



Dear Friends,

Pastor's Corner

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." — Matthew 28:20

As I write this, I'm looking ahead to a very full and exciting July. In the span of just a few weeks, I'll attend the ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering in Indianapolis, spend five days in Florida helping Courtney get settled into her new apartment, and then jump right into Vacation Bible School. It promises to be a busy season filled with travel, learning, ministry, family, and more than a few miles on the road and in the air.

Even during all that activity, I'm reminded that the Christian life is not about how much we accomplish or how many places we go. It is about the presence of Christ with us wherever we are. Whether we're gathered in worship, serving at VBS, attending a church conference, helping my daughter move into a new apartment, or simply enjoying a quiet morning with a cup of coffee, Jesus' promise remains the same: "I am with you always."

That promise is one of the reasons I love summer ministry. Summer often brings changes to our routines. We travel, welcome visitors, spend time with family, and participate in special events that don't happen at other times of the year. Yet through all those changes, God continues to gather us, nourish us, and send us out into the world as disciples.

I'm especially excited about two upcoming worship opportunities at Our Savior's. On July 12, we will welcome the Linn County Ukulele Club as they lead our music during worship. Their ministry of music brings joy, energy, and a wonderful opportunity to welcome guests into our community.

Then, on July 19, we'll celebrate our second annual Christmas in July worship service. Together we'll hear once again the good news of Christ's coming into the world and be reminded that the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas are not limited to one season of the year. Following worship, we'll gather for a Christmas cookie potluck and fellowship time. I hope you'll join us for this fun and meaningful tradition.

As you move through the days of summer, I invite you to spend some time reflecting on Jesus' promise: "I am with you always." Notice the places where you experience Christ's presence—in worship, in prayer, in conversations with friends, in acts of service, and in moments of unexpected joy. The good news of the gospel is that we never travel alone. Christ goes with us, guides us, and continually calls us into lives of faith, hope, and love.

I look forward to sharing these summer adventures with you and gathering with you each Sunday!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bunny



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:

VBS will be here before you know it! We have so many fun snacks and activities planned – join us for fun songs, great snacks, and afternoon adventures with visits from Joy the Service Dog, Area Ambulance plus water day and an obstacle course! Cost is \$25 per child, but if finances are a barrier for your family, please reach out to Hannah or Pastor Bunny – we want all of our kids to have the chance to participate, despite ability to pay. Need a ride? Let us know! We're happy to help!! Remember to pack a lunch for each day, too!!



OSLC Book Club

Our Saviors Lutheran Church Book Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11 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 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

Wednesday Bible Study Returns August 5 with a Study of Matthew

After taking the month of July off, our Wednesday morning Bible Study will resume on August 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the IMC (the first room on the left as you enter the building). Everyone is welcome to join us as we begin an eight-session journey through the Gospel of Matthew.

One of the reasons Matthew continues to speak so powerfully to the church is that it presents a realistic picture of discipleship. The people who follow Jesus are not perfect. They struggle with faith, doubt, temptation, forgiveness, and understanding. Yet Jesus continues to call, teach, and walk with them. In many ways, Matthew's disciples look a lot like us.

Over eight sessions, we will explore key moments in Matthew's gospel, including the birth of Jesus, the Sermon on the Mount, Peter's confession of faith, Jesus' teachings about community and forgiveness, the crucifixion, and the resurrection. Along the way, we'll consider what these stories reveal about who Jesus is, what it means to follow him, and how we are called to live together as God's people.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Bunny, pastor@crsaviors.org or chat with her before or after worship.

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.

Join Us for these Upcoming Events



**Worship
with Joy!**
July 12, 10am
Featuring music
by the
**Linn County
Ukulele Club**



**Christmas
in July!**
July 19, 10am
**Cookie Potluck
after service**
**Bring your favorite
cookies to share!**



70th
Wedding Anniversary
in honor of
**Ron & Dorothy
Barth**
SATURDAY, JULY 18TH, 2026
1:00 - 4:00
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
3634 1st Ave NE Cedar Rapids, IA
52402
*No gifts, please. Your presence is gift
enough!*

Installation of new Council members.

July 19th during 10 am service.

Why We Do What We Do in Worship – Part Four

Last month, we explored the welcome and the gathering hymn—the ways God gathers us together as a community before we begin the rest of worship. This month, we're looking at two more parts of the Gathering: the *Kyrie* and the *Hymn of Praise* from our new Setting 11 in “All Creation Sings”.

The word *Kyrie* comes from the Greek words *Kyrie eleison*, meaning “Lord, have mercy.” At first glance, it might sound like we're simply asking for forgiveness. But the *Kyrie* is much bigger than that. It's the church bringing the needs of the world before God. We pray for peace. We pray for healing. We pray for our neighbors, our communities, and all of creation. Together, we acknowledge that the world is not yet as God intends it to be, and we ask for God's mercy, guidance, and care.

The *Kyrie* has been part of Christian worship for centuries. Christians around the world have sung these words generation after generation, trusting that God hears our prayers and responds with compassion and love.

Then comes a shift in tone.

After asking for God's mercy, we respond with praise. The *Hymn of Praise* is our joyful response to God's presence and grace. Having named the world's needs, we turn our attention to God's goodness and the promises we find in Christ.

One of the things I love about our new liturgy is how it reminds us that the church is bigger than the walls of Our Savior's. The music in Setting 11 comes from a variety of cultures and traditions. The *Kyrie* (*Señor, ten piedad*) was composed by Ana Hernández. The *Hymn of Praise* (*Gloria a Dios*) uses a tune from Peru, and the *Gospel Acclamation* (*Aleluya*) comes from Honduras. Every Sunday, we're singing alongside Christians from different places, languages, and cultures who share the same faith in Christ.

Together, the *Kyrie* and the *Hymn of Praise* teach us something important. We don't ignore the world's pain and struggles, but we also do not let them have the final word. We bring our concerns to God, and then we lift our voices in praise, trusting that God's mercy is greater than anything we face.

Next month, we'll move into the Word as we explore the Prayer of the Day and the readings that help shape our worship each week.

Celebrate 250 Years

America's 250th anniversary is a powerful reminder of the freedoms that have shaped the nation, especially the enduring right to worship according to one's conscience. For generations, people have come here seeking the liberty to practice their faith openly and without fear. Celebrating this milestone invites us to honor that legacy and recommit ourselves to protecting religious freedom for all.

Interested in Becoming a Member?

Have you been worshipping with us for a while and are wondering about membership at Our Savior's? Whether you've recently started attending, have been visiting for months, or simply have questions about what membership means, I'd love to visit with you.

We will be receiving new members during worship on Sunday, August 2. If you are interested in becoming a member—or would simply like to learn more—please contact me by July 19 so we can have a conversation.

There is no pressure and no test! Just an opportunity to talk about your faith journey, answer questions, and explore membership at Our Savior's.

You can reach me at:

Pastor@CRSaviors.org or 337-368-2781

I look forward to hearing your story and sharing more about the ministry of Our Savior's.

God's peace,

Pastor Bunny

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

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

July 5 – Ann Larson

July 12 – JoAnn Kohl

July 19 – Sue Clapp

July 26 – Nancy Trout

August 2 – Pastor Catherine Burroughs

August 9 – Nancy Greer

August 16 – Lori Hayes

August 23 – Evie Fiester

August 30 – Beth Anderson

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

Acolytes

July 5 – William Anderson

July 12 – Eric Strottman

July 19 – Mason Schmitt

July 26 – Caroline Anderson

August 2 – Evie Fiester

August 9 – Parker Zeien

August 16 – William Anderson

August 23 – Eric Strottman

August 30 – Mason Schmitt

Assisting Ministers

July 5 – Hannah Plummer

July 12 – Sue Clapp

July 19 – Natalie Fiester

July 26 – Nancy Greer

August 2 – Hannah Plummer

August 9 – Leslie Strottman

August 16 – Natalie Fiester

August 23 – Nancy Greer

August 30 – Sue Clapp

Ushers

July 5 – Fiester's

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

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

July 26 – Strottman's

August 2 – Schmitt's, A. Larson, B. Anderson

August 9 – Fiester's

August 16 – D. Sampson, M. Houg, T. Zuber

August 23 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson

August 30 – Strottman's

Prayer for Pastor

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

August 2 – Leslie Strottman
August 9 – Laurie Strottman
August 16 – Ann Larson
August 23 – JoAnn Kohl
August 30 – Nancy Greer

Greeters

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

August 2 – Marv Gerjets
August 9 – Sue Clapp
August 16 – Ardy Erickson
August 23 – Therese Plummer
August 30 – Beth Anderson

Children's Sermon

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

August 2 – Hannah Plummer
August 9 – Anna Peterson
August 16 – Pastor Bunny
August 23 – Beth Anderson
August 30 – Hannah Plummer

2026 Financial Update

Contribution results for the week ending 6/21/2026:

General Giving:	\$4,010.00
Total Giving:	\$4,054.89

Weekly averages through 6/21/2026 (25 weeks)

Average Actual General Giving:	\$4,107.71 (\$102,692.82 YTD)
Average Actual General Expenses:	\$4,243.14 (\$106,078.61 YTD)

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

New Electronic Sign

Our Savior's Lutheran Church NEW electronic sign is installed and running! In a future newsletter, more details on this project will be given along with a date for the dedication service.



Thank you to Don Pliester for the wonderful display of flowers!



