief goods to Navajo members of Episcopal churches in the Missionary Diocese of Navajoland (Diné Nation).
- The Prayer-List Ministry maintains a list of congregants and their relatives or other close connections who may be in need of prayer. The team prays for those in need, and the list is communicated during worship for those who have given permission for their names to be shared.
- The Social Activities Ministry fosters fellowship, builds community, and engages the congregation in social events. This ministry creates opportunities for parishioners to get acquainted and socialize together. Current social activities include the monthly Game Day, monthly Movie Night, monthly Ladies Out to Lunch, and Men's Group, to name a few.
- The "Kitchen Kabinet" team coordinates food-related events such as Divine Diners, monthly potlucks and/or picnics, receptions per members' requests, Sunday coffee hour, and monthly \$5 Sunday brunch. They also maintain the kitchen supplies and are responsible for kitchen cleanliness and organization.



- Community Events such as blood drives are hosted by our congregation and advertised throughout the White Mountain communities. Church of Our Saviour provides the primary welcome station for walkers in the annual Sue's Crew Cancer Walk -- food, water, restrooms, and a place to rest.
- The Thanksgiving Food Drive annually assembles and delivers a turkey with a generous box of food to needy local families for their thanksgiving dinner.
- The In-Reach Meal Program receives referrals for parishioners in need of meals. Volunteers prepare and deliver meals to these people. Also, a supply of prepared dishes is kept in the kitchen freezer to give to folk identified by clergy or others.
- The Greeting Card Ministry provides birthday, anniversary, get well, and condolence cards to parishioners.
- The Parish Nurse has nursing knowledge and experience. This person coordinates closely with clergy and meets with church members to discuss health information and pray with them about their family's health and related matters. The Parish Nurse may coordinate and/or conduct health-related educational programs for the parish.
- The Columbarium is a sacred space where the ashes of loved ones are interred.
- The Memorial Garden is a more recently created sacred space where plaques are placed for remembrance, and ashes are interred for loved ones. Here people can visit their loved ones quietly with reverence and contemplation.
- The church Library Ministry operates on an honor system and provides a rich and varied array of materials on the religions of the world. Particular emphasis is placed on progressive, or emergent, theology with authors such as Marcus Borg and Richard Rohr well represented. There is also a wealth of information and inspiration from authors such as Huston Smith and Meister Eckhart. Also found are books on the Episcopal and Lutheran churches, Christianity, and world religions. For a church of our size, it is a true delight!



FINANCIALS

Not only have offerings and other income kept pace with regular expenses, but we have been able to fund and complete several capital-development projects over the last few years.

Please refer to the three accompanying financial charts for more details on our finances:

First, the “Historical Annual Income & Expenses” chart shows non-restricted income, expenses, and net income (income less expenses) over the last five years. Income, mostly offerings plus some interest, has exceeded expenses in all but one year. Over these past five years, we have averaged a surplus of \$16,400. Savings at the end of 2024 exceeded \$109,000.

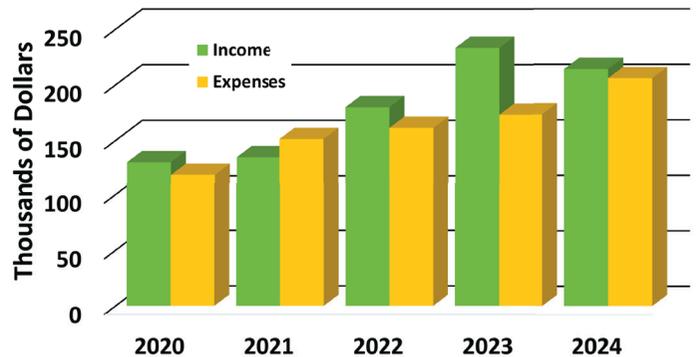
Second, the “2024 Non-restricted Expense Breakdown” chart shows our most recent yearly budget. Pastoral expenses, including pension and retirement funding, comprise about a third of our budget. Outreach, evangelism, music, and worship, together make up almost another third. This includes our mission share to the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona. The remaining third covers administration (including office staff payroll), payroll taxes, property costs, and some miscellaneous expenses.

Third, the “Recent Capital Development Projects” chart calls attention to the main campus improvement projects we’ve undertaken over the last five years. Due to the exciting growth in our congregation, we had the welcome necessity of expanding our sanctuary and fellowship hall, a lengthy project that we were able to carry out while the congregation was attending services remotely during the pandemic. Most recently, we have finished an expansion of the kitchen, also driven by increased participation in church activities, and a complete remodel of the office. These projects were funded by a combination of successfully dedicated fund-raising and spending from savings. Our current capital undertaking is a newly built rectory which will be a comfortable 3-bedroom home for our incoming priest!

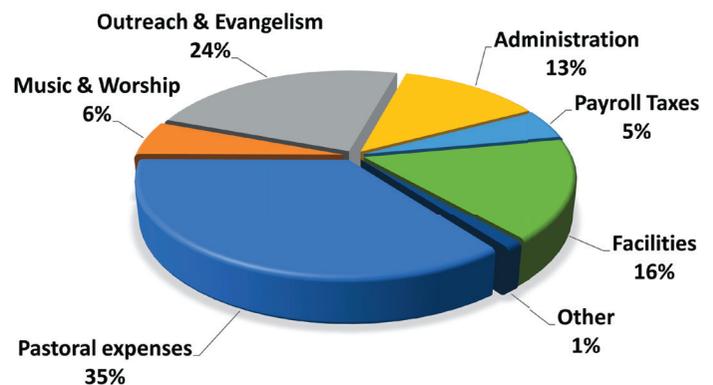
NOTE: The above analysis is based on the year-end 2024 data. The year-end 2025 financial data was not available at the time of this writing.

Historical Annual Income & Expenses

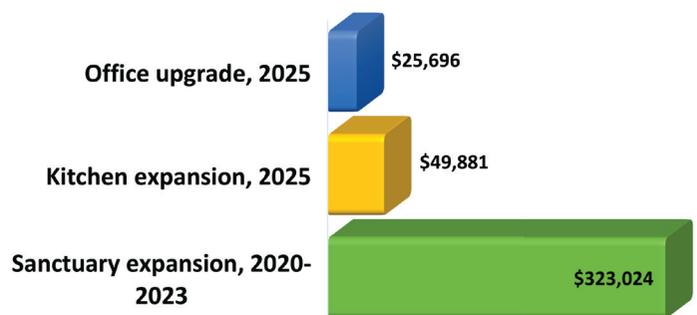
(showing non-restricted dollars only)

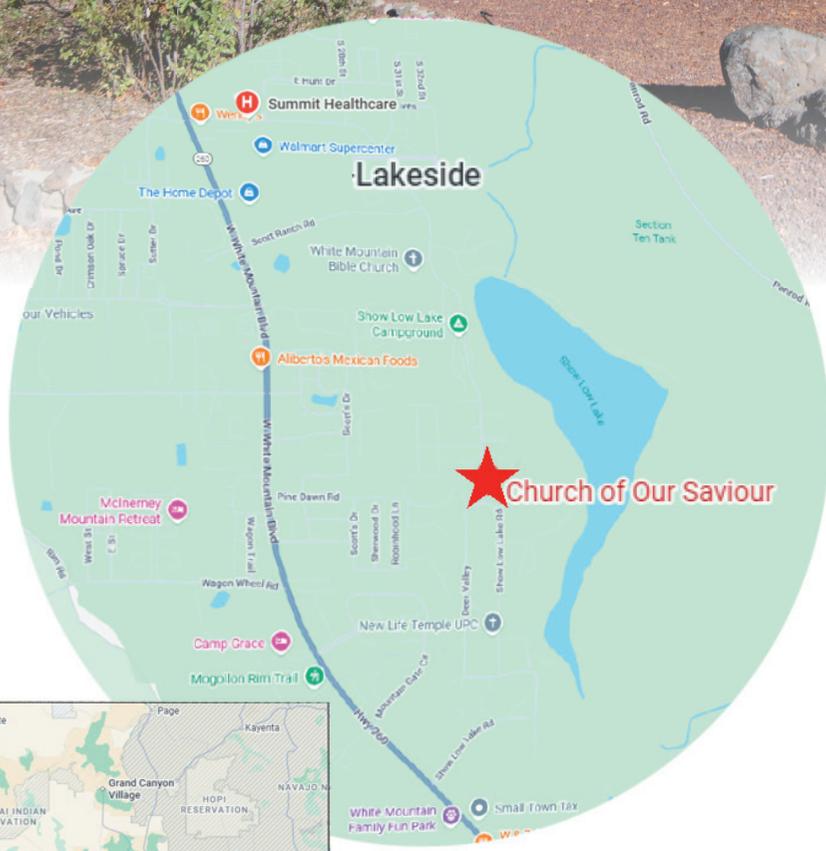


2024 Expense Breakdown



Recent Capital Development Projects





AMENITIES WITHIN 5.0 MILES OF CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

Medical: Summit Hospital, 2 Urgent Care Facilities, Walgreens, CVS and approx. 163 doctors, dentists, etc.*

Groceries: Safeway, Walmart

Home Improvement: Home Depot, Lowes, Ace, Harbor Freight

Restaurants: Approximately 60*

Clothing and Merchandise: JC Pennys, TJ Max, Cal-West, Boot Barn, Walmart, numerous sporting goods, boutiques, and many unique local service, supply businesses and a robust artist community

**Per chatgpt*



DISTANCE FROM CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR TO MAJOR CITIES AND TOWNS

Albuquerque, NM	243 mi/4hrs
Flagstaff, AZ	147 mi/2.5hrs
Gallup, NM	152 mi/2.5hrs
Globe, AZ	91 mi/1.75hrs
Payson, AZ	99 mi/1.75hrs
Phoenix, AZ	188 mi/3.25hrs
Tucson, AZ	195 mi/3.75hrs



Our search process is being carried out under the authority of the Bishop of Arizona, The Right Reverend Jennifer A. Reddall, with the assistance of the Diocesan Deployment Office. All interested candidates are requested to submit a cover letter, resume and OTM profile to:

THE REV. ANITA BRADEN

Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Arizona
114 West Roosevelt Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Our compensation package will be commensurate with our new rector's skills and abilities to work with us on our shared journey in faith as a church family, worshipping together and Serving Christ in our world.