



Dearest Friends,

Pastor's Corner

By the time you read this, Holy Week will have come and gone—but I don't want us to rush past it too quickly.

This year, we didn't just remember the story. We stepped into it together.

On Maundy Thursday, we gathered around tables—not in rows, but face to face. We ate together. We listened. We slowed down. We washed hands—not to recreate the past exactly, but to live into its meaning now. Love, Jesus showed us, is not an idea. It is something we do with our bodies, with care and attention, for one another. And then, in one of the most powerful moments of the night, you served each other communion. Not receiving from the front, but placing the bread and cup into one another's hands. Love, quite literally, passed from person to person.

On Good Friday, we told the story honestly. We listened as the Passion unfolded—not quickly, not from a distance, but piece by piece. We allowed silence to do its work. We sang slowly. We prayed for a hurting world. We did not rush past the cross. We stayed there, in the reality that God does not turn away from suffering—but chooses to be present within it.

And then, Easter. After all of that—after the table, after the cross—we hear the good news again: Christ is risen.

Not as a reset button.

Not as a way to skip over what came before.

But as God's answer to it.

Resurrection does not erase the story of Holy Week—it completes it. The love we witnessed at the table, the love that remained at the cross—that same love is alive. Still moving. Still calling us forward.

And maybe that's the invitation we carry with us now:

Not only to remember what happened. But to live it.

To serve one another gently.

To stay present in the hard places.

To trust that even when the story feels unfinished, God is not done.

Because the story continues, and we are part of it.

Peace, today and always,

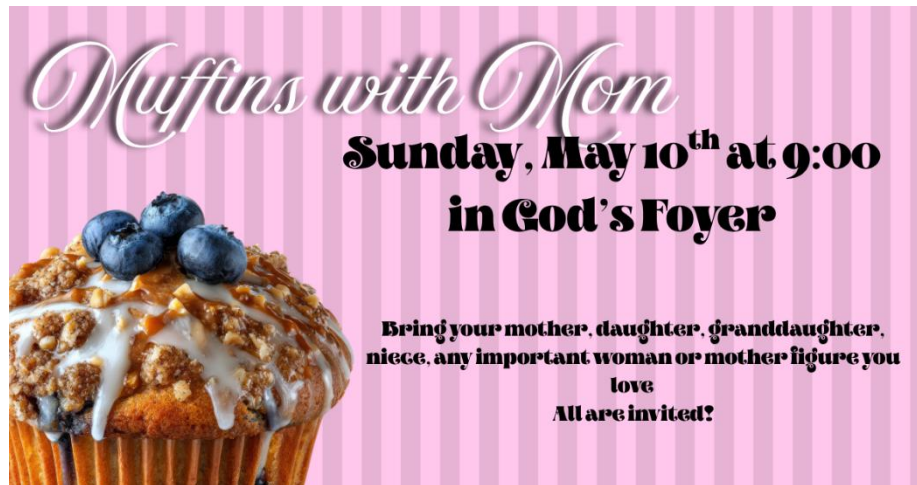
Pastor Bunny



Youth News:

Sunday School Reminder:

We are currently taking a break from 9:00 AM Sunday School due to poor attendance and less instructors. The youth committee would love to hear your feedback – what would work for your family? What kinds of activities would you like to see for OSLC Youth? Please reach out to Hannah or Natalie with your comments, questions, and ideas!



Muffins with Mom
Sunday, May 10th at 9:00
in God's Foyer

**Bring your mother, daughter, granddaughter,
niece, any important woman or mother figure you
love
All are invited!**

The poster features a close-up of a muffin with white icing, blueberries, and a crumbly topping. The background is pink with vertical stripes.



Confirmation Celebration

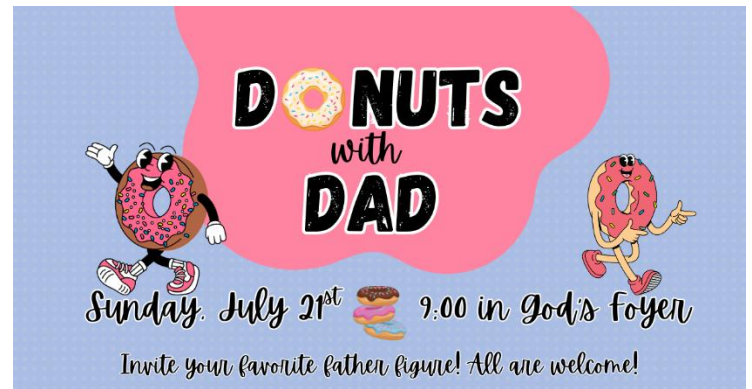
We hope you will join us
Sunday, May 24th
to celebrate our 4 confirmands
as they affirm their baptism with
a youth led service

Evelyn Fiester Eric Strottman
Korver Sindelar Parker Zeien

The poster has a light beige background with a faint leaf pattern. The text is centered and uses a mix of serif and sans-serif fonts.

Thank you!!

There are not enough ways for me to say thank you to everyone who helped with Pies for Palms and Easter Breakfast! We were able to raise over \$1,000 for our youth! To everyone who donated pies, served, came to eat and enjoy – YOU are the reason we can do so much for our kids! You are the best! Hannah



Why We Do What We Do in Worship (Part Two)

Last month, we began at the very beginning—with the prelude. Not as background music, but as the first moment of worship. A threshold. An invitation to arrive—not just physically, but spiritually.

From there, we move into the first spoken and shared acts of the Gathering: confession, forgiveness, and absolution.

If the prelude helps us arrive, confession helps us be honest about what we carry with us when we get here. In Lutheran worship, confession is not about shame or proving our worthiness. It is about truth. We name, together, that we are not whole on our own—that we fall short, that we hurt one another, that we carry things we cannot fix by ourselves.

And we do this together. Not individually. Not privately. But as a community. Because sin is not just personal—it is something that touches all of us, shaping the ways we live, the ways we fail, the ways we struggle to love as God calls us to love.

And then—before we can fix anything, before we can promise to do better—we hear something even more important: forgiveness.

In the words of absolution, the pastor does not offer a wish or a hope. This is not “maybe” forgiveness or “if you try harder” forgiveness. It is a declaration. A promise spoken on behalf of God: you are forgiven. Not because you earned it. Not because you proved yourself. But because of who God is.

This moment matters more than we sometimes realize. Week after week, we are reminded that we begin not with perfection—but with grace. We begin not by proving ourselves—but by receiving what has already been given.

Confession tells the truth about us. Absolution tells the truth about God. And that is how we begin.

Next month, we'll continue moving through the Gathering—exploring the welcome, the gathering hymn, and the songs that help give voice to our prayer and praise.

Peace, today and always,
Pastor Bunny

Save the date

Semi- Annual meeting – Sunday June 14, 2026 immediately following service. Please make attending this meeting a priority in your busy schedule as we need a minimum of 25 voting members. If you are unable to attend in person, we will be offering the meeting on a ZOOM link.

Phil & Andy's Pantry

In May, we will be collecting personal hygiene items to support those who come to local missions in need. Suggested donations include bath soap, shampoo, towels and washcloths, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet tissue, lotion, and any other personal care items you'd like to bring.



Thank you,

Your Stewardship Ministry Team

Wrapping the Synod in Peace

As our Southeastern Iowa Synod prepares for the 2026 Synod Assembly, congregations across the region are being invited to help embody this year's theme: "Peace Be With You."

One of the ways that peace will be made visible is through handmade prayer shawls, lap quilts, and small quilts — gifts of warmth and care created by hands throughout the synod. These pieces will surround the Assembly as tangible reminders of Christ's presence and the prayers of God's people.

Each shawl or quilt may become a keepsake for a voting member or participant, or it may be left behind and later shared with someone in need — extending peace beyond the Assembly itself.

If you knit, crochet, or sew — or if you've ever thought about beginning — this is a beautiful opportunity to participate in something larger than ourselves.

Suggested sizes:

- Prayer shawls: approximately 18–24 inches wide and 60–72 inches long
- Lap quilts: approximately 36 x 45 inches (wheelchair-sized)

If you are able to make one or two items, please let Pastor Bunny know. The synod office needs an estimated count in advance, so it is important that we know what is being created.

Please have finished items brought to church by May 10 so they can be gathered and delivered in time for the Assembly.

This is a simple act — thread, yarn, time, prayer — but together it becomes a visible sign of community and care. Let's help wrap our synod in peace!

May 10th kicks off National Nurse's Week!

Our Savior's is blessed with some great nurses!



Cindy Fiester, RN, MSN
– Linn County Public Health



Natalie Fiester (future) RN



Hannah Plummer, RN, CEN – St.
Luke's Emergency Department

40 Years of Light: Celebrating Our Stained Glass Windows

On Sunday April 26th we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the dedication of our stained-glass windows — it was a day of joy!

Thank you to all who joined us for this special service. We gave thanks for the original committee, for the donors, and for the congregation who first gathered to dedicate these windows.

Thank you as well to the many volunteers who helped prepare for this day – those who planned, organized, welcome, read sang and made this celebration possible. There was a luncheon that followed service and was enjoyed by all (thank you Fellowship Ministry).

Photos from this event are found at the end of this newsletter.

Stained Glass Windows Booklet

A booklet was created to showcase the stain glass windows at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. There are some paper copies available in the church foyer. However, you can download a digital document which will provide images that are **more vibrant and detailed** than the images printed on paper. **Explore all seven stained glass window designs** and discover the unique message within each window by clicking this link; [Stained Glass Windows Booklet](#).

The booklet can also be found on our website at the bottom of the [History page](#).



2026 Financial Update

Contribution results for the week ending 4/19/2026:

General Giving:	\$2,928.80
Total Giving:	\$2,983.45

Weekly averages through 4/19/2026 (16 weeks)

Average Actual General Giving:	\$3,554.05 (\$56,864.77 YTD)
Average Actual General Expenses:	\$4,753.15 (\$76,050.34 YTD)

The averages reported above are the averages of “actual” general giving and general expenses, not the forecasts.

Serving Our Congregation

Bunny Dillard – Head Pastor

Sue Clapp – Congregation President

David Sampson – Treasurer

Therese Plummer – Office Manager

Hannah Plummer – Children & Youth
Ministries Director

Forrest Green – Music Director

Terri Hodge – Bell Choir Director

Readers

May 3 – Pastor Catherine Burroughs

May 10 – Ardy Erickson

May 17 – Nancy Greer

May 24 – Confirmation

May 31 – Evie Fiester

June 7 – Beth Anderson

June 14 – Laurene Case

June 21 – Suzanne Schmitt

June 28 – Eric Robinson

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

Acolytes

May 3 – Parker Zeien

May 10 – Eric Strottman

May 17 – Mason Schmitt

May 24 – Caroline Anderson

May 31 – William Anderson

June 7 – Parker Zeien

June 14 – Eric Strottman

June 21 – Mason Schmitt

June 28 – Caroline Anderson

Assisting Ministers

May 3 – Hannah Plummer
May 10 – Sue Clapp
May 17 – Natalie Fiester
May 24 – none
May 31 – Nancy Greer

June 7 – Hannah Plummer
June 14 – Sue Clapp
June 21 – Natalie Fiester
June 28 – Nancy Greer

Ushers

May 3 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson,
Bob Sindelar
May 10 – D. Sampson, M. Houg, T. Zuber
May 17 – Strottman Family
May 24 – Schmitt's, A. Larson, B. Anderson
May 31 – Fiester Family

June 7 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson,
Bob Sindelar
June 14 – D. Sampson, M. Houg, T. Zuber
June 21 – Strottman's
June 28 – Schmitt's, Ann Larson,
Beth Anderson

Prayer for Pastor

May 3 – Ardy Erickson
May 10 – Natalie Fiester
May 17 – Lori Hayes
May 24 – Confirmation
May 31 – Arnold Strottman

June 7 – Karen Janney
June 14 – Laurie Strottman
June 21 – Ann Larson
June 28 – Diana Emig

Greeters

May 3 – Marv Gerjets
May 10 – Ann Larson
May 17 – Beth Anderson
May 24 – Therese Plummer
May 31 – Sue Clapp

June 7 – Marv Gerjets
June 14 – Al Johnson
June 21 – Suzanne Schmitt
June 28 – Ardy Erickson

Children's Sermon

May 3 – Anna Peterson
May 10 – Hannah Plummer
May 17 – Pastor Bunny
May 24 – Beth Anderson
May 31 – Hannah Plummer

June 7 – Anna Peterson
June 14 – Hannah Plummer
June 21 – Beth Anderson
June 28 – Hannah Plummer

Images from "Stained Glass 40th Anniversary Celebration" 4-26-26









Thank you to Beth Anderson for all the wonderful photos she took for this celebration!
To access about another 50 photos from Beth's shared photo album, [click here](#).
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dOcn1Crj4R8MWImHfHUwpmTmvfaeggo0?usp=drive_link