



*The Mission of Our Savior:
That all may know Christ,
grow in Christ
and joyfully go with Christ.*

Adopted 11/1998

May 2025 | Volume 30, Issue 5

MONTHLY Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF **OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

FROM OUR PASTOR...

IN THE SHELTER OF GRACE: A PASTORAL REFLECTION ON CONVERSATIONS IN A DIVIDED WORLD

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Some days, I feel the weight of the world settle on my shoulders when I wake up. Perhaps you feel it too—the unrelenting stream of news, the sharp edges of conversations, and the way a single word can feel like it carries a thousand disagreements. As a pastor, as your pastor, I feel it deeply. Not because I have all the answers, but because I am walking through this with you—listening, praying, and wondering.

These days, it seems that even mentioning a topic can stir up strong emotions. That's understandable. We care about our world, our families, and our futures. But it's also exhausting, isn't it? Our hearts can grow weary in a climate that feels so divided. And when emotions run high, it becomes harder to see our neighbors with love, especially those who see things differently than we do.

So today, I want to step back, take a deep breath with you, and reflect on things in a different way—not a political way, but a Gospel way.

Listening with the Heart of Christ

In the ELCA, we talk often about Law and Gospel. The Law tells the truth about who we are—it names our fears, our self-protection, our temptation to be “right” above all else. And the Gospel? The Gospel meets us in that truth. It whispers of mercy, healing, and the freedom to start again.

When I think of difficult conversations, I imagine Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Two disciples,

burdened by grief and confusion, walking away from the place of deepest pain. And Jesus joins them—not with condemnation or debate, but with presence. He listens. He walks alongside. He allows their questions to unfold.

What if we approached each other like that?

A Safe Place to Be Human

One of the gifts of the Church, of this congregation, is that we are called to be a safe place for being human. We come with our questions, our hopes, and our contradictions. Some of us are sure, some are searching, and others are weary from trying to hold it all together.

What if we saw each other not as a collection of opinions, but as cherished individuals trying to navigate a complicated world?

Our conversations don't need to be perfectly worded or free from disagreement. However, they must be steeped in compassion and held in the presence of Christ—the One who invites us not to certainty, but to love.

Making Room for Each Other

You may wonder, as I do: “When do I speak, and when do I listen? How do I love my neighbor when their words feel so different from my own? How can I be faithful to Christ without adding to the noise?”

There's no easy script, but there is a posture of heart that helps. It begins with **humility**—a willingness to admit we don't know everything. It continues with **empathy**—a desire to understand where someone's pain or passion may come from. And it finds its strength in **grace**—the grace to forgive, to stay at the table, and to keep the conversation going even when it's uncomfortable.

When we are rooted in grace, we are no longer driven

(Continued on page 2)



VISIT US ONLINE AT **WWW.OSLCWAYNE.ORG**

(Continued from page 1)

by fear. We don't have to defend every point. We can offer our hearts instead of just our opinions. And slowly, tenderly, that changes the nature of the conversation.

A Pastoral Invitation

So here is my invitation—not as someone who has mastered this, but as someone walking alongside you:

Let's be people who make room.

Room for questions.

Room for emotions.

Room for stories that aren't our own.

Let's slow down enough to wonder, "What might my neighbor be carrying today? What pain or fear lies beneath their words?"

Above all, let's also make room for God, not as a tool to justify our views but as the source of our mercy. God is the One who formed each of us, the One who binds us together, not because we agree on everything, but because we belong to each other through Christ.

You are not alone in your questions. You are not alone in your uncertainty. And you are certainly not alone in your desire to do better, love more deeply, and follow Jesus faithfully in a world that often feels upside-down.

A Word of Comfort

If you are weary, I see you.

If you are unsure of how to speak without hurting someone, I understand.

If you've avoided conversations out of fear or fatigue, you're not failing—you're human.

But we can take small steps together. A kind word. A listening ear. A simple prayer: "Lord, help me to love my neighbor today—even the one I don't understand."

These aren't grand gestures, but they are holy ones. They are the work of resurrection—quiet, powerful, and full of grace.

In this Easter season, we remember that the risen Christ didn't show up with a lecture. He showed up with peace. "Peace be with you," he said to his frightened, scattered disciples. And he says the same to us now.

So may that peace guide our words, shape our hearts, and lead us into conversations that are not about winning or losing but about love—real love. Gospel love. The kind of love that meets us in our differences and gently reminds us: "You are mine. You are loved. And so is your neighbor."

In Christ's abiding peace,
Pastor Chad

Gracious God,

You know our hearts—how they are pulled in many directions, how easily they grow weary. In a world filled with noise and tension, teach us the quiet strength of love. Help us to listen without fear, to speak with kindness, and to approach each person as Your beloved child. When we are tempted to shut down or shut others out, remind us that You have made

space for each of us at Your table. When our emotions run high, still our hearts with the peace of Christ. And when we don't know what to say, teach us to pray. Lord, make us people of grace—Not just in our beliefs, but in our conversations. Not just in worship, but in every relationship. In all things, guide us by Your Spirit, So that in our words and in our silence, Your love might be known.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

Music FOR MAY

May 3 & 4 Connie Webber, organist

May 10 & 11 Connie Webber, organist

May 17 & 18 Alan Bruflat, musician

May 24 & 25 Shelly Armstrong, pianist

May 31 & June 1 Sue Olson, pianist

2025 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



The Fellowship Ministry Team will host a reception in honor of Our Savior's High School graduates following worship on **Sunday, May 4**. Everyone is invited to attend.

Please keep our graduates and all graduates—high school and college—in your prayers as they embark on a new chapter in their lives.

(A feature page of the 2025 graduates will be included in the June Newsletter.)

MFINS WITH MOM

Join us for **Muffins with Mom!** on **Sunday, May 11—Mother's Day**, during the Fellowship Hour from 9–9:45am. Come for a treat and fellowship time as we **celebrate Mother's Day! All are welcome!**



STORY SHARED

On April 7, 2025, the **Outreach Ministry** and others made our annual Easter visit to the **Juvenile Services Center in Madison**. Pastor Rademacher led a short Easter Program that included group singing and readings by adults and youth. We offered cookies, popcorn, and pop, treats that the residents do not ordinarily have. We had an opportunity to visit with the youth. This is always an interesting and rewarding visit. Those attending were Pastor Chad Rademacher, Jamie Young, Kim Dunklau, Sue Denton, Phyllis Rahn, Rhonda Blecke, Karma Magnuson, Amber Labenz, Ron and Corliss Krusemark, and Ron and Pat Carnes.

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE FOUNDATION

The second, quarterly meeting of the Foundation Board of Our Savior Lutheran Church will be held on **Monday, May 19**, at 7pm. All grant applications need to be turned in to the church office by **Monday, May 12** to be considered; **contact the church office to receive an application.**

NEbraska Synod ELCA **2025 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

The 2025 Nebraska Synod Assembly will be held May 30–**June 1**, at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney under the theme of “Imagine! Imagine? Imagine...”

“Imagine! *Together as Christ’s church, we are called to follow the Spirit, and to imagine what God might be up to and inviting. Imagine?* *Through workshops and service-learning opportunities and experiences we will explore how we can imagine things in our own ministry settings. Imagine... The work of imagination continues and is not something meant to just be a couple days of focus at synod assembly. Instead, through closing worship together we’ll be sent forth as one Nebraska Synod to imagine. There is still more to imagine, and more to do. Imagine what God might be up to and inviting you to be a part of next...*”
nebraskasynod.org

Please keep all who will be attending in prayer—pastors, delegates, visitors and presenters. Those attending from Our Savior are Kathy Becker, Amber Labenz, and Larry Lueders.



THANK YOU’S...

Wayne Food Pantry—Thank you so much for your generous donations of \$150 and \$221.30 dated February 25, and March 31, 2025, to the Wayne Food Pantry. Your donations help to enable us to provide nutrition to individuals and families in need in Wayne County, Nebraska.

Jenny Hammer,
Wayne Food Pantry Coordinator

Pastor Bill & Valerie Koeber—Thank you so much for your prayers & cards during my recent hospitalizations. It’s been a long haul, but finally I am on the road to recovery. Thank you to Pastor Chad, the Caring Cooks & Kathy Burke, and all friends and family for your support during this time.

40/40 Lenten Challenge—Thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s challenge; the response was overwhelming! Check next month’s newsletter for the **40/40 Wrap-Up with totals and pictures!** (*pictures can be seen on our Facebook page and also the Wayne Food Pantry page*)

Thank you received for donation made—

- **ELCA:** \$100 (Lutheran Disaster Response)

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we reflect on our journey through Lent and Holy Week, our hearts are filled with gratitude for each one of you. From the church office and leadership team, we wish to extend a heartfelt *thank you* for the countless hours, gifts, and heartfelt contributions that made this sacred season so meaningful.

Your dedication—whether through music, worship leadership, decorating, hospitality, behind-the-scenes preparation, or simply showing up in faith and love—made each service a rich and holy experience. From the quiet ashes of Ash Wednesday to the joy of Easter morning, your presence and participation helped create a space where Christ was truly among us.

We are especially thankful for the many volunteers who generously gave of their time and energy, often unnoticed, to ensure everything flowed smoothly. From setting up communion to greeting at the doors to cleaning up after full days of activity, your efforts were seen and appreciated.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in this place. We are truly blessed to share this journey of faith with you.

With gratitude and love,
The Church Office & Leadership Team

CIRCLE & MINISTRY GROUP MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

- Tuesday, May 6, 10am

JOY CIRCLE

- Wednesday, May 14, 2pm
Program: Kathy Becker, PMA
Leader & Hostess: Dorothy Wert

CHARITY CIRCLE

- (date & time TBD—watch for details)
Program: Mystery Meeting
Leaders: Deb Hammer, Kris Robinson

VISITATION MINISTRY GROUP

- Wednesday, May 21, 1pm

QUILT MINISTRY GROUP

- Tuesday, May 27, 9am

WELCA PURPOSE

As a community of women, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.



ALTAR GUILD



Altar Guild workers for May: Joan Baier, Melia Hefti, Cheryl Henschke, Marsha Roth, Madge Bruflat, Julie Grone, Janet Sievers, Myrna Wacker-Tuttle, Mary Hansen, Teri Koenig, Dorothy Wert, Karen Zach, Lynette Lentz, Cynthia Miller, Denise Broders, Paula Gemelke, Trisha Peters, Martina Swanson.

Bread Bakers for May: Kim Dunklau, Karen Zach, Cynthia Puntney, Lynette Lentz.

Please check the worship assistant schedule for the date.



GREETINGS!

Do you feel like something is missing in your week? After attending all those wonderful Wednesday night Lenten services and the three or four Holy Week services, do you feel like you are missing something? Are you looking for an opportunity to meet those needs and be with others? Well, we have some events coming up to help you fill that void.

May 14 at 2pm, you may attend Joy Circle to enjoy a program by Kathy Becker.

May 21 or there about, you may go on a Mystery Trip with Charity Circle.

June 25, mark your calendar to attend the Charity Circle sponsored Church Family Picnic at 6pm at Bressler Park, where the children can enjoy playing. Chicken and potatoes will be provided, but we will need you to sign up at the information desk, so we know how many will be there to buy chicken for. We ask that you provide your own table service and either a salad or dessert to share. In case of bad weather, we will hold it at the church.

August 8–10, join other Nebraska women for a “Saved to Serve” opportunity—a working retreat at the Mosaic Facility in Beatrice. There will be more about this in a future article.

September 26–28, is the Nebraska Women of the ELCA Biennial Convention and Gathering at Carol Joy Holling Conference and Retreat Center. Consider attending or being a delegate for Our Savior Women of the ELCA. More to follow on this, also.

A message from our Nebraska Women of the ELCA President, Elysia McGill: “As I have been traveling around, I have felt the Holy Spirit continually nudging me to talk and share about relationships and what that means to each of us right now. Women of the ELCA is all about relationships my sisters! Relationships with each other, with God, making new friends, renewing old friendships, and just being together! How can each of us help foster those relationships? Maybe it’s a card in the mail or a quick text or phone call. Perhaps it’s doing something out of your comfort zone to meet new friends or maybe it’s saying yes to a new opportunity that God has placed in your path. And remember that it’s up to each one of us to keep our organization going. However it looks for you, I beg you to keep working on those relationships and remember to give each other and yourself grace.”

Keep a song in your heart, a smile on your face and a skip in your step,

Blessings,
Dorothy Wert,
WELCA President





PASTORAL ACTS

† **Zachery Gemelke** and **Tory McCreary** were united in marriage on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at Elk Point SD.

WORSHIP SERVICES— at Wayne Countryview & Kinship



Worship with Communion is offered on the first Tuesday of the month—**May 6**.

- Wayne Countryview at 2pm
- Kinship at 3:30pm.

Worship is also offered the third Tuesday of the month at Kinship at **3:30pm—Tuesday, May 20**

Please note: *with recent changes at the Laurel Care Center, and several of her congregation members moving from Laurel to Wayne, Pr. Deb Hammer requested the opportunity to begin leading this monthly worship service.*

WACAM Worship Services

- **May 5–9**—Radio Devotions
- **May 21**—Devotions at Kinship
- **May 25**—Worship at Countryview



IN OUR PRAYERS

We remember in prayer those who were hospitalized in the last month: Rodney Bauermeister, Sharon Junck



“YOU VISITED ME...”

The Visitation Ministry Group meets to sign and send cards to church members and to share a visit with friends. Please come and be a part of our Visitation Ministry Group. The group will meet on **Wednesday, May 21, at 1pm**.

If you know of someone that would appreciate a visit or call, or for more information about this wonderful ministry, please contact Sandy Lutt at 402.369.0937 or Rhonda Blecke at 402.833.1313.

OWL'S BIBLE STUDY



The OWL's Bible Study will be starting a study on the book of Isaiah in May. The study guide we follow consists of 6 chapter sessions taking us through the month of July. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 10am and plan on meeting during the summer.

Consider joining our group and learn along with the rest of us! We encourage adults of any age to participate. Don't worry about having time to do homework – there isn't any! If you're wondering if this Bible study is right for you, just come and see. We'd love to have you join us.

KINSHIP BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study at Kinship meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at 3:30pm. This study led by Sharon Garvin uses Lectionary Bible readings and a resource from the ELCA entitled, *Daily Discipleship*. Join them on **Thursdays, May 8 & 22**. Everyone is welcome.



SLEEPING MAT MINISTRY

Sleeping mats are made from plastic shopping bags. This is a great way to recycle all those plastic grocery bags! (A basket is available in the narthex to collect CLEAN bags.) There are several steps to preparing the bags before the mats can be crocheted...so **there are opportunities for all to participate!** Join us on **Thursday, May 1, and Monday, May 19, from 9–11am**.

Consider being a part of this wonderful ministry; both the VA in Omaha and Orphan Grain Train look forward to receiving the mats!

QUILT MINISTRY GROUP

Our Savior's Quilt Ministry Group welcomes anyone who would like to help “tie” quilts. You don't need to know how to sew or quilt; simply “tie” a knot!

Consider joining the Quilt Ministry Group as they tie quilts to be given to Lutheran World Relief and other organizations that need them. The group will meet on **Tuesday, May 27, at 9am**. Everyone is welcome!





- 1 Sharon Gustafson, Logan Peters
- 2 Marvin Rutenbeck, Janet Sievers,
- 4 Rod Hefti, Corey Rogers
- 5 Todd Baier, Kandy Frerichs, Aaron Scheffler
- 8 Judy Koenig, Sue Larsen
- 9 Jase Dean, Cheryl Roberts
- 11 Myla Foote
- 13 Jackson Calhoun, Tyler Johnson,
Alice Koenig, Chris Rutenbeck
- 14 Kim Dunklau, Caysen Gamble,
Sandra Henschke
- 16 Eric Frye
- 17 Tom Hansen, Lila Kay, Bob Nissen,
Byron Wacker
- 18 Serenity Victor
- 19 Victor Kniesche, Cynthia Puntney
- 20 Bill Koeber
- 21 Gracelynn Daniels, Maxine Meier, Pete Reeg,
Mollie White
- 23 Alan Bruflat, Amy Mundil, Myrna Wacker-Tuttle
- 24 Stan Stenwall
- 25 Gene Hansen
- 27 Brenda Test
- 28 Rhonda Lutt, Elizabeth Milligan
- 29 Kennasyn Blecke, Rachel Brudigam
- 30 Kate Hill, Kelvin Puntney, Lawrence Sprouls
- 31 Rick Ellenbecker, Kathy Mohlfeld, Marie Mohr



& ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Bob & DeAnn Behlers (42)
- 6 Jon & Sherry Haase (58)
- 7 Jim & Julie Hansen (42)
- 8 Tyler & Sue Frevert (32)
- Robert & Mary Woehler (54)
- 19 Brent & Karla Pick (25)
- 21 Doug & Jill Brodersen (37)
- 25 Mike & Becky Brudigam (29)
- Larry & Kim Lueders (7)
- 26 Randy & Cynthia Bargholz (46)
- 27 Mark & Nancy Wacker (36)
- 30 Don & Shelley Preston (38)



If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please accept our apology and let the church office know.



GRADUATION OPEN HOUSE

Norah Armstrong would like to invite the OSLC family to an open house to celebrate her graduation.

Where: *The Front Porch*

When: *Saturday, May 17 from 3-6:30 PM*

Thank you for your support and guidance through the years!



RHUBARB FOR PIES-4-YOU

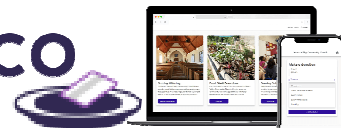
If you (or your neighbor!) have rhubarb ready and would like to donate it to the annual Pies-4-You fundraiser, ***please chop it up into small pieces (ready for a pie) and put into freezer bags.*** It can be put in the church freezers (*storage area at back of social room, north freezer*). If you have questions, please contact the church office.

DOLLAR DOOR OFFERING —OSCL MISSION TEAM

Each month our Dollar Door Offering (offering plate in center of the Narthex) goes to support the efforts of a different ministry. The **May Dollar Door Offering** will go to support Our Savior's **Mission Team**.

Together our dollars can help them help others!

VANCO
FAITH



You can give electronically to OSLC—just download the Vanco Mobile app OR go to our website at <https://osclwayne.org/give/>

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

| | As of April 15, 2025 | Year-to-Date |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning balance | \$49,935.40 | \$50,000.00 |
| Add: Income | 29,638.14 | 131,477.81 |
| Less: Expenses | -27,774.21 | -129,678.48 |
| Ending balance, 4/15/2025 | \$51,799.33 | \$51,799.33 |

If you have any questions about this report or other church finance matters, please contact Tom Hansen (402-518-0640) or Kim Dunklau(402-369-1696).

COUNCIL CORNER

—Monday, April 14, 2025 Meeting

- A number of people have expressed a desire to become members of our congregation; new members will be received in the near future.
- High School seniors will be recognized during worship on Sunday, May 4. Scholarship winners will be announced and a reception to honor the graduates will follow the service.
- The last day of Sunday School will be Sunday, May 11. Muffins with Mom will also be held on Sunday, May 11.
- Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, July 28–Thursday, July 31. This year's theme is True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World.
- Senior Ministry delivered Easter goodie bags to members in Assisted Living, Nursing Homes, and members who are homebound.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be **Monday, May 12, 2025.**

YOU'RE INVITED... TO COFFEE with Council



Coffee with Council is an opportunity to meet with members of the church council for coffee, refreshments and discussion. Join them prior to worship, 9am, **Sunday morning, May 11**, in the church narthex. *Council members will be available to visit during Muffins with Mom!*

CALENDAR ITEMS

Reminder...please contact the church office regarding any meetings or gatherings scheduled; especially those held after office hours, so that they can be added to the master calendar. If no evening activities are listed, the church building is locked at approx. 5pm.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

For the Weekend Bulletin: by 11am each Thursday.

For the Monthly Newsletter: 20th of the month.

RESOURCES

- Wayne County Family Coalition (402-375-2200)
- Wayne Food Pantry & Backpack Program (402-375-2669 – fpcwayne.org/food-pantry) In order to use the Wayne Food Pantry, please call or email in advance if you need assistance. All inquiries are confidential.
- Wayne Food Truck – Saturday, May 17, at Journey Christian Church



This newsletter is published monthly as an update on the life and activities of

Our Savior Lutheran Church

421 N Pearl Street
(located at the corner of 5th & Main Street)
Wayne, Nebraska 68787
402/375-2899

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Office E-Mail:

oslc@oslcwayne.org
pastorchad@oslcwayne.org
cwebber2323@gmail.com
kris@oslcwayne.org

Website:

www.oslcwayne.org

Weekly Worship Opportunities:

Saturday Evening: 5:30pm

Sunday Morning: 10am

(streamed live and posted to our Facebook page:
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Wayne NE (ELCA)
and broadcast live on AM 1590 and FM 98.9)

Sunday School: (N–5th)

Sundays—10am; Fall/Winter/Spring

Confirmation: (6th–8th)

Wednesdays—6pm; Fall/Winter/Spring

- Staff -

Rev. Chad Rademacher
Pastor

Connie Webber
Director of Music

Bridget Vaith
Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministry

Virginia Kniesche
Coordinator of Children's Ministry

Kris Robinson
Administrative Assistant

- Church Council -

Kelly Grone *President*

Larry Lueders *Vice President*

Kim Dunklau *Treasurer*

Mary Mohl *Secretary*

Marion Arneson **Ron Carnes**

Paula Gemelke **Tim Hansen**

Amber Labenz **Chris McGuire**

Our Savior Lutheran Church

5th & Main Street | Wayne, Nebraska 68787
402/375-2899

O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire,
creation's mighty Lord,
redeemer of the fallen world,
by holy love outpoured,
by holy love outpoured:



(ELW Hymn #604)

MAY 2025











Our Savior Lutheran Church
421 N. Pearl Street
Wayne NE 68787

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wayne NE
Permit # 7

Giving Thanks For:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

May 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|---------------------------------|--|
| | | | | 1 9:00am Sleeping Mat Ministry 6:00pm Women Who Love to Talk-and Eat | 2 | 3 5:30pm Worship |
| 4  9:00am Fellowship Hour 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00 Graduate Reception 1:00pm Tanzania Presentation | 5 Radio Devotions 10:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Property Team Meeting 5:45pm Executive Committee | 6 Radio Devotions 10:00am Cluster Text Study 10:00am WELCA Executive Board  2:00pm Communion @ Wayne Countryview 3:30pm Communion @ Kinship Pointe | 7 Radio Devotions 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm HS Youth Group | 8 Radio Devotions 3:30pm Bible Study @ Kinship | 9 Radio Devotions | 10 5:30pm Worship |
| 11  9:00am Coffee with Council 9:00am Muffins with Mom 10:00am Last day of Sunday School 10:00am Worship | 12 Foundation Grant Deadline 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Christian Ed Meeting 6:30pm Fellowship Team Mtg 7:00pm Church Council | 13 10:00am Cluster Text Study | 14 10:30am WACAM 2:00pm Joy Circle 7:00pm HS Youth Group | 15 | 16 | 17  9:30am Wayne Food Truck @ Journey Christian Church 5:30pm Worship |
| 18 9:00am Fellowship Hour 10:00am Worship | 19 9:00am Sleeping Mat Ministry 10:30am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Worship & Music Ministry Team 7:00pm Foundation Board Meeting | 20  10:00am Cluster Text Study | 21  1:00pm Visitation Ministry Group 3:30pm Devotions @ Kinship | 22 3:30pm Bible Study @ Kinship | 23 | 24 5:30pm Worship |
| 25 9:00am Fellowship Hour 10:00am Worship 1:30pm Worship @ Countryview | 26  —Office Closed— | 27  9:00am Quilt Ministry Group 10:00am Cluster Text Study | 28 | 29 | 30 Synod Assembly at Kearney | 31 Synod Assembly at Kearney 5:30pm Worship |

You are invited
to attend a Presentation
on the
2025 Nebraska Synod Vision Trip
to Tanzania

Presented by Pr. Deb Hammer



The Nebraska Synod has been partners with the Northern Diocese for 25 years and will be celebrated at the Synod Assembly this year. The partnership began back in 1999 with a pastor exchange between Pastor Martin Russell from Our Savior in Wayne, Nebraska, and Pastor KIWELU at Kotela Parish in Morogoro, Tanzania.

Please join Pr. Deb Hammer as she shares some history of the partnership with the Northern Diocese and the joys of her journey traveling to visit our companions. Pr. Deb will share updates on what is happening at Kotela Parish today.

Sunday, April 6, 2025 | 1pm
First Lutheran Church, Allen

Sunday, May 4, 2025 | 1pm
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Wayne

60th WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

Bill & Valerie Koeber

JUNE
SUNDAY 8 2-4pm
2025

Special presentation at 3pm

Our Savior Lutheran Church
5th & Main St | Wayne NE 68787

No gifts, please.

TRUE NORTH
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
2025**

Location: **Our Savior Lutheran Church**

Save these dates: **Mon., July 28–Thurs., July 31**

Each day's fun happens from: **5:30–8pm**
*a light meal will be provided.


Includes children: **PreK–5th Grade (ages 4-12)**

Looking for mountains of fun?
You "otter" be here!

NEW FRIENDS | AMAZING EXPERIMENTS | ADVENTURES
GAMES | SNACKS | MUSIC

Register @
tinyurl.com/TrueNorth2025

or



SCAN ME

PRAYER *Time*

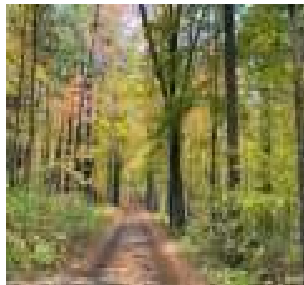
Praying With Images

Praying with images is an invitation to use visual elements to help us pray. The images give us access to feelings that can lead us to prayer. They serve as a focal point helping to ground our thoughts during prayer and reduce distraction. The images evoke emotions allowing a more personal connection with God so that He is able to speak directly into our hearts. Praying with images can lead to feelings of peace, comfort, and a deeper understanding of our faith.

Using one of the pictures below, or choosing one of your own photographs; sit quietly for several minutes viewing the photo. When you are ready, answer the following questions:

1. What image in the photograph are you drawn to?
2. What is it about that image that grabs your attention?
3. Do you have a sense as to why you are drawn to that image?
4. What memories emerge from viewing the image?
5. Do you sense any strong feelings or emotions?
6. How does your life relate to the image?
7. What invitation are you receiving from the image?
8. What would God like to tell you about your life in that image?

Now finish with prayer, telling God all that has been revealed to you and thanking Him for sharing this time with you.



What is Spiritual Direction?

Spiritual direction is a process in which a certified spiritual director accompanies a person on a spiritual journey helping him/her to grow closer to God. Spiritual direction is really not about being *directed*. It's more about being listened to. It's a private one on one conversation. The spiritual director listens to the person but also listens for questions that need to be asked. Those questions come from the Holy Spirit, the real spiritual director in the conversation.

What is a certified director? A spiritual director has successfully completed a 2 or 3 year intense study and supervised practice, similar to a master's program, in spiritual direction. The Nebraska Synod supports Seeking the Spirit Within, an institute of spiritual direction. There are other institutes across the country, many with on-line programs. The study of spiritual direction involves more than learning listening techniques and spiritual practices. The student deepens his/her relationship with God and comes to know his/her true self. He/she learns to guide others in their spiritual formation, a process of growing closer to God and becoming more like Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. He/she learns to listen with compassion and acceptance and to listen without judgement.

When you choose to enter into spiritual direction with a director, you are invited to reflect on the experiences of your daily life. As you reflect and talk about your experiences, you may begin to recognize God's presence and grace in your life. You may see God's guiding hand as you look back on your life. You may come to realize how God is truly with you every day and everywhere. You discover that God has been waiting for you to seek a closer relationship.

You might meet with a spiritual director for a variety of reasons, including:

- To identify experiences where God has been present in your life
- To discern and make difficult decisions
- To share your hopes, joys, struggles, or losses
- To discover more ways to grow closer to God
- To talk openly about your faith
- To discern where God is leading you
- To have a spiritual partner or guide through your life

What happens in a meeting with a spiritual director? You and the spiritual director agree on the time and location of the meeting. Meetings usually occur once a month for about an hour. The private meeting is a safe place to talk about anything. Whatever is shared in the meeting is held in confidence. The spiritual director usually asks if there is anything in particular that you want to talk about. If not, he/she may ask what's been going on in your life or ask where God has been leading you. As the conversation continues, the spiritual director primarily listens but will ask questions when prompted by something you say or by a nudge from the

Holy Spirit. The director may recommend a book for you to read or suggest a spiritual practice he/she may think will be helpful for you. The meeting will end with prayer.

The spiritual director does not 'direct' in the sense of giving advice or solving problems. Rather, the director helps you listen for God's voice and respond to His invitation. Between meetings, your spiritual director will pray for you. He/she will meet with his/her spiritual director to work on his/her relationship with God. That conversation will not be about you, it is about the director's life experiences.

How do you find a spiritual director that is right for you? The Nebraska Synod website has a page called Seeking the Spirit Within. You can access this page simply by going to seekingthespiritwithin.org. On that page is a list of spiritual directors within our synod. You can also visit the website sdccompanions.org. This is from Spiritual Directors International. It will be a list of spiritual directors from all over the United States as well as from other countries. Please feel free to ask Pastor Chad or myself, Mary Mohl, for help in finding a spiritual director.

Every person is on their own spiritual journey. No one is at exactly the same place in their journey as someone else. There is no time limit for your journey. It is a life-long experience. You may be in spiritual direction with the same spiritual director for many years. Spiritual direction will help you discover your true self, find meaning in your life, and grow closer to God and to each other. Is spiritual direction right for you? It can't hurt to give it a try! If you have any questions about spiritual direction or spiritual practices please don't hesitate to call or email me. Mary Mohl: 402-841-1009; m.dmohl@abbnebraska.com.



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCES

" As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards." 1 Peter 4:10

The Our Savior Lutheran Church Foundation Board is encouraging members of Our Savior to support the work of the Foundation by making a Memorial Day Remembrance gift to honor someone special or as a memorial to a deceased loved one.

The Foundation Board is responsible for prudently managing Foundation funds and assets. Monetary contributions to the Foundation are safely invested and only the income from the funds is spent, not the principal itself. The only way to help the amount available to be used is to have donations for the Foundation fund.

The generosity of many makes it possible for the Foundation to support several worthwhile projects that enhance the lives of many in our congregation and elsewhere. In 2024, the Foundation supported the following projects/requests:

- Wayne Teammates
- Our Savior Lutheran Church Christmas decorations
- Deb Hammer Tanzania trip
- Rainbow World after-school program and summer camp
- Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries
- Lutheran Family Services
- Our Savior Lutheran Church Property Committee

The generous gift you give to the Foundation as a Memorial Day Remembrance will continue to grow and provide financial assistance that will support many worthy needs like those mentioned above. Donors will be recognized in the church bulletin on Memorial Day weekend; anonymous donations are also welcome. Please complete the attached form and place it in the offering with your gift by Sunday, May 18, 2025 or return to the church office by Thursday, May 22, 2025.

Your support of the Foundation is greatly appreciated and we thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if we can be of any service in any way.

Sincerely,

Our Savior Lutheran Church Foundation Board

Teri Koenig

Darrell Miller

Karla Pick

Kelvin Puntney

Karma Magnuson



A GIFT THAT LIVES

Detach here and return to the church office:

OUR SAVIOR FOUNDATION MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

Your Name: _____ Amount: _____

Honoree (living): _____

In Memory of: _____

☐ I wish this gift to be anonymous.