The Tidings

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Newsletter

October 2026

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

"For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us…" — Acts 15:28 … I love that sentence.

It comes near the end of a long and difficult conversation in the early church. The people did not immediately agree about what they should do. So, they gathered. They told their stories. They listened to one another's experiences. They searched Scripture. They prayed. And somewhere in all of that listening, they began to recognize where the Holy Spirit was leading them.

Listening sounds simple. But I'm becoming convinced that listening—really listening—is a spiritual practice. Most of us are pretty good at hearing while we wait for our turn to talk. We listen for the place where we can jump in with our own story. We listen while forming our response. Sometimes we listen for the flaw in someone's argument, or for the problem we can fix. But what happens when we listen simply to understand? What might we hear if, instead of preparing our response, we become curious? What might we learn if we enter a conversation believing that the other person knows something we do not? What might the Holy Spirit reveal when we make room for another person's experience?

That kind of listening requires humility. It asks us to set aside, at least for a moment, our need to explain, defend, correct, or solve. It does not mean that we will always agree. Understanding and agreement are not the same thing. But we cannot truly understand one another if we never listen long enough to hear what someone else is actually saying.

This is part of the work we are beginning together through Discovering Our Calling. Before we make plans about where Our Savior's is going next, we are listening. We are listening to our history. We are listening to one another. We will listen to our neighbors. And through all of it, we are listening for the Holy Spirit.

That begins October 10 with Our Story, when we will gather to remember where we have been, reflect on who we are today, and dream about what may be ahead. There will be time later for decisions and plans. Right now, our work is to listen to each other and to God.

Maybe listening itself can become a prayer:

Holy Spirit, quiet my need to answer.
Make me curious.
Help me hear what another person is saying.
And in the space between us, help me listen for you.



Peace,
Pastor Bunny

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.



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 wish list 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!

OUR STORY

On October 10 at 1pm, we will take the next step in our Discovering Our Calling journey—and we need your voice. Around the Fellowship Hall, three large blank walls will be waiting for us. Together, we will fill them with a rainbow of sticky notes—our memories, our present realities, and our dreams for the future of Our Savior's.

We'll move through three questions together:

Remembering — What is part of the story of Our Savior's that you don't want us to forget?

The joyful things. The difficult things. People who shaped us. Ministries that mattered. Changes and losses. Moments that were holy. Pieces of our story that helped make this congregation who we are.

Reflecting — Where do you see energy and life?

What is happening at Our Savior's right now? Where are our gifts? Where are our challenges? What do we value deeply? What do we hope will remain at the heart of this congregation even as other things change?

Dreaming — What might God be calling this congregation toward?

What could be possible? Who might God be calling us to serve? What could Our Savior's become? What are your hopes and prayers for this congregation in the years ahead?

And here's an important part: *you don't have to stand up and speak in front of everyone*.

You'll have time to ponder each question and write your thoughts on sticky notes. As we move from wall to wall, we'll watch our individual responses become something much bigger—a picture of our shared history, an honest look at where we are today, and a collection of hopes and dreams for what might come next.

Whether you've been at Our Savior's for decades or arrived recently, your perspective belongs on those walls. We can't see the whole picture without one another.

Saturday, October 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Coffee and snacks will be provided.

Your voice is needed.

Polka Service – Mark your calendar



Join us for our 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. Join us after service for our German meal. Brats, hot dogs, sauerkraut, potato salad, chips and dessert. We also need a little help to serve and clean up. Sign-up sheets for everything are on the bulletin board outside Therese's office. Please sign up to attend, help serve, bring dessert and clean up. Thank you!!

Youth News

Our Savior's is thrilled to be partnering with our neighbors just a couple of blocks over, Christ Episcopal Church, for a fun Trunk or Treat event! This is hosted through the Kenwood Park Neighborhood Association and will be a great opportunity to participate with our community! Trunks are still needed!! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you are willing to "host" a trunk, please sign up on the bulletin board!!





Hannah is hosting a **Youths-Giving Potluck** on Saturday, November 14th at her home:

3496 26th Ave.

Marion, IA 52302

319-432-2059

All are welcome. Bring a fried and a "dish" to share that you are most thankful for.

Congratulations to Natalie Fiester and co-workers! They were recognized by a grateful patient family for outstanding care!

The Guardian Angel program gives patients and families the opportunity to donate in appreciation of a physician, team member, volunteer or department that made a difference in their healthcare experience.



SOCKTOBER - Phil & Andy's Pantry

October is here and Phil & Andy have one thing to say, It's SOOOOOCKTOBER time. Yes, you read that right, we are collecting socks during the month of October. The Phil & Andy's drive for the puppies is past, and we are now focusing on socks for people. Let's fill the cart by Therese's office with socks. The socks will mainly be donated to Willis Dady at the end of October. If you can't make it some place to buy socks, we can take a check or cash donation that can be used to purchase socks. Just place the monetary donation in the Sunday offering plate noting that it is to be earmarked for socks.

Starting later in October, we will be collecting food items before our Harvest Sunday, which is November 15th. The food items will be distributed prior to Thanksgiving to several food pantries, so open your cupboards and bring food to place in the cart. Canned goods would be ideal, but any non-perishable food item would be accepted.

Thank you,

Marv Houg and Arnold Strottman

Stewardship Ministry co-chairs

SOCKTOBER Poem

As I went out walking one brisk fall day,
I saw some children out at play.
Off to the side a small girl stood,
With threadbare clothing and no hood.

On her feet she wore old flip flops,
Her feet were cold she had no SOCKS!
To my Savior I sent a plea,
He said, "What you do for her, you do for Me."

He reminded me in a voice so sweet,
"I took care of my disciples' feet."
Here at Our Savior's we do the same,
And provide socks in Jesus' name.

So, this October we bring socks,
For those in need in Jesus' flock.
Bring socks in every size and hue,
For adults and children and babies, too.

This "SOCKTOBER" we will do our part,
And bring socks with a giving heart!

By Dorothy Powers (2019)

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thank you to JoAnn Kohl 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 or by calling Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and saying "Thrivent Choice" when prompted.

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.

Questions & Coffee

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.

2026 Financial Update

Contribution results for the week ending 9/27/2026:

General Giving:	$ 2,259.00
Total Giving:	$ 2,305.52

Weekly averages through 9/27/2026 (39 weeks)

Average Actual General Giving:	$3,747.38 ($146,147.84 YTD)
Average Actual General Expenses:	$4,143.39 ($161,592.18 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

October 4 – Suzanne Schmitt
October 11 – Ann Larson
October 18 – Sue Clapp
October 25 – JoAnn Kohl

November 1 – Pastor Catherine Burroughs
November 8 – Nancy Trout
November 15 – Nancy Greer
November 22 – Evie Fiester
November 29 – Lori Hayes

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

Acolytes

October 4 – Mason Schmitt
October 11 – Evelyn Fiester
October 18 – Caroline Anderson
October 25 – Eric Strottman

November 1 – William Anderson
November 8 – Mason Schmitt
November 15 – Evelyn Fiester
November 22 – Caroline Anderson
November 29 – Eric Strottman

Assisting Ministers

October 4 – Natalie Fiester
October 11 – Sue Clapp
October 18 – Nancy Greer
October 25 – Natalie Fiester

November 1 – Nancy Greer
November 8 – Sue Clapp
November 15 – Natalie Fiester
November 22 – Nancy Greer
November 29 – Sue Clapp

Ushers

October 4 – Strottman Family
October 11 – Fiester Family
October 18 – Schmitt's, Ann Larson, Beth Anderson
October 25 – D. Sampson, M. Houg

November 1 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson
November 8 – Strottman Family
November 15 – Fiester Family
November 22 – Schmitt's, Ann Larson, Beth Anderson
November 29 – D. Sampson, M. Houg

Prayer for Pastor

October 4 – Therese Plummer
October 11 – Nancy Greer
October 18 – Ann Larsosn
October 25 – Laurie Strottman
November 1 – JoAnn Kohl
November 8 – Natalie Fiester
November 15 – Ardy Erickson
November 22 – Arnold Strottman
November 29 – Lori Hayes

Greeters

October 4 – Therese Plummer
October 11 – Therese Plummer
October 18 – Sue Clapp
October 25 – Beth Anderson
November 1 – Pastor Catherine Burroughs
November 8 – Al Johnson
November 15 – Suzanne Schmitt
November 22 – Mark Schmitt
November 29 – Ardy Erickson

Children's Sermon

October 4 – Pastor Bunny
October 18 – Pastor Bunny
November 15 – Beth Anderson
December 20 – Christmas Program

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.

Thank you, Terri, for your 20 years of service!!

Your dedication to Our Savior's is appreciated so much!! As our Bell Choir Director and in participation of many other special services you have helped make many memories: . . . accompanying Forrest (or vice versa), bringing the Marion Chamber Trio to OSLC, and the many years Denny was with us on Easter morning with his trumpet. Thank you for 20 years and sharing them with us. Your musical talents **are amazing**!



Terri Hodge directing bell choir during Sept. 27th service.

Congratulations Shawn!!



Shawn Boss participated in the Special Olympics on Thursday & Friday September 24 & 25 and came in 3rd in the Volleyball competition.

Congratulations Shawn!!

Our Saviors Lutheran Church share and like:

Website: CRSaviors.org

Facebook: Our Saviors Lutheran Church CR

YouTube: Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Photos



Reading of the “Socktober Poem”

on Sept. 27th

OSLC Choir sings:

He’s As Close As the Mention of His Name

on Sept. 13th





Children’s Sermon on Sept. 27th …… Pastor Bunny!?!... Simon said …..!!