



Dear Friends,

Pastor's Corner

As part of my continuing education this spring, I participated in a retreat centered on spiritual practices and renewal for pastors. The experience invited participants to explore practices such as guided silence, prayer, reflection, and intentional attentiveness to God's presence.

I'll admit: this was not naturally in my comfort zone. I tend to recharge by creating, building, planning, and doing. Sitting still for long stretches of quiet reflection does not always come easily to me. Going into the retreat, I expected it might feel mentally exhausting at times.

And honestly, parts of it were challenging. But continuing education is not only about learning what already fits us comfortably. Sometimes it is also about listening carefully, observing faithfully, and allowing God to meet us in unfamiliar places.

One of the things I appreciated most was the reminder that spiritual practices do not need to fit neatly inside someone else's box. Faithful practices are not about performing holiness or following a perfect formula. The intentionality is what matters. Making space in our lives to notice God's presence. Listening for the rustle of the Holy Spirit in the middle of ordinary life.

That kind of intentional pause can look very different from person to person. For some, it may be quiet prayer first thing in the morning. For others, it may be sitting in stillness for one minute after pulling into a parking spot before rushing inside. Maybe it is a midday breath prayer, a walk outdoors without headphones, or a simple evening practice of reflecting on where we experienced grace that day.

What might we notice about God if we intentionally slowed down—even briefly—once a day or once a week?

One of the gifts of continuing education is that it stretches us. Sometimes that stretching comes through exciting new ideas for ministry. Sometimes through conversations with colleagues. And sometimes through being gently reminded that rest, reflection, and renewal are also part of faithful living.

I remain grateful for the opportunity to continue learning, growing, and bringing new insights back into the life we share together at Our Savior's.

Peace,
Pastor Bunny



Learn and Sing - June 7th, 9:45am

All Creation Sings (ACS) is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship family and offers fresh worship resources, prayers, and music designed to complement ELW and enliven the church's song for a new day.

As with any new music, we'll learn it together! Join us on June 7 at 9:45am in the sanctuary for a brief practice before worship. No musical experience required—just come ready to sing and learn together.

If you would like to look over the music ahead of time, please be in touch with Pastor Bunny and we'll gladly get it to you.

Save the date – Semi-Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars!! It's June and that means it is time for our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting. The meeting is planned for June 14th immediately after the Sunday Service. Please plan to attend this important meeting. We will need to approve our new Council Members as well as to hear about the audit and the Synod Assembly. Our treasurer will also provide an update on our finances. We do need to have at least 25 voting members in attendance for the quorum for any votes. See you then!!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Looking for a midweek opportunity to grow in faith and conversation? Join us each Wednesday at 10:00am in the meeting room next to the front door for our ongoing Bible study. We are currently diving into the book of Habakkuk together.

There's no homework, no long-term commitment, and no pressure—just an open door, thoughtful conversation, and plenty of coffee. Whether you've been attending for years or are thinking about stopping by for the first time, you are warmly welcome.

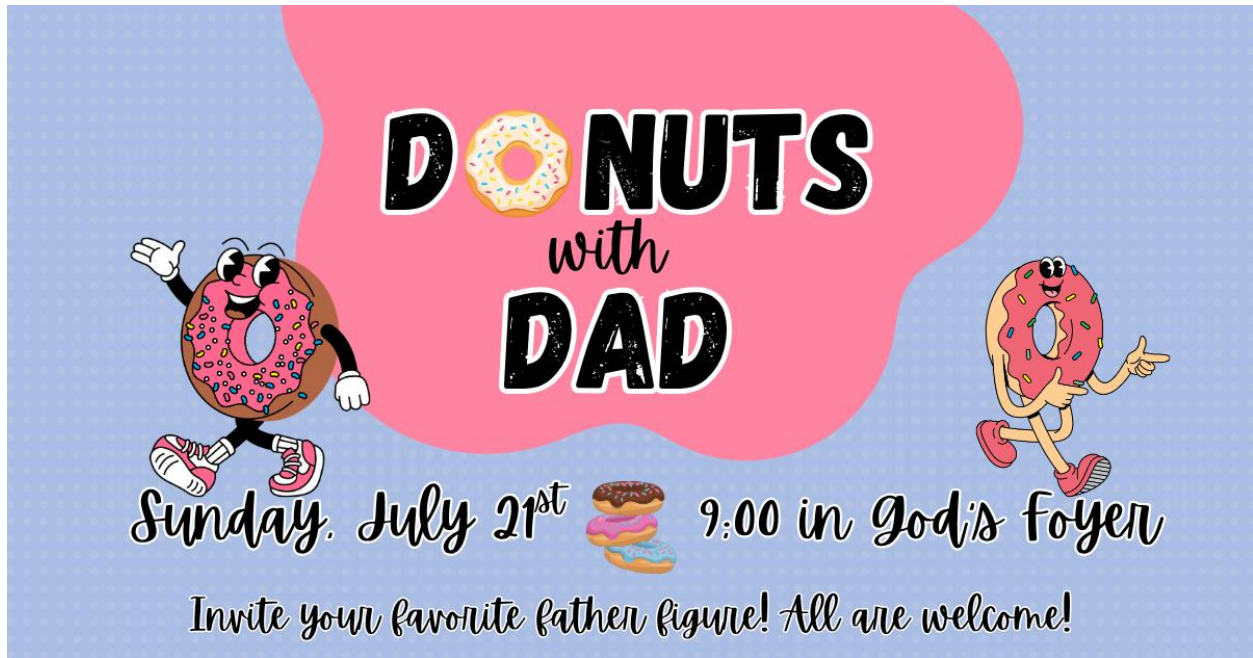
Please note: We will take a break during the month of July and resume Bible study on the first Wednesday in August.

Affirmation of Baptism Celebration – Dorothy Powers

On Wednesday, July 1, we will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) of Dorothy Powers. The entire congregation is invited to join us as we witness and celebrate Dorothy's commitment to continued learning and growth—both academically and spiritually.

We give thanks for Dorothy's faith journey and for the ways God continues to guide and shape her life. Please keep Dorothy in your prayers as she prepares for this important milestone in her faith.

Youth News:



Mark your calendars for Donuts with Dad on Sunday, June 21st at 9:00! Bring your dad, grandpa, uncle, grandson – any influential man you want to celebrate this Father’s Day!!



You are invited to Esther Circle Bible Study & Devotion

The Women of Our Savior's Lutheran Church are warmly invited to join the Esther Circle for our monthly Bible Study and devotion. We gather at 9:30 a.m. on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Terrace Glen Village, 3400 Alburnett Rd., Marion.

This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith, enjoy fellowship and share in meaningful conversation. Books are not required to participate but if you enjoy the study (and we think you will!), we recommend subscribing to Gather magazine at gathermagazine.org to follow along more deeply.

Each time we meet, we collect a Thank Offering, as a way for us to give back and support ministries that help our neighbors in need.

Whether you've been part of Esther Circle before or are just thinking about checking it out, you are welcome.

For questions, please reach out to Ann Larson, annronlarson62@gmail.com

Sunday Morning Bible Study Summer Break

Our Sunday morning Bible study will take a break for the summer and resume on September 13. Over the past months, we've shared thoughtful conversations through our study of Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith as well as a mini-series on hospitality and welcome.

Thank you to everyone who participated, asked questions, shared insights, and helped create such meaningful discussion together.

As we look ahead to the fall, what topics would you like to explore next? Is there a book of the Bible, theological question, church topic, or area of faith you'd like to dive into together? Be sure to share your ideas with Pastor Bunny—we'd love to hear what sparks your curiosity and faith.

OSLC Book Club

Our Saviors Lutheran Church Book Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am right after bible study. Please join us in the church's IMC/Conference room for lively discussion. We get our book kits from the Cedar Rapids Public Library. If you have any questions or need any further information, please feel free to give us a call. Lori Hayes 319-929-1479 or Marcia Patterson 956-346-2662. We hope to see you there.

Phil & Andy's Pantry

School is out and the kids will be home more and without the meals provided at school. So, in June, July and August we will be requesting items for easy to make meals and healthy snacks. Suggestions could include tuna with tuna helper, soups, canned pasta like SpaghettiOs, and other box dinners simple to make. Also, things like snack packs of fruit, Jello & pudding, granola bars, or raisins might be great to have on hand. Donations will get delivered several times throughout the summer. Thank you for any contributions you can provide for those in our community in need.



Your Stewardship Ministry Team

Leadership Training – Summit Executive

I was very lucky earlier this year to attend leadership training presented by Summit Executive. The DiSC model is a quick way to understand ourselves and others based on 4 behavioral styles – dominance, influence, steadiness, and conscientiousness. Funnily enough, they present this by comparing each behavioral style to birds.

My main behavioral style is Parrot – people oriented, intuitive, and friendly. If you know me, or the two generations of women before me, this makes a ton of sense. While the DiSC training focused highly on understanding ourselves, it also endorsed understanding others' behavior and treating them accordingly. Obviously, not everyone I come into contact with on a daily basis, whether here at church, at my full-time job, or out in the community is also going to be a parrot.

There are eagles who are fast-paced, assertive, and bold. Owls are factual and objective, and doves who display calmness and thoughtfulness. While these are generalized understandings of people's behavior, it does not identify their character.

The instructor emphasized that the "Golden Rule" of treating others how you want to be treated is outdated and incorrect. Rather, we should treat people how they need to be treated. As a parrot, who is outgoing, I wouldn't appreciate being treated like a docile dove.

I have thought about this training often since taking it. I try my hardest to apply what I learned to my role as Our Savior's youth director, RN, friend, daughter, etc. I am extremely thankful to our congregation for providing the resources that allowed me to attend.

Hannah

Thank you all for joining us for "Muffins for Mom"

What a wonderful way to celebrate our Moms on Mother's Day!!



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

Last month, we reflected on confession, forgiveness, and absolution—those moments in worship where we tell the truth about ourselves and hear the even greater truth of God’s grace. But before any words of confession are spoken, before any hymn is sung, there is first the welcome.

After the prelude quiets our hearts and draws us into worship, the welcome follows. The welcome is more than a greeting or a list of announcements. It is one of the church’s first acts of hospitality. In that moment, we remember that worship is not a private gathering for insiders or experts. It is the gathered people of God—members and visitors, longtime Lutherans and first-time guests, people worshiping in the sanctuary and people joining online, those full of joy and those carrying burdens too heavy for words. All are welcomed because Christ first welcomes us.

In Lutheran worship, this matters deeply. We believe the church is not created by our perfection, agreement, or worthiness, but by God’s grace. The welcome reflects that truth. Before anything else happens in worship, we are reminded that we belong to God and are invited into this community together.

And then, having been gathered, we sing.

The gathering hymn is one of the first moments when the congregation joins together with one voice. In the ELCA Lutheran tradition, congregational singing is not performance music offered by a few people for everyone else to observe. It is the shared prayer and praise of the whole assembly. Individually, we each arrive carrying different weeks, worries, joys, and stories. Most of the time, thanks to our amazing worship team, the hymn even matches our scripture readings of the day. But when we sing together, our many voices become one voice. Sometimes the hymn is joyful and triumphant. Sometimes reflective and prayerful. Sometimes we sing confidently; sometimes we barely have the energy to sing at all. Yet even then, the church carries the song together. On days when faith feels strong, we sing boldly. On days when faith feels fragile, others sing beside us until we can find the words again.

Often, the gathering hymn also introduces the themes of the day, helping prepare our hearts for the scriptures, prayers, and proclamation that will follow. In a world that often teaches us to spectate rather than participate, the gathering hymn reminds us that worship belongs to all of us. We are not here simply to watch worship happen. We are here to pray, sing, listen, and be shaped together by God’s presence and promises.

Next month, we’ll continue exploring the Gathering portion of worship as we look at the Kyrie and Hymn of Praise—ancient songs of mercy and joy that still shape the church today.

Congratulations - 2026 OSLC Confirmands

Congratulations Parker Zeien, Eric Strottman, Korver Sindelar, and Evelyn Fiester for affirming their baptism on May 24th! Thank you to everyone who has guided and supported them on their journeys thus far, to those who joined us in celebration on the 24th, and those who continue to pray for and support our youth as they take the next steps on their faith pathways.

Parker, Eric, Korver, and Evelyn – we are SO proud of you! Watching you grow up as people and grow in your faith has been an absolute pleasure. We can't wait to see where God guides you next!



LAMENTATIONS
3:22-23



*Parker
Zeien*



THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD NEVER CEASES, HIS MERCIES NEVER
COME TO AN END; THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING;
GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.



MICAH
6:8

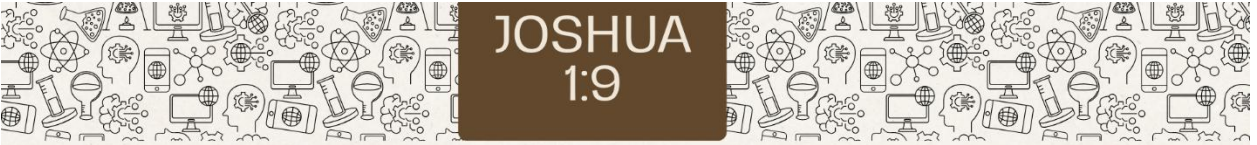


*Eric
Strottman*



HE HAS TOLD YOU, O MORTAL, WHAT IS GOOD, AND WHAT DOES
THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU BUT TO DO JUSTICE AND TO LOVE KINDNESS
AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD?





JOSHUA
1:9



Korver Sindelar



I HEREBY COMMAND YOU: BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS; DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED OR DISMAYED, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.”



1 JOHN
3:1



Evelyn Fiester



SEE WHAT LOVE THE FATHER HAS GIVEN US, THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD, AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE.



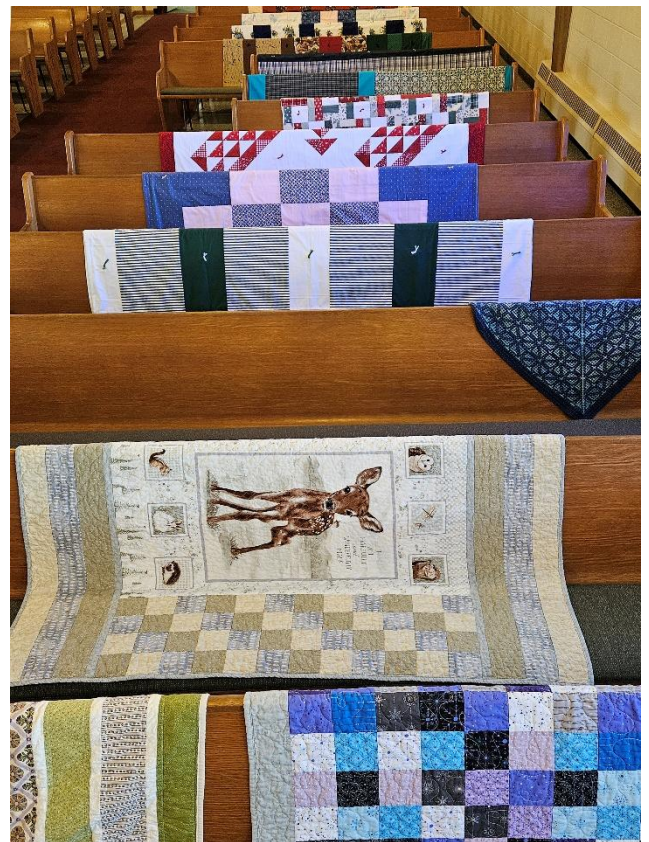
Staff Appreciation Day and Blessing 5-17-26

To our amazing church staff - Thank You for serving with a steady spirit, a generous heart, and a love for this church that shows in everything you do.



Blessing of Quilts 5-10-26

Thank you to the quilters at Our Saviors and their countless hours for creating these beautiful quilts - that are given to those in need in our community.



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

June 7 – Beth Anderson

June 14 – Laurene Case

June 21 – Suzanne Schmitt

June 28 – Eric Robinson

July 5 – Ann Larson

July 12 – JoAnn Kohl

July 19 – Sue Clapp

July 26 – Nancy Trout

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

Acolytes

June 7 – Parker Zeien

June 14 – Eric Strottman

June 21 – Mason Schmitt

June 28 – Caroline Anderson

July 5 – William Anderson

July 12 – Eric Strottman

July 19 – Mason Schmitt

July 26 – Caroline Anderson

Assisting Ministers

June 7 – Hannah Plummer

June 14 – Sue Clapp

June 21 – Natalie Fiester

June 28 – Nancy Greer

July 5 – Hannah Plummer

July 12 – Sue Clapp

July 19 – Natalie Fiester

July 26 – Nancy Greer

Ushers

June 7 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson, B. Sindelar

June 14 – D. Sampson, M. Houg, T. Zuber

June 21 – Strottman’s

June 28 – Schmitt’s, Ann Larson,
Beth Anderson

July 5 – Fiester’s

July 12 – D. Sampson, M. Houg, T. Zuber

July 19 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson, B. Sindelar

July 26 – Strottman’s

Prayer for Pastor

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

July 5 – Therese Plummer
July 12 – Ardy Erickson
July 19 – Arnold Strottman
July 26 – Natalie Fiester

Greeters

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

July 5 – Marv Gerjets
July 12 – Al Johnson
July 19 – Sue Clapp
July 26 – Ann Larson

Children's Sermon

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

July 5 – Hannah Plummer
July 12 – Anna Anderson
July 19 – Pastor Bunny
July 26 – Beth Anderson



2026 Financial Update

Contribution results for the week ending 5/17/2026:

General Giving:	\$18,745.01
Total Giving:	\$18,813.71

Weekly averages through 5/17/2026 (20 weeks)

Average Actual General Giving:	\$4,251.56 (\$85,031.25 YTD)
Average Actual General Expenses:	\$4,607.40 (\$92,147.90 YTD)

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

Photos from Confirmation Sunday 5-24-26





