



Our Savior's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 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

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Dear friends in Christ,

Do you remember the "star word" you received in January, on that cold Sunday morning?

In January we celebrated Epiphany and during worship everyone was invited to receive a *star words*. Inspired by the star that guided the magi to Christ, each person received a single word—most just picked a piece of paper with a word on, others choose the word they were drawn to. I asked that you carry that word throughout the year, paying attention to how the Holy Spirit might use it to shape your prayers, relationships, and faith. Now here we are in August and I wonder... has your word stayed with you? Has it surprised you? Has it challenged you? Or perhaps you had almost forgotten about it until now.

My star word was dedication.

At first, I assumed it meant working harder or being more disciplined. But as the months have unfolded, I've begun to see it differently. Dedication isn't simply doing more. It is faithfully returning to what matters most. It is choosing, again and again, to root myself in Christ. To keep showing up as a wife, mother, sister, friend, woman, and Pastor. To make time for prayer. To serve with joy. To forgive when it would be easier to walk away. To trust God even when the path ahead isn't completely clear.

I've realized that dedication is less about determination and more about the quiet work of the Holy Spirit. I have noticed the Spirit gently call me back when I've wandered in selfish ambition. I have noticed that the Spirit strengthens me when I am weary. And I have witnessed the Spirit shaping our congregation into the people God is calling us to become.

As I look around Our Savior's, I see that kind of dedication every week.

I see it in volunteers in our community and in people who show up for worship. I see it in those who are willing to have meaningful conversations about where God is leading our congregation into the future. This isn't dedication fueled by obligation. It is dedication born from the Holy Spirit—a people continually being drawn back to Christ and toward one another.

As summer begins to wind down, I hope you'll pull out your star word, reacquaint yourself with it again, and ask yourself:

- *How has God been using this word to shape me?*
- *What might the Holy Spirit still be inviting me to discover through it?*

Perhaps your word has begun to shape the way you see God's presence in ordinary moments. Or perhaps you're still discovering what it means. Either way, I'd love to hear your story. If you'd enjoy sharing your star word over coffee or lunch, let me know. I have a feeling that as we listen to one another, we'll discover the Holy Spirit has been at work in more places than we ever imagined.

In Christ,
Pastor Kira

Thriv'era Small Groups

A Seven-Week Journey Toward a Thriving Life



This fall, Our Savior's will offer a new seven-week small-group experience called Thriv'era, led by Pastor Paul Gauche.

Thriv'era—a blending of the words *thrive* and *era*—is an invitation, rooted in faith, to practice a more whole, grounded, and thriving way of life. Thriving does not mean that life is always easy, successful, or free from struggle. It means learning to receive life as a gift and becoming more fully alive within the life God is already giving us.

As we practice seven rhythms, we remember and live into what has always been true: we are spirited, creative, and connected people, called to be present, grateful, generous, and missional with our lives.

Beginning October 7, small groups will gather on Wednesday evenings at Our Savior's for conversation, Scripture, personal reflection, and simple practices that can be carried into everyday life. Participants will also have access to portions of the developing *Thriv'era* book.

These rhythms are not ideals to admire, boxes to check, or another self-improvement program. They are practices that help us receive life as gift, live with greater love and belonging, and carry hope into the world around us. The goal is not to master the rhythms, but to receive them, practice them, forget them, and return to them again.

The Seven-Week Journey

Week 1 — We Are Thriving: Spirited | Wednesday, October 7

We'll begin with the foundational posture of Thriv'era: Here. Now. Available. Together we'll explore thriving not as an achievement, but as a way of life rooted in God's Spirit. Every thriving life begins by receiving each breath as a gift and becoming more awake, aware, and available to God's presence.

Week 2 — We Are Creative | Wednesday, October 14

We are made in the image of a creative God. We'll recognize and explore the imagination, gifts, curiosity, and possibilities already present within us.

Week 3 — We Are Connected | Wednesday, October 21

We were never meant to thrive alone. We'll reflect on belonging, friendship, community, and the relationships that sustain and shape our lives.

Week 4 — We Are Present | Wednesday, October 28

So much of life is spent looking backward or rushing ahead. We'll practice becoming more attentive to the people, moments, and presence of God right in front of us.

Week 5 — We Are Grateful | Wednesday, November 4

Gratitude is more than saying thank you; it is a way of seeing. We'll explore practices that help us notice, receive, and respond to the goodness woven into ordinary life.

Week 6 — We Are Generous | Wednesday, November 11

Generosity grows from recognizing that life itself is a gift. We'll consider how it takes shape through our time, attention, resources, encouragement, hospitality, and care.

Week 7 — We Are Missional | Wednesday, November 18

Thriving turns us outward. We'll explore how our everyday lives can become part of God's work of healing, renewal, compassion, and hope in the world.

Thriv'era small groups will be welcoming, thoughtful, practical, and deeply connected to real life. They will offer space to listen, reflect, share stories, explore the rhythms, and grow alongside others.

As these practices take root in us, we become people who bring some good to each moment, something better to each day, and our best to one another. **Watch for registration details and plan to join us for this seven-week journey**—one breath, one moment, and one faithful step at a time.



Where
good books
lead to
meaningful
conversations

All are Invited,
so start reading *now.*

Every other month Pastor Kira is going to pick a book to read and invites ANYONE to join her for coffee and conversation on a Sunday morning after worship. After every book we will answer three questions about the book together:

1. What stayed with you?
2. Where did you see yourself?
3. Where might God be inviting you?

Our next gathering is on
Sunday, September 27
11am-12pm
at Good Day Coffee

We'll be discussing
"Theo of Golden"
by Allen Levi



Financial Update

Fast Figures 2026 Financials Finalized through June 2026

	Actual	Ministry Spending Plan	Difference
June Receipts	\$ 59,518.86	\$ 55,380.00	\$ 4,138.86
June Expenses	\$ (44,555.45)	\$ (59,622.00)	\$ 15,066.55
Receipts Over Expenses	\$ 14,963.41	\$ (4,242.00)	\$ 19,205.41
			\$ -
YTD Receipts	\$ 334,547.38	\$ 307,055.00	\$ 27,492.38
YTD Expenses	\$ (264,285.48)	\$ (376,446.00)	\$ 112,160.52
Receipts Over Expenses	\$ 70,261.90	\$ (69,391.00)	\$ 139,652.90

Balance Sheet Recap

	Actual	Beginning Balance as of January 1st, 2026	Change
Total cash on hand as of 06-30-2026	\$ 398,238.12	\$ 325,216.38	\$ 73,021.74
Total cash Designated for specific purposes (restricted accounts)	\$ 197,069.62	\$ 194,309.78	\$ 2,759.84
Receipts Over Expenses	\$ 201,168.50	\$ 130,906.60	\$ 70,261.90

June giving was up 7.47% > from Ministry Spending Plan or \$4,138

June expenses were down <25.27% > from the Ministry Spending Plan or <-\$15,066>, and this was expected due to having open staff positions.

Year To Date - we are Up \$27,492 in Giving and we are Under Ministry Spending Plan by <\$112,160> in Expenses.

Currently we are sitting at a positive \$14,963 for June and \$70,261 YTD on our MSP.

Cash on hand is at \$201,168 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.

God's Work, Our Hands

ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE



Calling all who want to serve! Everyone is invited!

Save the Date!

Sunday, September 13

"God's work. Our hands." is more than a theme—it's an opportunity to put our faith into action.

Each year, congregations across the country join together for the ELCA's annual day of service, sharing Christ's love through meaningful acts of kindness in their communities. On **Sunday, September 13, 2026**, we'll come together to serve our neighbors, strengthen our community, and make a difference—because God's work happens through willing hands and caring hearts.

With service opportunities for **every age and ability**, there's a place for everyone to make an impact. Whether you'd enjoy singing hymns at a local care facility, helping with outdoor cleanup projects, or lending a hand in another way, you'll find a meaningful way to serve. Come be part of a day that brings faith, fellowship, and community together.

Worship @ 9:30AM | Service Projects from 10-11 AM | Congregational Meal @ 11:30 AM

Growing Community

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Join Us for *Lamplighters* *Potluck*

Adult Christians Lighting the Way

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

12 PM | Fellowship Hall | Bring a dish to pass.

Lamplighters is a fellowship group for adults 55+ that meets the first Tuesday of each month (except July). Gatherings include programs of local interest, learning opportunities, and shared meals. The group also serves through supporting youth ministries, sending cards to seniors in need, and providing hospitality at funerals.

Join our

3rd Thursday



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lunch Crew

Good Food & Good Conversation

Thursday, August 20 | 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

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IT'S AN *Ice Cream Social*

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

Thursday, August 13, 2026
Central Park | 7PM

Join us and bring a lawn chair!



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 | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Facilitator: Mary Kinney

You do not have to walk this road alone.

Every Student. Every Teacher.
Join Us as We Celebrate a New Beginning.

Blessing

of the back packs

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH
9:30 AM | Sanctuary

Whether You're Starting Kindergarten or Graduate School...

Bring your backpack—or whatever accompanies you on your daily journey—to worship as we pray for God's guidance, wisdom, and protection in the year ahead. Whether it's a backpack, book bag, laptop, tote, or briefcase, all are welcome. Together, we'll celebrate and bless the beginning of the 2026–2027 school year.



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 **August 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31**. 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 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*
Bouncy House *and More!*
Visits from our local Police and Fire Departments *All are Welcome*

BAPTISMS & SYMPATHIES



Blessings on your Baptism

Wyatt Henry Bauer

son of Jacey and Eric Bauer.
Baptized on July 5, 2026.

Oaklynn Jo Markham

daughter of Kaitlyn Limon and Brandon Markham.
Baptized on July 12, 2026.

faith grows here

With Deepest Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Those Who Mourn:

Jeremy & Amanda Roush & family

in the death of Jeremy's grandfather, Bill Roush.

Linda Goodman

in the death of her partner, Pam Mueller.

Scott & Jill Finstuen & family

in the death of Scott's Step-father, Jim Holden.

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



Feed My Starving Children
Bowling
RiverBend Nature Center
MN Zoo
Faribault Aquatic Center
Senior Living
Canoeing



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

SAVE THE DATE!

Welcome Back Wednesday

First Wednesday of programming for the year
SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

All PreK - Confirmation
students and families

Worship 6:00-6:30pm
(Reminder, worship is required for all)
Christian Education 6:30-7:30pm
(Broken down by age groups)



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





Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

YOUTH MINISTRY *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 August having fun, building community, and learning about God with us.



Join Us. All Are Welcome

SERMON TEXT & VOLUNTEERS

August

"Formed by Practice"

Sunday, August 2
Romans 12:1-2

"A Way in the Wilderness"

Sunday, August 9
Isaiah 43:18-21

"Widening the Table"

Sunday, August 16
Matthew 15:21-28

"Shared Life, Shared Faith"

Sunday, August 23
Acts 2:42-47

"From Idea to Practice"

Sunday, August 30
James 1:22-25



AUGUST USHERS

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

JILL FINSTUEN
KEN HUBERT
JOE GROTE
AARON STADLER

COMMUNION

PREP

AUGUST 16

Ruth & Herb Hickey

AUGUST 23

Ruth & Herb Hickey

SERVERS

Ruth Hickey
Evon Ask
Stew & Cindy Schuenke
Krista Cox
Marnie Roiger

Ruth Hickey
Linda Mueller
Herry & Sharon Dell
2 Volunteers Needed

SCRIPTURE READERS

AUG. 2 Edie Mattson
AUG. 9 Jordyn Finstuen
AUG. 16 Linda Mueller
AUG. 23 Peggy Paulson
AUG. 30 Sylvia Alberts

SOUND & TECH TEAM

AUGUST 2

Sound: Allen Salvesson

Media Shout: Linda Hanegraff

AUGUST 9

Sound: Ashley Taylor

Media Shout: Mitch Anderson

AUGUST 16

Sound: Amy Cox

Media Shout: Tim Cox

AUGUST 23

Sound: Jordyn Finstuen

Media Shout: Jarid Finstuen

AUGUST 30

Sound: Allen Salvesson

Media Shout: Linda Hanegraff

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 9:30 am Worship Service	3 9:00 am – 11:30 am VBS (Pk-K) (@FELC) 9:00 am – 3:00 pm VBS (1-5 Gr) (@FELC) 9:00, 9:10, 9:20 am Monday Morning Golf 5:30 pm Facilities Leadership Team Mtg 6:00 pm Personnel Leadership Team Mtg 6:30 pm Grief Support (Narthex)	4 9:00 am – 11:30 am VBS (Pk-K) (@FELC) 9:00 am – 3:00 pm VBS (1-5 Gr) (1 st English Church) 9:30 am Grief Support Group (Noah's Ark Rm) 12:00 pm Lamplighters Potluck (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 pm National Night at Our Savior's	5 9:00 am – 11:30 am VBS (Pk-K) (@FELC) 9:00 am – 3:00 pm VBS (1-5 Gr) (@FELC)	6 9:00 am – 11:30 am VBS (Pk-K) (@FELC) 9:00 am – 3:00 pm VBS (1-5 Gr) (@FELC) 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters	7 	8
9 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Gather Table Mtg (Noah's Ark Rm)	10 9:00, 9:10, 9:20 am Monday Morning Golf 6:30 pm Grief Support Group (Narthex)	11 Elections 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Summer Stretch (6 th – 8 th Grade)	12 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:00 pm Holy Smoke at Christ Lutheran Church, Steve & Steve 6:00 pm High School Youth	13 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters 9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Ice Cream Social w/ 1 st English at Central Park	14	15
16 9:30 am Worship / Comm.	17 9:00, 9:10, 9:20 am Monday Morning Golf 6:30 pm Grief Support (Narthex)	18 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Summer Stretch (Pre – 5 th Grade) 9:30 am Grief Support Group (Noah's Ark Rm) 5:30 pm Executive Church Council Meeting 6:30 pm Church Council mtg	19 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:00 – 8:00 pm Fellowship Hall Rented Out 6:00 pm High School Youth	20 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters 11:30 am 3 rd Thursday Luncheon Crew	21	22
23 9:30 am Worship Service / Comm. / Interpreted for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Baptism for Halle Handel 9:30 am Temple Talk 10:45 am Spring Table Meeting (Noah's)	24 9:00, 9:10, 9:20 am Monday Morning Golf 6:30 pm Grief Support (Narthex) 31 9:00, 9:10, 9:20 am Monday Morning Golf 6:30 pm Grief Support (Narthex)	25 1:00 pm Mill City Service	26 	27 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Duster 9:00 am Quilters	28	29
30 9:30 am Worship Service with Blessing of the Backpacks						



Our Savior's

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STAY CONNECTED

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Lead Pastor

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Pr. Paul Gauche

Pastor for Formation & Thriving

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Ashley Taylor

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Wendy Smith-Becker

Office Coordinator

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Andrea Kubinski

Congregational Council President

churchcouncil@oursaviorsfbo.org

Enjoy what's left of Summer!

Faith grows here.

