
CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

November 2026

AMERICA'S MIDTERM COGNITIVE TEST

Is the United States up to the task? 2026 midterm elections are some of the most consequential in recent history, yet both electorate and government show signs of cognitive slippage. Something is amiss when we alienate allies, embrace authoritarians, and enable corruption.

TIME FOR A COGNITIVE TEST!

To help us in our assessment is a world-renowned cognitive test expert—a self-described “freaking genius” who has “aced” the test at least six times. He advises that “the first question of the test is easy. You have a lion, a snake, a bear, and a giraffe. And they say, ‘Which is the giraffe?’” The test gets harder after that as you are asked to remember and repeat five words—“hat, hair, logo, white, black”. Pointing to the “fake news”, our test expert boasts that “there’s not a person out there that could answer.” Our advisor’s nimble mental acuity should be of great help as America begins its midterm cognitive test. So let’s get started.

Part One: From five images, one must correctly identify which is the pathological liar, the corrupted con-artist, the wannabe dictator, the malignant narcissist, and the ballroom builder. (The first part is truly ‘easy’ because all five images are the same person!)

Part Two: Correctly match five personalities with their identifying qualities: Persons--Vladimir Putin, Albert Schweitzer, Benjamin Netanyahu, Mother Theresa, Tommy Tuberville. Characteristics—War Criminal, Humanitarian, Genocidal Maniac, Nobel Peace Prize Winner, “Are You Kidding Me?”

Part Three has a Texas Flair: Entities—Ted Cruz, An Armadillo, Greg Abbot, A Longhorn, Ken Paxton. Characteristics—Sycophant, Digs up Worms, Rubber Stamp, Eats Hay, Makes Boss Tweed Look Like a Choir Boy.

There you have it. If you pass the midterm cognitive test you are ready to vote! But don’t let that be cause for hubris! Several prominent government appointees have failed spectacularly. Steve Witcoff didn’t know the difference between Vladimir Putin and a Humanitarian. Katie Zacharia couldn’t distinguish a lawyer from a press secretary. Eric Schmitt couldn’t tell a hawk from a hawk-eye. Kimberly Guilfoyle was unable to determine any difference between the Greece Ambassador and a grifter.

But don’t despair either. If you fail the main test there is an alternate to the Montreal Cognitive Assessment called the Marty Menagerie. This a more nuanced version that requires you to properly chase after a possum, a squirrel, a rabbit, a skunk, and a raccoon. If you chase after all five in the right order you are entitled to a treat and a 2028 run for President of the United States.

Either way, pass or fail, the voting booth stands as a cognitive test for the United States of America. It will ask us all to see through the lies, to call out the corruption, and to stand up for the truth. In the long run, though, the real test is not a cognitive test, but a test of the heart.

The heart test has four identical images of Jesus, hanging on the cross, with five corresponding qualities: compassion, truth, kindness, justice, and love. The fifth image? It’s a picture of you.

Be sure to take your cognitive test by November 3.

Halloween in Reverse

From the Scary to the Sainly

Halloween is a fright night of outlandish and spine-tingling costumes: ghosts, werewolves, skeletons, draculas, devils, and demons. What if we turned it into a holy night instead.. and our costumes were not of devils and demons but of the Saints and Servants of God? What if we turned Halloween on its head and returned the eve of All Saints (All Hallowed's Eve) to it's original meaning: a chance to remember, reflect, and revere the Saints of God who proceeded us in the faith? Our party would be one of celebration and thanksgiving. A night of terror would become a night of joy, the scary would become safe, and Halloween would be Holy once again.



That's exactly the plan for All Saints Day, November 1st, at 5:30pm. We'll have a Saints Celebration and turn ghoulish ghosts into the Holy Ghost! Everyone in attendance will take on the persona of great saint of the past. You can choose your saint from the gallery of Saints of the past and, for one night, become them! You'll learn their story, share their faith, and give them a voice at our Saints Celebration. You may even want to come in costume! There are more than enough saints to go around, so bring a friend. And there'll be food too—lots of it—as well as saint games, quizzes, and saintly trivia for kids and adults. It all starts at 5:30pm, November 1st. Sign up in the centrum to choose both a saint and a potluck dish to bring.

Saints Celebration! November 1 at 5:30pm

(Costumes are not mandatory... only your presence because you are God's Saint. The name God gave you in baptism is the only name you'll ever need to be a Saint!)

Creature Collections



We're emphasizing "God's creatures great and small" for our fall/winter display case. We've ranged from armadillos to turtles but would welcome even greater variety. We'd like you to share your collection of a particular animal that catches your fancy. This whole theme is inspired by a wonderful television show called 'All Creatures Great and Small'... but before there were any television shows God put on the greatest show of all in the Garden of Eden where God's creatures—great and small—started a parade that is still going on today. Share your collection with us and we'll schedule a time to put it in the display case.

Join us Sunday, November 15th, to celebrate November birthdays with cake and ice cream!



Thanksgiving Service

"Thousand, Thousand Thanks Shall Be"

Join thankful hearts with our community for Thanksgiving Worship,
Sunday, November 22nd at 5:30pm.

Then, like pilgrims and Native Americans, we'll sit down and feast! Turkey and all the trimmings highlight a Potluck Meal following the service (turkey and ham provided) with lots of lighthearted entertainment! Join your grateful hearts to those of friends in Christ who sing:

"Thousand, thousand thanks shall be Dearest Jesus unto thee"

(A sign-up for the potluck is posted on the centrum welcome table)



Wondrous Births: MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES DEC. 2, 9, AND 16

Wednesday nights in Advent will lead us to God's nursery where we'll marvel at some of the most wondrous births in the Bible. The season of Advent is like a four-week pregnancy. It's a time of hope and expectation. It's a time of preparation and anticipation. It is getting ready for a baby to be born in Bethlehem. Supper is at 6:00pm and each service begins at 7:00pm.



Birthdays

November

Baptisms

Date	Name		
2	Henry Williams	21	Michael Lubben
3	Andrew Taneja		Miguel Meza
	Matthew Taneja		Mike Zimmerman
8	Marianne Fitzsimons	23	Dave Shafer
9	Jesse Starr	25	Margaret Baker
10	Amy Ismail		Brexton Collins
11	Darwin Frerking		Rita Salmons
12	Simon Granados		Reyes Zubieta
14	Jacob Starr	26	Ruth Montgomery
15	Anastacia Aguirre		Beth Shafer
16	Kelly Belz	30	Lionel Folkman
	Rigo Chavez		
	Jesse Rockwell		
	Elijah Romero		
17	Bob Fundling		
	Katy McCabe		
	Jonathan Starr		



Date	Name
4	Olivia Ranta
16	Mark Fretheim
	Brian Murphy
26	Cade Hyatt
	Madison Reggia
27	Caleb Ramirez
	Gabriel Ramirez
28	Mike Zimmermann
30	Grayson Granados
	Natalie Granados
	Simon Granados

Wedding Anniversaries

Date		Years
7	Kenneth & Mariah Williams	28
11	Steve & Jenny Pickett	31
14	Robert & Lisa Holmes	39



Worship Leaders for October:

Worship Assistant: Jenny Pickett Reader: Mark Volpi
 Ushers: Bonnie & Jill Vanlaningham Greeters: Wendie & Miguel Meza
 Altar Guild: Cynthia Lubben



All Saints Day

For our All Saints Worship, November 1, we will remember saints from Our Savior as well as saints from the past. Near the end of our worship service, we'll read the roll call of saints whose cross has been exchanged for the crown of eternal glory. If you would like to include the name of a close friend or a loved one who has preceded us in death in the faith of our Lord, please write their names on the All Saints Worship Scroll before worship.

FOOD DRIVE

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER IS OUR SAVIOR'S DESIGNATED FOOD DRIVE MONTH. PLEASE BRING NON-PERISHABLES TO STOCK UP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PANTRIES. AND "THANK YOU!" TO ALL WHO RECENTLY GAVE TO THE OUR SAVIOR FOOD BOX.



Fall Behind



Set your clocks back before you go to sleep Saturday night, October 31. With an extra hour of sleep, we should all get to church on time. We may even start on time!

PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD AT THIS YEAR'S

CROP HUNGER WALK!

NOVEMBER 8, 2PM

The 10K CROP Walk is an outstanding opportunity to make tracks, make friends, and make a difference in the lives of the hungry. 75% of funds are distributed worldwide by Church World Service or—if designated—Lutheran World Relief. This year the walk will be held through beautiful Audubon Park in Garland. Take a couple of hours to enjoy a beautiful fall day and raise money for a good cause. Call the church office for information or simply get a pledge envelope from Pastor Schelter. This year's walk begins at the south edge of Audubon Park on Sunday, November 8th. The walk begins at 2:00pm. Grab your shoes and HIT THE TRAIL!!!



November 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>Each Sunday</u> 10:00am Worship Service 5:30 Saints Celebration	2	3	4 10:30am Sages for All Ages	5 10:00am East Dallas Deanery Mtg.	6	7
8 11:30pm Council Meeting 2:00pm CROP Hunger Walk	9 6:30pm Table Talk 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 9:30am Mother's Day Out 10:30am Communion at the Waterford	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> 10:30am Sages for All Ages	12 9:30am Mother's Day Out 7:00pm Cub Scouts	13	14
15 <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> 11:30am Birthday Celebrations	16 6:30pm Table Talk 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 <i>Veterans Day</i> 9:30am Mother's Day Out 11:30am Communion Service at the Waterford	18 10:30am Sages for All Ages	19 9:30am Mother's Day Out 7:00pm Cub Scouts	20	21
22 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> 5:30pm Thanksgiving Service & Potluck Banquet	23	24	25	26 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	27	28
29	30 6:30pm Table Talk 7:00pm Boy Scouts					