



# Our Savior's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

# July 2026

NEWSLETTER

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FAITH GROWS HERE.

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## WORSHIP TIME:

### 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,

What do you value? Whether we realize it or not, our values shape the way we live. They influence how we spend our time, where we invest our energy, and what we believe is worth our attention.

Some people value hospitality and make sure everyone feels welcome. Others value service and look for ways to help those in need. Some value learning and are always seeking to grow in understanding. Others value generosity, compassion, justice, faithfulness, creativity, community, or prayer.

As people of faith I believe that our values are rooted in God's love for us and God's call to love our neighbors. When we name what we value, we become more intentional about living it out.

One of the core values that guides my ministry is relationships. I believe the church is not simply a collection of programs, committees, or statistics. The church is people—people whom God knows, loves, and calls by name. I have spent some time looking at our church membership records and realized there are many people connected to Our Savior's that I haven't gotten a chance to meet. As a result, I have begun a long-term effort to reach out to those individuals, one person at a time. My hope is simple: to connect. Whether someone worships regularly, occasionally, online, or is simply in a different season of life, I want them to know they are remembered, cared for, and remain an important part of this community.

For me, this effort to connect with people is one way of putting my values into action. It has also led me to wonder: What values are shaping the lives of the people of Our Savior's? What matters most to you? And how is God inviting you to live that value more intentionally?

As you reflect, consider these questions:

- What do you value? (Hospitality, compassion, service, generosity, justice, encouragement, prayer, relationships, or something else?)
- Where do you see that value already showing up in your life?
- How might God be inviting you to share that value with someone else?
- What is one small step you could take this week to put that value into action?

Perhaps it looks like inviting someone to coffee, volunteering for a ministry, mentoring a young person, praying for a neighbor, writing a note of encouragement, or reaching out to someone you haven't seen in worship for a while. The world needs people of faith who know what they value and are willing to live those values with courage and love. May we continue to discover the gifts God has given us and use them for the sake of our neighbors and God's work in the world.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kira

# A New Chapter, A Familiar Place

Dear friends at Our Savior's, grace and peace to you!

What a remarkable gift it is to be with you. For those who know me, hello again! For those I have yet to meet, I look forward to getting acquainted in the months ahead.

My name is Paul Gauche, and I have the joy of returning to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in a new role as Pastor for Formation and Thriving. While this chapter is new, the relationship is not. I served as one of the pastors at Our Savior's from 1987 until late 1995, and those years remain among the most meaningful and formative seasons of my ministry.

The people of this congregation helped shape me as a pastor and prepared me in countless ways for the nearly 30 years of ministry that followed at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Burnsville. Much has changed since our first season together, but my gratitude for all I received here—and my hope for what God can do through this community of faith—remain as strong as ever.

Beginning this summer, I'll be serving as a contract ministry partner, working alongside Pastor Kira Anderson and the staff. I'll be preaching once a month, assisting with worship, and helping cultivate opportunities for spiritual growth and faith formation throughout the congregation.

One project I'm especially excited to share with you is Thriv'era, which I've been developing over the past several years.

Thriv'era is built around a core conviction that I hold deeply: faith is not merely a belief system we sign up for; it's an intentional practice—a way of life that reaches into every part of who we are and how we engage the world. It invites us to understand ourselves as spirited, creative, and connected people called to be present, grateful, generous, and missional with our lives. Together, these seven thriving rhythms equip us to live with greater purpose, joy, connection, and hope—to bring some good to each moment, something better to each day, and our best to each other as we encounter the world together.

This fall, we'll begin exploring small-group opportunities built around these themes. If all goes well, we'll continue expanding those conversations into the new year. I'm excited to discover how God might use these gatherings to deepen faith, strengthen relationships, and help us thrive together.

A little family update seems appropriate as well.

Nancy Lee and I are deeply grateful for the life we're building together. Over the years, we've also had the opportunity to travel to fascinating places near and far, and those experiences have broadened our perspective and deepened our gratitude. Nancy recently retired after 16 years at Luther Seminary, where she served in children, youth, and family ministry and helped prepare pastors and church leaders for service throughout the church.

Our daughter, Sarah, and her husband, Travis, live in Newberg, Oregon, where they are raising three daughters: Ruby Grace, 13; Ryann Mae, 12; and Emily Joyce, 8. Closer to home, our son, Soren, and his wife, Bethany, live in Lakeville with their three children: Manny, 7; Gigi, 5; and Geno, 2. Being grandparents to six grandkids is one of life's great gifts, and we're grateful for every opportunity to spend time with them.

Beyond family and ministry, music and time outdoors also shape and sustain me.

Music plays a central role in my life. Whether I'm playing with other musicians, writing and arranging music, or sitting down at the piano at home, it remains a source of joy, creativity.

I remain as active as ever, and time outside is one of the ways I stay grounded and grateful. Over the years, I've hiked Minnesota's Superior Hiking Trail, walked the Camino de Santiago through Portugal and Spain, paddled countless canoe routes in the Boundary Waters, and explored trails close to home and farther afield. I'm convinced that some of life's deepest conversations happen while walking a trail, paddling a lake, or sharing a meal with good friends—and that faith grows best in much the same way: through simple practices, honest conversations, meaningful relationships, and a shared commitment to following Jesus.

Nancy Lee and I are grateful to be entering this new season with you. We look forward to reconnecting with familiar faces, meeting new friends, and discovering what God has in store for Our Savior's as we lean into the future.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Paul Gauche

*Pastor for Formation and Thriving*

# Council Corner

It seems fitting that we find ourselves within the season of Pentecost, that season that celebrates and reminds us of the presence of the Holy Spirit within our midst, that we can see how it is still working here among us today. During this month's council meeting, we were able to reflect in the ways and opportunities that are ahead of us when we do as has been said so many times before, when we let the Spirit guide us.

As we've transitioned away from a Business Administrator position with the onboarding of our Lighthouse contract, we are announcing that we are looking for a full-time Office Coordinator to support Lighthouse Strategic Solutions as the in-house relator, but that will not be their only function. We have been fortunate to have Wendy Becker at the forefront of the office for 27 years and with retirement on her horizon, this position will eventually take on the role that Wendy has lived into. After learning the relator roles with Lighthouse, the new Office Coordinator will then take on office operations and administrative function. If you would like to know more about this position, or know someone that may be interested, please check out the Church's website, [oursaviorsfbo.org](http://oursaviorsfbo.org), and the link to the job description is on the top of our home page.

The Staffing Task force is still moving ahead. While we've contracted with Pastor Paul and posted a new position, we are still looking for congregational members to join council and table members to evaluate the current and consider possible alternative staffing structures at Our Saviors. The hope is that this task force will start meeting at the end of the month. Please see Pastor Kira or a member of council if you are interested in being a part of this.

We want to remind you of the opportunities to gather on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month to discuss the ELCA's Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-Being of All. There will be three more sessions this summer, this Wednesday, and then on July 8th and July 22nd. These sessions will use the ELCA's social statements as a starting point, and as a congregation, we'll look at how these ideas align to the values and mission of Our Saviors. Copies of this social statement are available by the shelf outside the Fireworks Room.

We also want to celebrate that, while we've moved into a summer schedule, there is still a wealth of youth programming still taking place. Summer Stretch has been well attended, we still have High School Youth Group on Wednesday nights, and registration for VBS, being held at First English this year, is open for the 1st week of August. At this time we are looking for volunteers to make this joint program a success. We currently have zero congregational members from our church who have signed up to help. Please contact Ashley if you are willing to volunteer the first week of August. We are also encouraging families to register for fall programming. There are QR codes available on the welcome video, in the newsletter, and in the bulletin. We will also be looking for teachers and leaders as well, so would ask that you consider if this is something you'd be willing to do as well.

There is a lot going on, and it's our continuing goal that everyone move from a seat in the pew to active involvement at Our Saviors. Time and again we say it, but that is because we truly appreciate the gifts you bring to Our Saviors, be it through your time, talents, and resources. Thank you for being a part of our ministry.

In Christ's Service,  
The Our Saviors Council



**Our Savior's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Ushers Meeting

for current ushers, usher leads & anyone interested in being an usher

# Sunday, July 19, 2026

**Immediately following worship in the Sanctuary from 10:30-11:15am**

This will be a brief refresher as we review some important details that help our worship services run smoothly. We'll discuss routine responsibilities, including checking the oil in the candles and looking over the bulletin for any changes or special service elements that may require extra attention. Thank you for your willingness to serve and for helping create a welcoming experience for our congregation.

# Financial Update

Fast Figures			
2026 Financials			
Finalized through May 2026			
	Actual	Ministry Spending Plan	Difference
May Receipts	\$ 49,675.00	\$ 37,206.00	\$ 12,469.00
May Expenses	\$ (38,452.00)	\$ (60,244.00)	\$ 21,792.00
Receipts Over Expenses	\$ 11,223.00	\$ (23,038.00)	\$ 34,261.00
YTD Receipts	\$ 275,028.22	\$ 251,675.00	\$ 23,353.22
YTD Expenses	\$ (219,730.03)	\$ (316,824.00)	\$ 97,093.97
Receipts Over Expenses	\$ 55,298.19	\$ (65,149.00)	\$ 120,447.19
Balance Sheet Recap	Actual	Beginning Balance as of January 1st, 2026	Change
Total cash on hand as of 05-31-2026	\$ 384,788.69	\$ 325,216.38	\$ 59,572.31
Total cash Designated for specific purposes (restricted accounts)	\$ 198,583.60	\$ 194,309.78	\$ 4,273.82
	\$ 186,205.09	\$ 130,906.60	\$ 55,298.49

May giving was up 33.51% from Ministry Spending Plan or \$11,006

May expenses were down 36.17% from the Ministry Spending Plan or -\$21,792.00, and this was expected due to having open staff positions.

Year To Date - we are Up \$23,353 in Giving and we are Under Ministry Spending Plan by -\$97,094 in Expenses.

Currently we are sitting at a positive \$11,222 for May and \$55,298 YTD on our MSP.

Cash on hand is at \$186,205 this is a direct reflection of strong giving and the results of being short three staff positions.

Thank you all for your faithful support of OSLC!

*Faith grows here.*

# Growing Community

Connect in a small group ministry outside of weekly worship.

## OSLC Monday Morning Golf

We are happy to once again be able to enjoy golf at Faribault Golf Club this year with reserved **Tee Times of 9:00, 9:10, and 9:20**. We have a great price of **\$25 for 9 holes and a cart for those nonmembers** (18 holes, would be \$40).

We have dates for **July 6, 13, 20 & 27**. We will all gather there at 8:30 and make up teams at that time since some prefer a scramble format and others like to play their own ball.

**Questions?** Email Rich Dupuis at [ribulze@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ribulze@sbcglobal.net) or call 314-520-6842.



To organize who can join us when, join our group on the Team Reach app. Download for free from the App store (Apple) or Google Play (Android)

**Group name:** Faribault MN Church golf **Enter code:** Fmchurchgolf26

*All skill levels are Welcome!*



**Our Savior's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Save the Date



# Tuesday, August 4

## 5-7 PM | Our Savior's Parking Lot

Food Trucks

S'mores

Games & Crafts

Worship

Bouncy House

and More!

All are Welcome

# Growing Community

Connect in a small group ministry outside of weekly worship.

## Take Me Out to the Ballgame!



Our Savior's  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP EVENT

### Wednesday, July 8th

**7:30 PM | Bell Field at Alexander Park**

All OSLC friends and families are invited to join us for a Night at the Ballpark! Meet at the front gate at 7:25 PM. Your admission ticket and a complimentary bag of popcorn will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. Additional food and refreshments will be available for purchase at the concession stand.

Questions? Contact Liz Dupuis at 314-609-4961 (call or text).

## Join our

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

# Lunch Crew



Our Savior's  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Good Food & Good Conversation

**Thursday, July 16 | 11:30 AM**

The Third Thursday Lunch Crew is a relaxed fellowship opportunity for adults to connect over a meal and conversation at a different venue each month to keep things fresh and fun. There's no formal meeting or agenda—just good food, friendly conversation, and a chance to spend time together.

**Lunch is Dutch treat** (everyone purchases their own meal).

**The location will be announced at a later date.**

*All Adults are Welcome!*

# Growing Community

Connect in a small group ministry outside of weekly worship.

## Beloved Community

### Faith & Civic Life

Discussion Forum



*Faith shapes how we live, serve, and engage with the world around us. Join us for a community conversation exploring Faith and Civic Life through thoughtful discussion, shared perspectives, and meaningful connection.*

Using the synod's social statements as a starting point, we'll explore how these ideas align with the values and ministry of OSLC. Copies of the social statements will be available in the church office for anyone who would like to review them ahead of time. Whether you come to listen, learn, ask questions, or share your perspective, all are welcome as we grow together in faith and understanding.

**Wednesdays | 6 - 7 PM** *Save the Dates* **JULY: 8th & 22nd**



Our Savior's Lutheran Church Caring Ministry

## Grief Groups

Our grief support groups provide a safe, caring place for those who have lost a loved one. Participants often describe the group as a second family — a place where stories, struggles, and hope are shared. Together, we find strength for the journey ahead.

**Monday Nights:**

***Monday Evening Grief Group***

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Noah's Ark Room

Facilitator: Cindy Kubes

**Tuesday Mornings:**

***Finding Help and Healing***

9:30–11:00 a.m. | Noah's Ark Room

Facilitator: Mary Kinney

*You do not have to walk this road alone.*

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



**Our Savior's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



**FIRST ENGLISH**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Deadline to Register is Friday, July 24!**

**VBS Volunteers NEEDED!**



**Pre-K - Entering 6th Grade**

**VBS**  
9:00 - 11:30 AM

**DAY CAMP**  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**August 3-6 | First English Lutheran Church**

Join us for an exciting adventure on the open road, where kids embark on thrilling journeys to fantastic destinations. Children will discover that God is always with them. They'll explore timeless stories from the Old and New Testaments, learning how to face challenges and find strength in God's presence.



*Signup with the QR Code*



**Our Savior's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Pre-K through 8th Grade Families*

**Registration is Open!**

*Wednesday School/Confirmation*

**2026-27 Programming**

**Use the QR code register for 2026-27 school year programming**



**YOUTH MINISTRY**



**Our Savior's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# *Summer High School Youth Group*

**WEDNESDAYS | 6-8 PM**

**OSLC YOUTH ROOM**

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



*Join Us. All Are Welcome*

# SERMON TEXT & VOLUNTEERS

## July

*"People of God"*  
Sunday, July 5  
Psalm 145:8-14

*"Have Confidence in the Gospel"*  
Sunday, July 12  
1 Timothy 1:12-17

*"Take Hold of Eternal Life"*  
Sunday, July 19  
1 Timothy 6:6-19

*"Rekindle the Gift of God"*  
Sunday, July 26  
2 Timothy 1:1-14



### JUNE USHERS

HERB HICKEY ©  
EVON ASK  
DEAN MANZ  
LIZ DUPUIS

HARRY & SHARON DELL  
MARK HELGESON  
BRUCE & JAN BOUDREAU

### COMMUNION

	<b>JULY 19</b>	<b>JULY 26</b>
<b>PREP</b>	Ruth & Lyle Olson	Ruth & Lyle Olson
<b>SERVERS</b>	Dennis & Rita Wunderlich Stew & Cindy Schuenke Sarah Lockerby Barb Condit	Sylvia Alberts Karen Rasmussen John & Edie Mattson Paula Schauer Linda Mueller

### SCRIPTURE READERS

**JULY 5** Scott Koepsell  
**JULY 12** Donn Johnson  
**JULY 19** Evon Ask  
**JULY 26** Jill Finstuen

### SOUND & TECH TEAM

<b>JULY 5</b>	<b>Sound:</b> Allen Salvesson	<b>Media Shout:</b> Linda Hanegraff
<b>JULY 12</b>	<b>Sound:</b> Ashley Taylor	<b>Media Shout:</b> Mitch Anderson
<b>JULY 19</b>	<b>Sound:</b> Amy Cox	<b>Media Shout:</b> Tim Cox
<b>JULY 26</b>	<b>Sound:</b> Jordyn Finstuen	<b>Media Shout:</b> Jarid Finstuen






## With Deepest Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Those Who Mourn:

**Bonnie and Mark Cervenka** in the death of Bonnie's Step-mother, Donna Carpenter.

**Mark Ahnemann** in the death of his mother, Marian Ahnemann.

*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>5</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> Worship Service  <b>9:30 am</b> Welcome and Blessing of Pr. Paul Gauche  <b>9:30 am</b> Baptism Wyatt Bauer</p>	<p><b>6</b>  <b>9:00, 9:10, 9:20 am</b> Monday Morning Golf  <b>5:30 pm</b> Facilities Leadership Meeting  <b>6:30 pm</b> Grief Support</p>	 <p><b>7</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> Grief Support Group  <b>2:30 pm</b> Staff Meeting  <b>6:00 pm</b> Personnel Meeting</p>	<p><b>1</b>  <b>6:00 pm</b> High School Youth</p>	<p><b>2</b>  <b>8:30 am</b> Henry's Handy Helpers  <b>9:00 am</b> Dynamic Dusters</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4 Independence Day</b></p> 
<p><b>12</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> Worship Service  <b>10:45 am</b> Gather Table</p>	<p><b>13</b>  <b>9:00, 9:10, 9:20 am</b> Monday Morning Golf  <b>6:30 pm</b> Grief Support Group</p>	<p><b>14</b>  <b>8:00 am – 4:00 pm</b> Summer Stretch (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)  <b>9:30 am</b> Grief Support Group</p>	<p><b>8</b>  <b>5:00 -8:30 pm</b> Holy Smoke at Christ Lutheran Church, The Creek Cats  <b>6:00 pm</b> High School Youth &amp; Civic Life</p>	<p><b>9</b>  <b>8:00 am – 4:00 pm</b> Summer Stretch (PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)  <b>8:30 am</b> Henry's Handy Helpers  <b>9:00 am</b> Dynamic Dusters  <b>9:00 am</b> Quilters</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>19</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> Worship / Comm  <b>High School Trip Montana (19-25)</b></p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>9:00, 9:10, 9:20 am</b> Monday Morning Golf  <b>6:30 pm</b> Grief Support</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> Grief Support Group  <b>2:30 pm</b> Staff Meeting  <b>No</b> Executive Church Council Meeting  <b>No</b> Church Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>15</b>  <b>6:00 pm</b> High School Youth</p>	<p><b>16</b>  <b>8:30 am</b> Henry's Handy Helpers  <b>9:00 am</b> Dynamic Dusters  <b>11:30 am</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Luncheon Crew</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>26</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> Worship Service/ Comm. / Interpreted for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  <b>10:45 am</b> Finance Meeting</p>	<p><b>27</b>  <b>9:00, 9:10, 9:20 am</b> Monday Morning Golf  <b>6:30 pm</b> Grief Support</p>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> Grief Support Group  <b>1:00 pm</b> Mill City Service  <b>2:30 pm</b> Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>22</b>  <b>6:00 pm</b> High School Youth  <b>6:00 pm</b> Beloved Community Faith &amp; Civic Life</p>	<p><b>23</b>  <b>8:30 am</b> Henry's Handy Helpers  <b>9:00 am</b> Dynamic Dusters  <b>9:00 am</b> Quilters</p>	<p><b>24</b>  <b>6:00 pm</b> Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>25</b>  <b>3:00 pm</b> Wedding                      Isaac Hennen &amp; Dakota Moldenhouer</p>
<p><b>26</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> Worship Service/ Comm. / Interpreted for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  <b>10:45 am</b> Finance Meeting</p>	<p><b>27</b>  <b>9:00, 9:10, 9:20 am</b> Monday Morning Golf  <b>6:30 pm</b> Grief Support</p>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> Grief Support Group  <b>1:00 pm</b> Mill City Service  <b>2:30 pm</b> Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>29</b>  <b>6:00 pm</b> High School Youth</p> 	<p><b>30</b>  <b>8:30 am</b> Henry's Handy Helpers</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	



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## STAY CONNECTED

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



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*Pastor for Formation & Thriving*  
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*Congregational Council President*  
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*Faith grows here.*



*Happy 4th of July!*

*God Bless  
America*

*From sea to shining sea.*