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

Adopted 11/1998



August 2026 | Volume 31, Issue 8

MONTHLY Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF **OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

From Our Pastor...

BROKEN OPEN

What Does It Mean to Be a Steward?

Here's something you'll be hearing a lot about starting in September: we're stepping into a season of stewardship we're calling Broken Open. You'll see it in the bulletin, hear it from the pulpit, find it in your inbox. But before all of that lands, we wanted to just sit down and talk with you for a minute, because stewardship was never really about a program. It's about a question: What does it actually mean to be a steward?

Let's start with what it's not. It's not primarily about budgets, even though budgets matter. It's not primarily about pledge cards, even though those matter too. Stewardship starts somewhere else — with the simple, staggering truth that we are each beloved, baptized children of God. Everything else we could say about it grows out of that one fact.

So, what does being a steward look like, practically? It means recognizing that everything in our hands — our time, our talents, our treasure, and also our passions, our questions, our dreams, our stories — was given to us. None of it started with us. It was entrusted to us.

That's worth sitting with this August: How do we actually see what God has provided for us, and keeps providing? It's easy to walk through a day, a week, a whole life, and miss it. Abundance hides in plain sight — in a meal shared, a friendship, a paycheck, an ordinary Sunday, a stranger's kindness. Learning to see it again is half the work.

Jesus said it plainly: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). That's not a guilt trip about money. It's just an honest observation — wherever we send our resources, our attention and affection tend to follow. If you want to know what you actually love, you don't have to guess. Look at your calendar. Look at your bank statement. They'll tell you.

Go back further, to Genesis, and you find a second way into this question. In the creation story, we're placed in the garden not as owners but as caretakers — entrusted to tend and keep what God made. That calling never expired. To be a steward is to care for our neighbors, and "neighbor" has never been a small word in Scripture. It's the person next to us in the pew, the stranger down the street, and the rivers, soil, and creatures who share this world with us and depend on our care just as much as we depend on theirs.

So, here's what we're asking as we head toward September: be curious with us instead of defensive. Ask honest questions instead of assuming you already know the answers. And if you haven't already, start praying — really praying — asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us as we move into this fall and beyond. We're not just planning a campaign. We're asking what God is up to among us, and where God wants to take us next.

Because here's the thing: this work isn't only for us. It's for creation today, and it's for the church that will come after we're gone. We're all part of a priesthood of all believers here — every one of us, called and equipped to serve God's kingdom, not just the pastor, not just the staff, not just the stewardship team. All of us.

Watch for more in the coming weeks about Kick-Off Sunday on September 12/13. For now, we simply invite you to pray, to pay attention to what God has given you, to notice where your heart already lives, and to listen for where the Spirit might be leading us together.

With Gratitude,
Pastor Chad



GROWING IN GRACE:

Children, Youth, & Family Ministries at Our Savior

In this section we will be sharing what's happening in the life of our youngest disciples and their families. From Sunday School milestones to Confirmation, service projects, and family events, you'll find updates, stories, and opportunities to grow together in faith.

Summer always seems to fly by, doesn't it? As August arrives, we're filled with gratitude for an incredible season of ministry and excitement for all that is just around the corner.

What a joy it was to welcome so many children to What a Mess! VBS! Throughout the week, our kids laughed, learned, created, and yes—even got a little messy! More importantly, they discovered that God's love meets us in every part of life, even the messy moments. A heartfelt thank you goes out to every volunteer, donor, kitchen helper, decorator, crew leader, and behind-the-scenes supporter who helped make the week possible. VBS truly is a church-wide ministry, and because of your generosity, our children experienced the love of Jesus in unforgettable ways.

As one summer ministry comes to a close, another opportunity to serve our community continues through Blessing Branches. This month, we're collecting school supplies to support students and teachers in the Wayne Community Schools. As backpacks are filled and classrooms prepare to welcome students, we have the opportunity to help ensure every child begins the school year with the tools they need to learn and succeed. Thank you for your continued generosity and for helping us love our neighbors in such practical ways.
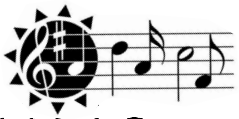
Behind the scenes, we're also busy preparing for another exciting year of Sunday School and Confirmation. Lessons are being planned, classrooms are being organized, volunteers are getting ready, and we are praying for another year of growing together in faith. We can't wait to welcome our children, youth, and families back this fall as we continue learning, serving, asking questions, and discovering God's love together.

As summer gives way to a new school year, may we remember that every season brings new opportunities to grow. Whether you're entering preschool, middle school, high school, college, or simply another chapter of life, God goes before you every step of the way.

"See, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

— Isaiah 43:19

May this new season be filled with curiosity, courage, and the confidence that wherever we go, God is already there, leading the way. We look forward to seeing you this fall as we continue growing in grace together.



Music for August

August 1 & 2	Connie Webber, organist Clarinet Duo, Jay O'Leary and Bill Koeber (Sat & Sun)
August 8 & 9	Connie Webber, organist Caslynn Schmidt, soprano soloist (Sat &Sun)
August 15 & 16	Connie Webber, organist Chaley Parks, soprano soloist (Sat & Sun)
August 22 & 23	Shelly Armstrong, pianist
August 29 & 30	Connie Webber, organist Mitch DeBoer, tenor soloist (Sat &Sun)

Welcome Pr. Katie Gallagher

Join us Sunday, August 2, as we welcome Pastor Katie Gallagher, Nebraska Synod's Director for Congregational Transformation, to our congregation. Pastor Katie lives in Ponca and brings 23+ years of ministry experience from congregations in Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, and Illinois. She's visiting to build relationships and talk with us about the changing landscape facing rural communities, and how the Synod can support the work we're already doing here, across the state, and beyond. Come meet her and be part of the conversation!



Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help support our Confirmation Ministry for the upcoming school year. Opportunities include assisting with teaching our 6th and 7th grade students or serving as a mentor for one of our 8th graders through our Mentor program.

If you feel called to share your faith and encourage our youth, please call or text Amy Bloomquist at 402-640-8005, or let Kris know in the church office. We would love to visit with you about these rewarding opportunities and share more specific information with you. Thank you for helping nurture the faith of the youth at OSLC.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Help Us Reach 100 School Kits & 50 Personal Care Kits!

Our Savior's **Charity Circle will be assembling Personal Care and Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief in October,** in time to ship them out the first week of November — and we're challenging the whole congregation to help us reach **100 School Kits** and **50 Personal Care Kits**. ***That's a big goal, but let's see what we can do together!***

A donation center will be in the narthex, and we'll track our progress toward the goal. Now's a great time to catch these items on back-to-school sales!

Please see the flyer on the back of the calendar for a list of the items needed. For more information about LWR Kits go to: www.https://lwr.org/kits



Back-to-School

As summer winds down and a new school year begins, we're excited to welcome students back to campus and to our community!

Our Savior will host a **Back-to-School / Fall Kick-Off BBQ** on **Wednesday, August 26**, beginning at **6pm** at the church.

New WSC freshmen, returning students, and Our Savior youth (grades 7–12) are invited to join us for an evening of food and fellowship — as we get to know one another and start the year with a warm welcome.

Our whole congregation is invited too, as we extend hospitality to students of all ages. It's a great chance to show support, share conversation, and build connections across generations.

Come hungry, and bring a smile, as we kick off the new school year together!

Mark Your Calendars... for the Annual Golf Outing

The OSLC 2026 Annual Golf Outing at the Wayne Country Club has been tentatively scheduled for **Sunday, September 13, at 4pm!** Format is **Scramble**–4 person teams (come as a team or one will be made for you).

A meal will follow at approximately **6:30pm**.

Sign-up information will be coming soon!

Thank You's...

Wayne Food Pantry—Thank you so much for your generous donations of $300 dated June 31, 2026, to the Wayne Food Pantry. Your donation helps to enable us to provide nutrition to individuals and families in need in Wayne County, Nebraska.

Suzanne Sjuts,
Wayne Food Pantry Coordinator

Reagan McGuire—Thank you for providing the Gordon M. & Helga V. Nedergaard scholarship to seniors at our church. This money will help a ton as I start this school year at USD.

Thank you so much for providing a scholarship to seniors at our church. I am very grateful for all the opportunities to learn about my faith and serve different communities. This money will be a huge help as I start my next chapter at USD

Thank you received for donation made—

- **Haven House:** $80

The **OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM** thanks all of those who took the time and effort to walk with us in the **Chicken Days Parade** handing out info cards and candy. Thank you to Roger Lentz who provided the pickup and drove for us, to Chris and Carol McGuire for housing the float during the year and delivering and picking it up from the church lot, to Dave and Sue Olson for the pew, to Dan and Tanya Heikes who allowed us to store the float in their building after it was decorated, to Kris Robinson for all the help during the process, and to anyone else who helped in any way. Having a float in the parade would not be possible without all of your help.



The **SENIOR MINISTRY TEAM** would like to thank Dave & Lou for delivering **16** sleeping mats to the VA Hospital in Omaha. We also thank all those who participate in the **SLEEPING MAT MINISTRY** who fold bags, cut bags, tie strips, and crochet or weave the mats. There really is something for everyone to do!



Women of the ELCA

CIRCLE & MINISTRY GROUP MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

- No meeting in August

JOY CIRCLE

No meeting in August

CHARITY CIRCLE

- Wednesday, August 26, time TBD
  Program: WSC/OSLC Youth Back To School BBQ/Fall Kick-Off Event

VISITATION MINISTRY GROUP

- Wednesday, August 19, 1pm

QUILT MINISTRY GROUP

- Mondays, August 10 & 24, 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

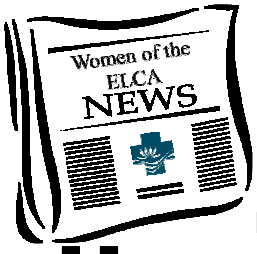
ALTAR GUILD



Altar Guild workers for August: Paula Gemelke, Peggy Hank, Melia Hefti, Debbie Bargholz, Rhonda Blecke, Jim & Julie Hansen, Janet Sievers, Madge Bruflat, Julie Grone, Myrna Wacker-Tuttle, Dorothy Wert, Mary Hansen, Teri Koenig, Karen Zach, Lynette Lentz, Cynthia Miller, Trisha Peters, Martina Swanson.

Bread Bakers for August: Teri Koenig, Corliss Krusemark, Lynette Lentz, Kim Lueders, Karma Magnuson.

Please check the worship assistant schedule for the date.



GREETINGS!

Dear, Ladies!

Here we are on the downhill side of 2026, but never fear, we have some exciting things coming up to put our faith into action. "Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another, to show love". Hebrews 10:24 TEV

We can start in September at Joy Circle, where we will be making greeting cards for our home-bound and care-center members. There is always prayer, conversation and laughter while we work together and, of course, some dessert.

Charity Circle will be gathering items for school kits and personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. These will be put together in October, the date to be announced later. You will be hearing and seeing more on this project soon.

Also in October, we will have Pink Flamingo Nite to attend. There are always interesting booths to check out, good food to eat, great speakers and other fun happenings. Be sure to wear pink!

Then on Saturday, October 10, we can attend "Autumn Renewal" in Grand Island. Registration is $20, and our Synod Bishop, Scott Johnson, will be there. The program sounds very interesting: "Excess Baggage: Riding the Orphan Train," with a theme of "God Doesn't Make Junk." Put this date on your calendar, as I don't think you will want to miss it. Good day to spend with other Christian women!

Our NSWO President, Deb Miller, reported on all of the 2026 Spring Gatherings she was able to attend. She said at the Northeast Gathering, she enjoyed seeing the intergenerational participation of one family, including a baby. She says it is never too early to get our daughters involved in WELCA. She also said she truly enjoyed attending the gatherings across Nebraska, and her favorite part of these gatherings was the connections she found with other women and being introduced to new Sisters in Christ.

Let's get Deb's fever to meet up with our "Sisters in Christ" and participate in these upcoming events. All women are invited to attend. Hope you catch the fever!

Dorothy Wert
WELCA President

All women of the congregation are always welcome and invited to participate.

Pastoral Acts

- A funeral service was held Saturday, July 11, for ***Glenda Henderson.*** Glenda died Monday, June 29, 2026
- ***Ronnie Johanna Harpham***, daughter of Keaton & Jewel Harpham, was baptized on Sunday, July 19, 2026. Ronnie was born May 16, 2026. Her sponsors are Brandon & Arielle Kneifl and Holly & Andy Stewart.

With Sympathy



- Our sympathy is extended to the family of ***Denise Broders****;* private services are planned. Denise passed away, Saturday, July 25, 2026.

Worship Services—
at Wayne Countryview & Kinship

Worship with Communion is offered on the first Tuesday of the month—**Tuesday, August 4.**

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

WACAM Worship Services

- **August 6**—Word in Faith Column
- **August 12**—Worship at Kinship, 3:30pm
- **August 30**—Worship at Countryview, 1:30pm

In Our Prayers

We remember in prayer those who were hospitalized in the last month: Chele Meisenbach, Alan Bruflat

"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, August 19, 2026.**

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.

Women Who Love to Talk & Eat

This group of women has been meeting faithfully for over twenty-five years! Join them on the first Thursday of the month for supper and good conversation! The group is now meeting at Runza! **Join them this month on Thursday, August 6, at 6pm.**

OWL's Bible Study



The OWL's Bible Study is studying the book of Acts, using the *Together in Faith Series* from Augsburg Fortress. Consider joining our group and learn along with the rest of us! We encourage adults of any age to participate.

This study led by Mary Mohl meets on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 10am** in the multi-purpose room. **Join them on Wednesdays, August 5 & 19.** Everyone is welcome.

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, August 13 & 27.** Everyone is welcome.

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 **Mondays, August 10 & 24, at 9am.** 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, August 6, and Monday, August 17, from 9–11am.**



August BIRTHDAYS

1 Jennifer Greve
3 Dave Olson
5 Sheryl Doring, Leslie Johnson
6 David Bowder
7 Matt Becker
8 Byron Heier, Amelia Legler
9 Peg Schaffer
11 Grant Onderstal
12 Steve Dinsmore, Ken Jorgensen
13 Lynda Belt
14 Gabriel Armstrong
15 DeAnn Behlers, Mason Nelson, Luke Peters
16 Carroll Baier, Jeremy Bauermeister, Sally Kneifl, Karma Magnuson, Dylan Sokol
17 Shelley Jorgensen, Valerie Koeber, Eileen Lutt
18 Kim Becker, Cooper Calhoun, Jaydyn Jorgensen, Kelly Legler
20 Natalie Bentjen
22 Zach Gemelke, Kinnley McGuire, Chele Meisenbach
23 Debbie Bargholz, Marsha Roth, Brad Wieland
24 Lynette Lentz
25 Randy Bargholz, Melia Hefti, Pr. Chad Rademacher
26 Layton Becker, Andrea Blecke, Julie Grone, Janice Johnson, Mike Sievers
27 Sharon Garvin, Joyce Sievers
29 Hadley Dunklau, Steve White
30 Daryl Mundil
31 Megan Sokol

& ANNIVERSARIES

2 Stan & Barb Stenwall (52)
3 Kelly & Candace Petersen (24)
6 Matt & Kim Becker (15)
7 Joel & Shelley Jorgensen (33)
8 Pr. Chad & Sara Rademacher (28)
9 Alan & Madge Bruflat (46)
11 Mike & Lori Dickes (47)
Jerry & Kris Robinson (36)
14 Mike & Peggy Hank (50)
15 John & Amy Miller (17)
16 David & Eileen Lutt (62)
17 Don & Judy Koenig (63)
19 Dan & Tanya Heikes (37)
21 Matthew & Shelley Armstrong (27)
26 Dennis & Deb Jensen (53)
31 Steve & Paula Gemelke (35)



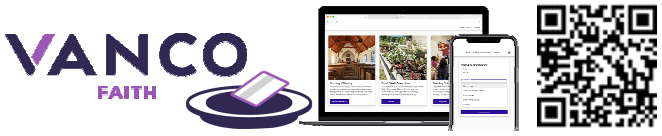
If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please accept our apology and let the church office know.

2026 Radio Broadcasts



Consider sponsoring a radio broadcast in 2026. We continue to offer the option of having a co-sponsor for the weekend broadcast. If you would prefer to be the only sponsor for the weekend; the cost is $75. If you would like to share the broadcast with another sponsor; the cost would be $40 for each sponsor. Please contact the church office (kris@oslcwayne.org or 402-375-2899) for more information or to reserve a date. **Note: The remaining available dates for 2026 are August 30, September 13, October 18 and November 8 & 22.**

Continued thanks to all who support this ministry of the church!



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

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

	As of July 15, 2026	Year-to-Date
Beginning balance, 6/15/2026	$16,974.21	$50,047.26
Add: Income	33,717.15	240,818.84
Less: Expenses	-34,344.73	-274,519.47
Ending balance, 7/15/2026	$16,346.63	$16,346.63

If you have any questions about this report or other church finance matters, please contact Larry Lueders (402-369-1185).



OF THE FOUNDATION

The third-quarter meeting of the Foundation Board of Our Savior Lutheran Church will be held **Monday, August 17**, at 7pm. All grant applications need to be turned in by **Monday, August 10** to be considered. **Applications are available in the church office.**

Journey to Pittsburgh 2026
Faith in Action. Love in Motion.

July 6–12, 10 of our youth and 2 adult leaders were blessed with the opportunity to travel to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for a week-long mission trip. The theme for the trip was Building Bridges and focused on Ephesians 2:19-22. Throughout the week, we discovered that mission work isn't only about the projects we help with - it is about building relationships, listening to stories, stepping outside our comfort zones, and seeing Christ in the people we meet.

Our team served alongside several incredible community partners. We helped create a sensory playground at Glade Run Lutheran Services, cleaned up orchards and green spaces with Pittsburgh Parks & Recreation, and partnered with Trinity Lutheran Church in Latrobe by preparing meals, organizing food pantry donations, completing yard work, and learning about ministries that support individuals experiencing homelessness.

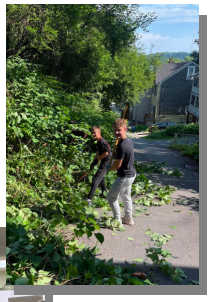
We grew in our faith through worship, daily devotions, a prayer walk above the city and in conversations throughout the week. One especially powerful experience was visiting Beit Kulanu, where we learned more about the Jewish faith, the impact of antisemitism, and heard firsthand testimony from a survivor and witness of the mass shooting in 2018 at the Tree of Life synagogue. It was a moving reminder of the importance of building bridges of understanding, choosing compassion over fear, and standing together as God's people.

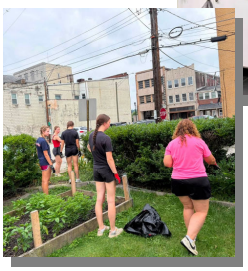
Of course, the week also included moments of joy and laughter - seeing 3 home runs at a Pirates baseball game, cooling off at Idlewild & SoakZone, riding Pittsburgh's historic incline, and exploring campus through a scavenger hunt. These experiences strengthened friendships and reminded us that God is present in both our service and our fun.

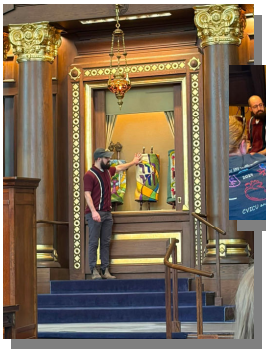
Like any trip, not everything went exactly as planned. Schedules shifted, the weather changed, and on our journey home we experienced a 3-hour delay after our bus blew a tire on the interstate! While these moments tested our patience and flexibility, they also became opportunities to practice grace, support others, and trust that God was with us even through the unexpected. Some of the greatest lessons learned came not from the things we expected, but from how we responded to the unexpected.

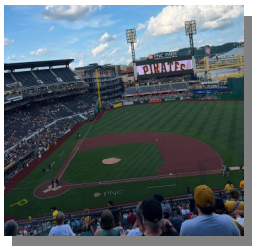
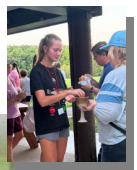
Throughout the week, we watched our students grow in confidence, leadership, compassion, and faith. They worked hard in the summer heat, served with joyful hearts, encouraged others, embraced new experiences and represented OSLC well. We are so proud of the young men and women they are becoming.

This journey would not have been possible without the support of our amazing church family. Thank you to everyone who donated financially, offered words of encouragement, and kept our crew in your prayers throughout the week. As we return home, we pray that the lessons we learned will continue to shape our faith - we are called to continue serving, building bridges, sharing Christ's love, and being the hands and feet of Jesus.

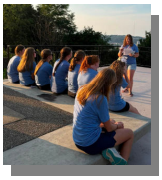













A Week Filled with Faith, Fun, and God's Grace

What a week it was!

Our Savior was overflowing with energy, laughter, music, crafts, games, and yes... plenty of messes as children gathered for **What a Mess! VBS**. While there was no shortage of slime, paint, bubbles, and smiles, the greatest takeaway from the week was the reminder that Jesus loves us through every messy moment of life.

Throughout the week, our VBS families explored four important questions:

- Who made this mess?
- How does Jesus respond to our messes?
- How should we respond to our messes?

What does Jesus do about our messes?

Through stories like Adam and Eve, the Rich Young Ruler, the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, and the Prodigal Son, our children discovered that while sin brings mess into our lives, God's grace is always greater. No matter our mistakes or struggles, Jesus meets us with love, forgiveness, and open arms.

One of our favorite traditions each evening was searching for Tiny Jesus. Hidden somewhere in our gathering space, Tiny Jesus reminded us that even when we can't always see Him, Jesus is always with us. Each night ended with a simple but powerful reminder as the children joyfully shouted together, **"When life gets messy...Jesus is with me!"** It became more than just a fun tradition—it became the message we hope they carry with them long after VBS ended.

Our faith also came alive through service. During **Messes with a Mission**, children and families collected cleaning supplies for Haven House and the Wayne Food Pantry. Every donation was a reminder that following Jesus means loving and serving our neighbors in practical ways. We are grateful for the generosity of our congregation and VBS families, whose gifts will make a meaningful difference for local families.

A week like this would not be possible without an incredible team of volunteers. Thank you to everyone who taught lessons, led music, prepared meals, decorated, welcomed families, organized crafts and games, cleaned up, and served behind the scenes. We are especially grateful to **Kelly Grone, Brenda Lubberstedt, Michaela Lammers, Abby Schuck, Toni Rasmussen, Amber Labenz, Pam Willers, and Becky Archer** for the many hours they dedicated to making this week such a success. Your gifts, creativity, and servant hearts made a lasting impact on our children.

As we put away the decorations and clean up the last bit of glitter and slime, we give thanks to God for the relationships built, the seeds of faith planted, and the joyful memories made together. Thank you to every child, family, volunteer, and member of our congregation who helped make What a Mess! VBS such a blessing.

Because while VBS may be over, the message remains the same:

When life gets messy, Jesus is with you.



PRAYER Time

LAY PREACHERS ARE STRENGTHENING MINISTRY IN SMALL CHURCHES

This article comes from the Nebraska Synod E-News. I became acquainted with Pastor Kris when we both participated in a book study through the Nebraska Synod. I am friends with a couple who attend Kris's church in Davey. When Pastor Kris first talked about retirement, my friend went into Spiritual Direction training and her husband became a PMA. Both my friend and her husband want to see their church continue to grow and carry out their mission. Please take time to read this enlightening article.

When Pastor Kris Bohac arrived in 2011 to serve Bethlehem and Zion Lutheran churches, one of her first impressions was how small the congregations were. She remembers walking in for the first time and thinking about the scale of the place, not with hesitation, but with curiosity.

"I don't really remember the first sermon I preached here," she recalls. "I'm sure I was nervous, but what I do remember is how friendly and welcoming everyone was."

Over the years, the relationships deepened. Pastor Kris grew to know what was happening in the lives of her members, and the congregations supported her through
her own life's moments. Ministry became something they shared, not simply something she provided.

Preparing for Transition With Transparency and Care

Long before she announced her retirement, Pastor Kris began talking openly with the congregations about the future. She knew that small churches often feel blindsided when a pastor leaves, especially now, in an era when pastoral shortages are a reality across the ELCA and beyond.

"I wanted them to have plenty of notice," she said. "We all know small congregations often can't afford a full-time pastor, and I didn't want this transition to be a surprise."

But what began as simple transparency eventually grew into something more—a shared ministry model that is blessing both congregations in unexpected ways.

The Spark: A Simple Bulletin Announcement

The shift started small.

A note in the bulletin read: I'll be gone these days—could anyone help lead worship?

"I thought maybe one or two people would respond," Pastor Kris said. "Instead, a surprising number of people stepped up."

At first it was volunteers. Later, Pastor Kris began intentionally inviting people she saw already showing leadership—people who loved learning, who were curious, who were active in Bible study or congregational life.

These became the first lay preachers.

Growing Leaders From Within

Today, the congregations have a rotating group of lay preachers who gather monthly to study Scripture and plan for upcoming Sundays.

"They meet with me so we can go over the texts and talk about what themes or questions they might explore," she explained. "I make sure they have resources. Writing a sermon is hard, and time can be an issue. But they've all said it's a pretty amazing experience to see where the Spirit leads them."

PRAYER Time (continued)

And the unexpected blessing?
It isn't just the preachers who are growing. The congregations are, too.

More Voices, More Perspectives, More Faith

Having multiple preachers has broadened the congregation's experience of Scripture and faith.

"It's been good for the people who listen," Pastor Kris reflected. "They're getting more perspectives than just mine. They're hearing from people like them—people living out their faith in everyday life, with the same questions and the same struggles."
It's not a replacement for pastoral leadership. It's a deepening of congregational ministry.

Why Small Churches Are Uniquely Prepared for This

In many ways, small congregations are naturally equipped for this kind of model.

"These congregations have always had lay people who step up and do what needs to be done," she said. "They don't assume the pastor has to do everything."

Because of this culture, they were ready—perhaps more ready than they realized—to take on shared leadership in preaching and worship.

A Vision for the Future: Ministry That Belongs to Everyone

As Pastor Kris looks toward retirement, she sees this model not as a temporary solution but as a sign of what the church can be.

"To survive—and not just survive but grow—we need to see ministry as something we all share," she said.

Whatever a congregation's call looks like, she believes one thing is certain:
It cannot rest solely on the pastor.

"The people need to feel like this is their ministry," she said. "Not just their church—the place where they come—but the work we do here together. Sunday mornings, service, care for one another... it belongs to them as much as it ever belonged to me."

Women of the ELCA

CHARITY CIRCLE

SCHOOL & Personal Care Kit Drive



to make **100** School Kits
& **50** Personal Care Kits
WE NEED:

- **400**-70-sheet spiral notebooks
- **100**-30cm rulers
- **100**-pencil sharpeners
- **100**-blunt/safety scissors
- **500**-unsharpened #2 pencils
- **500**-black/blue ballpoint pens
- **100**-box of 16 or 24 crayons
- **100**-2.5" erasers

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



- **50**-light-weight bath-size towels
- **100**-bath-size bar soap
- **50**-adult toothbrush
- **50**-sturdy combs
- **50**-nail clippers

LEARN MORE

Visit their website:
www.https://lwr.org/kits

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 **5:30pm Worship**
2 9:00am Fellowship Hour **10:00am Worship**	3 10:30am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Executive Committee 5:30pm Property Team Meeting	4 10:00am Cluster Text Study  2:00pm Communion @ Wayne Countryview 3:30pm Communion @ Kinship Pointe	5 10:00am OWL's Bible Study	6 9:00am Sleeping Mat Ministry women who love to talk and eat 6:00pm Women Who Love to Talk-and Eat (at Runza)	7	8 **5:30pm Worship**
9  9:00am Coffee with Council **10:00am Worship**	10 Foundation Grant Deadline  9:00am Quilt Ministry Group 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Christian Ed Meeting 6:30pm Fellowship Team Mtg 7:00pm Church Council	11 10:00am Cluster Text Study	12 10:30am WACAM 3:30pm Devotions at Kinship	13 3:30pm Bible Study at Kinship	14	15 **5:30pm Worship**
16 9:00am Fellowship Hour **10:00am Worship**	17 9:00am Sleeping Mat Ministry 10:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Foundation Board Meeting	18 10:00am Cluster Text Study	19 10:00am OWL's Bible Study  1:00pm Visitation Ministry Group 7:00pm Charity Circle	20 Newsletter DEADLine	21	22 Wayne Food Truck 9:30am Wayne Food Truck @ Journey Christian Church **5:30pm Worship**
23 9:00am Fellowship Hour **10:00am Worship**	24  9:00am Quilt Ministry Group 10:30am Staff Meeting	25 10:00am Cluster Text Study	26 6:00pm Back to School / Fall Kick-Off BBQ	27 3:30pm Bible Study at Kinship WSC Downtown Stroll	28	29  3:00pm Schweers/Coon Wedding **5:30pm Worship**
30 9:00am Fellowship Hour **10:00am Worship** 1:30pm Worship @ Countryview	31 10:30am Staff Meeting					

COUNCIL CORNER

- There was no Church Council meeting in July.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be **Monday, August 10, at 7pm.**

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, August 9,** in the church narthex.

CALENDAR ITEMS



Reminder: please let the church office know…

…about <u>ALL meetings or gatherings scheduled</u> at the church **during daytime hours** and **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.*

Dollar Door Offering —LWR Kits & Shipping Fund

Each month our Dollar Door Offering (offering plate in center of the Narthex) goes to support the efforts of a different ministry. The **August Dollar Door Offering** will go to **Lutheran World Relief Kits & Shipping Fund.**

Together our dollars can help them help others!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

RESOURCES

- Wayne County Family Coalition (402-375-2200)
- Wayne Food Pantry & Backpack Program (402-375-2669 – fpcwayne.org/food-pantry) Please call or email in advance if you need assistance. All inquiries are confidential.
- Wayne Food Truck – Saturday, August 22, 2026.

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
amy@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 <u>Lutheran Church, Wayne NE (ELCA)</u> and broadcast live on AM 1590 and FM 98.9)

Sunday School: (N–5th)
Sundays—9am; Fall/Winter/Spring

Confirmation: (6th–8th)
Wednesdays—6pm; Fall/Winter/Spring

- Staff -

Rev. Chad Rademacher
Pastor

Amy White
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Connie Webber
Director of Music

Kris Robinson
Administrative Assistant

- Church Council -

Kelly Grone	*President*
Paula Gemelke	*Vice President*
Larry Lueders	*Treasurer*
Mary Mohl	*Secretary*
Ron Carnes	**Kim Dunklau**
Tim Hansen	**Chad Henderson**
Tanya Heikes	**Amber Labenz**

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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



THE LORD WILL FULFILL HIS PURPOSE FOR ME;
YOUR STEADFAST LOVE, O LORD, ENDURES FOREVER.
DO NOT FORSAKE THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS.

Psalm 138:8

AUGUST 2026

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: