

LIFELINES



AUGUST 23RD

9 AM

RALLY
SUNDAY

- WORSHIP
- TEAM FAIR
- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
- MEET YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS
- LEARN ABOUT NEW MINISTRIES



Rally Sunday is August 23! 🎉

A new program year is about to begin, and we can't wait to kick it off with you!

Join us at 9:00 a.m. for Rally Sunday as we launch an exciting year of faith, learning, and community.

Brooklyn and Pastor Michael have created a fun, engaging Sunday School experience that connects directly with what we're learning in worship each week—bringing God's Word to life with purpose, meaning, and context.

Our ministry teams will also be sharing how they're living out OSL's Mission and Vision, what's ahead this year, and how YOU can be part of it.

Come and See! There's a place for everyone at OSL, and we can't wait to begin this new season together.

Corner of Sunshine



Thank you to everyone who voted Our Savior's Lutheran Church the Best Church in Mower County 2026! What an incredible honor and a testament to the love and welcoming spirit that fills our church family. We have truly grown together in love and spirit—and people are noticing! Let's continue to share Christ's love with our community as we strive to Wear Love each and every day.

>>> PASTOR'S THOUGHTS <<<

1st Thessalonians 5:18 - "16Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19Do not quench the Spirit."

I went to Germany in 2016 for a tour of the Reformation sites prior to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. As part of any travel, home or abroad, one of the most important aspects of experiencing hospitality is the food. Mind you, I am not a picky eater. But if you love to travel, you'd better not be a picky eater, for you very well may starve.

One of the evenings we went to a local winery and were served a variety of courses of German food fare. It started with salad and ended with wurst, but there was one course in the middle that brought out the other worst - the behavior of a picky eater.

This was not a child with natural trepidation about trying new food. I'm talking about a grown woman, retired from a professional career, on the borderline of a tantrum, refusing to eat, let alone try, the food before her. Her salad was picked apart as she ate only some of the leaves of the mixed greens, leaving half a salad. I let that go. She took a couple bites of the wurst as part of the main course and pushed away the rest, saying, "It's not for me." I let that go too.

But between the greens and wurst were served slices of a variety of sausage and crackers. She ate only the crackers. She refused to entertain the idea that any of the sausages, food she had only heard of by name but not by any taste, could possibly entertain her taste buds with delight. Like a gray hair toddler, she scoffed at the food, pursed her lips, folded her arms, and asked if I'd like to eat them. I did. Blood sausage, despite the name, is tasty.

Hospitality is often treated with absolutism. You are either providing hospitality or receiving hospitality. You are either the host of the party or the guest. You are serving, or you are being served.

But isn't it both? When an expected guest arrives late, do greet them with "Where have you been?" or "It's about time." Of course not. We welcome them with gratitude. We are grateful for their arrival. When an unexpected guest drops in, do we greet them with a snarky "What are you doing here?" or "What do you want?" Of course not. We provide a chair.

When we are the expected guest arriving late, we don't gaslight the host for setting the arrival time too early; we apologize for our lateness - with gratitude. When we are the unexpected guest, we don't barge across the threshold with demands to be served; we accept what is offered - with gratitude.

Gratitude is the posture of grace, receiving something wonderful most undeserved. Hospitality is not only providing grace by gratitude, but it's also receiving it with gratitude. It's the welcome of our wiggly children in worship and at the fellowship table, no matter the number of cookies they want. Hospitality is seeing a stranger at church and greeting them with a genuine hello rather than a bothersome nod. Hospitality is learning to do something never done before, or eating something never tried, or being shown a different way.

Christ has shown the way, for he is the way. The way grace, the way of love, the way of mercy.



The OSL Missions Garage Sale! 🎉

Mark your calendars! Our OSL Missions Garage Sale is just around the corner, and we can't wait to welcome you to three days of treasure hunting, fellowship, and giving back! Held in the Great Hall, this event is a wonderful reminder that one person's junk is another person's treasure. Every purchase helps support the mission and outreach ministries of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, making a difference both in our community and beyond.

Donations Needed

We're now accepting gently used or new items that are clean, complete, and in good working condition. If it's something you'd be proud to pass along, we'd love to receive it! Please note: Donation drop-offs will end on August 6 to allow our volunteers time to sort, organize, and price everything before the sale.

It Takes a Church!

This event is only possible because of the incredible generosity of our volunteers. Whether you have an hour or a whole day, there's a place for you!

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Baking bars or cookies for our hardworking volunteers
- Sorting and pricing donations
- Assisting shoppers during the sale
- Serving our community lunch on Saturday
- And so much more!

Sign up to volunteer through our new church app! There truly is a job for every age and ability.

A Special Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to Judy Juncker, Judy Renwick, and Deedee Bergstrom for the countless hours they've dedicated to organizing this tremendous event. Your leadership and hard work make this ministry possible!

We hope you'll join us by donating, volunteering, shopping, or all three! Together, we can turn gently loved items into meaningful support for the mission and ministry of OSL.



Welcome to the Future at OSL!

Change can be exciting...and sometimes a little uncomfortable. But we're making a big step forward as we continue to grow as a mission-driven church!

We're excited to introduce our new church app, powered by Tithe.ly—a platform that brings our church community together in one convenient place. Whether you're looking to stay connected, grow in your faith, or get involved, it's all right at your fingertips.

With the OSL Church App, you can:

-  View the church calendar and upcoming events
-  Sign up for volunteer opportunities
-  Read Scripture and take sermon notes
-  Share and pray through requests on our Prayer Wall
-  Watch weekly worship services anytime
-  Manage your giving quickly and securely

A Change to Online Giving

One of the biggest changes we'll be making is transitioning from Vanco to Tithe.ly for all electronic giving.

Beginning August 3, Krista will begin canceling existing Vanco recurring giving agreements. During this transition, there may be a brief interruption in your scheduled giving—or, if you're not careful, an overlap. We'll do everything we can to make this process as smooth as possible.

Setting up your new recurring gift is easy! You can:

- Stop by the church office and Krista will gladly help you.
- Set it up yourself through the OSL Church App, giving you complete control over your giving whenever you'd like.

Need Help?

We'll be available every step of the way!

Kylie Pape will be at the Welcome Desk on August 2 to answer questions, help download the app, and walk you through getting started.

We know that learning something new takes time, and we appreciate your patience and willingness to embrace this change. By moving to Tithe.ly, we're investing in a stronger, more connected future for OSL—one that makes it easier to worship, serve, give, and stay connected to the life of our church.

Thank you for growing with us. Together, we're building a church that is equipped for today and prepared for tomorrow!

»»» PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS «««



First and foremost, I want to say thank you for supporting the Meet the Match campaign to balance our budget. We met the match! The generosity that this congregation shows is truly amazing! I'll provide more updates on the budget as we progress through the year, but we're in a very good spot thanks to your support.

This month I wanted to give Anna, my 11 year old, a chance to share what she thinks about Church. Anna shoots straight and doesn't pull any punches, so what she says is what she feels.

Dad: What is your favorite thing about Church?

Anna: The People. They all have kind hearts. Each and every one of them has a little speck of God in them.

Dad: What is your least favorite thing about Church?

Anna: That the service usually goes over an hour.

Dad: Do you think we need a bathroom break halfway through Church?

Anna: No (eye roll) 😊

Dad: What is your advice to the adults at Church?

Anna: Keep coming to church because it reminds you that God loves you.

Anna: Are we done?

Dad: Yes

I'll echo Anna's comments to close. God loves you forever and ever, Amen.

God Bless,
Tyler Tweeten

»»» CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY ««« **CREATED TO BE**



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

»»» REGISTRATION

A new program year is just around the corner, and we couldn't be more excited! Registration is now open for Sunday School and Confirmation, and this year brings a fresh new approach. We're introducing a new curriculum that will connect what our children and youth are learning with what we're experiencing together in worship each week—creating a faith journey filled with purpose, connection, and meaningful conversation. We can't wait to partner with you as your children grow in faith, friendships, and discipleship. **Register today using the link below!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL LINK:

[HTTPS://OURSAVIORSLUTHERANCHURCH2825.BREEZECHMS.COM/FORM/6FDIF6](https://oursaviorslutheranchurch2825.breezechms.com/form/6FDIF6)

CONFIRMATION LINK:

[HTTPS://OURSAVIORSLUTHERANCHURCH2825.BREEZECHMS.COM/FORM/6FDIF6](https://oursaviorslutheranchurch2825.breezechms.com/form/6FDIF6)

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TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

»» VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!!



Family Information Meeting

Parents and students are encouraged to join us as we walk through the new curriculum, share what to expect this year, and answer any questions you may have. You won't want to miss it!

Let's grow together as we begin another exciting year of learning, serving, and following Christ.

teachers

Have a heart for helping children grow in their faith?

We'd love to have you join us! Meet Brooklyn on **Wednesday, August 12, at 4:30 p.m.** on Torge's outdoor patio for refreshments, conversation, and a preview of this year's Sunday School curriculum. You'll have the opportunity to look through the materials, ask questions, share ideas, and learn how we're approaching this exciting new program year.

Whether you're a returning teacher or simply curious about serving, we'd love to see you there!

»» CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY ««



Have you ever wanted to serve, grow in your faith, and make unforgettable memories as a family? Now is your chance!

OSL is excited to begin planning a Family Mission Trip to Puerto Rico with Praying Pelicans Mission, the same incredible organization that led our youth mission trip to Florida.

Throughout the week, we'll have the opportunity to:

- Serve alongside local ministries
- Assist with food bank outreach
- Participate in hurricane relief efforts
- Help with children's camps and activities
- Worship with a local congregation
- ☀️ Enjoy time for rest, fellowship, and exploring the beauty of Puerto Rico

Everyone is welcome! Whether you're young or young at heart, this trip is designed for all ages and abilities to serve together.

Trip Cost

💙 \$1,800 per person (includes airfare)



To reserve your spot:

- \$150 deposit per person due by October 16th, 2026
- Monthly payments of \$165 per person through August 2027

If you've been looking for a meaningful way to live out your faith, deepen relationships, and serve alongside your church family, we invite you to prayerfully consider joining us on this incredible journey.

Commit today—we can't wait to serve with you!

LOVE = ACTIONS



>>> LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED?



Join us as we roll up our sleeves and serve together during *God's Work, Our Hands*. This year we'll divide and conquer!

One team will help spruce up our Sanctuary and Kitchen, while another team will sort and price donations for our upcoming OSL Missions Garage Sale in the Great Hall.

There is a place for everyone—all ages and abilities are welcome! After our work is done, we'll celebrate with an ice cream treat together. Lend a hand, enjoy some fellowship; many hands make light work—we hope to see you there!



We will continue to gather for Prayers for Peace on the first Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. This has become a meaningful time of reflection, healing, and prayerful support for one another and the world around us.

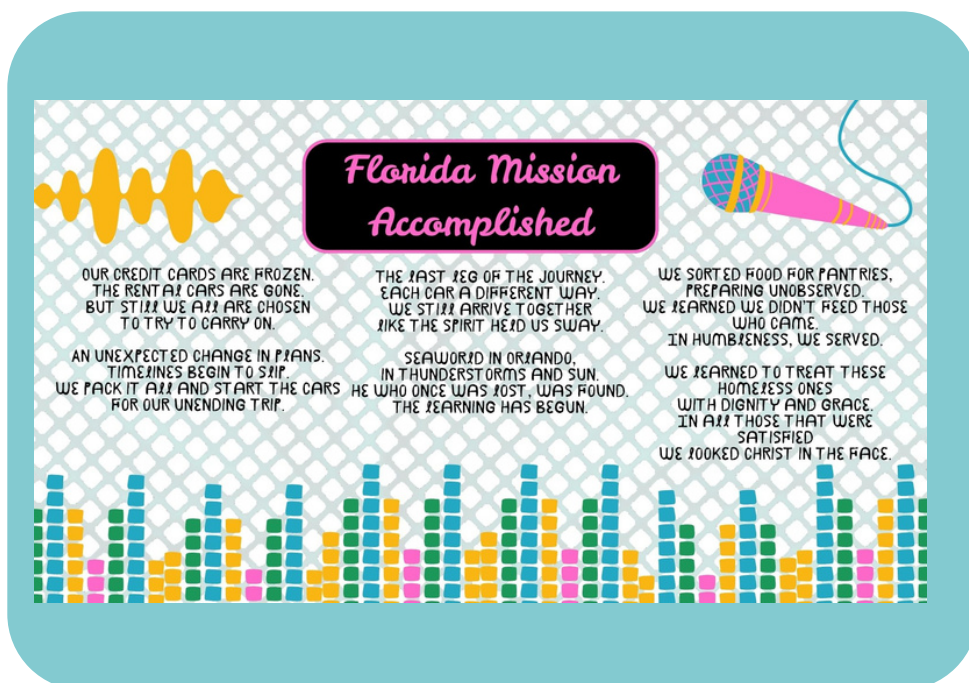
We invite everyone to join us as we pray for our leaders both locally and globally, and for those facing difficult circumstances including financial hardship, war, mental health struggles, physical illness, and political unrest. We do not gather to choose sides — we gather to choose God, seeking peace, compassion, and understanding through prayer. All are welcome. Come and experience this special time together.

»» WORSHIP ««

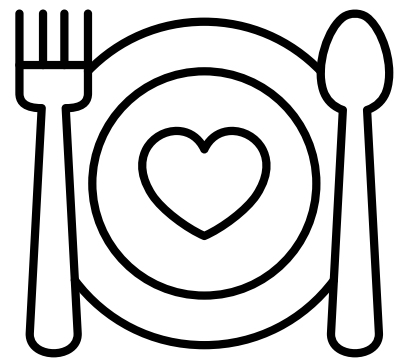


AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sun Aug 2 9:00am Blended w Communion
Mon Aug 3 5:00pm Prayer for Peace
Sun Aug 9 9:00am Blended
Thu Aug 13 6:30pm Mid-week worship
Sun Aug 16 9:00am Blended w Communion
Sun Aug 23 9:00am Blended (Rally Day)
Sun Aug 30 9:00am Blended



Dinner Church



August 26

HERE'S THE



LOOKING AHEAD...



You're invited to one of OSL's favorite summer traditions! Join us on **Friday, August 21, at 6:00 p.m.** for our annual *Potluck on the Farm* at Scott and Carrie Murphy's. Come enjoy a delicious meal, great fellowship, and a relaxing evening in the country.

The Murphys will provide the main course. We simply ask that you bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

This is always a wonderful evening filled with laughter, conversation, and plenty of space for kids to run, play, and explore. Bring your family, invite a friend, and join us for a memorable night together!

Location:

Scott & Carrie Murphy
50247 240th St.

Austin, MN 55912

Questions? Call Scott at 507-440-5514.

UNITING IN CHRIST

A LITTLE TIME, A BIG DIFFERENCE

SIGN-UP TO VOLUNTEER

HOPE PANTRY AND CLOSET
GARAGE SALE ORGANIZING
HELPING HANDS TEAM
HOST COFFEE HOUR
SERVE COMMUNION
READ THE VERSES IN CHURCH



Our Helping Hands team is ready and eager to go above and beyond in caring for our neighbors—it's simply what they do best. Whether it's painting a garage, fixing a door handle, hanging pictures, changing light bulbs, pulling weeds, moving furniture, grocery shopping, or even providing a ride to a doctor's appointment, no task is too small when it comes to supporting one another. If you have a need—or aren't quite sure where to start—reach out to Krista in the church office at 507-437-4516.

»» OUTREACH ««

»»» GOOD EARTH VILLAGE FAMILY RETREAT!

Registration is Now Open!

Join us for our Annual Fall Family Retreat at Good Earth Village on September 18-20! This year's retreat will build on Good Earth Village's theme, "Wear Love," as we spend a weekend growing in faith and friendships.

Here's a glimpse of what's planned:

- Friday: Family movie night and icebreakers
- Saturday: Book discussion with Rob Zahn! He has a new book entitled "LSD to Galilee," you may remember him as a former intern in Austin! Tie-dye T-shirts, arts & crafts, hiking, and a bonfire filled with stories
- Sunday: Worship service to wrap up our weekend together

There are a limited number of rooms available in the Log Lodge. Once those are filled, accommodations are available in the Old Town Cabins (a little more rustic), or you're welcome to camp in a tent or RV.

Pricing and accommodation information is available at the Welcome Desk.

We hope you'll join us for a memorable weekend of laughter, connection, and faith as we learn what it means to Wear Love!



WEAR LOVE

**Fall Family Retreat
Sept. 18-20th, 2026**

**Registration brochures
are at the Welcome
Desk.**

**at Good Earth Village
Bible Camp
Spring Valley, MN**

**Curious, but have questions?
Talk to our Team: Kylie, Angie, DedaRae,
Carrie, Lindsay, & Lou**

Share the Harvest!

Do you have extra produce from your garden that you can't use fast enough? We'd love to help you share your bounty!

Simply place your fresh fruits and vegetables in the basket outside the church office for our Hope Pantry. Fresh produce is a special treat for our pantry guests and can often be one of the most expensive items to purchase.

Every donation is greatly appreciated!



»»» CONTACTS «««



Lifelines is published monthly for members and friends of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Austin, MN. Notices for Lifelines must be submitted to the church office by the 20th of the month. Articles received after this date will not run or will run the next month. All articles are subject to editing for content or length.

»»» OFFICE HOURS:

Office Hours:
Mon. - Thurs: 9-1 p.m.

Phone: 507-437-4516
Fax: 437-1874
Email: oslc@oursaviorsaustin.org

»»» ON STAFF

Lead Pastor: Michael Peuse-	pastormichael@oursaviorsaustin.org
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Dir. of Missions: Krista Kennedy-	communications@oursaviorsaustin.org
Administrator: Krista Kennedy-	communications@oursaviorsaustin.org
Dir. of Comm.: Krista Kennedy-	communications@oursaviorsaustin.org
OSLC President: Tyler Tweeten	

Wedding Coordinator: Christine Seppanen
Organists: Diane Heaney and Ryan Hulshizer
Accompanists: Brian Johnson
Joyful Noise Director: Kaye Perry

WORSHIP SERVICES «««

Services will be recorded at 9 a.m. and may be found on our YouTube channel, Facebook page, and website.

Services:
Sundays - 9 a.m.

Anyuak service:
Sundays at 1 p.m.

PRAYER REQUESTS/VISITS

We ask that you please notify the church office if you or a loved one is in the hospital, or if you would like to be contacted by someone on our Care Team. If we are unable to visit in person, we will make other arrangements to make contact, whether by phone, email, or letter.

Please notify us, so that we may support you. The congregational care team (Krista Kennedy) may be reached through the church office at 437-4516.

