



Our Savior's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2025

NEW SLETTER

WHAT'S INSIDE

FAITH GROWS HERE.

A note from Pastor Drew.....	2
Council Corner.....	4
Financial Update	5
Children's Ministry	8
Youth & Young Adult Ministry.....	10
Sermon Texts & May Volunteers.....	12
Baptisms & Sympathies.....	14
May Calendar	15

WORSHIP TIMES:

Sunday at 9:30 am

1207 Prairie Ave SW
Faribault, MN 55021

507-331-2276

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Friday
8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Visit our website:

oursaviorsfbo.org

Follow us on Social Media:



All Music is licensed by CCLI#511495
CVLI license and Screenvue Vaults

Dear friends in Christ,

This last month I've been blessed to sit down with many of you in our "Come & See" conversations. Time and time again, I've heard a beautiful thread running through your stories: I came here because someone noticed me. Whether it was a warm greeting from a pastor, a smile from someone in the pew, or a kind word during coffee hour, what stuck wasn't just the worship service—it was the relationship.

That kind of noticing? That's holy.

In Luke 19, as Jesus is entering Jericho, He notices someone no one else wants to see. Zacchaeus is up in a tree—literally out on a limb—hoping just to catch a glimpse of Jesus. And what happens? Jesus sees him. Really sees him. He doesn't just wave and move on. He stops. He speaks. He calls Zacchaeus by name. He goes to his house. He builds a relationship.

That's the kind of noticing that transforms.

And that same Spirit is alive here at Our Savior's. But it takes all of us. Greeting people. Inviting them. Noticing when someone is sitting alone. And yes—even gasp—changing pews!

I know, I know. That's probably the most un-Lutheran thing I've ever suggested. But hear me out: relationships don't grow if we only sit by the people we already know. So try it. One Sunday, switch things up. Sit on the other side of the sanctuary. You might feel a little disoriented (and your pew might feel abandoned), but you also might meet someone whose story you've never heard.

Say hi. Ask a question. Share a laugh. Sit together at fellowship hour. Offer to pray for someone. And if you notice a new face in worship—be the first to extend a hand and a smile.

Jesus didn't just preach to crowds. He noticed people. And when we do the same, we're not just being friendly—we're being faithful.

In Christ,

Pastor Kira

Faith grows here

Dancing in the Darkness

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III tells a powerful story to open his book *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times*. In 2008 he was serving as a pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. It just so happened that this was the congregation where then senator Barak Obama was a member. Obama had recently begun his campaign to run for president, and a wave of threats and hate speech began to pour into the church. Some of these threats were targeted at the pastors and their families. The church had to hire bomb-sniffing dogs and round-the-clock security. Pr. Moss was even forced to have a "shadow" for each of his children to keep an eye on them while at school. It was a time of great stress and tension for them, and Pr. Moss, understandably, was not getting much sleep.

Late one night Pr. Moss awoke to a noise somewhere inside the house. His wife urged him to check it out, so he grabbed his "rod and staff which comfort me – that being my Louisville Slugger baseball bat," and went to investigate. Walking carefully into the dark hallway, he heard the noise again and this time realized it was coming from his five-year-old daughter's bedroom. Fear gripped him. Opening the door, Pr. Moss saw his little girl in the middle of her bedroom, twirling in circles. "Look daddy! I'm dancing!"

It was 3am and Pr. Moss was scheduled to preach in just a few hours. Relieved but also exhausted and perhaps a bit impatient, he said, "Baby, it is 3am, it is time to go to bed." But she kept twirling and saying, "Look daddy, I'm dancing!" And before he could use his authoritative, fatherly voice again, the Spirit spoke to him: "Stop. Look at your daughter. She is dancing in the darkness. The darkness is *around* her. But the darkness is not *in* her." Pr. Moss scrapped the sermon he had planned to deliver and worked until the sun rose preparing a new message about how we must learn to dance in the darkness.

I know many of you sense that darkness surrounds us. Even though we are in the season of Easter and the dark days of winter are giving way to the brightness and warmth of Spring, we feel the weight of conflicts around the world, economic uncertainty and political turmoil at home, and the many challenges we face in our own communities and families. Like Pr. Moss gripping his bat, we may face threats that are very real and clutch things that can give us a sense of security. The question is, how can we recognize the darkness around us, but not let it inside of us? How do we hold onto the inner light which Christ has given us? How can we learn to dance in the darkness? I suspect the answer to that question will be different for each of you, but I think a key for all of us is joy. We can resist the darkness by holding onto that which gives us joy.

The darkness can feel overwhelming when we realize we have no guarantees for how things will go. But if we stay grounded in the present moment, and stay connected to that which gives us life, joy will find us, and we will not be overcome. After all, the darkness of the tomb could not overcome Jesus. Our lives are united with the crucified and resurrected life of Christ, and it's in Christ that we live and move and have our being.

Keep dancing!
Pr. Drew

UPCOMING EVENTS AT OSLC



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Join Us!

Confirmation Celebration

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Celebrate our confirmands as they affirm their baptism!

9:30 a.m. Presentation to Congregation

11:00 a.m. Rite of Confirmation Service



Lamplighters

Adult Christians Lighting the Way

Join us for our May Meeting
in the Fellowship Hall

May 6, 2025 at 1 PM

COUNCIL CORNER

As Council we welcome Christine Sammon to the Church Council. Thank you for answering the call to serve.

Visioning statements were shared and this time we had three council members, one with devotions and two with visioning statements not knowing each other was going to share the same gospel passage of Luke 24: 13-35, this special passage showed how it relates to devotions and how God has led each of them and walked with them on their journey to find a meaningful purpose. Recommend each visit this scripture.

This has been an amazing walk with council members and a walk with God thru council members experiences as to how our God lead then and has answered prayers. Stories such as each of these have been written about for years, but to personally know how council members have experienced God in their lives is truly amazing.

The Treasurer's report is in your bulletin, expenses are down due to two job positions that have not yet been filled. When we fill these positions, we will be in a deficit. Please keep this in mind as you think about your contributions for the work of the church spreading the word of God.

Barbara Condit
Church Council



Financial Update

Fast Figures 2025 Financials Finalized through March 2025				
	Actual	Ministry Spending	Difference	
March Reciepts	\$ 71,236.00	\$ 61,000.00	\$	10,236.00
March Expenses	\$ (52,076.00)	\$ (61,687.00)	\$	9,611.00
Receipts Over Expenses	\$ 19,160.00	\$ (687.00)	\$	19,847.00
			\$	- .00
YTD Receipts	\$ 179,077.00	\$ 159,950.00	\$	19,127.00
YTD Expenses	\$ (153,540.00)	\$ (182,061.00)	\$	28,521.00
Receipts Over Expenses	\$ 25,537.00	\$ (22,111.00)	\$	47,648.00

Balance Sheet Recap	Actual	Beginning Balance as	Change
Total cash on hand as of 03-31-2025	\$ 277,882.82	\$ 260,471.12	\$ 17,411.70
Total cash Designated for specific purposes (restricted accounts)	\$ 174,776.04	\$ 182,901.73	\$ (8,125.69)
Leaving a cash balance for General Operating expenses of	\$ 103,106.78	\$ 77,569.39	\$ 25,537.39

March is finalized.
 Giving compared to plan is up +16.78% or \$10,236
 Expenses are down compared to plan <-15.58%> or <-\$9,611>

Year to Date:
 Giving compared to plan is up +11.96% or \$17,411
 Expenses are down compared to plan <-15.67%> or <-\$28,521>

Total Cash in General Operating Account is \$103,106 this is the cash we have access to for any reason/need. Goal is to have two months in reserve.

We received the quarterly endowment deposit of \$11,417 in March.

Thank you for your support of the Ministry here at Our Saviors!

May Noisy Offering

Project Neighbor

Project Neighbor is a program of the Cannon River Conference of the SE Minnesota Synod of the ELCA. The fund provides assistance to persons with emergency needs in Rice, Goodhue, and Wabasha counties. Project Neighbor seeks to aid people in need of food, shelter, clothing, and other essential resources who cannot obtain assistance from other sources.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT OSLC



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Save the Dates

Summer Family Fun & Service Days

Save the dates for family service & fun days!
Watch your emails to receive more details!

June 26

Faribault Senior Living
& Faribault Aquatic Center

July 12

Family Day at Valleyfair

August 28

Feed My Starving Children
& Minnesota Zoo



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Graduation Sunday

Help us celebrate our graduating High School Seniors

Sunday, June 1, 2025

On Sunday, June 1st we would like to honor all graduating seniors during worship. We will present them with their graduation stepping stone and honor their next steps. All graduating seniors are welcome!

We would like to include a slideshow of senior pictures.

**Please bring a copy of the senior photo to the office or email
wendy@oursaviorsfbo.org by May 25th**

UPCOMING EVENTS AT OSLC



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Save a Life, Give Blood

Friday, June 6, 2025
11 am - 5 pm

Please use the Red Cross Donor App, call 1-800-733-2767, or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: OSLC to schedule an appointment.



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE GATHER TABLE
Fellowship Team

Submit your
Fellowship Event Ideas

Got a fun idea for bringing people together?

The Fellowship Team at The Gather Table is on the lookout for fun, meaningful, and maybe even a little quirky ideas for upcoming gatherings. Let's dream up ways to connect, laugh, and grow together.

You can submit an idea by filling out the forms in the pews or email Jill Finstuen at jilloslc@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Beginning on June 4th

Summer

Wild Wednesdays

Join us for a fun summer evening of food and fellowship!

We'll start with a classic backyard BBQ from 5-5:45. Followed by nature based activities including, games, crafts, gardening, and other outdoor activities from 5:45 - 7:00. The activities will be youth focused but all ages are welcome to participate.

All are Welcome



Our Savior's +
LUTHERAN CHURCH



CURRENT 6th-8th Graders

Confirmation Camp 2025

JUNE 15-20, 2025

Time to register for camp! Please use the QR code to register with church. A \$50 deposit is due at registration. Please reach out to Grace with any questions!



REGISTER TODAY!



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pre-K through 8th Grade Families

Registration is Open!

Wednesday/Sunday/Confirmation

2025-26 Programming

Use the QR codes
register for your
child's 2025-26
school year
programming

Pre-K - 5th Grade



6th - 8th Grade

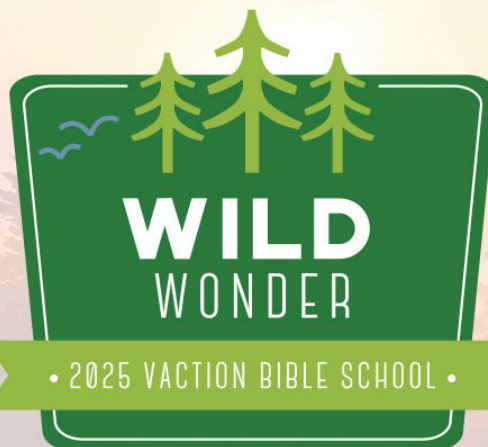


Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH



FIRST ENGLISH
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**VBS 2025
REGISTRATION
IS OPEN!**



**COMPLETED
GRADES
PRE-K - 5TH**

AUGUST 4-7 | OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**PreK &
Kindergarten**
9:00 - 11:30 AM



Use the QR codes
register your child
for VBS 2025



**1st - 5th
Grades**
9 AM- 3PM



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

High School Youth Group

WEDNESDAYS | 7-8 PM
OSLC YOUTH ROOM

Youth in grades 9 -12 are invited to spend your Wednesday night having fun, building community, and learning about God with us.



Join Us. All Are Welcome

UPCOMING EVENTS AT OSLC



High School Service Trip Fundraiser

Mother's Day

Bake Sale & Silent Auction

Sunday, May 11, 2025 | Narthex | 10:30 am

Stay after worship on Mother's Day to bid on some delicious baked goods and other gifts! All proceeds will go to high school students heading to North Carolina for a service trip this summer.



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

9th-12th graders

Join us for the Overnight Lock-in

May 23-24 | 5 PM - 10 AM

High school students are invited to spend the an overnight at church.
We will play games, eat food, and have fun! Friends are invited!

SERMON TEXT & VOLUNTEERS

May

Stephen's Witness
Wednesday, April 30 &
Sunday, May 4
Acts 6:1; 7:2a, 44-60

Ethiopian Eunuch Baptized
Sunday, May 11
Acts 8: 26-39

Council of Jerusalem
Sunday, May 18
Acts 15:1-18

Living by Faith
Sunday, May 25
Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21



MAY USHERS

PETER ROBERTS ©
KAREN CHURCHILL
JERRY & PAULA SCHAUER

LARRY CHURCHILL ©
LYLE & RUTH OLSON
LINDA MUELLER

COMMUNION

PREP SERVERS

MAY 4

Mary Osborne
Stew & Cindy Schuenke
Dan & Karen Rasmussen
Harry & Sharon Dell

MAY 18

Mary Osborne
Fred & Barb Grote
John & Edie Mattson
Krista Cox
Jill Finstuen

SCRIPTURE READERS

MAY 4

Kris Hoysler

MAY 11

Peggy Paulson

MAY 18

Donn Johnson

MAY 25

Evon Ask

SOUND & TECH TEAM

MAY 4

Sound: Linda Hanegraff
Livestream: Brendan Cox

Media Shout & Lights: Owen Harrison

MAY 11

Sound: JaridFinstuen
Livestream: Brendan Cox

Media Shout & Lights: Jordyn Finstuen

MAY 18

Sound: Grace Harrison
Livestream: Brendan Cox

Media Shout & Lights: William Silver

MAY 25

Sound: Amy Cox
Livestream: Brendan Cox

Media Shout & Lights: Tim Cox

Faith grows here

UPCOMING EVENTS AT OSLC



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Graceful Spaces Committee

*April showers
bring
(May flowers)*



An Invitation to Share Flowers for the Altar

Flowers not only enhance our services but also serve as a reminder of God's goodness and provision. Please consider being a part of this joyful tradition of donating flowers for the altar, your gift will be a blessing for all who gather in worship. **For more information call the church office, or see the kiosk board in the Narthex.**



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pub Theology

Thursday, May 15

7 p.m. | Joe's Sports Cafe

Join us for conversation on issues relating to faith and life!

Come have something to drink,
and stay for a good conversation!

Everyone over 21 is WELCOME!



Baptisms & Sympathies



Blessings on your Baptism

Lily Marie LaCanne

daughter of Claire and Ryan LaCanne.

Baptized on March 30, 2025

faith grows here

With Deepest Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Those Who Mourn:

The Family of Norma Bryon




Vern Steffens and family

in the death of his daughter, Suzy Steffens

Nikki Lemke and family

in the death of her brother -in-law, Jene Benolken

*May God's grace and love surround
you during this difficult time.*

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
 <p>4 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service / Communion 9:30 am Confirmation Stepping Stone Presentation 11:00 am Confirmation Service 12:00 pm Family Gathering Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>5 5:30 pm Property Committee Meeting (Noah's Ark Rm) 6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together"</p>	<p>6 9:30 am Grief Support "Help for Newly Bereaved" 1:00 pm Lamplighters 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting (Fireside Rm) 6:30 pm Free Spirit Reh.</p>	 <p>7 7:00 pm High School Youth</p>	<p>1 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>11 Mother's Day 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Bake Sale/ Silent Auction Fundraiser</p>	<p>12 6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together"</p>	<p>13 9:30 am Grief Support "Help for Newly Bereaved" 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Free Spirit Reh.</p>	<p>14 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Dynamic Dusters Kitchen Cleaning 7:00 pm High School Youth</p>	<p>15 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Faith Circle 10:00 am Dynamic Dusters 7:00 pm Pub Theology (Joes Sports Café)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service / Communion 10:45 am Gather Table Meeting</p>	<p>19 8:30 am FARE 6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together"</p>	<p>20 9:30 am Grief Support "Help for Newly Bereaved" 11:30 am FACMA 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Executive Council 6:30 pm Church Council 6:30 pm Free Spirit Reh.</p>	<p>21 7:00 pm High School Youth</p>	<p>22 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters 9:00 am Quilters</p>	<p>23 5:00 pm High School Lock-In</p>	 <p>24</p>
<p>25 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am Baptism Leis Ronnie Aksland 9:30 am Temple Talk</p>	<p>26 Memorial Day Office Closed</p>	<p>27 9:30 am Grief Support "Help for Newly Bereaved" 1:00 pm Mill City Service 2:30 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>28 7:00 – 9:00 am Ruth's House Meeting (Noah's Ark Rm) 7:00 pm High School Youth 7:45 pm Spring Table Meeting</p>	<p>29 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helper</p>	<p>30 Synod Assembly</p>	<p>31 Synod Assembly</p>



Our Savior's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1207 Prairie Ave. S. | Faribault, MN 55021

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
FARIBAULT, MN
PERMIT NO. 81

Change Service Requested

STAY CONNECTED

oursaviorsfbo.org



Pr. Kira Anderson

Lead Pastor

pastorkira@oursaviorsfbo.org

Pr. Drew Yackel

Associate Pastor

pastordrew@oursaviorsfbo.org

Ashley Taylor

Kathleen G. Putrah Director of Children's Ministry

ashley@oursaviorsfbo.org

Grace Harrison

Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

grace@oursaviorsfbo.org

Wendy Smith-Becker

Office Coordinator

wendy@oursaviorsfbo.org

Pam Salvesson

Financial Secretary

financialsecretary@oursaviorsfbo.org

Apply Today!

Facilities Coordinator

info@oursaviorsfbo.org

Micah Lynn

Congregational Council President

churchcouncil@oursaviorsfbo.org

Faith grows here

THE PIE WARS THE PIE STRIKES BACK RESULTS

Total Gift from Our Savior's and First English

\$11,078.00

The Force of Generosity is Strong in our Community!

Thanks to the incredible support during the Pie Wars, we raised a galactically generous donation for the Community Action Center Food Shelf! Your kindness is fueling hope and meals for those in need. Together, we've proven that when we unite for good, the dark side doesn't stand a chance. **Thank you for being a force for good!**



**REDDI WIP
REBELS**

PASTOR DREW AND GRACE

\$1820.13



**COOL WHIP
EMPIRE**

PASTOR KIRA AND ASHLEY

\$2807.81

\$600 MADE OUT DIRECTLY TO CAC.