Our Savior's Lutheran Church

The Intercom

November 2026

By The Numbers, By The Story

By the numbers, things are looking good at Our Savior's.

Average worship attendance through the first 42 weeks of the year:

- 2025: 401
- 2026: 434

General giving through the first three-quarters of the year:

- 2025: $989,000
- 2026: $1,081,000

Those numbers tell an encouraging story. Attendance is growing, and giving is increasing. We are grateful for the generosity and faithfulness that make this ministry possible. But what about the story behind the numbers? I have a few stories to share.

Vi Hitterdal

Vi is 99 years old. Today, I stopped by Avera to visit her after learning that she was entering hospice care. As I met her son, Tim, he reminded me that Vi had worked as a secretary for the church for many years.

Until just a few days ago, Vi had lived independently, as she had for so much of her life. Now she is slowing down, her family is keeping watch. She may bounce back, but we know she is in the winter of life. Not too long in the future we will remember this saint.

During the first week of November, we will remember all the saints who have gone before us. We give thanks for their lives and for the ways they served God and others. Some names may be lost to time, while others live on in the memories of those whose lives they touched. Some are part of your family's legacy. I can tell you for certain that Vi is part of ours.

A foot note on this story, I visited Vi again the next day and she is spry and giggling like she always has been. Maybe her journey has another chapter? One thing is certain though I don't know every chapter of her story, I'm glad I learned this part of it.

Leo's Stick Ball

Another story for you. I asked Leo what he was carving, "It's a stick ball!" he exclaimed.

Later, I saw him playing with the neighbor boys. They were playing a game I thought might have been lost to time: a primitive version of baseball requiring only a stick and another piece of wood for a ball. I watched them play, wondering whether I might someday lose a window to their game. And as I thought about it, I realized I was okay with that.

Leo's dad plays bagpipes in a community group that meets at the church. Through that connection, he learned about our woodshop. Leo had carved his ball, but he wanted a stick with a little more pizazz. One Saturday, his dad brought him to our church woodshop, where the folks there helped him make a special stick for their afternoon games. Now all his friends want better sticks like Leo's!

Continued on Page 2...

Leo's family are practicing Catholics who worship regularly in their own tradition. They know they are welcome here. They are part of our surrounding community, and our church has been able to be part of their story.

Grace, Faith, and Brielle

Grace, Faith, and Brielle are 3 roommates at Augustana University who regularly attend a young adult Bible study we host at the church. They may never become members of Our Savior's. But they are growing in faith alongside others who are trying to make sense of Scripture and what it means for their lives. It has been a joy to watch this group of young adults wrestle with Scripture, ask questions, and explore their faith together in this place.

The Story of Our Church

There are many other stories I could share, but I chose these three because you could walk through our doors this week and easily miss them. You might see the attendance numbers. You might hear about the budget. You might look at the calendar and see the programs and activities that fill our days. But behind all of those things are people: saints who have shaped our legacy, neighbors who find a welcome here, and young adults who are discovering what faith means in their lives.

November 1st is All Saints Sunday and Commitment Sunday is November 22nd. It seems fitting to begin this month by remembering that the story of a church is about so much more than numbers. The numbers help us measure what we do. The stories help us see why it matters. These are just three stories from the life of Our Savior's. There are many more, and I hope we continue to notice them, share them, and give thanks for them.

When we tell the story of our church, we are really telling the stories of the people whose lives have been touched by this place and the ways God continues to work among us.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Michael Stadtmueller

All stories shared with permission.

River Clean Up

Thank you to our River Clean Up volunteers! We had a great time partnering with Friends of the Big Sioux River to clean up at Spencer Park. OSL volunteers cleaned up 160 pounds of trash! We are grateful for such a wonderful opportunity to care for creation and our community.



Confirmation Service | November 1

Please keep these six 9th graders in your prayers as they say "yes, I believe" to the hope they have been given in the waters of baptism. Their faith work of the past three years will anchor our worship on November 1st, All Saints Sunday. The new Confirmation Praise Team will add their voices to the celebration of faith on this day. (left to right, Leah Appl, Benton Brost, Ronan Jensen, Mason Adams, Reid Oakland, Oliver Konz)



Congregation Forum | November 21-22

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for a Congregation Forum on Saturday, November 21, following worship, or Sunday, November 22, at 10:00 a.m. Bring your questions and be part of the conversation and fellowship as we gather. We look forward to seeing you there.

Commitment Sunday | November 21-22

Join us on in worship on Commitment Sunday, November 22nd to renew your commitment to the church. We are grateful for all the ways you support the church. Our theme is The Light We Share!

Mark Your Calendars: Advent Fair!

You are invited to Our Savior's on Wednesday, December 2, from 5:00–7:00 PM for our annual Advent Fair! This special evening is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to come together as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.

Come enjoy an evening of fellowship, fun, and Advent activities as we celebrate the joy, hope, peace, and love of the season. Whether you're young or young at heart, there's a place for you! We hope you'll join us as we kick off the Advent season together!

Faith & Ferment

Faith & Ferment happens on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm. We will meet at Roundhouse Brew Pub for a time of conversation and fellowship. Our topic for November 5th will be: "Saints, Sinners and Sacred Stories." Stay tuned for the December topic!

Food To You Distribution

OSL members served as hosts for the Food to You distribution on September 24, at St. John's Lutheran. We had a record number of volunteers serve at the distribution thanks to the Augustana University Women's Softball team and their coach, Colleen Powers, who provided 21 student-athlete volunteers!

140 households were served: approximately 460 community members. Each family received approximately 35 lbs. of food. Thank you to all who helped us serve our community in this way!














Christmas Program Preparations Begin in November!

The Christmas season is right around the corner, and that means it's time to begin preparing for our annual Sunday School Christmas Program! Throughout November, our Sunday School students will be busy learning songs, practicing their parts, and getting ready to share the Christmas story with our congregation.

Regular Sunday School attendance throughout November will be especially important, particularly for children who have special speaking or acting roles in the program. During Sunday School from 10:00–10:30 AM, students may spend time practicing their individual parts, while Song Fest from 10:30–10:45 AM will focus on learning and practicing our Christmas music. To make practicing even easier, I am putting together a Christmas Program playlist that families can listen to at home or in the car! We encourage you to sing along together so our students feel confident and excited when it's time for the big day.

Mark your calendars!

- Dress Rehearsal: Sunday, December 6, from 9:30–10:45 AM
- Christmas Program: Sunday, December 13, at 11:00 AM

We can't wait to celebrate the joy of Christmas with our children and congregation. Thank you, families, for helping your children prepare for this special tradition at OSL!

Confirmation: Humble Servants in the making

Here's the ongoing confirmation, doctrinal conversation we have going on these days: "A life of faith isn't just talk, it has to become who we are and how we move in this world." This focus is spilling out into the congregation this November.

First of all, thanks to those from the broader congregation who joined confirmands for our October 28th, "Sinner/Saint" conversation. On this evening – with the help of our entire pastoral staff – we focused upon one of the great teachings of the Reformation: that we are at one and the same time both Sinner and Saint – imperfect people (humble) yet inspired by God to do perfect (saintly) servant work for Jesus.

These kinds of fall conversations have prompted our 6th-8th graders to consider how to not waste the grace they have been gifted as they freely serve in this world. They have decided that during the month of November and on into the early days of Advent in December, they will gather stocking caps, warm socks and gloves to then take to the people living on the streets of Sioux Falls.They wonder if you will help out?

So, here how it will go:

- From Sunday November 1st through Sunday, December 13th, stocking caps, gloves and socks will be collected here at OSL. Confirmands will accept your donations and get them ready for distribution.
- Church on the Street Pastor, Chris Matson, will work with our confirmation kids, staff and adult guides to be ready to break into teams and canvas the streets of Sioux Falls with our Christmas gifts.
- Humble Service: Matthew 25:40 "Whatever you did the for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it onto me." = We are imperfect people able to serve the least in Jesus' name.

"Thank you for helping us serve the hundreds of homeless people in the city of Sioux Falls! Thank you for bringing gloves, stocking caps and socks of all sizes to our donation table from November 1st through December 13th!"
– OSL confirmation class

Egypt 2027

Interested in joining OSL on our trip to Egypt in the fall of 2027? Talk to Pastor Michael or scan this QR Code to fill out an interest form for more information!



Library Storytime

The Rita & Bob Elmen OSL Community Library continues to grow and serve patrons of all ages! One of our favorite times is having our Good Grief Group read with our Augie preschool friends! Smiles abound as Kristie listens in on the conversations had by mixing these generations!







First author announced for Beyond the Books 2027!

Save the date!
Friday & Saturday, April 23rd & 24th, 2027!
Tickets will go on sale December 1st!



Nina WILLNER

Nina Willner is the award-winning author of two critically acclaimed nonfiction books. The Boys in the Light (Dutton/Penguin Random House 2025) was named Amazon's #3 Best Book of 2025 – Top Nonfiction, and Best History Book of the Year, received a Kirkus starred review, and won a 2026 Christopher Award. Willner's first book, Forty Autumns (HarperCollins Wm Morrow 2016) was named a "Top 15 Nonfiction Book of 2016" by The CS Monitor. Prior to her writing career, Nina was a US Army intelligence officer who led sensitive missions behind the Iron Curtain during the Cold War. After a career in intelligence, Nina lived in Moscow, Minsk, Prague, Ottawa and Istanbul promoting human rights, women's and children's causes and the rule of law for the US government, nonprofits and a variety of charities. After years living abroad, she now writes narrative nonfiction full time from her home in Washington DC.

Connect with the Library

Kristie Schreck, Library Coordinator
Library Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9a.m.-Noon;
Wed. 9a.m.-6p.m.; Sat. 4:30-6p.m.;
Sun. 9:30-12:15p.m. | www.oslchurch.com/library/

Beyond The Surface Bible Study

You are invited to join Pastor Michael's Bible Study: Beyond The Surface!
Throughout this year, each three-week conversation will explore one question that helps us move beyond the surface and discover a richer, deeper faith. Each conversation stands on its own, so whether you attend one study or all six, you'll find a welcoming place to learn, ask questions, and grow in faith. As we look more deeply, we'll uncover surprising connections, fresh perspectives, and deeper insights that bring familiar passages to life in new ways. You are invited to join us as we move beyond the surface and encounter the heart of God in fresh and meaningful ways on **Tuesdays at 7pm and Thursdays at 11am.** Our next three-week session, "Who Do You Trust?" will meet November 10th & 12th, November 17th & 19th, and December 1st & 3rd. We will resume Bible studies again January 12th and 14th. Sign up not required, you are welcome to come when it works for you!

Confirmation Night in the Country | November 11th

Kids be prepared for wind and cold…we're going to the country on Wednesday, November 11th. We will meet at church in the Gathering Place at 6:00 p.m. We will then load in cars and head out to Glenn and Cindy Wika's huge in-the-country garden! Here's the night:
·A huge bonfire in their fire pit!
·Huddle in close to talk just a bit about what it means to be a part of the Priesthood of all Believers (people huddled in close in needing each other!!)
·We will roast marshmallows and eat pumpkin pie, pumpkin bars, and apple crisp. (Please talk to Pastor Greg or let the Church Office know at 605-336-2942 if you can provide any of the goodies for the kids)
·We will sing a couple of camp songs, throw footballs around, just enjoy being together under the night sky.

There's No Place Like Hope

We had a wonderful Book Talk at our OSL Community Library in October! Thank you Kristie for leading our discussion on *There's No Place Like Hope*, and thank you to all who attended and shared insights and stories.







Fall Festival

We had a blast at Our Savior's Fall Festival! Thank you to our amazing confirmation students and volunteers for helping make this event possible, and to everyone who supported our High School Youth Group through the pizza fundraiser! We are so grateful for this wonderful community.











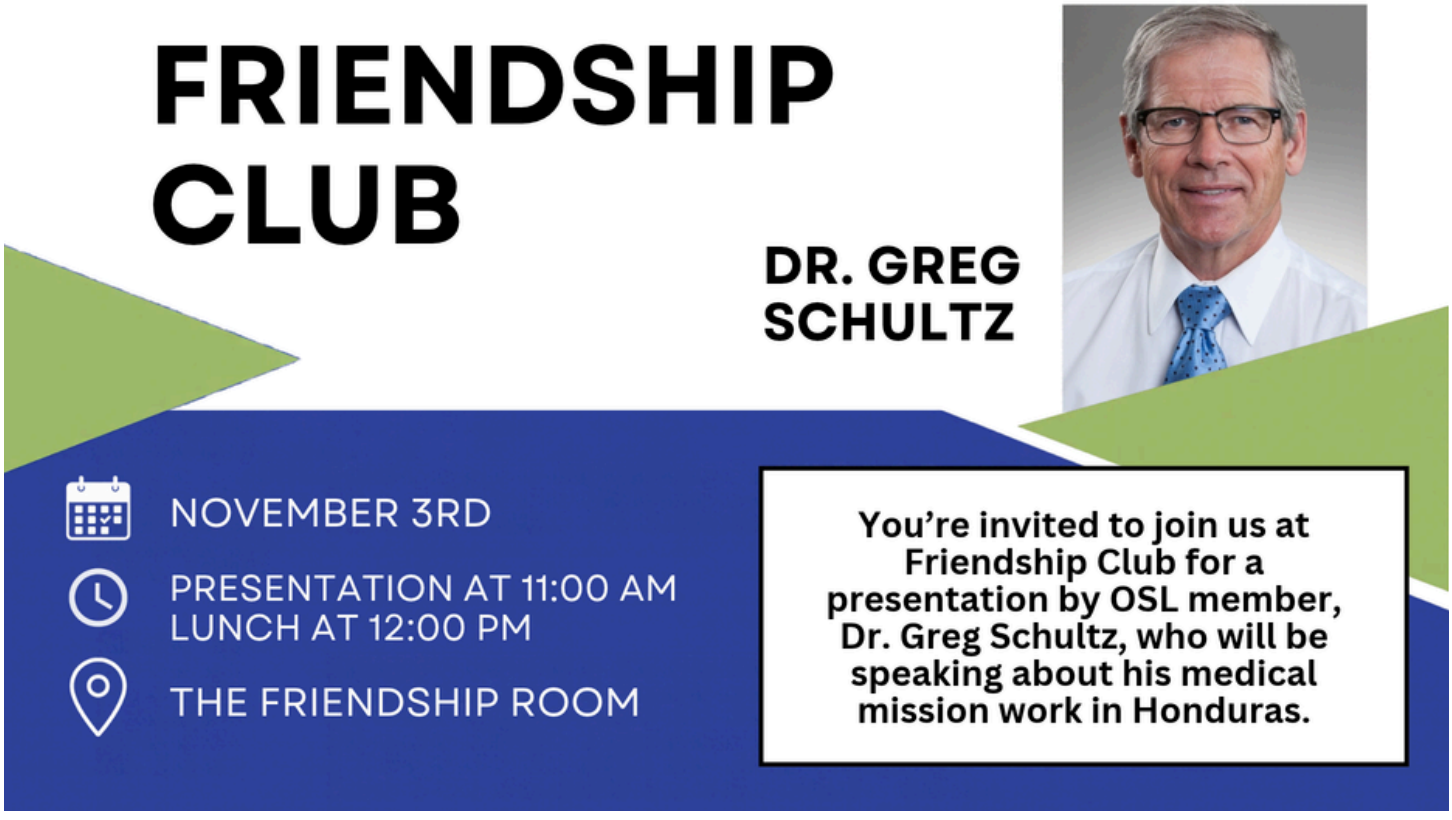






Friendship Club | November 3rd

You're invited to join us for Friendship Club on Tuesday, November 3rd at for a presentation by OSL member, Dr. Greg Schultz, who will be speaking about his medical mission work in Honduras. The presentation will be in the Friendship Room at 11:00 AM, followed by lunch in The Gathering Place at 12:00 PM, with a suggested donation of $6.



Carroll Institute Presentation | November 15th

OSL member Kristi VanDeRostyne has graciously offered her time, expertise, and experience to present education for an adult forum at 10am on Sunday, November 15th. Kristi, Prevention Services and Program Manager at the Carroll Institute, will be providing education on topics such as substance use disorders, signs of substance abuse, and how to get help. We are looking forward to learning more about this important and prevalent topic.



Blood Mobile at OSL | November 8th

The Blood Mobile will be returning to OSL on Sunday, November 8th from 8am-12pm! Your donation can make a lifesaving difference for patients and families right here in the Sioux Falls community. All donors will receive a $15 Scooters gift card. Please consider giving blood and helping save a life. Scan the QR Code to schedule a donation time.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, November 8
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Women's Retreat

We had a lovely Women's Retreat at OSL this fall! Thank you to everyone who attended and all who made this event a success! It was a true joy to share our stories and the light between us in a day filled with conversation, music, and fellowship.







Chorus-pondence from Worship

Written by Gene LeVasseur, Director of Worship

Thanksgiving. Be still and think about that word… I'm guessing that most of you thought about our American holiday of Thanksgiving which is coming up on November 26th. President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the fourth Thursday of November a holiday of Thanksgiving for peace and unity, and Congress made it an official federal holiday in 1941.

As Director of Worship, I first thought of our worship services in which we give thanks every week. I thank God for all of the wonderful worship team members who serve Our Savior's to help provide wonderful worship services every week.

I also think of the ways we thank God in every worship service. We thank God for his blessings throughout our communion liturgy which is titled "The Great Thanksgiving." We proclaim "Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God" and continue with "It is right to give God thanks and praise." We give thanks for the gifts of God and the promise of Jesus at the last supper. Another place in worship we give thanks to God is every time we remember or celebrate a baptism. We have several prayers of thanksgiving at the font. Finally, we also thank God during our prayers of the people. We often thank God for creation, the church, people in our lives, and many other things.

Here's an idea for you to prepare for your own "Great" Thanksgiving. Starting November 1st through the Thanksgiving holiday on November 26th, I encourage you to start and end your day with a minute to thank God. Pray aloud or in your heart to God for all of your blessings and then try to have a spirit of gratitude throughout your day. You'll be amazed at how counting your blessings every day can give you a spirit of gratitude and joy. Thanks be to God! Amen!

"SING" cerely, Gene LeVasseur



Our Savior's Brass Choir : Drew, Zach, Nathan, Hope, Terry, Gene, Christopher

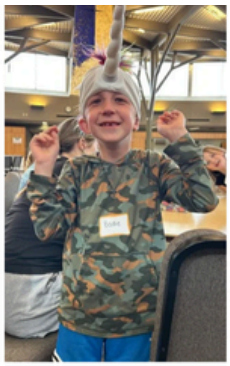
Kids Club: Growing in Faith Together!

Written by Madeline Trosvig

What an incredible first session of Kids Club at Our Savior's! As we prepare for our final gathering of this session on Wednesday, November 18, I am filled with gratitude for everyone who helped make this new ministry such a success. What began as an 11-week pilot program has grown into something truly special, with over 25 kids, 5 Augustana students, and 15 adult volunteers. And I am thrilled to announce that Kids Club is here to stay in 2027! Throughout the fall, our children have spent Wednesday afternoons learning about the Fruits of the Spirit through Bible stories, music, art, and games. But I believe the greatest success of Kids Club has been the intergenerational relationships forming along the way. One of my favorite things is seeing these relationships extend beyond Wednesday afternoons. Watching a child excitedly wave to their reading buddy during Sunday worship or seeing an adult volunteer walk over to say hello to one of our Kids Club children brings me so much joy. These moments remind me that faith formation doesn't happen only during Bible lessons. It happens through relationships and through knowing you belong to a community that cares about you. Our Augustana University students have also brought incredible energy and enthusiasm to Wednesday afternoons, and the kids absolutely LOVE them! Watching children, college students, and retired adults build friendships together has been a beautiful example of intergenerational ministry in action. To our congregation, THANK YOU! Thank you for supporting this new ministry, volunteering your time, and helping create a program where children feel loved, welcomed, and excited to come to church.

Kids Club returns Wednesday, January 13, 2027, from 3:30–5:30 PM! Registration for our winter session is now open, and we invite families to sign up on our website! We also welcome additional adult volunteers. Whether you'd like to read with children, help with activities, or simply build relationships with our youngest members, there is a place for you!











Finance Updates

This summarized cash-basis Statement of Activity is a snapshot of the membership's financial support of the General Fund (daily ministry) of Our Savior's Lutheran Church from July through September. As we are currently in a 6-month Fiscal Year from July – December, the end of September marks the half way point for this shortened budget. Through three months, our General Fund Offerings come in at $332,503. Our budgeted General Offerings for this 6-month period are $865,000, putting us at 39.82% of our goal. As I write this on October 20th, I can note that October Current Fund Offerings are looking positive and we enter into November and December, which are historically our strongest months of tithing in correspondence with the end of the year.

Our expenses through September total $469,178 in comparison to our budgeted 6-month expenses of $965,032.This puts us slightly under budget at 48.62%. Our Ministry Groups, Volunteers, Staff, Council, and Pastors are diligent in their combined efforts to contain and save costs, while continuing to further our mission. We have so much great work ahead of us and it is an honor to be a part of it all at OSL.

In our staff breakroom we have a Jesus mural that was created using photos of the congregation. The mural always brings a smile to my face and serves as a daily reminder that Jesus' teachings and love is brought to life and shared with the world through us all.

God Bless,
Rudy Kreyer
OSL Director of Operations

OSL Statement of Activity - 7.1.26 through 9.30.26	
General Fund Offerings	$332,503
Noisy Offerings	$1,130
Building Use	$8,895
Building & Renovation Fund	$3,390
OSL Foundation	$5,500
Memorials/Estate Gifts	$12,344
Designated Funds	$22,965
Ministry Department Donations	$17,885
Total Offerings: July - September 2026	**$404,612**

Facility Expenses	$89,232
Administration Expenses	$23,160
Personnel Expenses	$258,085
Professional Expenses	$1,048
Ministry Departments Expenses	$44,105
Benevolence	$53,549
Total Expenses: July – September 2026	**$469,178**
Net Operating Income: July 2026	**($64,566)**

OSL Foundation News

The OSL Foundation frequently receives gifts to honor someone special who has passed or for occasions such as a birthday or anniversary. Thank you for your continued support of the OSL Foundation. These gifts have been received since June 2026. Please contact the Church Office or one of the Foundation board members if you have questions or need assistance.

In Honor of	Donor
Al & Dorothy Kruse	Susan & Steve Hauff
	Tom & Diana Berkland
Thomas McMahon	Eleanor McMahon
Darrel Goldammer	Glenn & Cindy Wika
Mavis Carl	Charlotte McGrath
	Dorothy Chronister
	Donna Wilson

In Honor of	Donor
	Dean & Debbie Mertz
Johnshoy Family	Norman Eitrheim
Carol Prouty	Susan & Steve Hauff
Carol Prouty	Curt & Lynda Olson
Carol Prouty	Eloise & Richard Elmen
Carol Prouty	Glenn & Cindy Wika

Augustana Winter Closet

As temperatures cool down, international students may not be prepared for South Dakota winters. Augustana's closet for international students is collecting adult size coats to help keep all students warm this winter. If you would like to donate new or gently used winter coats in any adult size, there will be a donation bin by the Church Office to drop them off.

Hockey Parking at OSL

You are invited to volunteer with OSL at our Augustana Hockey Parking Fundraisers for the 2026-2027 season! This is a great way for all ages to serve together and help raise funds for OSL programs and partner organizations. Check out the list of dates and organizations below and sign up to serve at OSL!

Hockey Parking Fundraiser Schedule

Date:	Time:	Organization:
Friday, November 13	5:30pm-7:30pm	Sioux Falls Cares
Saturday, November 14	4:30pm-6:30pm	Creation Care
Friday, December 4	5:30pm-7:30pm	VBS
Saturday, December 5	4:30pm-6:30pm	VBS
Friday, December 18	5:30pm-7:30pm	ELCA World Hunger
Saturday, December 19	4:30pm-6:30pm	ELCA World Hunger
Friday, January 8	5:30pm-7:30pm	National Youth Gathering
Saturday, January 9	4:30pm-6:30pm	National Youth Gathering
Friday, January 22	5:30pm-7:30pm	Confirmation
Saturday, January 23	4:30pm-6:30pm	Confirmation
Friday, February 12	5:30pm-7:30pm	St Dysmas
Saturday, February 13	4:30pm-6:30pm	Necessities For Neighbors
Friday, February 26	5:30pm-7:30pm	Midwest Street Medicine
Saturday, February 27	4:30pm-6:30pm	Feeding South Dakota



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Planting Faith · Nurturing Hope · Sharing God's Love



Contact Information

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Tim Schavee - Manager of Property & Facilities
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Ainsley Swanstrom - Marketing & Office Professional
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Worship is central to Our Savior's Lutheran Church.
We offer two distinct worship styles:

A traditional (organ/piano) service in our Sanctuary on Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays at 11a.m.

Our Contemporary service is on Sunday at 8:45 a.m. in the Celebrate Center with our praise band inspiring our time together

Facebook | OSL Website | YouTube Live (Recommended) | Facebook Live

Watch our Celebrate worship at 9:00 a.m. on Fox station KDLT.
Watch our Festive worship on cable channel 30 at 1:00 p.m.