



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

A few days ago, Mark reminded me that August marks two years since I became your pastor. Two years! In some ways, it feels like I just arrived. In others, it is hard to remember a time when I didn't know which pew you sit in, who makes the coffee, or who will have an opinion when we move something three feet to the left.

Anniversaries give us an opportunity to look back, and as I've thought about these past two years, I've found myself thinking less about what we have *done* and more about what I have noticed. I've noticed the Holy Spirit moving among you.

We sometimes imagine the Holy Spirit working in dramatic ways. After all, at Pentecost there was a rushing wind, tongues of fire, people speaking in different languages, and thousands of people being baptized. That's hard to miss!

But Jesus gives us another image for the way God works. He says the kingdom of heaven is like yeast, worked with flour and made into dough. Most of the work happens where we can't even see it. And yet, with time, the dough changes.

I've watched people care for one another in ways that will never appear in a council report. I've seen someone notice when a person is missing and check on them. I've seen you feed people, pray for people, make music together, study Scripture, mourn together, laugh together, and show up for one another.

I've also watched us become a little more willing to ask questions. Why do we do this? What matters most to us? Where might the Holy Spirit be leading us next?

Those questions don't mean that what came before was wrong. They mean we trust that the same God who has faithfully led this congregation through generations is still at work among us today.

Two years into our ministry together, I can look back and see it. There is yeast in the dough.

Something is stirring among God's people at Our Savior's. I don't know exactly what it will look like when all is said and done—and I think that's part of the adventure. But I am grateful to be your pastor in this season, and I am excited to keep discovering together what God is already doing among us.

Peace,
Pastor Bunny



Questions & Coffee

Beginning Sunday, September 13 at 9:20 a.m., we're going to try something new on Sunday mornings.

Instead of our traditional Adult Sunday School format, we'll gather on the couches in the lobby for Questions & Coffee — 30 minutes of conversation about faith, life, and the questions that don't always have easy answers.

Each Sunday will begin with one Question of the Day. It might be:

Does everything happen for a reason?

Can you be angry with God and still be faithful?

Is forgiving someone the same thing as trusting them again?

What's something you believe about God differently today than you did 20 years ago?

There won't be a lesson to prepare for, homework to complete, or even an answer we're trying to reach. Instead, we'll listen to one another, wonder together, and see where the conversation takes us. Sometimes Scripture will find its way into the conversation. Sometimes our own experiences will. Sometimes we may leave with more questions than we had when we started — and that's okay.

Questions & Coffee is designed to be easy to join. Come every Sunday or once in a while. Arrive at 9:20 or wander in a few minutes later. Grab some coffee, find a spot on a couch, and join the conversation. No attendance will be taken, and you don't need to have been there the week before to participate.

Most Sundays, Pastor Bunny will help guide the conversation, and about once a month a member of the congregation will serve as our conversation host. You don't need to be a Bible expert to participate — or to lead. Curiosity and a willingness to listen are plenty.

We're calling this an experiment because that's exactly what it is. We'll try it, see what we discover, and learn together.

Bring your questions. Bring your experiences. Bring yourself.

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.

A Small Change to Our Worship This Fall

Beginning in October, you may notice a small change in the order of the first half of our worship service. After the Prayer of the Day, we will hear the Old Testament reading, followed by the Psalm, New Testament reading, and Gospel. The Children's Sermon and Prayer for the Pastor will then lead us into the sermon. Special music will remain part of our worship and will come before the readings.

Why the change?

One of the things we continue to think about is how the different parts of worship connect with one another. In this order, we hear the Old Testament reading before singing the Psalm, allowing the Psalm to serve as a response to what we have just heard. The Scripture readings then remain together and lead us toward the Gospel.

Moving the Children's Sermon after the Gospel also gives our children a chance to hear the day's Scripture before we invite them to think and talk about it together.

Much of this follows the pattern of worship found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, while keeping some of the traditions that have become meaningful parts of worship at Our Savior's.

We're going to **try this order during October and November** and see how it works. This isn't a permanent change yet. As we worship together, we'll pay attention to whether this new order helps the service flow more naturally and helps us hear how the different parts of worship connect.

Sometimes even small changes can help us notice familiar parts of worship in new ways. We look forward to trying this together!



Polka Service – Mark your calendar

Join us for our beloved Polka Service October 18th at 10am! It's a joyful tradition at Our Savior's Lutheran Church! Tap your toes, sing along, and celebrate with lively polka-style hymns that lift our spirits and bring smiles all around.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thank you to Al Runau and Kevin Clapp for directing their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Our Savior's! We are grateful for your generosity and support of our shared ministry! If you are a Thrivent member with Choice Dollars available to direct, you can designate them to Our Savior's Lutheran Church by visiting [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or by calling Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and saying "Thrivent Choice" when prompted.

God's Work, Our Hands – October 4th, 2026

Meet Scarlett! Scarlett is a 7-year-old Coonhound (and who knows what else!) and belongs to Hannah Plummer (Therese also has some shared custody while Hannah's at work). Scarlett was rescued from a local organization – she was found in a ditch in Ottumwa, Iowa with two other siblings. Scarlett was abandoned and needing a home – and under just the right circumstances, Hannah became Scarlett's emotional support human.



There are so many pups, cats, and other animals in the Cedar Rapids area that find homes like Hannah's for dogs like Scarlett.



While it wasn't the easiest thing to do (our couches did not fare well to the transition – turns out Scarlett had a fair amount of separation anxiety!) Scarlett has been the best companion a gal could ask for. So, this year for God's Work, Our Hands, Our Savior's is thrilled to support Dogs Forever! Dogs Forever is a local "adoption guarantee" shelter – meaning they hold onto dogs as long as it takes for them to find their forever homes! They are volunteer run and rely on donations from the community! On Sunday, October 4th after 10:00 AM service, all are welcome to gather in the Fellowship Hall to make small tie blankets and rope toys to be donated to Dogs Forever. They also have a wishlist of needs – if that's more your style, feel free to drop off your donations at Our Savior's and we will arrange the rest!

Phil & Andy's Pantry

In collaboration with God's Work, Our Hands, for the month of September, Phil and Andy's Pantry will be collecting items from the Dogs Forever wish list! A copy of this wish list will be included in the Tidings and posted on the bulletin board! Scanning the QR code will also take you straight to the [Dogs Forever Amazon wish list](#)! If you have any questions, please reach out to Hannah or a member of the stewardship team!

Click here to go to [Dogs Forever Amazon wish list](#)

Click here to visit [Dogs Forever website](#)

God's Work, Our Hands flyer [below](#)



God's Work, Our Hands

October 4th, 2026



Scan for Amazon wish list!

Dog's Forever Donation Wishlist!

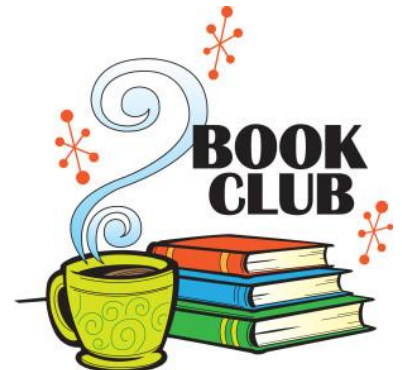
Amazon, Menards, and Theisens Gift Cards
Vinegar (no glass bottles, please!)
6ft leashes with traffic handle
Clear, food-safe gasketed storage totes (32 qt)
Dehydrated sweet potato chews
Nature Gnaws Chews (any variety)
TUFFY's TOUGH or KONG tough dog toys
Doggy Dooly 14" balls or Jolly Pets Balls L/XL
Benebones/Nylabones/Lumabones (any variety/size)
62/62XL black printer ink
Books/Rolls of stamps
Doggy DNA kits
Provable DC Probiotic
Poop Bags (thick ones, please!)
Dental treats (large/medium)

Join Us!

After worship 10. 4. 2026 in the Fellowship
Hall to make tie blankets and rope toys to be
donated to Dogs Forever!

OSLC Book Club

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.



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

September 6 – Suzanne Schmitt

September 13 – Eric Robinson

September 20 – Ardy Erickson

September 27 – Therese Plummer

October 4 – Suzanne Schmitt

October 11 – Ann Larson

October 18 – Sue Clapp

October 25 – JoAnn Kohl

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

Acolytes

September 6 – Evelyn Fiester

September 13 – Caroline Anderson

September 20 – William Anderson

September 27 – Eric Strottman

October 4 – Mason Schmitt

October 11 – Evelyn Fiester

October 18 – Caroline Anderson

October 25 – Eric Strottman

Assisting Ministers

September 6 – Hannah Plummer

September 13 – Natalie Fiester

September 20 – Nancy Greer

September 27 – Sue Clapp

October 4 – Natalie Fiester

October 11 – Sue Clapp

October 18 – Nancy Greer

October 25 – Natalie Fiester

Ushers

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

Sept. 13 – Fiester’s

Sept. 20 – D. Sampson, M. Houg

Sept. 27 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson

October 4 – Strottman Family

October 11 – Fiester Family

October 18 – Schmitt’s, Ann Larson,
Beth Anderson

October 25 – D. Sampson, M. Houg

Prayer for Pastor

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

October 4 – Therese Plummer
October 11 – Nancy Greer
October 18 – Ann Larsosn
October 25 – Laurie Strottman

Greeters

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

October 4 – Marv Gerjets
October 11 – Therese Plummer
October 18 – Sue Clapp
October 25 – Beth Anderson

Children's Sermon

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

October 18 – Pastor Bunny
November 15 – Beth Anderson
December 20 – Christmas Program

2026 Financial Update

Contribution results for the week ending 8/23/2026:

General Giving:	\$2,108.37
Total Giving:	\$2,153.06

Weekly averages through 8/23/2026 (34 weeks)

Average Actual General Giving:	\$4,042.92 (\$137,459.38 YTD)
Average Actual General Expenses:	\$4,332.55 (\$147,306.65 YTD)

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

Our Saviors Lutheran Church share and like:

Website: CRSaviors.org

Facebook: [Our Saviors Lutheran Church CR](#)

YouTube: [Our Savior's Lutheran Church](#)

Where is God Calling Us?

Over the next several months, Our Savior's will be engaging in an intentional process of listening. Before deciding what new ministries to begin, what programs to expand, or where to invest our time and energy, we want to pause and ask a more important question: Who are we?

Too often, churches begin by asking, "What should we do?" Scripture reminds us that God's people first learn to listen. Throughout the Bible, God repeatedly calls people to be still, to pray, to remember, and to discern before acting. We believe that same invitation continues today.

Our discernment process will include remembering our congregation's story, listening to one another, reflecting on the needs of our community, and prayerfully seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

This process is not about finding the loudest voices or the most popular ideas. It is about listening carefully enough that we begin to recognize the themes God continues to place before us. Discernment is different from simply taking a vote. It is the work of a community seeking God's direction together.

Our prayer is that this journey will strengthen not only our ministries, but also our trust in one another and in the Holy Spirit. When we take the time to listen well before we act, we position ourselves to move forward with greater clarity, unity, and confidence.

We hope you'll join us in this process with open hearts, thoughtful conversation, and continual prayer.

Blessing of Backpacks 8-30-26



Why We Do What We Do in Worship – Part Six

Last month, we looked at the Prayer of the Day and the Scripture readings that shape our worship each week. This month, we turn our attention to two things that happen just before and during the Gospel reading: the Gospel Acclamation and the Holy Gospel

Before the Gospel is read, we sing the Gospel Acclamation. Most often, we sing Alleluia, a Hebrew word meaning “Praise the Lord.” It is a simple word, but an important one. Before we hear the story and teachings of Jesus, the congregation responds with praise.

You may have noticed that we also stand for the reading of the Gospel, even though we sit for most of the other Scripture readings. Why?

Standing is an ancient way of showing attention, respect, and readiness. When we stand for the Gospel, we aren't saying that the other readings are less important or less holy. All of Scripture is God's Word. Instead, our posture helps us recognize that we have reached a particular moment in our worship. In the Gospel, we hear directly from the stories of Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection.

Our bodies are part of worship, too. We stand, sit, kneel, come forward, eat, drink, sing, speak, listen, and pray. These movements aren't simply instructions for what to do next. They help us participate in worship with our whole selves.

When the reading ends with “The Gospel of the Lord,” we respond, “Praise to you, O Christ.” We began with praise, and we end with praise—not simply because we have heard words from an ancient book, but because through Scripture, God continues to speak to God's people today.

We Celebrate with Dorothy!

What a joy to celebrate with Dorothy Powers as she affirmed her baptism on July 1!

Confirmation is not a graduation from church or the end of learning about faith. It is a moment to pause along the way—to remember the promises God made to Dorothy in baptism and to hear Dorothy say for herself, “Yes. This faith is mine, too.”

We are grateful for Dorothy's curiosity, her willingness to ask questions, and the ways she continues to learn and grow. We are also grateful for the many people who walk alongside her and nurture her faith along the way.

Dorothy, your church family is proud of you and grateful for you. We can't wait to see where God leads you next!

Dorothy Powers affirmed her baptism on July 1

