



Our Savior's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2025

NEWSLETTER

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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

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Dear friends in Christ,

I am thrilled to share the journey some of our members have been on together as we delve into the book study of "A Faith of Many Rooms: Inhabiting a more spacious Christianity" by Debie Thomas. In this book, we have explored the concept of "nadhe" introduced by the author. She defines *nadhe* as a space where our inner and outer lives align. Through rich conversations and personal stories, we have heard stories of how faith was been passed down through generations. Together we sat in our sanctuary and discussed how our space shapes the faith that we are passing down generations as well.

As we approach the mid-point of our book study, I want to encourage each of you to join us for the final two discussions on August 13th and 27th at 5:30 pm in our narthex. We will be discussing chapters 5 to the end of the book. I know that our conversations will continue to be enlightening and inspiring for all who choose to participate.

This invitation comes because our book study is more than just a four-week conversation and reflection. This study of *Beloved Community* will live on beyond our physical time together. Being a Beloved Community will shape how we continue to live out our faith and welcome as Our Savior's Lutheran Church!

Worship is a space where people come together for a shared experience of faith. In worship we engage in a sense of belonging and support within the community grounded in the foundation of the Bible. Worship offers guidance, wisdom, and inspiration through; amazing sermons , prayer, and music that can help individuals navigate our ever-changing world. The worship space offers place for personal reflection on beliefs, values, actions, and a space to seek forgiveness, healing, and renewal!

While worship is important, it is when our inner and outer lives align that one is satisfied in their life, it is our *nadhe*! There are 168 hours in one week and worship is ONLY 1 hour, maybe 1 ½ hours TOPS. So how you live and find sustenance outside of that 1 hour is important to me! Join a book club, attend a bible study, read a devotional daily, teach Wednesday Christian Education, gather with friends and have more than a surface-level conversation (truly care for each other's needs) anything!! Dear Church - find a way to deepen your faith alongside worshipping on Sunday's, this practice will only strengthen your journey in faith and our community.

I hope to see you all in August, and maybe most importantly, I hope to hear how you are finding your *nadhe*!

In Christ,
Pastor Kira

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

Discipleship in a Democracy: Part Two

Last summer I wrote a newsletter article titled "Discipleship in a Democracy." This article revisits the topic, as I believe it continues to prove highly relevant today.

As a pastor, I have occasionally been critiqued for saying things that were perceived as being political in nature. Whether in a sermon, on social media, or in a newsletter article like this one, I may express views that challenge some. Often the gist of the critique goes like this, "Pastor, you're being too political. There's no place for politics in the church." I welcome critique and feedback of this nature. I need to know if and when my words might stray from the gospel. After all, I am human just like you, and I have my own biases and blind spots. However, my commitment as a pastor is to preach the gospel in the world and interpret what it means for us today. Let me be clear; the gospel is not partisan. Neither Republicans nor Democrats have a monopoly on Christianity. But the life and teachings of Jesus are not void of politics. In fact, if we take Jesus' words seriously – to love our neighbors as ourselves, to show kindness to the least of these, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, show hospitality to the stranger, and care for the poor, the sick and the outcast – we see that these actions have political implications and require public policy to be effective.

As Lutherans, we affirm that part of our baptismal calling is the responsibility to, "care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace" (Holy Baptism, ELW p. 228). We also recognize that this calling is not purely a matter of personal effort, but that government has an important role to play. Martin Luther names "good government" as a gift of God needed for the flourishing of our daily lives and communities (Small Catechism, explanation to the Lord's Prayer). Since we live in a representative democracy here in the U.S., "good government" depends on the involvement of its citizens. Our church body affirms this in its social message on civic engagement: "ELCA social teaching holds that all residents of the United States have a responsibility to make government function well—not to abandon our democracy but to engage it in a spirit of robust civic duty. For Lutherans, this responsibility is lived out as a calling from God, expressed in the discipleship described in our baptismal promises. It is based on our understanding of how God governs human society."

I encourage you to read the ELCA's social message on Government and Civic Engagement, which you can find here: <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government>. I also commend to you the ELCA draft social statement on Civic Life and Faith which will be voted on for adoption as official church teaching at this summer's Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, July 28-Aug. 2. I will be traveling there to serve as a voting member. You can find the draft statement here: <https://www.elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/current-social-writing-projects/civic-life-and-faith>.

The last time I wrote to you on this topic, the presidential campaign season was in full swing. Voting in presidential elections are, for many Americans, the only time they engage in our democracy, which I find deeply problematic. Robust civic participation goes far beyond this and includes things like, following local, state, national news, and international news, participating in civic organizations, attending school board or city council meetings, supporting social service organizations, and contacting your elected representatives – especially to encourage them to support legislation that seeks to care for the "least of these."

Our Savior's has hosted several intentional conversations recently about civic participation and advocacy work, and how our congregation might be called to engage in it. The Spring Table, Pub Theology, our Beloved Community forums, and discussion among council members, pastors, and staff have all been part of this. I welcome conversation with you as well.

Yours in Christ,

Pr. Drew

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS AT OSLC



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.



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Summer Family Fun & Service Day

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.



Book Studies



Beloved Community *Book Study*

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.



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

Join Us!

Our next gathering is on
August 11th, 7-8pm
at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

We'll be discussing
"The Red Tent"
by Anita Diamant

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

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS AT OSLC



Lamplighters

Adult Christians Lighting the Way

Join us for our Annual Potluck Picnic

Tuesday, August 5, 2025
at 12 PM at Alexander Park



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOISY OFFERING
UPDATE

*July's Noisy Offering
was a success!*

Thanks to your generosity along with matching gifts from Dr. Dick Huston, an outreach grant from Spring Table, and a gift from the Lamplighters, we were able to reach our goal of **raising \$4,000** to support ending polio once and for all worldwide.

Financial Update

Fast Figures 2025 Financials Finalized through June 2025

	Actual	Ministry	Difference
June Reciepts	\$ 55,380	\$ 59,800	\$ (4,420)
June Expenses	\$ (51,034)	\$ (60,902)	\$ 9,868
Receipts Over Expenses	\$ 4,346	\$ (1,102)	\$ 5,448
			\$ -
YTD Receipts	\$ 319,192	\$ 307,250	\$ 11,942
YTD Expenses	\$ (310,656)	\$ (366,266)	\$ 55,610
Receipts Over Expenses	\$ 8,536	\$ (59,016)	\$ 67,552

Balance Sheet Recap

	Actual	Beginning	Change
Total cash on hand as of 06-30-2025	\$ 264,586.92	\$ 260,471.12	\$ 4,115.80
Total cash Designated for specific purposes (restricted accounts)	\$ 178,481.76	\$ 182,901.73	\$ (4,419.97)
Leaving a cash balance for General Operating expenses of	\$ 86,105.16	\$ 77,569.39	\$ 8,535.77

June is finalized.

Giving compared to plan is down <7.39%> or <\$4,420>
Expenses are down compared to plan <-16.20%> or <- \$9,868>

Year to Date:

Giving compared to plan is up +3.89% or \$11,942
Expenses are down compared to plan <-15.18%> or <- \$55,610>

Total Cash in General Operating Account is \$86,105.16 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!

August Noisy Offering

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.

~ATTENTION~

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, 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

Save the Dates

September 10th | 5-7:30 PM

Christian Education Volunteer Training

September 7th | *God's Work, Our Hands*

Wear your work clothes to church and shar in God's work throughout our community! We will be going out to serve in our community. There will be a brief worship service, various service projects around Faribault and conclude with lunch and fellowship at Our Savior's at noon.

Fall Kickoff

Wednesday, September 17 | Sunday, September 21

It's time to launch into another exciting year of faith, fun, and friendship! Join us as we kick off our Wednesday & Sunday School programming, Confirmation Classes and High School Youth Group for the school year! Whether your child is just starting in Wednesday or Sunday School, joining Confirmation, or diving into Youth Group, we have a place for everyone.

Wednesday

September 17

Worship @ 6 pm

Kickoff @ 6:30 pm

Youth Group @ 8pm

Sunday

September 21

Worship @ 9:30 am

Kickoff @ 10:30 am

We can't wait to walk alongside your family this year — growing in faith, and making memories together. ***Come be a part of it!***

Haven't Registered Yet?

Use the QR Codes to sign up for Programming TODAY!

**Wednesday/
Sunday School**
Pre-K to 5th Grade



Confirmation
Grades 6th-8th





Our Savior's Lutheran Church is gearing up for an exciting year of faith formation—and we need YOU to make it happen! Whether you're a seasoned teacher, a great listener, a craft-lover, or simply have a heart for kids and youth, there's a place for you in our **Christian Education Ministry**.

We're looking for volunteers to serve as:

- ***Wednesday & Sunday School Teachers***
- ***Confirmation Mentors***
- ***Youth Group Leaders***
- ***Special Event Helpers***

No experience is necessary—just a willingness to share your time and faith.
Training and support are provided!

Be a part of something meaningful. Help shape the next generation of disciples. Interested? Contact Ashley Taylor (for Wednesday & Sunday School teachers) at ashley@oursaviorsfbo.org or Grace Harrison (Confirmation & Youth Group) at grace@oursaviorsfbo.org or sign up in the Church Office.

Reflections

YOUTH MINISTRY

Updates from our Youth Ministry Adventures

SparkDwell: High School Trip to North Carolina!

FELC and OSLC youth spent an awesome few days in North Carolina in June with SparkDwell! We spent the week serving and working alongside a church community called The Dwelling, which is mostly comprised of people experiencing homelessness and poverty. We were transformed by their stories of faithfulness amidst hardship and felt included and welcomed by the Winston-Salem community.

For one of our days we were split into groups and paired with a mentor, or a person who had been or is currently unhoused. We were given a scenario and then needed to find a solution. In one of our groups' scenarios we ran out of money from SNAP, so needed to find a food shelf. The problem was that we didn't know any food shelves and didn't have access to internet. So had to find internet and then find a way to get to the food shelf. It was an eye-opening experiencing to learn about what it really looks like to navigate the city with limited resources.

We are extremely grateful for our time at SparkDwell and would be happy to share our stories! Thank you for your support on this life changing trip!



Good Earth Village Confirmation Camp

We had another wonderful year at confirmation camp! A highlight from camp this year was the canoeing and the creek splashing! We also really enjoyed singing the fun and silly camp songs and hope to share some of those with you this year. Thank you so much for supporting our students and their faith formation at camp!



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

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



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

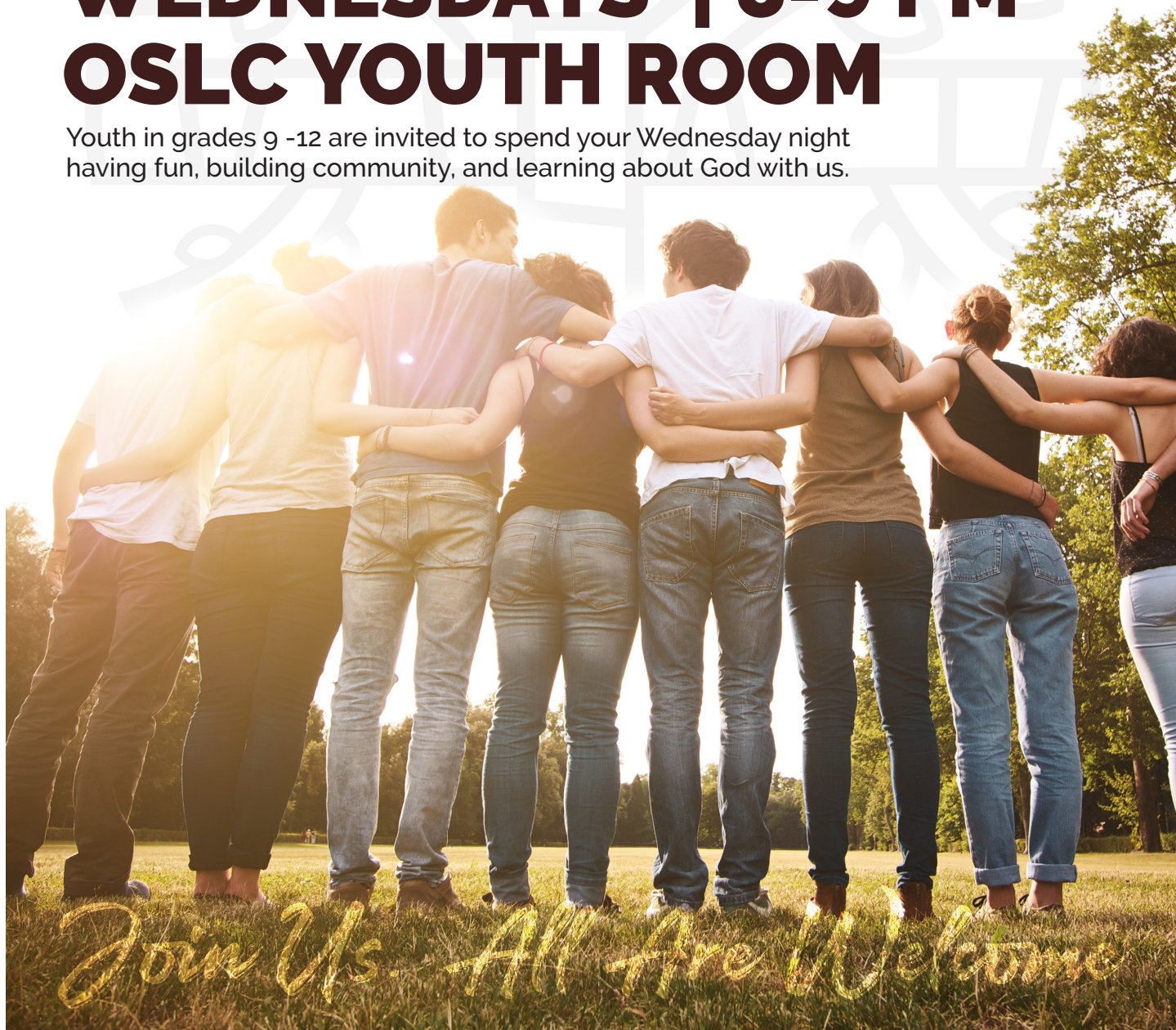
High School Youth Group

Fall Kickoff September 17

WEDNESDAYS | 8-9 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.



SERMON TEXT & VOLUNTEERS



*"Love the Sinner,
Hate the Sin"*
Sunday, August 3
Matthew 7:1-5

*"God Helps Those
Who Help Themselves"*
Sunday, August 10
Mark 10:35-45

"Too Blessed to be Stressed"
Sunday, August 17
Matthew 5:1-12,
Psalm 69:1-3, 13-16

*"It's All Part of
God's Plan"*
Sunday, August 24
Jeremiah 29:1-7

*"Normal Isn't Coming Back,
Jesus Is"*
Sunday, August 31
Mark 13:24-33

AUGUST USHERS

SCOTT FINSTUEN ©
JARID FINSTUEN
FRED & BARB GROTE
DENNIS & RITA WUNDERLICH

JILL FINSTUEN
KEN HUBERT
JOE GROTE
AARON STADLER

COMMUNION

PREP SERVERS

AUGUST 3

Mary Osborne
Stew & Cindy Schuenke
Allen & Pam Salveson
Harry & Sharon Dell

AUGUST 17

Mary Osborne
Dan & Karen Rasmussen
John & Edie Mattson
Linda Mueller

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

SCRIPTURE READERS

AUGUST 3 KRIS HOYSLER
AUGUST 10 SCOTT KOEPESELL
AUGUST 17 DONN JOHNSON
AUGUST 24 EVON ASK
AUGUST 31 EDIE MATTSON

SOUND & TECH TEAM

AUGUST 3

Sound: Owen Harrison
Livestream: Brendan Cox

Media Shout & Lights: Grace Harrison

AUGUST 10

Sound: Jarid Finstuen
Livestream: Brendan Cox

Media Shout & Lights: Linda Hanegraff

AUGUST 17

Sound: Amy Cox
Livestream: Brendan Cox

Media Shout & Lights: Tim Cox

AUGUST 24

Sound: Allen Salveson
Livestream: Brendan Cox

Media Shout & Lights: Linda Hanegraff

AUGUST 31

Sound: Jordyn Finstuen
Livestream: Brendan Cox

Media Shout & Lights: Jarid Finstuen

Baptisms & Sympathies



Blessings on your Baptism

Autumn Rose James
daughter of Amber & Justin James
was baptized on July 13, 2025

faith grows here

With Deepest Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Those Who Mourn:

Elisa and Joel Olson

in the death of Elisa's father, Eldon "Tex" Larson.

Patsy Ruhff in the death of her cousin, Bonnie.

Herb and Ruth Hickey

in the death of Herb's sister, Patrica Drawert.

Kathleen Holman and family

in the death of her husband, Glenn Holman.



Roxie Deike and family

in the death of her husband, Steve Deike.

Mary Osborne

in the death of her mother, May Bottke.

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

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
3 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service / Communion 	4 9:00 am – 11:30 am Wild Wonder VBS (Pk-K) 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Wild Wonder VBS (1-5 Gr) 3:30 – 5:00 pm Ruth's House Meeting 6:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together"	5 9:00 am – 11:30 am Wild Wonder VBS (Pk-K) 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Wild Wonder VBS (1-5 Gr) 9:30 – 10:30 am Dwelling in the Word 12:00 pm Lamplighters Potluck (Alexander Park)	6 9:00 am – 11:30 am Wild Wonder VBS (Pk-K) 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Wild Wonder VBS (1-5 Gr) 5:00 – 7:00 pm Wild Wednesdays 7:00 pm High School Youth	7 9:00 am – 11:30 am Wild Wonder VBS (Pk-K) 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Wild Wonder VBS (1-5 Gr)	1 5:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal	2 4:00 pm Wedding Amanda Hearing & Justin Horgaard
10 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Gather Table Meeting	11 6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together" 7:00 – 8:00 pm Faithful Pages	12 9:30 am Grief Support "Help for Newly Bereaved" 9:30 – 10:30 am Dwelling in the Word (Narthex) 2:30 pm Staff Meeting	13 7:30 – 9:30 am Ruth's House Meeting 5:00 – 7:00 pm Wild Wednesdays 5:30- 6:30 pm Beloved Community Book Study (Narthex) 7:00 pm High School Youth	14 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters 9:00 am Quilters	15	16
17 9:30 am Sunday Worship / Communion 2:00 – 8:00 pm Region 3 Discernment (Synod Event)	18 6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together"	19 9:30 am Grief Support "Help for Newly Bereaved" 9:30 – 10:30 am Dwelling in the Word (Narthex) 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Executive Council 6:30 pm Church Council	20 5:00 – 7:00 pm Wild Wednesdays 7:00 pm High School Youth	21 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters	22	23 
24 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am Temple Talk <hr/> 31 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service	25 6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together"	26 9:30 am Grief Support "Help for Newly Bereaved" 9:30 – 10:30 am Dwelling in the Word (Narthex) 1:00 pm Mill City Service 2:30 pm Staff Meeting	27 7:00 – 9:00 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) 6:30 pm Spring Table Meeting 7:00 pm High School Youth	28 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters 9:00 am Quilters 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Summer Family Fun & Service/ Feed My Starving Children / MN Zoo	29	30



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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 Salveson

Financial Secretary
financialsecretary@oursaviorsfbo.org

Apply Today!

Business Administrator
oursaviorsfbo.org

Micah Lynn

Congregational Council President
churchcouncil@oursaviorsfbo.org

Faith grows here

Join us for

The Pet Parade

August 7

Starting at the Corner of
2nd Ave NW and 9th St NW

The parade starts at 7 pm
Help our VBS Students celebrate
the end of an awesome week and
join us in the Faribault Pet Parade!

The Faribault Pet Parade is a long-standing tradition for Faribault. The event sparks the creativity of community members in the surrounding area and gives their beloved pets an opportunity to strut their stuff!

