



Pastor's Corner

Dear Beloved Church Family,



I want to take a moment to express my deep gratitude for the incredible gift of vacation. Your support in allowing me time away to rest, recharge, and spend precious moments with my family means more than I can say. Our time in Florida was a true blessing, filled with laughter, warmth, and the joy of simply being together. These moments of renewal are not just gifts but also reminders of the importance of self-care, which we all need to embrace in our busy lives.

Of course, life has a way of humbling us, and I returned home only to fall under the weather almost immediately. I am especially grateful for your grace and patience as I recovered. Your prayers, kind words, and understanding have been a reflection of the love and care that make this church such a special community. Thank you for being a congregation that lives out Christ's compassion so fully.

Now, with renewed energy and excitement, I am eager to enter our first Lenten season together. Lent is a time of reflection, renewal, and drawing closer to God. This year, I am especially looking forward to our special Wednesday evening healing services. These midweek gatherings will be a space for prayer, peace, and restoration—something we all need in different ways. Healing is not only physical but also emotional and spiritual, and we trust in God's presence in all of it.

One of the most exciting parts of our Lenten journey will be a special Wednesday evening service planned and led by our confirmation youth. These young leaders have been learning, growing, and deepening their faith, and I cannot wait for you to experience the meaningful worship they will bring. It is always a joy to see the next generation engaging in the life of the church, sharing their insights, and leading us in worship.

As we walk through this season together, I invite you to embrace the Lenten journey with open hearts. I pray this is a time for each of us to slow down, seek God's presence, and care for our spirits as we prepare for the joy of Easter morning!

With gratitude and anticipation,

Pastor Bunny

Lent at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and preparation—a time to journey with Christ toward the cross. For 40 days (excluding Sundays), we are invited to deepen our faith through prayer, fasting, and acts of service. It begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5th) and continues through Holy Saturday, the Saturday after Good Friday, and before Easter (April 20).

Why Do We Set Aside "Alleluia" in Lent?

In Lutheran (ELCA) tradition, we refrain from saying or singing "Alleluia" during Lent as a way of reflecting the season's penitential and reflective nature. Lent is a time to turn back to God, acknowledge our need for grace, and prepare for Easter through reflection and renewal. The absence of "Alleluia" reminds us of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice. It creates a sense of longing that is fulfilled on Easter Sunday. By setting "Alleluia" aside, its return on Easter morning becomes even more joyful, mirroring the resurrection celebration.

As we enter this sacred season, our sanctuary will shift from green to purple, a color symbolizing repentance and the royal nature of Christ. This visual change reminds us of Jesus' journey to the cross and our own call to renewal.

This year, our Wednesday evening Lenten services will take a fresh approach, re-imagined with the worship team under the theme: **All We Need**

What do we need to survive and thrive? We all know about the basics—air, food, water, shelter. But what else?

- Sleep?
- Human connection?
- An abiding sense of purpose?
- Prayer?

What about the people in our congregation? What are we missing? What do we long for? And beyond our church doors—what are the deep needs of our neighbors?

We need a multitude of things. This Lent, we will explore them together. Through worship, reflection, and community, we will ask how God provides for us and how we are called to care for one another.

Join us on Wednesday evenings as we walk this journey together, seeking not just to survive, but to thrive in God's love.

Lenten Service Schedule

March 5 - 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service

Lenten Services will be held every Wednesday night

at 7:00 pm March 12 – April 9

Please join us as we prepare for Easter by reflecting on Jesus's death and resurrection, repenting sins, and practicing self-discipline.

Thrivent Investors

If you haven't already done this, please check your account or call your agent to see if you have Choice Dollars for them to donate on your behalf. This does not affect your investments but Thrivent is willing to send a contribution to a charity or non-profit organization of your choice. Our Savior's is on the list for us to receive these Choice Dollars if you would like. Any donations from Thrivent goes into our general funds. I was notified that my Choice Dollars would expire at the end of March so please check soon.

Thank you,

Sue Clapp

Phil and Andy's Pantry

We will be collecting cans of soup for Phil & Andy's Pantry in March. Our local missions always appreciate our support. Please don't forget to pick up a couple extra cans when you are at the grocery store.



Weather Cancellations

Just a quick reminder that if there is inclement weather and you are wondering if services and/or activities will be held you can go to our website www.crsaviors.org or our Facebook page. Another rule of thumb is that if Cedar Rapids schools are cancelled then there will be no church activities for that day. Sunday services we will also be posted on KCRG. As always, your safety is our first concern so if you do not feel comfortable traveling to church, please stay home. We do not want any accidents or broken bones.

Reminder! Sunday School is every Sunday at 9 AM. All are welcome!!

Youth News:

Confirmation Dinners

We still very much need help with confirmation dinners!! Our confirmation kids meet on Wednesday nights from 5:30 - 7:00. They eat dinner together at 5:30 and they would love for you to cook from them. In years past we have ordered pizza but that gets really old really fast. It can be really simple – macaroni and cheese, sloppy joes, walking tacos, chicken and rice casserole, spaghetti. These kids are not picky – there are 4 students and 2 teachers. Sign-up sheet along with a list of menu suggestions are on the bulletin board outside Therese's office.

Easter Breakfast

Easter is coming! Stay tuned for more information regarding our Easter celebrations! Sunday, April 13th is Palm Sunday maybe better known as Pies for Palms Sunday! Sunday, April 20th is Easter Sunday- what better way to celebrate Jesus' resurrection than with a yummy pre-church breakfast??! More details to come!!

Chili Cook-off

THANK YOU to everyone who made chili or ate chili for the 2025 OSLC Chili Cookoff !! Beth Anderson took 3rd place, Al Johnson took 2nd place, and the grand prize winner was the Fiester Family!



Chili Cookoff Grand Prize Winners
Congratulations, Fiester Family!

2025 Flower Chart – We still have spots left!!

The 2025 flower chart is hanging on the elevator door and there are 12 spots left. Please sign up for dates you would like to donate flowers to enhance the beauty of our altar. If there is someone you want to honor or show remembrance to – please note that as well so it can add it to the bulletin. Thank you!!

AED - Automated External Defibrillator

Our Savior's AED is in the back hallway right outside of Pastor Bunny's office. Open the door to the white cabinet to remove the AED front- be prepared that an alarm will sound, this will alert others that the AED is being used- take the AED to the victim immediately. Once you open the lid to the AED, turn it on. The AED will guide you through all the steps you need to take.

We also have 3 people that have gone through AED training – Lori Hayes, Natalie Fiester and Hannah Plummer.

Fellowship Hour after Sunday Service

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board across from Therese's office. Pat and Diane have graciously agreed to continue to make coffee so all that needs to be provided is treats. Our Fellowship hour is a very special time where we can catch up with our Christian family and is enjoyed by so many. Please don't forget to sign up.

2025 Financial Update

Following are the contribution results for the week ending 2/23/2025:

General Giving:	\$13,183.01
Total Giving:	\$13,741.75

Weekly averages through 2/23/2025 (8 weeks):

Average Actual General Giving:	\$5,178.41 (\$41,427.24 YTD)
Average Actual General Expenses:	\$3,964.03 (\$31,712.21 YTD)

Readers

March 2 – Catherine Burroughs

March 9 – Catherine Burroughs

March 16 – JoAnn Kohl

March 23 – Laurie Strottman

March 30 – Lori Hayes

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

Acolytes

March 2 – Parker Zeien

March 9 – Evy Fiestser

March 16 – Eric Strottman

March 23 – Korver Sindelar

March 30 – Evy Fiestser

Ushers/Greeters

March 2 – Mark & Suzanne Schmitt,
Ann Larson

March 9 – Fiestser’s

March 16 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson

March 23 – Strottman’s

March 30 – Dave Sampson, Marv Houg,
Tom Zuber

Assisting Ministers

March 2 – Sue Clapp

March 9 – Karen Janney

March 16 – Hannah Plummer

March 23 – Nancy Greer

March 30 – Ann Larson

Prayer for Pastor

March 2 – Diana Emig

March 9 – Arnold Strottman

March 16 – Natalie Fiestser

March 23 – Laurie Strottman

March 30 – Ann Larson

April 6 – Nancy Greer

Children’s Sermon

March 2 – Pastor Bunny

March 9 – Hannah Plummer

March 16 – JoAnn Kohl

March 23 – Hannah Plummer

March 30 – Pastor Bunny

Sunday School Teaching Schedule

March 2 – Rachel

March 9 – Hannah

March 16 – Natalie

March 23 – Hannah

March 30 - Rachel

Serving Our Congregation

Bunny Dillard – Head Pastor

Sue Clapp– Congregation President

David Sampson – Treasurer

Therese Plummer – Parish/Financial Secretary

Hannah Plummer – Children & Youth
Ministries Director

Forrest Green – Music Director

Terri Hodge – Bell Choir Director

Baptism of Steven and Paul Andersen 2-2-25



Sunday School – Learning about ...

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” *Matthew 4:19*

