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# CONNECTION

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Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

October 2025

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## Why Donald Trump Isn't a Lutheran

There are some things in life for which you can't campaign. You can run for an office, apply for a job, seek an award, promote your credentials, pad your resume, push your achievements, and even brag about your accomplishments, but some things must happen by grace ... as a gift.

It is so hard, if not impossible, for the proud and arrogant to understand that.

As much as someone pompous might want to self-promote, you cannot nominate yourself for the "Humblest Person on the Planet". No matter how rich you claim to be, you cannot pay for a space on Mt. Rushmore. You cannot lobby Congress to replace the Lincoln Memorial with yourself perched on a king's throne. Much as you think you might deserve it, you cannot buy sainthood; and great as you think you might be, you cannot vote yourself into heaven. (Imagine calling St. Peter and asking if he can find just 11,780 more votes to be heaven's first president. Or trying to send a riotous mob carrying crosses to storm heaven with fake electoral ballots while locking God in a closet and declaring yourself the ruler of the world.)

Lutherans understand all that. Embedded within the Lutheran character is a special DNA strand called Grace. That DNA stands apart. It is called Grace Alone. Lutherans are taught from an early age not to be an obnoxious braggart (at least not to brag too much anyway!). If what you've done is so great, it will speak for itself. True greatness doesn't need our prideful preening. It doesn't crave attention.

Perhaps that Lutheran understanding helped start the Nobel Peace Prize. You may not realize this, but the Nobel Peace Prize has a strong Swedish Lutheran heritage. Alfred Nobel was a Lutheran; and, like all Lutherans, he was a sinner. And he knew it. A renowned chemist and inventor, Nobel patented a use for nitroglycerin that was safe. After the Greek word for power, he called it dynamite. Much to his dismay, the destruction of dynamite was used for military explosives and critics called him 'the merchant of death'. One newspaper opined that Nobel "became rich by finding ways to kill more people faster than ever before". Dismayed and disappointed at dynamite's destruction of human life, Nobel wanted to be remembered for a legacy of peace. His last will and testament set aside his considerable estate to establish the Nobel Peace Prizes.

Alfred Nobel's Lutheran pastor, Nathan Soderblom, conducted his funeral in 1897. Soderblom himself received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1930 for calling all Christian leaders to work for peace and justice during World War I and for creating compassionate conditions for prisoners of war and for refugees of war.

Yet another Swedish Lutheran would be the first to receive the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously in 1961. Dag Hammerskold was the youngest person to be elected Secretary-General of the United Nations. Lutheran theology shaped his deep trust in God's grace and his deep commitment to world peace, grounded in justice. John F. Kennedy called Hammerskold the "greatest statesman of our century".

Those who would aspire to win the Nobel Peace Prize might aspire to emulate these three obscure Lutherans. They didn't claim human greatness. They claimed God's grace. Because Lutherans understand grace. And grace leads to humble gratitude for the greatness of our God.

Our President, with all his 'religious advisers'--Paula White and Cardinal Dolan and many others--doesn't seem to get grace. He wondered out loud if he's done enough to get to heaven. Can't they tell him that we are saved by grace, and that all the braggadocio and self-promotion in the world won't make one bit of difference to God? Do they know themselves that grace is a gift of God that can't be hawked or peddled or turned into billion-dollar crypto profit?

Perhaps a humble Lutheran pastor like Nathan Soderblom might remind them ... that you can't earn your way into heaven ... and that you can't buy sainthood ... or lobby for the Nobel Peace Prize. Because there are some things for which you just can't campaign.



# SHOWDOWN AT THE OSL CORRAL

THE REFORMATION DINNER THEATER RETURNS  
FOR A MARTIN LUTHER MELODRAMA

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> AT 4:30PM**

We'll have a Reformation Rumble with a Martin Luther melodrama and dinner theater! We'll have a Tex-Mex fiesta and an evening filled with raucous laughter, door prizes, and surprises. We might even learn how Germany and the Gospel combined to create hot sauce. We need chefs to cook, actors to play their parts, and volunteers to help set up (sign up in the centrum). Tickets are required for admittance: \$2 for adults, \$1 for students, kids under 6 are free by God's grace!



**A TEXAS-STYLE SMACKDOWN FEATURING "BILLY THE KID" CAJETAN VS. "LEX" LUTHER**

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY?

*New discussions about transgender rights have re-opened an old topic about homosexuality and human sexuality in general. Join us for a frank, open, and honest discussion looking at bible passages in their original context. We'll start **Thursday, October 2, at 6:30pm!***



## Copying Nancy

Copiers have gotten sophisticated over the years. From the printing press to ditto machines to mimeographs to xerox and even 3-d copiers, Johannes Guttenberg would be absolutely astonished. We've come to rely on copiers for so much. The same is true right here in the Our Savior Lutheran office. We panicked when our old Canon copier met its demise, but Nancy Wilson came to the rescue providing funds for a new (used) copier. Now we're back in business, thanks to Nancy's generous gift. But wouldn't it be nice if we could copy Nancy Wilson and have many duplicates of her kindness, thoughtfulness, and care. I wish we could make a copy of Nancy Wilson but she is truly one of a kind. So, let's all plug in our personal printers to offer a thousand copies of "Thank You" for all Nancy does for us. (Many thanks to those who contributed to the copier fund before we knew about Nancy's gift. Your gifts will not be wasted. They will immediately fund our maintenance contract for copier upkeep.)

Speaking of generous gifts ... Scott & Cheri Allred bought a whole new set of letters for the church sign! Our old letters were not only cracking and fading. They challenged us to get by without enough S's or E's or T's. Now we're back in the sign business! Speaking of business ... Bob Clayton has made it his business to fix things



like broken bathroom doors, an insurance-required choir loft railing, and even our worn and creaky centrum chairs. Speaking of centrum chairs ... our after Sunday fellowship hour needs every available seat for visiting and enjoying Sunday goodies. What would Sundays be without Lubben's doughnuts, Wendie's breakfast treats, and Ruth's snacks ... and, especially, her patented, trademark jalapeño brownies. Should we open a restaurant?

## Food for the Poor—November 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Gospel Lesson for All Saints Sunday in the year of Luke is Jesus' statement for the poor. "Blessed are the poor," Jesus declares in Luke's beatitudes.

Food for the Poor has been asking for a Sunday to share their ministry with our congregation and November 2<sup>nd</sup> seems like a perfect Sunday. This coalition of churches

works primarily in Honduras to alleviate poverty and hunger. We will take up a special offering to support their ministry.



## Fall Behind

Set your clocks back before you go to sleep Saturday night, November 1.

With an extra hour of sleep, we should all get to church on time. We may even start on time!





# OCTOBER



## BIRTHDAYS

Date	Name
2	Lisa Holmes
5	Thomas Lindsey
7	Stephanie Cannon
	Marie Mazza
9	Bonnie Johnston
12	Lucas Holmes
13	Jackie Clayton
14	Jeffrey Combs
	Subi George
15	Charles Skyles
17	Eric Nivens
19	Darren Mann
21	Sally Nelson



## BAPTISMS

Date	Name
1	Debbie Lonon
3	Landon Hyatt
8	Robert Holmes
14	Amelia Holmes
18	Jeremy Richardson
20	Julie Williams
25	Michael Conoly
	Sally Nelson

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Years
11	Lindsey & John Bennett
12	Brian & Shari Murphy
18	Reyes & Shawna Zubieta
31	Subi & Laurie George



### Worship Leaders for October:

Worship Assistant: Thane Katz    Reader: Julie Williams  
Ushers: Bonnie Johnston & Lois Schelter    Altar Guild: Debbie Zimmermann



## Blessing of the Pets

**Sunday, October 5, 4:30 pm**

**Come Rover, Come Fluffy:** Come one and all to the Blessing of our Pets!



This is an all animal, all age event for our church and our community! Bring dogs, cats, gerbils, rabbits, fish, birds, or any pet small enough to transport to church. We'll meet in the backyard of the Bethlehem House. Caution! We will have NOT ONE lost pet! Please make sure your pet is appropriately restrained by leash, carrier, or cage. Special treats for the pets!

## Your Shoes Are Made for Walkin'

**November 9, 2pm**

Until we walk in their shoes, it's difficult to understand the needs of the hungry and homeless around the world. Church World Service understands. Through the CROP Hunger Walk, churches around the nation march against hunger—both locally and globally. CROP challenges you to put on your walkin' shoes **Sunday, November 9**, for a 10K walk against hunger. Join us for the CROP Walk—it's good for your sole! (This year's walk begins at the south edge of Audubon Park. Get pledge forms from Pastor Schelter)



# OCTOBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Each Sunday</b> 10:30am Worship Service 4:30pm Worship Service			1 10:30am Sages for All Ages	2 9:30am Mother's Day Out 10:00am NED Deanery Meeting 6:30pm Homosexuality Class 7:00pm Cub Scouts	3	4
5 4:30pm Pet Blessing	6 6:30pm Table Talk 7:00pm Boy Scouts	7 9:30am Mother's Day Out	8 10:30am Sages for All Ages	9 9:30am Mother's Day Out 6:30pm Homosexuality Class 7:00pm Cub Scouts	10	11
12 11:30pm Council Meeting	13 6:30pm Table Talk	14 9:30am Mother's Day Out 10:30am Communion at the Waterford	15 10:30am Sages for All Ages	16 9:30am Mother's Day Out 6:30pm Homosexuality Class 7:00pm Cub Scouts	17	18
19	20 7:00pm Boy Scouts	21 9:30am Mother's Day Out	22 10:30am Sages for All Ages	23 9:30am Mother's Day Out 7:00pm Cub Scouts	24	25
26 Reformation Sunday 4:30pm "Showdown at the OSL Corral"	27 7:00pm Boy Scouts	28 9:30am Mother's Day Out	29 10:30am Sages for All Ages	30 9:30am Mother's Day Out 7:00pm Cub Scouts	31 Halloween	