



## **FROM THE PASTOR**

As one of the “wisdom” books of the Old Testament, Ecclesiastes says that there is a time for everything, which guides us through life’s inevitable changes. We as a community of faith, are preparing to undergo a major “change of command” soon. Congratulations on calling your new permanent pastor, Bunny Dillard.

I will always be grateful for the kindness and acceptance you offered me when I arrived at OSLC during the first week in November. Both of us were hurting, you from losing your beloved pastor of 17 years to retirement. I had recently lost my mother to cancer and several months earlier, left a congregation that had become difficult. It was wonderful to serve a congregation who was kind and well-functioning. I believe our experience together enabled us to heal and grow and become stronger in many ways.

As much as I would like, there are so many I wish to thank and name personally (I hope you know who you are anyway), that I will offer my sincere appreciation and my honor to serve.

As I prepare to depart 25 August, please know that you will be missed and always in my thoughts and prayers. I know you will show that similar love, patience and kindness toward your new pastor because that is who you are.

Pastor Bunny is beginning an incredible growing experience, professionally, emotionally and spiritually. She is blessed to have so many mentors and teachers. You will have the opportunity to learn new and wonderful and challenging lessons from Pr. Bunny also.

Blessings and prayers as you begin a new adventure and chapter at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.

Peace be with you,

Pr. Cindy



## Welcome, Pastor Bunny Dillard!

Great News! On July 14<sup>th</sup> a Special Meeting was held after Sunday Service and 57 congregation members voted overwhelmingly to accept the Call of Pastor Bunny Dillard. Pastor Bunny will start her employment with us on August 26<sup>th</sup> and will lead our Sunday Services starting on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Pastor Cindy McKenzie will be serving her last day as our Interim Pastor on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. We are so thankful for the time Pastor Cindy has given us and appreciate all she has given to our congregation! As a Farewell Thank You, the Evangelism Team will be hosting our Fellowship Hour immediately after service on that last Sunday. We know she has been a very special blessing for our congregation! Thank you for all the time and talents you have shared with us!!

### Phil and Andy's Pantry -Kenwood School Supplies

Here is the list of things that they need:



- Thick Markers
- Thin Markers
- Dry Erase Markers - any color
- Index Cards (white, green, yellow)
- Inexpensive Earbuds (to use with computers)
- Wide Line Notebooks
- Hand Sanitizer
- Box of Tissues



Items they have plenty of right now and don't need are backpacks, crayons, pencils, pen, etc...

### Youth News: New Orleans

Thank you to everyone who made our trip to New Orleans possible! Whether you donated to our fundraisers, or prayed for us during our journey, we thank you so very much for making it a possibility for our high school youth to experience the 2024 ELCA youth gathering! We walked the city, met other Lutheran youth from nearby in Iowa and all over the USA, we ate local specialties from gumbo and poboys to beignets at the famous Cafe Du Monde. We listened and learned from some outstanding speakers. Overall, we sang our hearts out and praised Jesus with 16,000 of our new closest friends! We can't wait to go to Minneapolis in 2027!

### Youth News: Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School 2024 is in the books! We had 22 kiddos join us for a week with 3 wonderful counselors from Camp Ewalu! The theme this year was "Created to Be" and kids learned how they were created perfectly in God's image. We had a bird visitor from the RARE Project, a few reptile visitors from Wikiup Hill, and water day was a hit as always! We sang a whole lot of songs from old favorites like "Sanctuary" and "The Truck Driver Song" to new ones like "Hey Moose" and "Blind Man." We also had a blast doing crafts and playing games. The week would not have been nearly as fun without the company of our day camp mascot, Carl the Space Monkey.

## Message from Pastor Bunny

Greetings, Our Savior's Lutheran Church!

Many thanks for calling me to serve as the Pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The gifts of this congregation are astounding! The hospitality is amazing! Thank you for discerning this call as we prayed with and for each other throughout the call process. Many thanks to the call committee for their countless hours spent in reflection of the mission of Our Savior's, "to share the Gospel through Word and Sacrament, and to serve those in need."

After serving Tree of Life Lutheran Church in Conroe, Texas, as a youth volunteer, the media manager, office manager, and finally as the director of youth and family, I answered the call of the Holy Spirit, (and with lots of reassurance from friends) to attend

Wartburg Theological Seminary to earn my Master of Divinity degree and enter the candidacy process to become a pastor. I served as a vicar during internship at Grace Lutheran in Des Moines. I am very excited to continue this journey in ministry serving with the people and neighbors of Our Savior's Lutheran Church!

Here's a bit of info about me: I am enthusiastic purchaser of craft supplies, but not the best at actually finishing projects. During seminary, I somehow managed to complete 14 quilts for friends. With my friend and peer, Pastor Lisa Robison of Iowa Falls, we sewed more than 70 stoles as gifts for our graduating class.

I was raised as an Air Force brat, not truly rooted in any one place. Having kids of my own changed that a bit, as we set down roots for 15 years in Conroe, Texas, just a few miles north of Houston. (This was after a forced relocation from Louisiana after Hurricane Rita.) My two daughters are now grown, with my oldest (Brooklyne, 23) working her way up the ladder at a dementia care center and my youngest (Courtney, 22) is a student at Michigan State University. They live together in East Lansing, Michigan.

I look forward to spending time with each of you, getting to know you, and praying with and for you.

Grace and peace, today and always,

Pastor Bunny Dillard



*Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. - Romans 12:13*

## **“Farewell Party” & Fellowship Hour After Church**

Evangelism will kick things off on August 25<sup>th</sup> as we have a little “Farewell Party” for Pastor Cindy to thank her for her service and spending the past 2 years with us – she has certainly been a blessing. Please plan to join us for cake and coffee after service on the 25<sup>th</sup>. In September we will again start our regular Fellowship time after Sunday Service. Please watch for the sign-up sheet to be posted so we can get people to bring treats going forward.

### **Backpack Blessing**



Are you heading to school this fall? Whether you’re headed to preschool or on your way to college, please bring your backpack to church on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> for a backpack blessing! We would love to send you into the school year with a back pack full of blessing from God! Please contact Hannah with any questions!

### **Assisting Ministers Needed!!**

Have you ever thought about being an Assisting Minister but didn’t think it was possible because you didn’t (or couldn’t) sing the liturgy?? There are other options. . . the liturgy does NOT have to be sung – it can be read!! Parish & Staff is looking for volunteers to join the Assisting Minister Ministry. If you have any interest at all – do not be shy!! You can contact any of our current assisting ministers - Hannah, Jeremiah or Nancy, they would be happy to give you any details or feel free to talk to Marcia Adix or Ann Larson from Parish & Staff.

Thank you!

### **Stewardship – Please Don’t Forget**

July has arrived which means the start of summer fun! Many are looking forward to the end of school and planning for family vacations. As the summer activities increase there is often a decrease in church attendance. We are hoping that as you enjoy all your summer family times that you continue to remember your monetary commitment to our church. The operating expenses of the church do not take a vacation. If you are not able to attend as regularly as usual during the summer, remember that you can always submit your offering by mailing it to the church or going online ([www.crsaviors.org/about-us/give/](http://www.crsaviors.org/about-us/give/)). Thank you for all the generous and giving hearts in our congregation.

Yours in Faith,

Dorothy Medlang, Arnold Strottman, Laurie Strottman, and Dave Sampson

OSLC Stewardship Ministry Team

## **Readers**

August 4 – Dorothy Medlang

August 11 – Nancy Greer

August 18 – JoAnn Kohl

August 25 – Nancy Trout

\*\*Readers can pick up their reading in the “Reader” mailbox located between the offices in the back hallway

## **Assisting Ministers**

August 4 – Jeremiah Miller

August 11 – Hannah Plummer

August 18 – Nancy Greer

August 25 – Jeremiah Miller

September 1 – Hannah Plummer

## **Acolytes**

August 4 – Parker Zeien

August 11 – Korver Sindelar

August 18 – Evy Fiester

August 25 – Jeremiah Miller

## **Prayer for Pastor**

August 4 – Nancy Greer

August 11 – Lauren Case

## **Prayer for Pastor** (cont.)

August 18 – Nancy Trout

August 25 – Dave Case

September 1 – Ardy Erickson

## **Children’s Sermon**

August 4 – Pastor Cindy

August 11 – Hannah Plummer

August 18 – JoAnn Kohl

August 25 – Pastor Cindy

## **Ushers/Greeters**

August 4 – Strottman’s

August 11 – Fiester’s

Aug. 18 – Mark & Suzanne Schmitt, Ann Larson

August 25 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson

## **Serving Our Congregation**

Cindy McKenzie – Interim Pastor

Sue Clapp– Congregation President

David Sampson – Treasurer

Therese Plummer – Parish/Financial Secretary

Forrest Green – Music Director

Terri Hodge – Bell Choir Director

Hannah Plummer – Children & Youth  
Ministries Director

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## **Save the Date - God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday**

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Sept. 8**, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, [“God’s work. Our hands.”](#) Participating in service projects is one way



to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Laurie Strottman has suggested that God’s Work Our Hands (GWOH) could be a campaign for the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital this year. They have Bingo on Sundays for the patients and give out prizes for the winners. They are lacking on prizes for preteens and

teens. The church will ask for donations from the congregation of prizes and/or money to purchase prizes to donate to the U of I. Legos seem to be popular for all age groups as donation items, so we thought we would try and focus our efforts around that. Stay tuned as more information becomes available. Learn more: [elca.org/dayofservice](http://elca.org/dayofservice)

## Images from Vacation Bible School









## Images from Youth Trip to New Orleans









**2027**  
**ELCA Youth Gathering**  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN • JUNE 28-JULY 2, 2027

Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America