



Dear Friends,

Pastor's Corner

"You give them something to eat." — Matthew 14:16

As I look back over July, one word keeps coming to mind: **people**. Not programs. Not events. People.

It was a full month. I gathered with rostered ministers from across the ELCA in Indianapolis, we celebrated Christmas in July, welcomed the Linn County Ukulele Club to lead us in worship, shared Vacation Bible School with our friends at Gloria Dei, and rejoiced as Dorothy Powers affirmed her baptism and publicly professed her faith.

Those were all wonderful moments. But when I think about them now, what stands out isn't the schedule—it's the people who made them possible.

People baked cookies. People decorated the sanctuary. People sang, played instruments, welcomed visitors, prayed, set up tables, washed dishes, cleaned up afterward, and quietly took care of a hundred little things that most of us never even noticed.

That's how the church has always worked. The truth is that none of this is new. It's how God has always worked!

One of my favorite Gospel stories begins with a problem: thousands of hungry people and almost no food. Jesus feeds them. It's a miracle many of us have heard over and over, but one detail has captured my imagination this year. Jesus didn't have to involve the disciples at all. He could have fed the crowd himself. Instead, he chose people.

He placed the bread into the disciples' hands and asked them to carry it to a hungry crowd. In doing so, he invited ordinary people to become part of an extraordinary miracle.

I think Jesus still works that way.

Christ continues to choose ordinary people—you and me—to carry hope, encouragement, compassion, generosity, and the good news of God's love into the world. We wonder whether what we have to offer is enough, but Jesus has never been looking for perfection. He simply invites us to place what we have into his hands and trust him to do the rest.

As summer gives way to fall, we'll settle back into familiar rhythms of worship, Bible study, Sunday school, and service. Those ordinary moments are exactly where Christ continues to call ordinary people into extraordinary work. The miracle was never that the disciples had enough. The miracle was that Jesus chose them anyway—and continues to place the bread in our hands.

**Grace and peace,
Pastor Bunny**



Youth News:

VBS 2026 is a Wrap!!! - We had a very successful 2026 Vacation Bible School Day Camp in partnership with Gloria Dei! Kids had fun learning new songs from 3 EWALU counselors, playing games, water day, visits from Joy the Comfort Dog and Area Ambulance, and an agility course! This year's theme was "Wear Love" and we hope we have equipped our kiddos with the tools they need to show love to others and themselves!

Thank you, Sue Clapp, for providing us with Thrivent Funds to provide fun snacks and reading to the kids each afternoon! Big thanks also to Pastor Bunny for being the best partner in crime, and Evelyn and Natalie Feister for all the help provided throughout the week! And thanks to all who entrusted us with your children for the week! They were a BLAST!



OSLC Book Club

August 9th is National Book Lover's Day! Lucky for us, Our Savior's has it's very own book club. The Happy Bookers meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month right after bible study. 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.

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@crsavivors.org or chat with her before or after worship.

You are invited to join OSLC Choir & Bell Choir



You are warmly invited to join OSLC Choir or Bell Choir. Choir will begin practicing again on Tuesday, September 1st at 1:00 in the afternoon. Our choir will sing for the congregation on the 1st & 2nd Sundays of the month. We also practice just a little bit on the morning that we sing at 9:30 am in the sanctuary.

OSLC Bell Choir will begin practicing on Wednesday, September 9th at 5:30 pm upstairs in the choir loft. Our Bell Choir performs on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Feel free to reach out to Terri Hodge if you have questions and are interested in joining our Bell Choir.

Phil & Andy's Pantry

School is still out for the month of August are 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. Thank you for any contributions you can provide for those in our community in need.

Your Stewardship Ministry Team



Thanksgiving in August

After celebrating Christmas in July, let's celebrate "Thanksgiving in August".

At Our Savior's, we have many things and people to be grateful for. So, for the



month of August, the focus will be on the sounds of music. If you have been blessed by these musicians, please consider thanking them in person or by sending a note or email.;



Forrest Green (piano, electronic piano, cantor ...): fjg741@gmail.com

Terri Hodges (flute, bells ...): phlute12@outlook.com

Nancy Greer (vocalist ...): ngreerhome@gmail.com

Anna Peterson (ukulele, vocalist ...): aw103430@gmail.com



This is by all means not an all-inclusive list, we also have choir members, youth musicians, polka, etc.

Also, feel free to share your thanks and appreciation with any other volunteer or staff involved with any other aspects of making Our Savior's Lutheran Church a great place to worship.

Church Directory

If you are looking for contact information of any OSLC congregational member, remember that almost 2 years ago we published an online directory at InstantChurchDirectory.com and printed a paper copy as well. Basically, the directory contains information such as names, address, phone numbers, photos, and email addresses. The secure, online directory is ONLY available to church members who are already have their email in the directory. Log into the website using your email address.

If you are not listed in the directory and would like to be added, feel free to send Sue your information so you can be included. Also, for any questions/concerns or updates please contact: Sueclapp73@gmail.com or 319-360-9021

God's Work Our Hands

God's Work, Our Hands is quickly approaching on Sunday, September 13th! This is an annual day of service recognized by the ELCA. In the past few years, Our Savior's has collected donations for the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, made goodie baskets for local first responders, and volunteered at Central Furniture Rescue. Do you know of a



local organization OSLC can support this year? Please let Hannah know if you have any ideas!

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

August 2 – Pastor Catherine Burroughs

August 9 – Nancy Greer

August 16 – Lori Hayes

August 23 – Evie Fiester

August 30 – Beth Anderson

September 6 – Suzanne Schmitt

September 13 – Eric Strottman

September 20 – Ardy Erickson

September 27 – Therese Plummer

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

Acolytes

August 2 – Evie Fiester

August 9 – Parker Zeien

August 16 – William Anderson

August 23 – Eric Strottman

August 30 – Mason Schmitt

September 6 – Caroline Anderson

September 13 – Evie Fiester

September 20 – Parker Zeien

September 27 – William Anderson

Assisting Ministers

August 2 – Hannah Plummer

August 9 – Leslie Strottman

August 16 – Natalie Fiester

August 23 – Nancy Greer

August 30 – Sue Clapp

September 6 – Hannah Plummer

September 13 – Natalie Fiester

September 20 – Nancy Greer

September 27 – Sue Clapp

Ushers

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

Sept. 6 – Schmitt’s, A. Larson,
B. Anderson

Sept. 13 – Fiester’s

Sept. 20 – D. Sampson, M. Houg,
T. Zuber

Sept. 27 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson

Prayer for Pastor

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

September 6 – Lori Hayes
September 13 – Natalie Fiester
September 20 – Arnold Strottman
September 27 – Diana Emig

Greeters

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

September 6 – Marv Gerjets
September 13 – Suzanne Schmitt
September 20 – Ann Larson
September 27 – Al Johnson

Children's Sermon

August 2 – none
August 9 – Anna Peterson
August 16 – Pastor Bunny
August 23 – Beth Anderson
August 30 – Hannah Plummer

September 6 – Anna Peterson
September 13 – Pastor Bunny
September 20 – Beth Anderson
September 27 – Anna Peterson

2026 Financial Update

Contribution results for the week ending 7/26/2026:

General Giving:	\$7,785.00
Total Giving:	\$8,032.71

Weekly averages through 7/26/2026 (30 weeks)

Average Actual General Giving:	\$4,215.66 (\$126,469.65 YTD)
Average Actual General Expenses:	\$4,382.65 (\$131,479.56 YTD)

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

Why We Do What We Do in Worship – Part Five

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Last month, we looked at the Kyrie and the Hymn of Praise, where we bring the needs of the world before God and then respond with joyful praise. This month, we move into the next part of worship: the Prayer of the Day and the Scripture readings.

The Prayer of the Day is more than just the assembly saying a prayer before we read the Bible. It serves as a bridge between gathering and listening. Notice that the prayer connects with the readings that follow.

Then we listen to God's Word.

Most Sundays, we hear four readings: a passage from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a reading from one of the New Testament letters, and a reading from one of the four Gospels. This pattern allows us to hear the broad story of God's work throughout history while always centering on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

These readings are not chosen at random. Lutherans follow a three-year cycle of Scripture called the Revised Common Lectionary. Congregations from many Christian traditions around the world hear these same passages each week. Whether you're worshiping in Cedar Rapids, California, South Africa, or South Korea, countless Christians are reflecting on the same Scriptures together.

The shared rhythm reminds us that we are part of something much larger than ourselves. God's Word continues to speak across cultures, languages, and centuries, calling God's people to faith and shaping us for lives of love and service.

Next month, we'll look more closely at the Gospel Acclamation and why we stand to hear the reading of the Holy Gospel.

Photos of Ron & Dorthy Barth 70th Anniversary Celebration 7-18-26



**Cheers to 70 Years indeed!! Happy Anniversary
Ron and Dorothy Barth!**



Photos from Christmas in July 7-19-26





Photos from Vacation Bible School July 20-24, 2026



