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# CONNECTION

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Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

May 2026

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## THE KING WHO KNELT AND THE MONK WHO STOOD



The Pope speaks ex cathedra. The President signs executive orders. The Premier declares war.

These are examples of unparalleled power that wield influence over millions of lives and centuries of time. Impressive as that power is, it can be catastrophic when mighty powers clash ... when push comes to shove and neither yields.



Let's go back in time one thousand years when Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV challenged Pope Gregory VII. A battle of wits and war ensued. The King exiled the Pope. The Pope excommunicated the King, leading to one of the most extraordinary scenes in world history:

King Henry IV, broken and penitent, knelt for three days, barefoot in the snow, seeking forgiveness ... which Pope Gregory granted, temporarily.

Fast forward 500 years to the Imperial Congress of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. A lowly German monk was forced to repent his actions and retract his writings. But the monk refused. He neither knelt or cowered. He stood firm before the arrayed powers of church and state, and he would not recant. "Here I stand," he declared. "I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."

In the face of raw power, a king knelt and a monk stood. Yet these dramatic scenes are nothing new. From the thrones of monarchs to the cells of monks, there has always been a delicate balance, an uneasy tension over power.

In recent days, that ancient struggle played out again between President Trump and Pope Leo XIV. Trump held the power of the Pentagon while the Pope countered with the power of Peace. Unprecedented military might and a \$1.5 trillion dollar budget defied the power of the Gospel. (Would that we might be someday behold Trump, barefoot, kneeling in the snow for three days, learning repentance, humility, and, after three days, resurrection!)

Since that is not likely to happen, barring another Easter miracle, we must remind ourselves of God's promise of power—even to the powerless. For in the face of the world's ruthless power comes the assurance that "all authority in heaven and on earth has been given" to Christ, who shares the power of the Gospel with us.

So what should our posture be in the face of worldly power? Should we kneel with King Henry IV? Stand with Martin Luther? These are questions that CHAT GPT cannot answer ... questions that leave AI clueless. These answers must come from the heart.

Our response to power comes from deep within the soul, for while worldly power can create devotion or strike fear or incite rebellion or bring chaos or leave one awestruck ... it can only go so far. Sooner or later, earthly power runs up against love. And love brings with it a whole army of servants: mercy, kindness, compassion, humility, justice. And no nuclear arsenal can counter that power—the power of God's love.

The power of love is not measured in trillions of dollars or flaunted in an oval office or located in the halls of Congress. It is forged in the image of God and found in the human heart ... where a king once knelt in the snow and a monk stood firm on the Word of God.

## It's Spring... and the Church's Fancy Turns to Clean-up

Everything is greening and growing this springtime—especially the weeds. Help us turn out in full force Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10am to perk up the flower beds that surround our building. You may wish to bring your own garden utensils (hoe, rake, pruning tools) or use the old-fashioned method of pulling out the weeds by hand! If enough show, we could perk up our property in good order and in plenty of time to enjoy the rest of the weekend. Come lend a hand to help!




## Ushers Begin With "U"

"Ushers" is an old church word that hardly make sense for Our Savior. No one needs to be ushered to our seats, nor do they need to be ushered forward for communion. Yet even if the word is getting obsolete, we dare not let the work of ushers become obsolete. Ushers welcome our guests, pass the offering plates, and circulate the attendance pads during the children's sermon. Those tasks are among the most important every Sunday, and we need many more welcoming greeters to help our worship. Please sign up or see Pastor Schelter if you can help make "ushers" into a brand-new welcoming word at Our Savior Lutheran Church. We will meet 10 minutes after our 10am worship service concludes on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our meeting will, of course, be in the worship center.



## May 3<sup>rd</sup> Brunch & Thrivent Presentation

 **THRIVENT FINANCIAL** Over the years, Lutheran Brotherhood and AAL have served congregations with insurance and financial products whose profits are funneled back into Lutheran ministries. Those companies have merged into Thrivent. We have not taken advantage of many ways to receive Thrivent Choice Dollars or to maximize our own charitable giving. Thrivent representatives will be here on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to offer everyone in the congregation a light brunch after the service at 11:15am. Those who wish to remain for a half-hour workshop at 11:30 are invited to do so as well. You don't have to be a Thrivent member to learn more about opportunities to get funding for our own programs as well as to increase charitable giving. There will be a sign up for the workshop. Let's make an effort to maximize attendance for brunch and for the presentation.

## International Potluck Dinner

On May 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am we will have a true potluck of foods from around the world. We are encouraging attendees to bring dishes which reflect their family heritage from their country of origin or which reflect an adventurous spirit to try a dish they've never tried before. Label each dish and its country. *If possible, bring a small flag to identify the country.* Please use the sign-up sheet in the church centrum to indicate your participation in a Pentecost potluck party. We hope to see you there.



## IT Expert Needed

Well, you don't need to be an expert but we are looking for someone to help us navigate the seemingly continual problems that come up between computers, routers, modems, and such. If you would be able to volunteer as a resource, contact us. (One immediate need regards our computer back-up system.)



## Mother's Day Out...

is currently enrolling for summer session which begins on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am-2:30pm during the summer months. Children aged 10 months through 10 years can join in the Fun and Learning!

Call now to register—972-226-0523



## 2026 Seniors

We will feature our proud Seniors in our June newsletter. If we have not contacted you for stats, please email the church at [oslmesquite@gmail.com](mailto:oslmesquite@gmail.com) or call the church office at 972-226-0510.



# Birthdays

Date	Name
2	Mary Frances Wegehoff
4	Wendie Meza
	Eleanor Williamson
5	Bobbye NoLan
7	Gregory Folkmann
11	Ashlyn Williams
13	Shari Murphy
16	Paul Cross
	Carrie Enocksen
19	Pat McDonald
20	Carla Williams
21	Remona Kurt
22	Elena Bohling
23	Denise Bartosh
24	Brian Murphy
25	James Bartosh
	Sharon Skurda
31	Brynna Vannatta



# Baptisms

Date	Name
1	Glenda Hardi
4	Rigo Chavez
11	Tessie Murphy
16	Elena Conoly
	Timothy Murphy
	Baerbel Williams
19	Ann Williams
23	Harrison Helm
	Kirk Helm
	Charles Skyles
25	Christa Schelter
31	Paige Mckenzie

# Wedding Anniversaries

Date		Years
9	Larry & Kathy Bohon	18
26	Jon & Beth Cook	8
26	Ken & Paula Hester	54
27	Steven & Kelly Belz	31
31	Tino & Theresa Williams	7



## Worship Leaders for May:

Worship Assistant: Carrie Enocksen    Reader: Paul Cross  
 Greeters: Henry & Baerbel Williams    Ushers: Thane Katz & Katy McCabe

## GETTING "RED-DY" FOR PENTECOST—MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>

On Pentecost, the color of the day is RED for fire of the Spirit and the power of the Church.  
 You can help make it a RED-LETTER Day by...

1. WEARING RED! Red slacks, red dress, red hat, red shoes, shirt, tie, coat, sock... Let's turn it into a crimson celebration and make it shine!
2. BRINGING RED FLOWERS! Geraniums, roses, carnations, caladiums, or anything from your garden, the flower shop, or even those wild flowers across the street! Bring a potted plant, arrange a bouquet, get cuttings from the florist, but help us "DO IT UP RED" to decorate the worship area.



*Wear Red, Bring Red, and get Red-dy to celebrate Pentecost!*

## A Pentecost Party for New Members

**New Members Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

On the first Pentecost day, 3,000 people were added to the church. While we won't quite add 3,000, we are welcoming new members into our fellowship to celebrate Pentecost on May 24<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join Our Savior Lutheran Church, let us know so we can add your name to our joyful list in Christ. All new members will be honored at the International Potluck Dinner following worship.



Join us Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate May birthdays with cake and ice cream!



# May 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>Each Sunday</b>            10:00am Worship Service            4:30pm Worship Service</p>	<p>6:30pm Table Talk            7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9:30am Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>10:30am Sages for All Ages</p>	<p>9:30am Mother's Day Out            7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	1	<p>2            10:00am Spring Clean-up</p>
<p>3            11:15 Usher Training            11:15 Thrivent Brunch/Presentation</p>	<p>4            6:30pm Table Talk            7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>5            9:30am Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>6            10:30am Sages for All Ages</p>	<p>7            9:30am Mother's Day Out            10:30am Deanery            7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	8	9
<p>10  <i>Mother's Day</i></p>	<p>11            6:30pm Table Talk            7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>12            9:30am Mother's Day Out            10:30am Communion at the Waterford</p>	<p>13            10:30am Sages for All Ages</p>	<p>14            9:30am Mother's Day Out            7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	15	16
<p>17  <i>Council Installation</i>  <i>May Birthdays Celebration</i>            11:30pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>18            6:30pm Table Talk            7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>19            9:30am Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>20            10:30am Sages for All Ages</p>	<p>21            9:30am Mother's Day Out            7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	22	23
<p>24            Pentecost &amp; New Member's Sunday            11:30 International Potluck Dinner</p>	<p>25  <i>Memorial Day</i></p>	<p>26            9:30am Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>27            10:30am Sages for All Ages</p>	<p>28            9:30am Mother's Day Out            7:00pm Lutheran 101            7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	29	30
31						