
CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

June 2026

“Let them alone. They are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the pit.” -Matthew 15:14



BLIND SPOTS

“I just didn’t see you.”

You’ll hear those words when someone changes lanes, blindsides you, and crashes into your fender. In traffic lingo, it’s called a blind spot, and it can cause accidents. Cars can be damaged and lives can be imperiled.

Unfortunately, blind spots don’t only happen on asphalt highways. They happen on life’s highways too. They happen in homes and houses of worship. They can even happen in the House of Representatives and the White House. Unfortunately, life’s blind spots also cause collisions and cost lives.

Before cars were even invented, Jesus understood blind spots. The Pharisees drove recklessly and had no regard for outsiders whom they considered unworthy. The Pharisees controlled the road and weren’t afraid to blindside anyone who got in their way. Their inability to see the truth and to see the stranger as their neighbor was a tragic blind spot. Jesus called them “blind guides” and called out their hypocrisy.

Since the Pharisees were obsessed with getting revenge on perceived enemies, they drove Jesus off the road. They washed their hands of the whole affair and pretended not to see. “I just didn’t see you,” they might have said, as Jesus’ car crashed into a ditch called Golgotha ... but what they really couldn’t see was their injustice, their corruption, their lust for control, and the truth.

There are Pharisees among us even today in our houses of worship and our House of Representatives.

Pity poor Mike Johnson, the Speaker of the House. He has a bad case of ‘pharisee-itis’ causing severe blind spots. Whenever his dear leader does something corrupt or says something unconstitutional or flat out lies, he can’t see it. When asked to comment, a ‘deeply religious’ Mike Johnson will say: “I haven’t heard that”, or “I didn’t see that”, or “I’ll have to look into that, but it’s news to me”. Poor Mike Johnson doesn’t have access to the same news that I get on my ordinary car radio while driving to work. Can someone please find money in the Congressional Budget to buy Mike Johnson an I-Phone or an I-Pad so he can get the news too?

Modern day Pharisaical religious leaders like Drs. Franklin Graham and Robert Jeffries seem to have the same affliction ... only theirs is a case of spiritual blindness. They’ve no doubt read the Bible many times, but their Bible must have many blind spots. They just can’t see the passages in the lane right next to them where God tells us to accept the refugee and welcome the stranger and bless the poor and extend healing to the sick and reject immorality and blatant corruption and flagrant lies.

A particularly disturbing case of the blind spots is called Maga Macular Degeneration. It’s deadly serious because it spreads quickly and instantly infects thousands of people. Once infected, the diseased are given an eye test and shown pictures of January 6, 2021. Incomprehensibly, they see normal, everyday tourists who support law and order and stand up for the men and women in blue. They see proud patriots having a picnic outside the hallowed halls of Congress. And when asked to confirm the certified ballots to declare a President, they are simply unable to say who won or who lost the election. They persist in saying, against incontrovertible evidence, that the election was stolen and the ballots were a fraud. Unfortunately, Maga Macular Degeneration can last for years and years and there is no known cure ... except the truth.

The truth can expose blind spots, for the truth tells us this may not be a case of cataracts at all. Blind spots may not start with the eyes, but with the heart. That’s precisely where a skilled surgeon named Jesus can cut out the stubborn, hard-hearted hypocrisy of Pharisaism. Then, ever so delicately, God will replace our blind spots with eyes of faith that can see racism and receive the refugee and repent of the evils of history that we coverup and pretend not to see. Maybe we can get our blind spots removed in time to celebrate America 250.

"Let Them Eat Cake"

Once-a-Month Birthday Cake Sign-up

You can have your cake and eat it too if you sign up to sponsor cake and ice cream for our monthly recognition of birthdays. By signing up, you may bring cake and ice cream or contribute \$40 so that our "cake committee" can purchase a cake and ice cream. (There should be enough cake slices for about 40-50 people.) Sign up on the bulletin board by the Flower Chart.

Join us Sunday, June 14th, to celebrate June birthdays with cake and ice cream!



School's Out for Summer...

But Classes are in for Lutheran 101

Don't worry! Lutheran 10 isn't school. It's an adventure in learning more about our faith and the good news of God's love. It's also a great way to meet other people at Our Savior Lutheran Church and find a community time for conversation and support. There are no tests, no grades, no papers, and no homework, but we'll talk about the origins of the Bible, the history of the Lutheran church, sin and grace, baptism and holy communion, worship and whatever else our group wants to discuss. Our group usually comes from a variety of denominational backgrounds so it's always fun to share our experiences in different churches and understand how the body of Christ is bigger than Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lutherans, and the thousands of denominations around the world.

Although we usually don't start in the summer, there have been a few requests to make a beginning in mid-to-late June. We'll meet about 6 times one evening a week. The times will be decided by the group, so sign up if you're interested and we'll start the school bells ringing for Lutheran 101. (If summer schedules don't work for this month, we'll try to start Lutheran 101 when school does officially start in August.) Call the office if you have any questions—972-226-0510.

Folding Chairs, First Aid Kits, and Freshening Up our Foliage

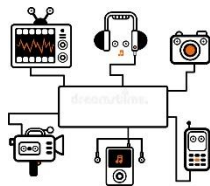
What do these three things have in common? They all say "Thank You" to the folks that rolled up their sleeves and lent their hands to help Our Savior. 1. Though it seems like a long time ago, Richard Mastin made Easter Sunrise special by loading up, setting up, and bringing back a pick-up load of folding chairs for our worship. He did it all by himself. All that work gave us a beautiful sunrise and probably gave Richard some Tylenol! 2. Coming to the rescue with a brand new fully stocked first-aid kit was Shirleen Reese to make sure our wounds can be bandaged and our hurts can be healed. 3. And last, but not least, was a sturdy crew that worked through the heat to pull weeds all around our property. I was exhausted just watching them! Even though we'll probably miss a few names, let's list those who helped at our spring clean-up: Mel Vahlenkamp, Marianne Fitzsimons, Alison Ezman, Ann Williams, Jill VanLaningham, Ruth Montgomery and her friend Taniya, Thane Katz, Julie Williams, Karen Staton, Mike & Debbie Zimmermann, and Lois & Pastor Schelter. That's quite a determined work crew that helped our property sparkle for the summer. We may not be famous, but our feats of strength helped fix many needs at Our Savior Lutheran Church.



Miraculous Recovery

Jason Hester went in to Presbyterian Hospital for extensive cancer treatment but his tumor had disappeared within a week. Thanks be to God. Almost as miraculous was Mike Zimmermann and Mary Frances Wegehof's speedy recovery. It's great to have them both back so soon!

To See Thee More Clearly, and Hear Thee More Nearly



That's precisely what audio-visual equipment is meant to do, but our online services are sometimes a bit fuzzy. For 6 years, Eric Nivens has made worship work with minimum equipment, but he and Christopher Cannon are updating microphones and camera(s) to put Steven Spielberg to shame (well, almost)! If you would like to contribute to help pay for new A/V equipment, please earmark your donation (A/V). It may just help us all love the Lord more dearly.

BIRTHDAYS

Date	Name
1	Laurie George Earl Herndon
3	Thane Katz Kel Schultz
5	Owen Larson
6	Diane Dycus Kyle Furr
10	Isabella Romero David Williams
12	Chip Cannon Sonja Conoly
14	Bill Hutchinson Brenda Skyles
15	Carson Williams
27	Jaime Nivens

JUNE

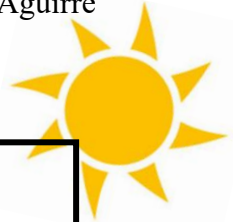


WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Years
15	Gordon & Bonnie Johnston 63
16	Christopher & Beth Drews 19
16	Todd & Kara Ranta 24
17	Neil & Brenda Gerold 54
21	Bob & Heidi Davis 51

BAPTISMS

Date	Name
1	Mary Stovall Tino Williams
2	Christian Lubben
5	Lisa White Becky Williams
6	Jill Furr
15	Cheri Allred Paul Cross Bonnie Folkmann
16	Rachel Phares
21	Xander Nivens
22	Debbie Zimmermann
23	Thane Katz
27	Ken Hester
29	Ezra Ortiz-Aguirre



Worship Leaders for June:

Worship Assistant: Carrie Enocksen Reader: Eric Nivens
 Ushers: Earl Herndon & Debbie Lonon Greeters: Wendie & Miguel Meza
 Altar Guild: Julie Williams

DO YOU NEED A MAKEOVER...



Because of those tasteless, tacky ties that clutter your bedroom closet? You don't need a Hollywood makeover when the crème de la crème of ugly tie contests is happening right here on Father's Day at Our Savior! You want poor taste? You've got it! Outlandish color combinations? Turn in here! Hopelessly out of fashion neckwear? Go no further! (You better come up with some ugly ties because Pastor has been saving up all year!) The Ugly Tie Contest is back! **Father's Day, June 21st at 10am!**



FLIX FOR FAITH

This summer's movie series will highlight films from one of the great actors of our time who died this past February: Robert Duvall. Duvall's career was so prolific, it's hard to know where to start, but we'll begin on Friday, **June 19th at 6:30pm** with "Secondhand Lions." We'll start with a snack and show the movie at about 6:45pm. We'll end with a little discussion relating cinema to our faith... Flix for Faith! Sign up to give us a rough head count. (Is there a Lonesome Dove marathon later this summer? We promise not to show any more bad Pope movies!)

June 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Each Sunday 10:00am Worship Service	1 6:30pm Table Talk	2	3 10:30am Sages for All Ages	4 10:30am Deanery Meeting	5	6
7	8 6:30pm Table Talk	9 9:30am Mother's Day Out 10:30 Waterford Service	10 10:30am Sages for All Ages	11 9:30am Mother's Day Out	12	13
14 <i>June Birthdays Celebration</i> 11:30am Council Meeting	15 6:30pm Table Talk	16 9:30am Mother's Day Out	17 10:30am Sages for All Ages	18 9:30am Mother's Day Out	19 6:30pm Flix For Faith— <i>Secondhand Lions</i>	20
21 <i>Father's Day Ugly Tie Contest</i>	22 6:30pm Table Talk	23 9:30am Mother's Day Out	24 10:30am Sages for All Ages	25 9:30am Mother's Day Out	26	27
28 6:00am Austin Street Shelter	29 6:30pm Table Talk	30 9:30am Mother's Day Out				

