

September 2026

www.oursaviorsaustin.org

LIFELINES



Corner of Sunshine

**WEAR
LOVE**

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

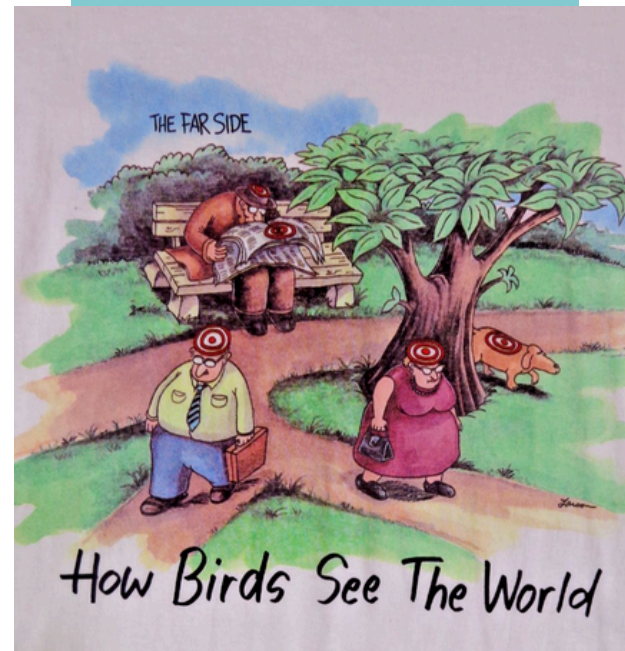
**Registration brochures
are at the Welcome
Desk.**

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

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

Good Earth Village Retreat | September 18-20

There's still time to join us for our Good Earth Village Retreat, September 18-20! This will be a fun and relaxing weekend with plenty of time to unwind, enjoy the beautiful surroundings, and share in great fellowship together. We still have 2 rooms available in the Log Lodge, as well as space for RV hookups. If you're interested in joining us, talk to Krista in the church office!



>>> PASTOR'S THOUGHTS <<<



Lectionary - an organized book or list containing specific scripture readings appointed for worship on each day of the church year.

Lectionaries are good for pastors and for the congregation. They provide for a variety of stories from Scripture so that congregations don't get stuck within a pattern of monotony. It's also good for the pastor to prevent them from preaching on their pet projects, which in turn is good for the congregation.

We are beginning a new lectionary this fall, taking us through the Bible, from its beginning to end, through a narrative arc in both worship and Sunday School. We'll begin in Genesis with Noah, and conclude in Paul's letter to the church in Rome. Instead of the traditional lectionary selection of 4 readings from the Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament, and Gospel, the Narrative Lectionary will have only two - the Narrative reading and its accompanying Gospel readings. Granted, this isn't too different from our current practice, but it's significant as we focus on a single story.

Why this lectionary? Because I don't assume everyone in worship knows the stories rarely read. This past summer, I've received very helpful and encouraging feedback about the First Family through the summer. The common thread was that the stories hadn't been heard in a long time, and the stories hadn't been preached on before. Honestly, when was the last time we heard the story about Noah? My guess for many of you would be Sunday School or Confirmation, but rarely worship.

This Fall, we'll spend time in the Old Testament with our origins, some prophets, and a couple of kings. When Christmas arrives, we'll be going the walk with Jesus from cradle to cross. At Easter, we'll journey with the disciples and Paul through Acts and Romans. We'll hear the story of the Bible from beginning to end, experiencing Scripture fresh and anew.

I look forward to rebooting our worship together as we settle into Fall rhythms!

»»» PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS «««



Change Is Good?

In years past, our church looked quite different. We had multiple pastors, interns, and numerous staff members. Our annual budget exceeded \$750,000. We offered multiple worship services each Sunday, and our Sunday School classrooms were filled with children. Today, we have one pastor, two full-time staff members, and two part-time staff members. Our annual budget is \$600,000. We have fewer children in Sunday School, and we gather together for one blended worship service.

The needs, resources, and realities of our congregation have changed over time. With fewer staff members and volunteers, we simply cannot do everything in the same way we once did—and that's okay.

As we give thanks for the ministries, traditions, and people who have shaped our church's past, we also have an opportunity to look ahead. Instead of holding too tightly to what once was, we can ask an important question: How is God calling us to serve faithfully in this season?

Change isn't necessarily good or bad. Change is simply different. And different can create space for new opportunities, new ministries, and new ways of being the church together. Our circumstances may change, but our foundation does not:

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."
Hebrews 13:8

God Bless,
Tyler Tweeten



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

Our transition from Vanco to Tithely for electronic giving is now complete! All existing Vanco recurring giving agreements have been canceled.

If you have not yet done so, please take a moment to set up your new electronic giving through Tithely. You can easily get started through our church app, our website, or by stopping in the church office and Krista will be happy to help.

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.

We know that transitioning to a new giving platform can take a little getting used to, and we're happy to help!

If you have questions about setting up your Tithely account, need help getting your electronic giving started, or simply aren't sure where to begin, please stop by the church office and talk to Krista. She'll be happy to walk you through the process and help make the transition as easy as possible.

Thank you for your patience, generosity, and continued support of the ministry of Our Savior's Lutheran Church!

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



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

»»» NEW YEAR. NEW ADVENTURES. SAME AMAZING GOD.

Alright, friends... we're back! A brand-new program year is here, and we are ready for another year of learning, laughing, asking big questions, building friendships, and discovering just how BIG God's love is. Pastor Mike wants church to be a place where you can **show up**, get involved, try things, and figure out where you fit. His job is to help you grow in faith—not to stand in your way!

Want to serve coffee? Try it. Want to usher? Go for it. Want to read the lesson? You got this.

Try different things. Find what you enjoy. You might discover a gift or calling you didn't even know you had!

And remember: if you're taking sermon notes, drop them in the mailbox labeled "Sermon Notes" in the right-hand column of mailboxes in the church office.

♥ Be the Kind of People Jesus Calls Us to Be

This one is important: we take care of each other. No bullying. No excluding. No making someone feel like they don't belong. We treat people with kindness, respect, and compassion—because that's what Jesus asks us to do.

📖 Bring. Your. Bible.

If you've been given a Bible, BRING IT TO CHURCH! Seriously. We're going to learn how to use it, where to find things, and uncover some of the wild, weird, wonderful, and seriously cool stories inside.

And Sunday School? NEW TIME! It starts right after worship, beginning at the front of the sanctuary. Then we'll head to class together. And YES, there will be snacks waiting for you. We would never send you into class hungry.

Parents, thank you for trusting us to walk alongside your kids as they learn about the incredible love, grace, and forgiveness of God.

We've got a BIG year ahead—and we can't wait to do it with you. Let's make it an unforgettable one!

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



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

»»» YOUTH GATHERING-MPLS



Youth Gathering 2027 – Minneapolis!

We're heading to Minneapolis next summer for an unforgettable week of worship, service, learning, fun, and connecting with youth from across the country!

Cost: \$950/person

Registration Deadline: October 16

\$100 deposit: Due at registration (unless receiving financial aid)

Financial Aid Deadline: October 1

I'll send information packets home with students Wednesday, September 9 with everything you need to know. No informational meeting—September is already packed! 😊

Save the dates, watch for your packet, and get ready for an amazing adventure!

»» 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?



Be Part of the Fun at Trunk-o-Treat! 🎃

Trunk-o-Treat is one of our largest outreach events of the year, welcoming hundreds of people from our community—and we need YOU to help make it happen!

There are many ways to get involved: donate candy, decorate a trunk, create a spooky room, help with games and activities in the Great Hall, or paint some faces! And if you don't consider yourself "creative," don't worry! There are plenty of fun trunk kits available at big-box stores and on Amazon. You don't have to be an artist to face paint, either—think pumpkins, ghosts, spiders, and other simple designs!

Be part of the fun, welcome our community, and help make Trunk-o-Treat a memorable afternoon for everyone. Sign up on our new church app and say YES to Trunk-o-Treat!



Prayers for Peace

Our final Prayers for Peace service will be held on **September 14**. Thank you to everyone who has joined us throughout this short but powerful series of prayer, reflection, and hope.

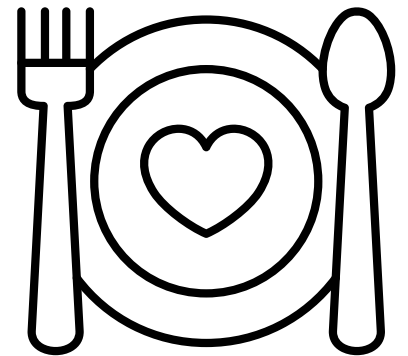
»» WORSHIP ««



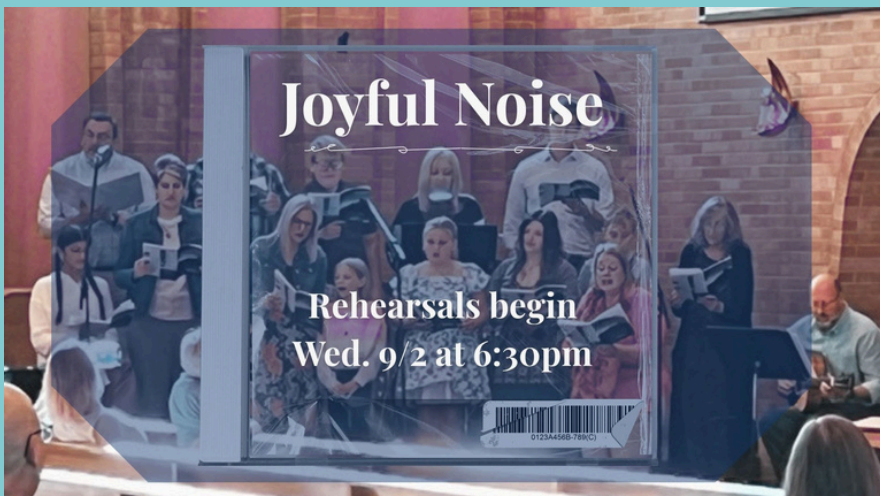
SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sun Sep 6 9:00am Blended w/Communion
Wed Sep 9 5:30pm Dinner Church
Sun Sep 13 9:00am Blended w/Joyful Noise
Mon Sep 14 5:00pm Prayer for Peace
Wed Sep 16 5:30pm Dinner Church
Sun Sep 20 9:00am Blended w/Communion
Wed Sep 23 5:30pm Dinner Church
Sun Sep 27 9:00am Blended w/SS kids
Wed Sep 30 5:30pm Dinner Church

Dinner Church



Wednesdays 5:30



FIRST REHEARSAL SEPTEMBER 2ND



»» WORSHIP ««



JESUS AND THE CANAANITE WOMAN

Ever since last Sunday (Aug 16) I have been thinking about the gospel and Pastor Mike's sermon about the interaction between Jesus and the Canaanite woman found in Matthew 15. She comes deep in need of healing for her daughter, and Jesus all but ignores her. Finally, the disciples step in to try to get her to stop shouting after Jesus. Some scholars think they were trying to get Jesus to do what she asked, so she would stop. His response did not seem like the Jesus we know from the gospels. He seems to turn his back on her. She persists. Finally, he talks to her but tells her that he can't help her because of who she is, or maybe it is better said: because of who she isn't. She isn't an Israelite. She isn't Jewish, and Jesus plainly states he came to serve his own, the people of Israel, the Jews.

Again, she persists, and here it gets interesting. Jesus answer to her is, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." Caird and Hurst's New Testament Theology contend that these words from Jesus were almost certainly said with a smile in a tongue in cheek manner. They seem to suggest Jesus was bantering with her. She retorts, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

What I find fascinating about her answer is that she doesn't back off. She gets in Jesus' face. She challenges Jesus. She talks back to him. And don't think for a minute she had no idea who Jesus was. She addresses him as "son of David." She knows his lineage and his background and his reputation. He is the healer. He is the Christ. My questions abound. Did Jesus change his mind? Was Jesus doing this as a performance for the sake of his followers to get them to realize that he did not come just for the Jews? Jesus then heals the daughter and commends the woman's faith. Is it a leap of faith to get in the face of God?

For those that seem to think one of our roles as Christians is to protect God; to be pious; to be reverent at all costs; this seems to suggest that questioning God is an example of great faith. I am encouraged, because I question God all the time. Some people think doubt is the opposite of faith. Pastor Mike told me recently that the opposite of faith is certainty. I believe that. I believe that when I am certain, when there is no chance of my being wrong, I rely on my own understanding instead of turning to God. I pray that my faith might deepen to the point that I do not fear getting in God's face, and that God will be my first resort instead of my last.

Faithfully yours,
Rod Wiese

HERE'S THE



LOOKING AHEAD...

The Fall
LUNCH & LEARN SERIES
is Coming

Speakers. Lunch. Conversation.

Aging Faithfully

Presented by Heidi Wiese

 **September 15**

 **good earth village**

<https://goodearthvillage.org/lunch-and-learn>



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 or church, 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 ««

»» THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated, sorted, hauled, priced, organized, and volunteered at our Garage Sale! Your hard work helped us raise about \$3,500 for our Missions budget—funds that can provide scholarships, support the Hope Pantry, or help make our Puerto Rico mission trip possible for a family.

A special shout-out to Judy & Zane Juncker, Judy Renwick, and Deedee Bergstrom for spearheading this enormous project. Your leadership turned a BIG job into a huge success! We are so grateful for all of you!



Care Coordinators

Thank You, Care Coordinators!
Thank you for taking such good care of our homebound members. Your willingness to keep people connected, remembered, and cared for truly makes a difference!

We encourage all Care Coordinators to download our new church app to make staying connected even easier. After a visit, simply tap the Prayer Requests tile and send us your notes, prayers, or just a quick message letting us know you stopped by. It's quick, easy, and confidential—and helps us stay connected as a church family. The best part...no more pesky emails!



Global Health Ministries

No school? Come make a BIG difference!

Join us **Monday, September 28th** for a service day at Global Health Ministries in Fridley, MN. Families are invited to spend the day in the warehouse helping prepare medical supplies for communities around the world.

Leave the church parking lot: 7:30 AM
Back in town: around 4:00 PM

Bring: Sack lunch + water bottle

It's an easy way for the whole family to spend a day serving others and making a BIG impact around the world!



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.

Text: 5074-437-4516
Phone: 507-437-4516
Fax: 437-1874
Email: oslc@oursaviorsaustin.org

»»» ON STAFF

Lead Pastor: Michael Peuse-	pastormichael@oursaviorsaustin.org
S.S Coordinator: Brooklyn Hansen-	bhansen@oursaviorsaustin.org
Dir. of Youth & Music: Rod Wiese-	rwiese@oursaviorsaustin.org
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.