



Our Savior's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 2026

NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S INSIDE

FAITH GROWS HERE.

A Note from Pastor Paul	2
Financial Update	4
Council Corner	5
Growing Community	6
Children's Ministry	10
Youth & Young Adult Ministry	12
Sermon Texts & August Volunteers	14
August Calendar	15

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

Follow us on

Social Media:



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

There is something powerful about knowing that you **belong**.

Think about your family. Belonging means more than sharing a name, it's how you choose to show up for one another. Moments when celebrate, help, listen, sit beside one another, and carry each other through hard seasons.

Think about your closest friendships. Belonging means more than texting a TikTok video, or Instagram or Facebook Reel, or YouTube Short when you scroll by one that makes you think of them. Those relationships grow because people keep choosing to show up in genuine moments of celebration, life changes, and grief..

So, I wonder then what does it mean to belong to a church in 2026?

In Mark 2, four people bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus. When they can't get through the crowded doorway, they climb onto the roof, make an opening, and lower their friend down to Jesus. Then Mark tells us, "**When Jesus saw their faith...**" (Mark 2:5). *Their faith.*

I love that image of the church.

Sometimes we are the person walking through the door. Sometimes we are the person who needs to be carried. And sometimes we are the ones simply **grabbing a corner of the mat and lowering them in to be fed**. That is belonging.

Belonging to a congregation is more than having a place to worship on Sunday. It means **choosing to become part of one another's lives**. And not just with those you have known for 50 years, but meeting the new people who show up at our door looking for community.

Dear Congregation, there are so many ways to belong at Our Savior's!!! Come to a fellowship event. Join Faithful Pages. Say yes to a Thriv'era small group. Introduce yourself to someone you don't know. Come Thursday mornings and connect with HHH. Start a Bible study.

As Pastor Paul, Ashley and I begin a new program year, I am asking you (OF ALL AGES)...please consider showing up for our children and youth! Teach Wednesday School or Confirmation. Walk alongside our Confirmation students as a mentor (you'll hear more about that in the coming year). Learn a child's name. Become another trusted adult who reminds our young people, simply by being present, "**You belong here, and we are glad you are part of us.**"

Our families are carrying incredibly full lives, and the church has an opportunity to surround them with a community that says, *You don't have to do this alone. We will help carry a corner.* You don't have to do everything. You don't have to attend everything. But perhaps belonging asks each of us to ask one question: **Because I belong to this community of faith, where is God asking me to show up?** Church is more than a place we go. **We belong to Christ. And because we belong to Christ, we belong to one another.** May we keep becoming a church where **everyone** knows there is a place for them—and where each of us is willing to show up and help make that belonging real.

In Christ,
Pastor Kira

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

Wednesday Nights Are Coming Alive at Our Savior's

This fall, Wednesday nights at Our Savior's are going to have life, and more life in them. We'll gather for worship at 6:00 PM, and then from 6:30–7:30 PM the building will hum with opportunities for children, youth, parents, and adults to learn, grow, connect, and practice faith together. I love that picture—a church building full of conversation, kids moving through the halls, adults sitting around tables, people asking real questions, learning each other's names, and discovering that faith is not something we simply believe; it is something we practice together.

One of those Wednesday night opportunities will be **Thriv'era**, an eight-week small-group experience beginning Wednesday, October 7. And I want to be clear: this is not just another church program. **Thriv'era** has grown out of a question that has become deeply important to me: What does it mean not only to survive the life we are living, but actually to thrive within it? Not when everything settles down, not when the world becomes less complicated, and not when our schedules finally clear, but here and now, in the life we already have.

Over eight weeks, we'll explore seven rhythms that help us do exactly that. We'll learn what it means to live as spirited, creative, and connected people who are called to be present, grateful, generous, and missional with our lives. We'll talk, laugh, listen to each other's stories, explore Scripture, and try some simple practices. My hope is that, somewhere along the way, these rhythms begin to move from words on a page into the way we actually live. That's what excites me most about **Thriv'era**. This is not about learning seven ideas; it is about practicing a way of life.

I'm also asking you to do something that may feel a little different at Our Savior's: **Register**. If you're thinking, "*I'm probably coming*," please don't wait until October 7 to let us know. Register. Your registration helps us determine how many groups to form, how many leaders we need, and the materials we need to prepare. But even more importantly, we're asking you to register because it helps us create the best experience for everyone. In other words, registration helps us do this well. You can scan the QR code below to reserve your place.

Then come curious. Come with questions. Come whether your faith feels strong or wobbly. Come whether you've been part of Our Savior's for forty years or forty minutes. Come ready to explore what might happen when a group of people begins intentionally practicing a more whole, grounded, and thriving way of life together.

Wednesday, October 7. I can't wait to get started. Let's see what happens when these rhythms begin to take root among us—and when together we begin bringing some good to each moment, something better to each day, and our best to one another.

Pastor Paul Gauche
pastorpaul@oursaviorsfbo.org



Register for Thriv'era

You can scan the QR code to reserve your place. Please don't wait until October 7 to let us know. Your registration helps us determine how many groups to form, how many leaders we need, and the materials we need to prepare.





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



New Staff Member

Introducing our NEW **OFFICE COORDINATOR**



Hello! My name is **Laurell LaCanne**, and I am overjoyed to serve as your new Office Coordinator! I hold a bachelor's degree in Cultural Anthropology, Sociology, and Philosophy from Gustavus Adolphus College—go Gusties! I have spent the past four years working at Federated as a Workers' Compensation Representative, and I am eager to bring the skills and experience I've gained to help Our Saviors Thrive! Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband, Alec, and our daughter, Vivian, as well as riding my horses. Please feel free to stop by, introduce yourself, and say hi! I'm excited to be here and look forward to getting to know everyone.

Financial Update

We're pleased to share that Lighthouse Strategic Solutions has officially begun working with our organization. Regular financial updates will resume once the transition process is complete. In the meantime, we're pleased to report that we remain in a strong financial position — please see this month's Council report for additional details. As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

COUNCIL CORNER

After not meeting in July, the Church Council met on Tuesday August 18th. We had a chance to look at what's happened over the summer as we start to prepare for the start of a new programming season. We sometimes see the summer months as a slow time for the church, but the summer has been anything but slow.

Back in the end of June, a Staffing Task Force was created to look at the staffing structure of the church. This task force has met, suggested changes which the executive committee has reviewed and discussed, and the personnel team is moving forward with implementation of these changes. Much of the plans for this structure came out of the roundtable meetings that were held last September and October.

Over the course of the summer, Beloved Community sessions were held on Wednesday nights to review the Social Statements of the ELCA. There will be additional opportunities forthcoming to discuss these statements and the impact they may have on the ministry of the ELCA and Our Saviors.

There has been a lot of work and discussion about taking care of the our facilities. Projects are in motion to improve and maintain the grounds and property. One such option that has been recommended by the Property Team and approved by council is to at long last have a boiler preventative maintenance service agreement in place for our four boilers. This will keep them properly serviced and maintained, and an added benefit of this is that will also make the church eligible for significant rebates as well. A big thanks to the Property Team for researching this and bringing this forward.

The council had a chance to review the financial position of the church half way through the season. Our receipts, the "revenue" from offerings, the endowment fund and such, is up almost \$27,500 ahead of our MInistry Spending Plan, and expenses, in large part to the staffing positions we budgeted for but had vacant, are well behind our spending plan has given us a healthy operational cash position. About two and a half years ago, we had less than a month of operating cash on hand, but with circumstances as they have been, we have approximately 5 months of operational cash on hand right now.

We've had an exciting summer, lots of reasons to be thankful at what's come our way, and we're grateful for the ways in which you as a congregation continue to have an eye on what's to come.

Thank you for being a part of the ministry of Our Saviors.

Sincerely,
OSLC Church Council

Faith grows here.

Growing Community

Connect in a small group ministry outside of weekly worship.



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH



**American
Red Cross
Blood
Drive**

Save a Life. Give Blood

Monday, September 28, 2026
11 am - 5 pm | All Purpose Room



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

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

We NEED Volunteers to help work the sign in table and the snack table. Please call Wendy at 507-331-2276 to Volunteer to help.



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Join Us for our First ever

Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, October 4 | 11 AM | East Lawn

Join us for a special Feast of St. Francis Pet Blessing on the church lawn! St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals, famous for treating all living creatures as his brothers and sisters. As a new tradition at our church, this brief service is a wonderful opportunity to thank God for the creation of animals, celebrate the unconditional love and companionship our pets bring to our lives, and pray for their continued health and protection. All pets—and their humans—are welcome, so please bring your beloved animals on a leash or in a carrier for a special individual blessing and a morning of community fellowship!

All animals need to be leashed or kenneled the whole time. The 11:00 time is so people have time to go and retrieve their pet after worship.



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

Connect in a small group ministry outside of weekly worship.



Join Us for

Lamplighters

Adult Christians Lighting the Way

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

1 PM | Fellowship Hall

Guest Speaker: Dr. Lisa J. Humfeld-Wilson

Speaking on Chiropractic & Nutrition

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

Lunch Crew



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Good Food & Good Conversation

Thursday, September 17 | 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.

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 **September 21, and 28**. 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:** Fmnchurchgolf26

All skill levels are Welcome!

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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

All PreK - Confirmation
students and families



Welcome Back Wednesday

First Wednesday of programming for the year

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 | 6-7:30 PM

The night will begin with worship at 6:00pm followed by a parent meeting for each age level. We will go over expectations with the new year with the parents or guardians while the students will spend time in their classrooms getting to know their teachers and reconnecting with friends.

**Parents/guardians must attend worship with your student every week. Don't forget to stay for the informational meeting immediately following worship on the 23rd!



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



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Wednesday School and Confirmation

Help Plant Seeds of Faith

We are in need of adult leaders to lead classrooms on Wednesday evenings. We are looking for enthusiastic adult leaders to walk alongside our students in their faith journey. You don't need to be a theology expert, you just need a heart ready to guide and support these amazing students.

If you feel called, please reach out to Ashley or Pr. Kira.

Stepping Stone Classes

FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

September 30

KINDERGARTEN

6:30–7:30pm | Fellowship Hall

IN THIS CLASS WE WILL WELCOME KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS TO SCHOOL, SPEND TIME IN SCRIPTURE, AND HAVE FUN WITH A CRAFT.

THE STEPPING STONE WILL BE PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING WEDNESDAY (10/7) DURING WORSHIP.



YOUTH MINISTRY JOIN US!



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Youth Group **FALL KICKOFF**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
OSLC YOUTH ROOM | 8-9 PM

Youth in grades 9 -12 are invited to join us for snacks, games, and fellowship as we come back together for a new school year!



BAPTISMS & SYMPATHIES



Blessings on your Baptism

Halle Elizabeth Handel

daughter of Jenna & Michael Handel.

Baptized on August 23, 2026.

faith grows here

With Deepest Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Those Who Mourn:

Wendy & Tim Becker & family

in the death of Wendy's father, Marvin Schrader.

Judi Eul

in the death of her brother, Wayne Krohn.

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

SERMON TEXT & VOLUNTEERS

September

"Choose Life"

Sunday, September 6
Deuteronomy 30:11-20

"Rooted and Grounded in Love"

Sunday, September 13
Ephesians 3:14-21

"Presence Before Activity"

Sunday, September 20
Luke 10:38-42

"Water in the Wilderness"

Sunday, September 27
Exodus 17:1-7



SEPTEMBER USHERS

PETER ROIBERTS ©
KAREN CHURCHILL
JERRY & PAULA SCHAUER

LARRY CHURCHILL ©
LYLE & RUTH OLSON
LINDA MUELLER

COMMUNION

	SEPTEMBER 20	SEPTEMBER 27
PREP	Fred & Barb Grote	Fred & Barb Grote
SERVERS	Fred & Barb Grote Dennis & Rita Wunderlich Barb Condit 1 Volunteer Needed	Fred & Barb Grote Ardys Johnson Karen Rasmussen Sarah Lockerby Evon Ask

SCRIPTURE READERS

SEPT. 6	Jill Finstuen
SEPT. 13	Christine Sammon
SEPT. 20	John Mattson
SEPT. 27	Kris Hoysler

SOUND & TECH TEAM

SEPTEMBER 6		
Sound:	Ashley Taylor	Media Shout: Mitch Anderson
SEPTEMBER 13		
Sound:	Amy Cox	Media Shout: Tim Cox
SEPTEMBER 20		
Sound:	Jordyn Finstuen	Media Shout: Jarid Finstuen
SEPTEMBER 27		
Sound:	Allen Salvesson	Media Shout: Linda Hanegraff

Faith grows here.

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 9:30 am Grief Support Group 1:00 pm Lamplighters 6:00 pm Personnel Meeting	2	3 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters	4	5
6 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am 3:30 pm Fellowship Hall Rented Out	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 2:30 am Staff Meeting	9	10 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters 9:00 am Quilters 9:30 am Cannon River Conference	11 9:30 am Friday Morning Women's Bible Study	12
13 9:30 am God's Work Our Hands Service Sunday 11:30 pm OS Congregational Meal	14 10:00 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together"	15 9:30 am Grief Support Group 11:30 am FACMA Meeting 5:30 pm Executive Council 6:30 pm Church Council	16 6:30 – 7:30 pm Required Christian Education Volunteer Training	17 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Faith Circle 10:30 am Dynamic Dusters 11:30 am 3 rd Thursday Luncheon Crew	18 9:30 am Friday Morning Women's Bible Study	19 12:00 – 5:00 pm Fellowship Hall Rented Out
20 9:30 am Worship / Comm 9:30 am Temple Talk 9:30 am Baptism Bennett Kluzak 10:45 am Spring Table Meeting	21 8:30 am FARE Meeting 10:00 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together"	22 1:00 pm Mill City Worship	23 1 st Night of Wednesday Programming Welcome Back Wednesday 6:00 pm WOW Service / Comm. 6:30 pm Christian Education 6:30 pm Parent Night Wed. School & Confirmation Required 8:00 pm High School Youth	24 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters 9:00 am Quilters	25 9:30 am Friday Morning Women's Bible Study	26
27 Christ the King 9:30 am Worship / Comm 11:00 am Faithful Pages (Good Day Coffee)	28 10:00 am Staff Meeting 11:00 am – 5:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30 pm Grief Support "Stronger Together"	29	30 6:00 pm WOW Service 6:30 pm Christian Education 6:30 pm Kindergarten Stepping Stone Class 8:00 pm High School Youth			



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. Paul Gauche

Pastor for Formation & Thriving

pastorpaul@oursaviorsfbo.org

Ashley Taylor

Kathleen G. Putrah Director of Children's Ministry

ashley@oursaviorsfbo.org

Wendy Smith-Becker

Office Coordinator

wendy@oursaviorsfbo.org

Laurell LaCanne

Office Coordinator

officecoordinator@oursaviorsfbo.org

Andrea Kubinski

Congregational Council President

churchcouncil@oursaviorsfbo.org

Faith grows here.

*Just as nature changes its
colors and gathers the harvest,
God calls us into new seasons
of spiritual growth.*

**What fruit is God growing
in your life this autumn?**