



# Our Savior's

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2025  
NEW SLETTER

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FAITH GROWS HERE.

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### 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](http://oursaviorsfbo.org)

#### Follow us on Social Media:



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Dear friends in Christ,

Beloved Community: Being a beloved community means coming together in unity, love, and respect for one another. It means creating a space where all are welcomed, valued, and heard. This is something that I strive for when I think of the community of Our Savior's. Through forums, book studies, and dialogue, all people are going to be invited to explore what it truly means to be a beloved community in our context. We will look at what extending hospitality and showing genuine care for each other looks like. While digging in together, I hope we will better define who we are as a church and how we can live out our values in community with others.

Beloved Community is kicking off this month and I am thrilled to share with you an exciting development that recently took place at the Synod Assembly of the South East Minnesota Synod. Three resolutions were passed! One of which emphasizes the importance of lifting up the stories of women in the Bible through preaching and teaching. This resolution is a significant step towards ensuring that all voices and perspectives in scripture are heard and celebrated.

As a member of a women clergy group, I had the privilege of being a part of the process that led to this resolution. We drew inspiration from the ELCA social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: a call to action," which highlights the need for gender equality and inclusivity within the church. In traditional worship scriptures, many of the voices and stories of women in the Bible are not told. This resolution calls worship leaders to seek out the stories and share them. By committing to preaching and teaching the stories of women in scripture, we are honoring the diverse voices and experiences that make up our faith tradition.

I am excited to bring this resolution to our congregation and invite you to join me in exploring the rich and diverse characters in the Bible. Pastor Drew and I are committed to seek out commentaries and resources written by women, depart from commonly used lectionaries if necessary, and share our learnings with one another, which is what the resolution calls for. Together, we can create a more inclusive and empowering space for all members of our community.

I pray that you will be engaged in this process as well. Come with open hearts to hear the full spectrum of voices in scripture.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kira

ROOTED IN GOD'S LOVE. GATHERED AS CHRIST'S COMMUNITY. SPRINGING INTO JOYFUL DISCIPLESHIP.

# Beloved Community and the Least of These

Most of us have at least a passing familiarity with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Far fewer are familiar with MLK's concept of "the beloved community," which is arguably the most central idea of his philosophy and what animated his preaching, teaching, and work for civil rights.

In the beloved community, conflicts are resolved peacefully, and adversaries are reconciled through a mutual commitment to understanding, respect, and goodwill. Dr. King believed poverty, hunger, and homelessness would not be tolerated in such a community because human decency would not allow it. An all-inclusive spirit of siblinghood would replace racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry, and prejudice. In Dr. King's beloved community, compassion and care for the vulnerable are not acts of charity but responsibilities of justice. And the means to achieve this community must always be through nonviolence. Of course, these ideas were not conjured out of thin air, they are deeply rooted in the biblical witness and the ministry and teaching of Jesus himself.

At our synod's annual assembly this past May, several resolutions were considered, voted on, and adopted. One of them, entitled "Support for the Least of These and the Ministries that Serve Them," reminds us of the core message of love and justice that Jesus preached and lived. It reads, in part, "WHEREAS Jesus himself instructs us to show our neighbor mercy (Luke 6:36, 10:29-37) and calls us especially to care for the marginalized and the "least of these" (Matthew 25:31-46), including the sick, the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, the imprisoned, and the stranger; WHEREAS we are called in our baptism "to serve all people, following the example of Jesus," and "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth (Evangelical Lutheran Worship pp 228), be it RESOLVED, that we as the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA affirm our commitment to living out our baptismal vocation in daily life; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves to standing up for the rights and dignity of all God's beloved children, especially for our siblings of color, our queer and transgender siblings, our migrant and refugee siblings, our hungry and thirsty siblings and those experiencing homelessness, our siblings with disabilities, and all our siblings whose rights are being threatened; and we commit ourselves to speaking out against discrimination and prejudice in all places and all ways."

How might we respond to what this resolution calls for? How do we envision what our care and advocacy for the least of these is lived out in and through Our Savior's Lutheran Church? How might the Holy Spirit be moving us toward embodying the beloved community that Dr. King spoke of and that Jesus embodied? These are some of the questions Pr. Kira and I want to wonder about with all of you. So we're inviting you into several opportunities to do just that, including the Beloved Community Forums taking place on July 13 and July 20 (see the ad elsewhere for details).

My hope is that through dialogue and listening, with each other, with scripture, with the Holy Spirit, and with the world, we can discern a faithful path forward. Silence is not an option. The world is hungry for justice, and our neighbors need to hear our voice of compassion and solidarity. Please join me in praying for God's guidance in this holy work.

Your Sibling in Beloved Community,  
Pr. Drew



## *Mark your Calendar!* Beloved Community Forums

Come join in conversation about how we are being called to live out Christ's vision of inclusive community where all are welcomed and treated with love and justice.

**Sunday, July 13, 10:45 – 11:30am** – A conversation facilitated by Pr. Drew on the synod assembly resolution calling for support for the "least of these" and the ministries that serve them.

**Sunday, July 20, 10:45 – 11:30am** – A conversation facilitated by Pr. Kira on the synod assembly resolution for expanded preaching and teaching on the stories of women in the Bible and use of female imagery of God.

Each forum will include time to read and reflect together on these resolutions that were adopted by our synod, then to think about how we can put them into action in our congregation and community. Conversations will include time for small group table discussion and reporting back to the larger group. Come ready to listen, reflect, and share.

# UPCOMING EVENTS AT OSLC




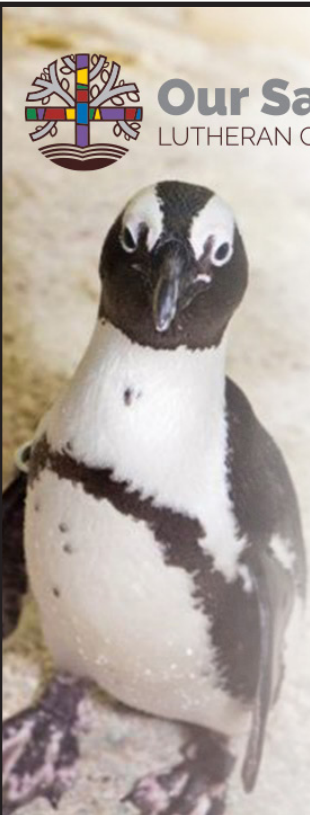
**Our Savior's** Summer Family Fun Day  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Saturday, July 12 | 9AM - 5PM**

## VALLEY FAIR

Families and students are invited for a fun day at Valleyfair! Students under the age of 12 should be accompanied by an adult.

**Cost** \$35/person  
**Optional Meal Deal**  
add on for \$15/person  
***Please sign up with the QR code.***




**Our Savior's** Summer Family Fun & Service Day  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Thursday, August 28 | 8:30AM - 4PM**

## Feed My Starving Children & Minnesota Zoo

Families and students are invited for a morning of service at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan and an afternoon at the Minnesota Zoo! Please bring a bagged lunch.

**Cost** \$10/person  
***Please sign up with the QR code.***





# COUNCIL CORNER

The Church Council met on Tuesday, June 17th. Some of the highlights of our meeting include:

For the remainder of the year, Council will be reading "Anatomy of a Revived Church," and using that as a foundation for considering the direction of the church moving forward.

There are lots of things going on with youth programming! The North Carolina Mission trip wrapped on Monday, June 16, six Confirmation students went to Good Earth Village this past week, Wild Wednesdays are available throughout the summer and VBS is right around the corner. This fall, kids from PreK to 5th grade will be given two options for Education, either after church 10:45 to 11:30 or Wednesday programming. Both times will cover the same material. Please use the QR codes in the bulletins, newsletters and emails to register for upcoming opportunities and events including the Summer Family Fun Days

At the end of May, the Finance Committee conducted a review of the 2024 finances. Their report indicates that the checks and balances that have been enacted over the last few years have been closely followed, and all records and matters were found to be in order. Thank you to the OSLC staff for being so diligent in following these procedures as well.

Council voted to approve two grants that will supplement the Noisy Offering. The first is for Rotary International's efforts to eradicate polio. Dr. Huston has already generously offered a matching \$1,000 gift. The grant approved would activate once the \$1,000 threshold is met, matching the amount collected over \$1,000 dollar for dollar up to \$1,000, meaning a potential \$4,000 going towards the efforts to eradicate polio once and for all. We also approved a 2 to 1 "School Supplies for All" grant to support our local schools. During the months of July and August, the noisy offering will go to help supply our local schools and students with necessary supplies. If the noisy offering collects \$1,667 through July and August, the grant will add \$3,333 for a total \$5,000 donation.

Pastor Kira and Pastor Drew will be presenting and discussing Resolutions passed at the recent Synod Assembly after worship on July 13 and 20. Please join us as you are able for these forums.

The Property team is considering and the council would like your feedback using the yellow sheets found in the pews during worship on the need for adding additional handicap parking spaces.

Thank you for the many ways in which you continue to bless our church with your time, talents, gifts and resources.

With our greatest appreciation,  
Our Savior's Council



**Our Savior's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## *Dwelling in the Word*

**Tuesdays | 9:30-10:30 AM | The Narthex**

Join your pastors for a weekly Bible study called *Dwelling in the Word*. **Starting July 1st** and continuing **every Tuesday morning from 9:30-10:30 in the Narthex**. Each week, we will read scripture for the coming Sunday. Then we will engage in conversations around three key questions: What does the text say? What does the text mean? And, most importantly, What is God saying to me through this text?

*Dwelling in the Word* for all individuals! Whether you can attend every week or sporadically, whether you have a deep understanding of scripture or just starting to dig deeper. It's a great opportunity to connect with other members of our community, our Pastors, and grow in your faith through shared exploration of scripture. Come as you are, bring your questions and insights, and let's journey together through the pages of the Bible. We look forward to welcoming you with open arms and open hearts.



# Financial Update

## Fast Figures 2025 Financials Finalized through May 2025

	Actual	Ministry Spending	Difference
May Reciepts	\$ 37,205	\$ 42,500	\$ (5,295)
May Expenses	\$ (51,545)	\$ (60,331)	\$ 8,786
Receipts Over Expenses	\$ (14,340)	\$ (17,831)	\$ 3,491
			\$ -
YTD Receipts	\$ 263,811	\$ 247,450	\$ 16,361
YTD Expenses	\$ (259,622)	\$ (305,365)	\$ 45,743
Receipts Over Expenses	\$ 4,189	\$ (57,915)	\$ 62,104

Balance Sheet Recap	Actual	Beginning Balance	Change
Total cash on hand as of 05-31-2025	\$ 260,979.21	\$ 260,471.12	\$ 508.09
Total cash Designated for specific purposes (restricted accounts)	\$ 179,220.43	\$ 182,901.73	\$ (3,681.30)
Leaving a cash balance for General Operating expenses of	\$ 81,758.78	\$ 77,569.39	\$ 4,189.39

May is finalized.

Giving compared to plan is down <12.46%> or <\$5,295>  
Expenses are down compared to plan <-14.56%> or <-\$8,786>

Year to Date:

Giving compared to plan is up +6.61% or \$16,361  
Expenses are down compared to plan <-14.98%> or <-\$45,743>

Total Cash in General Operating Account is \$81,758.78 this is the cash we have access to for any reason/need. Goal is to have two months in reserve.

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

## July Noisy Offering

## ~ATTENTION~

### Faribault School Supplies For All

The School Supplies for All initiative is a grassroots effort—spearheaded by community volunteers, local nonprofits such as the Community Action Center and Rice County Area United Way—to ensure that every child from preschool through grade 12 starts the school year with the essentials. The program provides backpacks and school supplies to approximately 1,200 students from across the Faribault Public Schools district. This program is supported largely by donations and strengthens community ties while empowering students with the tools they need to succeed academically.

### Share Your Music with Us!

We are looking for people to play special music in worship throughout the summer. Please contact Wendy in the church office, at [wendy@oursaviorsfbo.org](mailto:wendy@oursaviorsfbo.org), if you are interested in sharing your talents in worship!

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Our Savior's  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

*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 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**



**6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**





# REGISTER TODAY!



**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



A book club for women  
looking to connect  
outside of church!

## Join Us!

Our first gathering is on  
**July 14th, 7-8pm**  
at Pastor Kira's home.

We'll be discussing  
**"How We Learn to Be Brave"**  
by Marianne Edgar Budde.

Let's dive deep into faith together.  
**Interested?** Send me a text (507)412-1060  
or email [pastorkira@oursaviorsfbo.org](mailto:pastorkira@oursaviorsfbo.org)  
to start this journey with us!



# HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

## SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

<b>04</b> JUNE	Welcome 9th graders potluck & games!	←
<b>11</b> JUNE	FREE NIGHT! (Grace gone)	←
<b>18</b> JUNE	FREE NIGHT! (Grace gone)	←
<b>25</b> JUNE	Volleyball & Basketball @ North Alexander	←
<b>02</b> JULY	Movie Night!	←
<b>09</b> JULY	Board Game night!	←
<b>16</b> JULY	Slip n slide kickball/water games	←
<b>23</b> JULY	Mini Golf (Location TBD)	←
<b>30</b> JULY	Ultimate Frisbee	←
<b>06</b> AUGUST	Summer Desserts Baking Contest	←
<b>13</b> AUGUST	FREE NIGHT! (Grace gone)	←
<b>20</b> AUGUST	FRIENDLY PETS night!	←
<b>27</b> AUGUST	End of Summer Party!	←

**All events are on Wednesday, 7 - 9 p.m. @ OSLC, unless otherwise noted!**

**To receive messages about summer youth group, please TEXT Grace at 715-338-2326 with your name, and state you would like to be added to the list!**

**\*Schedule is subject to change**



# SERMON TEXT & VOLUNTEERS



*"God Doesn't  
Make Mistakes"*  
Sunday, July 6  
Galatians 5:1-4

*"Jesus Loves You,  
But I'm His Favorite"*  
Sunday, July 13  
Acts 10:34-35, 44-48,  
John 3:16-17

*"Don't Put a Question  
Mark Where God  
put a Period."*  
Sunday, July 20  
Job 42:1-5

*"Let Go. Let God."*  
Sunday, July 27  
Isaiah 43:1-3, 5-7, 18-19

## JULY USHERS

HERB HICKEY ©  
EVON ASK  
DEAN MANZ

HARRY & SHARON DELL  
MARK HELGESON  
BRUCE & JAN BOUDREAU

## COMMUNION

### PREP SERVERS

#### JULY 6

Ruth Hickey  
Fred & Barb Grote  
John & Edie Mattson  
Amy Stadler  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

#### JULY 20

Ruth Hickey  
Dennis & Rita Wunderlich  
Dan & Karen Rasmussen  
Ruth Hickey  
Jill Finstuen

## SCRIPTURE READERS

#### JULY 6

Mary Zentner

#### JULY 13

Christine Sammon

#### JULY 20

Jill Finstuen

#### JULY 27

John Mattson

## SOUND & TECH TEAM

#### JULY 6

**Sound:** Allen Salvesson  
**Livestream:** Brendan Cox

**Media Shout & Lights:** Linda Hanegraff

#### JULY 13

**Sound:** Jordyn Finstuen  
**Livestream:** Brendan Cox

**Media Shout & Lights:** Jarid Finstuen

#### JULY 20

**Sound:** Amy Cox  
**Livestream:** Brendan Cox

**Media Shout & Lights:** Tim Cox

#### JULY 27

**Sound:** Jordyn Finstuen  
**Livestream:** Brendan Cox

**Media Shout & Lights:** Jarid Finstuen



## Beloved Community *Book Study*

**July 9, July 23, August 13, August 27 | 5:30 PM**

**"A Faith of Many Rooms; Inhabiting a more spacious Christianity"**

Join us on Wednesdays in the Narthex from 5:30 - 6:30 PM for a four-week exploration of *A Faith of Many Rooms* by Debie Thomas, a compelling invitation to embrace a broader, more inclusive vision of Christianity. Each week, we'll reflect on key themes from the book—beginning with what it means to create space for all and truly welcome diversity within our faith. We'll explore the different "rooms" or expressions of Christianity, examine how spiritual growth and transformation shape our journey, and consider ways we can live out a more generous, open-hearted faith. Whether you're seeking deeper spiritual connection or curious about what a spacious Christianity might look like, this series offers thoughtful conversation and meaningful reflection for all.

# Baptisms & Sympathies



## *Blessings on your Baptism*

**Hazel Lila Winden**  
daughter of Heidi & Beau Winden.  
Baptized on June 22, 2025

*faith grows here*




## *With Deepest Sympathy*

Our Sympathy to Those Who Mourn:

**The Family of Betty McDonald**  
**Linda and Wayne Staab and**  
**Erica Staab-Abscher and family**  
in the death of Linda's mother, Selma Nelson.

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



<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tue.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thur.</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Sat.</b>
		<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:30 am Grief Support "Help for Newly Bereaved" 9:30 am Dwelling in the Word 2:30 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>5:00 – 7:00 pm Wild Wednesdays 7:00 pm High School Youth</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters</p>	<p><b>4</b> Independence Day Office Closed</p> 	<p><b>5</b></p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9:30 am Sunday Worship Service / Communion</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>3:30 – 5:30 pm Ruth's House Meeting 6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together"</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:30 am Grief Support "Help for Newly Bereaved" 9:30 am Dwelling in the Word 2:30 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>7:30 – 9:30 am Ruth's House Meeting (Noah's Ark Rm) 5:00 – 7:00 pm Wild Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:30 pm Beloved Community Book Study (Narthex) 7:00 pm High School Youth</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters 9:00 am Quilters</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9:00 am – 5:00 pm Summer Family Fun and Service / Valleyfair 10:30 am – 5:00 pm Fellowship Hall Rented Out</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 – 11:30 am Beloved Community Forum (Narthex)</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>5:30 pm Property Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together" 7:00 – 8:00 pm Faithful Pages, Book Club for Women</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:30 am Grief Support "Help for Newly Bereaved" 9:30 am Dwelling in the Word 2:30 pm Staff Meeting No Executive Council No Church Council</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>5:00 – 7:00 pm Wild Wednesdays 7:00 pm High School Youth</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters 6:30 pm Ice Cream Social w/ 1<sup>st</sup> English (Central Park)</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9:30 am Sunday Worship / Communion 10:45 – 11:30 am Beloved Community Forum (Narthex)</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together"</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:30 am Grief Support "Help for Newly Bereaved" 9:30 am Dwelling in the Word 1:00 pm Mill City Service 2:30 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>5:00 – 7:00 pm Wild Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:30 pm Beloved Community Book Study (Narthex) 7:00 pm High School Youth</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters 9:00 am Quilters</p>	<p><b>25</b> Wedding Samantha Pierce Off Site</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9:30 am Sunday Worship Service 10:45 am Gather Table Meeting</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together"</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:30 am Grief Support "Help for Newly Bereaved" 9:30 am Dwelling in the Word 2:30 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>5:00 – 7:00 pm Wild Wednesdays 7:00 pm High School Youth</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers</p>		



**Our Savior's**  
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## STAY CONNECTED

[oursaviorsfbo.org](http://oursaviorsfbo.org)



**Pr. Kira Anderson**

Lead Pastor  
[pastorkira@oursaviorsfbo.org](mailto:pastorkira@oursaviorsfbo.org)

**Pr. Drew Yackel**

Associate Pastor  
[pastordrew@oursaviorsfbo.org](mailto:pastordrew@oursaviorsfbo.org)

**Ashley Taylor**

Kathleen G. Putrah Director of Children's Ministry  
[ashley@oursaviorsfbo.org](mailto:ashley@oursaviorsfbo.org)

**Grace Harrison**

Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries  
[grace@oursaviorsfbo.org](mailto:grace@oursaviorsfbo.org)

**Wendy Smith-Becker**

Office Coordinator  
[wendy@oursaviorsfbo.org](mailto:wendy@oursaviorsfbo.org)

**Pam Salveson**

Financial Secretary  
[financialsecretary@oursaviorsfbo.org](mailto:financialsecretary@oursaviorsfbo.org)

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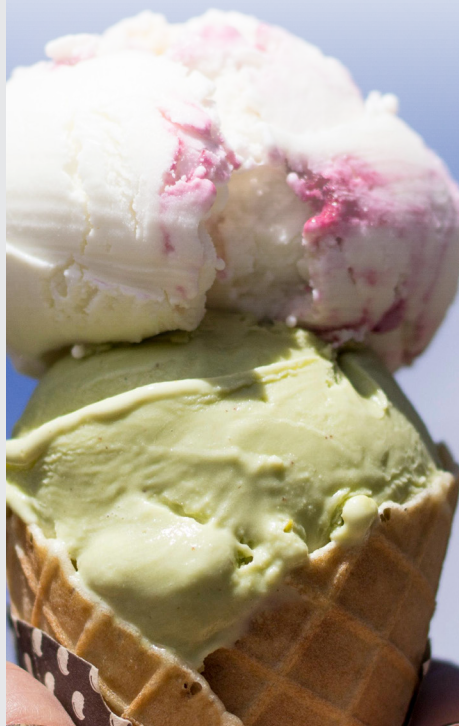
Business Administrator  
[oursaviorsfbo.org](http://oursaviorsfbo.org)

**Micah Lynn**

Congregational Council President  
[churchcouncil@oursaviorsfbo.org](mailto:churchcouncil@oursaviorsfbo.org)

*Faith grows here*

# IT'S AN *Ice Cream Social*



**July 17**  
**Central Park**

To celebrate another successful food drive in which we teamed up with First English Lutheran Church to raise **\$11,078 for the CAC foodshelf**, you're invited to join us for ice cream, fellowship, and music.

**6:30 pm - Ice cream and fellowship**

**7 pm - Concert by Bend in the River Big Band**

**Bring a lawn chair!**