

**Arizona
Alleluia Fund
Congregations**

May 5, 2019



Dear Friends in Christ,

“But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” – Matthew 13:23

Today is our annual Alleluia Fund Sunday appeal.

During Bishop Smith’s tenure, the Alleluia Fund supported the founding of 12 new congregations and worshipping communities. Of those 12, one has become financially sustainable and is now a parish. Three did not thrive, and have been closed. The remaining eight are thriving mission outposts in their communities which are still receiving varied levels of support from the Fund.

Many dioceses in the Episcopal Church are dealing with the need to close churches. That is not our context. From 2019 to 2029 our state’s population is projected to grow by about a million people¹ from 7.1 million to 8.1 million residents.

It is my goal to maintain our momentum towards growing the church in the next ten years by discerning where the right places are for us to plant churches using a variety of methods. I can envision our diocese embracing house churches of young people; additional Spanish-language congregations; traditional church plants with property and buildings in some of our newly developing areas; and new models of church that I have not even imagined! They will not all look alike, but they will all proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ faithfully in their different contexts.

As 2019 proceeds, I am hoping to put some plans in place for how we will be approaching that discernment. But as we all know, supporting the church in growth requires financial investment and commitment. I pray that you will add your support through prayers and generous giving so that we may plant seeds in good soil for future harvest. Donate directly at <http://bit.ly/alleluiafund>, or visit the Alleluia Fund page on the diocesan website (<https://www.azdiocese.org/alleluia/index.html>) to learn more.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall
Sixth Bishop of Arizona

¹ <https://population.az.gov/population-projections>

- Cathedral de
la Trinidad**
Phoenix
- Church of the
Nativity**
Scottsdale
- Santa Maria**
Phoenix
- St. Paul the Apostle
Sudanese Mission**
Phoenix
- Incarnation ASU
Polytechnic Campus
Ministry**
Mesa
- San Marcos**
Mesa
- Resurrection
Episcopal Church**
Gilbert
- Emmaus
Church Plant**
Surprise
- +++