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

Adopted 11/1998



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MONTHLY Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF **OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

From Our Pastor...

Broken Open: Why We Do Stewardship at All

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

Every fall, many churches have a "stewardship season." For some of us, the word brings to mind pledge cards, budgets, and a sermon or two about money. It's fair to ask: Why do we do this? And what does it really mean for a congregation like ours?

It Starts With a Gift

Stewardship doesn't begin with what we give. It begins with what we've been given. Before we ever put a dollar in the offering plate, God has already given us life, breath, family, community, faith, and the forgiveness and new life we have in Jesus. As Lutherans, we hold on to this truth: we don't give to earn God's love. We give because we already have it.

That's why stewardship is really about gratitude. It's the natural response of people who have noticed how much they've received.

We Are Caretakers, Not Owners

One of the themes we've explored this fall is that we are tenants, not owners. Our homes, our land, our paychecks, our talents, even our time — all of it is on loan from God. A steward is someone who manages what belongs to someone else. So, the question of stewardship isn't "How much of my stuff should I give to God?" It's "How do I use all of God's gifts, including the ones in my hands right now, in ways that honor the Giver?"

That changes things. Stewardship becomes a whole-life question, not a once-a-year one.

Why "Broken Open"?

Something broken open isn't destroyed; it's made ready for something new. Bread is broken open so it can be shared. Seeds break open so they can grow. Hearts break open so they can love more deeply.

Our congregation is in a season of asking what God is doing among us and where the Spirit might be leading us next. Being "broken open" means being willing to loosen our grip, let go of "the way we've always done it," and trust that God is still doing new things at Our Savior. Stewardship is one way we open ourselves to that future.

What It Means for Us as a Congregation

When we give, we're not simply paying bills. We're making ministry possible:

- Children and young people learning the faith in Sunday school and confirmation
- Faith formation for all ages
- Neighbors receiving help and assistance
- Worship, music, and the sacraments, week after week
- Care for the sick, the homebound, and those who are grieving
- A place where people in Wayne can find welcome, belonging, and hope

None of this happens by itself. It happens because people choose, together, to share what God has given them. A congregation's giving is a picture of what it believes is worth investing in.

It's Good for Us, Too

Generosity doesn't just change the people we help; it changes us. When we give, we practice trust instead of worry, and contentment instead of always wanting more. We remember that there is enough, because God is enough. Many people find that giving, even when it stretches them, brings a surprising sense of freedom and joy.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

The Journey So Far

Since our kickoff in September, Sunday sermons have explored belonging to God (*We Are the Lord's*), God's surprising generosity (*The Scandal of Enough*), faith in action (*Say Yes, Then Go*), caring for what's entrusted to us (*We Are Tenants, Not Owners*), and giving from joy (*Again, I Say Rejoice*).

On October 18, we gathered in the Social Room for our Blessing Brunch. Thank you to everyone who came! Around the table, we shared a meal, shared stories, and celebrated what it means to be God's people together. Moments like these remind us that stewardship isn't only about what we give; it's about who we are becoming as a community, people who have been blessed and are learning to be a blessing. A special thank-you to Duane Blomenkamp and the Stewardship Committee for hosting and for all the work they've poured into this season.

What's Next

By now you should have received your Estimate of Giving form and return envelope. Before you fill it out, we invite you to take some time with three questions:

1. What has God given me this year that I'm grateful for?
2. What ministry at Our Savior matters most to me, and why?
3. What would it look like for me to take one step in generosity in 2027?

Our prayer is to grow giving by 10% next year. That doesn't mean everyone needs to give the same amount; it means each of us prayerfully considering what a faithful next step looks like.

Please join us for **Celebration & Commitment Weekend, November 14–15**, when we'll give thanks together and offer our forms in worship. You can also drop yours off at the church office or mail it back in the envelope provided.

Whatever you give, and however you give it, you are part of the new thing God is doing at Our Savior.

Serving together in Christ,
Pastor Chad

GROWING IN GRACE:

Children, Youth, & Family Ministries at Our Savior

November has a way of reminding us to slow down, take a look around, and recognize the many blessings in our lives. As we enter this season of gratitude and begin looking toward Advent, there is so much to be thankful for at Our Savior. From the energy of our children and youth to the generosity of a congregation that continues to show up for one another and our neighbors, God's love is at work in so many ways.

Sunday School and Confirmation are in full swing, and it's been wonderful to see our children and youth settling into their routines, asking questions, building relationships, and growing in faith. We're also beginning preparations for the Advent season, including our **Sunday School Christmas Program on December 13th!** We are excited to have our children share the story of Christmas with the congregation and hope you'll join us as we celebrate the joy and wonder of Christ's birth.

November also brings an opportunity to put our gratitude into action. Through Blessing Branches, we are excited to continue our partnership with the Norfolk Veterans Home for another year of spreading Christmas cheer! Last year, our congregation helped make the holiday season a little brighter for veterans and their spouses, and we're looking forward to doing it again. Stay tuned for more details about how you can help us share a little extra love, joy, and appreciation with those who have given so much.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I've been thinking about how gratitude and generosity really do go hand in hand. When we recognize the blessings in our own lives, we begin to see opportunities to be a blessing to someone else. Sometimes that looks like donating a gift, volunteering our time, offering a kind word, or simply making someone feel seen and valued. These may seem like small things, but they are the very things that help build a community rooted in God's love.

And as we look toward Advent, a season of waiting, hope, and preparation, may we remember that God is present in the midst of it all. In the busy schedules, the holiday preparations, the moments of joy, and even the moments that feel a little overwhelming, God continues to meet us right where we are.

As we enter this season of gratitude, I leave you with these words from Scripture:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." *— 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, NRSV*

My hope for all of us this November is that we find time to pause, give thanks, and recognize the many ways God is working through this congregation. There is so much happening at Our Savior, and I am grateful to be part of a community that continues to find new ways to love, serve, and Grow in Grace together.

With gratitude and blessings,
Amy White
Children, Youth & Family Ministry Director
Our Savior Lutheran Church



Trusting God's Call, One Step at a Time

Dear Our Savior Family,

Sometimes God has a way of leading us down paths we never imagined we would walk. Sometimes those paths are clear, and other times they are filled with questions, uncertainty, and moments when we simply have to trust that God knows where we are going, even when we don't.

Over the past several months, I have found myself walking one of those paths.

When I accepted the position as Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director here at Our Savior, I knew God was leading me into something new. What I didn't fully understand was just how much this congregation, this ministry, and the relationships formed along the way would shape my own faith journey.

I have come to believe that God brought me to Our Savior for a reason. And perhaps, just perhaps, this was part of God's plan all along.

I want to share something that has been weighing on my heart and filling my prayers. Over the past several months, I have begun discerning a possible call to ordained ministry. I have had conversations with the Nebraska Synod and Wartburg Theological Seminary, exploring what taking the next step in this journey might look like.

And I would be lying if I told you this has been easy.

There have been moments of excitement and possibility, but there have also been moments of doubt, fear, and uncertainty. More than once, I have found myself asking God, *"Why me? Why now? Are you sure you've got the right person?"*

I have wrestled with those questions. I have wondered whether I am ready, whether I am capable, and what this calling might mean for my life and my family. But no matter how many questions I ask or how many reasons I find to hesitate, I keep feeling that gentle, persistent pull from God.

And in those moments, I find myself returning to my favorite Scripture, Joshua 1:9:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Those words have taken on an entirely new meaning for me. I am learning that courage doesn't mean having all the answers or knowing exactly what comes next. Sometimes courage simply means trusting God enough to take the next step, even when the path ahead is uncertain.

And so, that is what I am trying to do.

I don't know exactly where this journey will lead or what the timeline might look like. There is still much to learn, many conversations to have, and plenty of discernment ahead. But I do know that I can no longer ignore the feeling that God is calling me to explore something more.

What I also know is that Our Savior has played an important role in bringing me to this moment. Through the children and youth, the families, the opportunities to serve, and even the challenges along the way, God has been working on my heart in ways I never expected.

I am grateful for this congregation and for the ways you have welcomed me, encouraged me, challenged me, and helped me grow. I remain committed to the ministry we are doing together and excited about the ways God continues to work in and through Our Savior.

As I continue this process of discernment, I ask for your prayers, your support, and your grace. I won't have all the answers, and I may not always know what comes next. But I hope you will walk alongside me as I listen, learn, and trust where God is leading.

I once thought coming to Our Savior was simply the beginning of a new chapter in my professional life. Now, I am beginning to wonder if it was the beginning of something much bigger in my faith journey.

Maybe God knew exactly what God was doing when I arrived here, even when I didn't.

And as I take these next steps, I will continue holding tightly to those words from Joshua: Be strong and courageous. Because wherever this journey leads, I trust that God will be there.

With a grateful heart,
Amy





Thank You's...

Wayne Food Pantry—Thank you so much for your generous donation of $100 dated September 30, 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.

Lisa Bathke,
Wayne Food Pantry Coordinator

Cynthia Miller—Thank you to Caring Cooks and Kim for the yummy casserole and visit. The companionship and caring of the OSLC family is so appreciated. Thank you for your concerns.

Vickie Damme—Thank you to Pr. Chad for his prayers! Thank you to the Caring Cooks for the wonderful meals and thank you to the Visitation ladies for the lovely cards!

It's been a long summer with three hospitals and surgeries, along with numerous hospital stays! Thank you!

Thank you received for donation made—

- **Wayne State Foundation:** $100 (WSC Food Pantry)



All Saints'

The **first Sunday in November** is designated as **All Saints' Sunday**, a day on which we remember all those who have died in faith as well as celebrate the baptism of all God's children since last All Saints' Day.

As a congregation, we remember especially those members and friends who died during the past year:

Ward Barelman
Nancy Rauss
Richard Metteer
Betty Morris
Wayne Ulrich
Bernadine Backstrom
Bob Jenkins
Joan Baier
Bob Nissen
Denise Broders
Glenda Henderson
Alan Bruflat
Lucille Holcomb
Sharon Junck
Rod Ahlberg
Ronnie Karel
Larry Jensen
Tim Peters
Alvin Anderson
Doris Daniels

May the Lord keep them in rest and peace until the great and glorious Day of Resurrection. And may the promise and hope we have in Christ Jesus bring comfort and strength to those who mourn these deaths.



Those who were baptized during the past year are:

Landon Thomas Gill
Wesley David Gemelke
Theodore Terrance Scheffler
Ronnie Johanna Harpham
Kyler Eric Wacker
Dayne Adam Castello

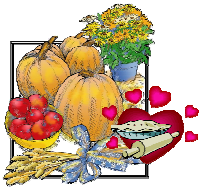
Music for November

Oct 31 & Nov 1	Connie Webber, organist Ron Carnes, soloist
Nov 7 & 8	Connie Webber, organist Corey Estelle, tenor soloist (Sun)
Nov 14 & 15	Shelly Armstrong, pianist
Nov 21 & 22	Connie Webber, organist Joyful Noise handbells (Sun)
Nov 28 & 29	Connie Webber, organist

Confirmation

The fifth-grade pre-confirmation class has wrapped up their unit on Baptism. They will resume classes during Lent (Wednesday, February 24), with a unit on Holy Communion; First Communion will be held at the Maundy Thursday service. Youth in grades 6–8 are also invited to participate in the communion unit, if they have not yet completed it.

The sixth and seventh graders have also completed their first unit of study on the Bible that focused on learning how to look up Bible verses and how to use the Bible in daily life. After a short break, they resumed classes on Wednesday, October 28. The focus of unit two is Advent and they will be learning about Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. They will meet for unit two through Wednesday, November 18.



23nd Annual Pies–4–You!

This is the 23rd year of our Pies-4-You Fundraiser that so many Our Savior members can be very proud of. We invite everyone to help with some part of this fundraiser; **we have a job for everyone!** ***This year's proceeds will assist youth attending the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering.***

- **Sat., Nov. 7 at 8:30am we will make the pie dough.**
- **Thurs., Nov. 12 at 8:30am we will make apple pies.**
- **Sat., Nov. 14 at 8:30am we will make all of the rest of the pies–peach, cherry, rhubarb & strawberry-rhubarb!**

(A snack table and lunch will be provided on Nov. 14; you are welcome to bring something to share if you'd like!)

If you can't make it at 8:30, come when you can and stay for as long as you're able!

Pastoral Acts

- A funeral service was held Saturday, October 3, for ***Larry Jensen.*** Larry died Sunday, September 13, 2026.
- A funeral service was held Wednesday, October 14, for ***Tim Peters.*** Tim died Monday, October 5, 2026.
- The following young people were Confirmed on Sunday, October 26, 2025: **Tyler Daniels, Hadley Dunklau, Merrick Miller,** and **Mason Wendte**.
- A funeral service was held Tuesday, October 27, for ***Alvin Anderson.*** Alvin died Monday, October 20, 2026.
- A funeral service was held Thursday, October 29, for ***Doris Daniels.*** Doris died Thursday, October 22, 2026.

Worship Services—
at Wayne Countryview & Kinship

Worship with Communion is offered on the first Tuesday of the month—**Tuesday, November 3.**

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



WACAM Worship Services

- **November 2–6**—Radio Devotions
- **November 18**—Worship at Kinship, 3:30pm
- **November 22**—Worship at Countryview, 1:30pm
- **November 26**—Word in Faith Column

In Our Prayers

We remember in prayer those who were hospitalized in the last month: Laura Nelson, Merrill Baier, Tiffany Henderson

"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, November 18, 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 twenty-six 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, November 5, at 6pm.**

Book Study Group

Our Thursday morning book study group is reading a book by one of our favorite authors, Joyce Rupp, entitled The Years of Ripening, Reflections on Aging in the Later Years. This group meets every other Thursday. Join them on Thursday, November 12.

We would love to grow our group! Please join us! For more information or to get a book ordered contact Mary Mohl (402-841-1009).

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, November 4 & 18.** 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 **Thursday, November 12** (no gathering on November 26, Thanksgiving Day)**.** 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, November 5, and Monday, November 16, from 9–11am.**

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF Ingathering

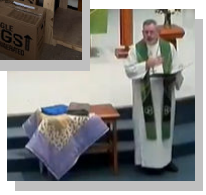
"Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Ingatherings bring together regional congregations to collect and ship quilts and care kits to LWR warehouses."

OSLC held its annual "LWR Blessing of the Quilts & Kits" on Saturday & Sunday, October 17 &18, during worship. The **Quilt Ministry Group** has **48 quilts** boxed and ready to ship, and because the congregation's response to Charity Circle's **Kit Challenge** was so tremendous, there are also **104 School kits** and **51 Personal Care kits** boxed and ready to ship. **Several confirmation youth joined Charity Circle in assembling the kits on Wednesday, October 14.**

We join with many congregations who also hold their blessings at this time before local ingatherings. "All over the Nebraska Synod, Lutherans from across the state reach out to those in need through Lutheran World Relief's Quilt & Kit Ministry. Congregations, students, and groups of all types create and/or gather quilts and kits for LWR making a lasting difference in the lives of our neighbors around the world. Your gifts of love reach out to people all over the world." *(nebraskasynod.org)*






Christ the King Sunday

November 21 & 22, 2026

Advent

Begins

November 28 & 29, 2026

Faith in Action!

On **Sunday, October 11**, our High School Youth kicked off their first service project of the year with a trip to **Orphan Grain Train** in Norfolk! Our youth spent time sorting and packing clothing that will be sent to those in need. What a wonderful way to put their faith into action and share God's love through serving others!





See more pictures on our Facebook page!

National Assisted Living Week Celebrated

On Monday, September 21, to celebrate **National Assisted Living Week**, Our Savior's Senior Ministry Team took cookies to Kinship. Pr. Bill & Valerie Koeber provided entertainment.



Women of the ELCA

CIRCLE & MINISTRY GROUP MEETINGS

Executive Board Meeting

- Wednesday, November 4, 10am

Joy Circle

- Wednesday, November 11, 2pm
  Program: "Thanksgiving"
  Leader: Phyllis Rahn
  Hostess: Phyllis Rahn

Charity Circle

- November 7, 12, 14
  Program: Pies-4-You
  Leader: Kim Dunklau, Cynthia Puntney, Karma Magnuson, Teri Koenig

(See more about Pies-4-You on page 4)

Visitation Ministry Group

- Wednesday, November 18, 1pm

Quilt Ministry Group

- No meetings until Spring

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





Altar Guild



Altar Guild workers for November: Paula Gemelke, Karen Zach, Peggy Hank, Debbie Bargholz, Rhonda Blecke, Julie/Jim Hansen, Melia Hefti, Madge Bruflat, Julie Grone, Janet Sievers, Myrna Wacker-Tuttle, Mary Hansen, Teri Koenig.

Bread Bakers for November: Teri Koenig, Corliss Krusemark, Lynette Lentz.

Please check the worship assistant schedule for the date.

Dear, Friends

"We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Charity Circle says "Thank You" for helping us meet our challenge to make School Kits and Personal Care Kits. We boxed up 104 School Kits and 51 Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Also, thanks to the youth and adults who came to help put them together. It was a fun evening!

Marilyn's Quilting ladies put together 48 Quilts to ship to LWR. What a labor of love!

LWR's approximate cost to transport, process, store and deliver quilts and kits is $4.00 per item. We sent the August Dollar Door Offering ($329.00) for Shipping to LWR and WELCA sent a check for $400.00 along with kit delivery to the Norfolk collection point. One 67-year-old Ukraine woman whose home was blasted by Russian troops said at the Distribution Center, "We built everything and now we have nothing. This quilt is very important to us, because the bedding that didn't catch fire is all ruined. At least we can cover ourselves, thank God. Thank you for not forgetting us, Thank you very much." The same sentiment was reported for the kits. So, this is a very worthy and appreciated project. Thanks again for your help in making it happen!

Have you been blessed with wonderful happenings this year? As you know, November is "Thankoffering" month. Time to give thanks to God! Please bring your offerings to Joy Circle on Wednesday, November 11, at 2pm or drop them off at the church office. Phyllis will be giving the Thankoffering program.

Gwen Edwards of Bellevue, NE was elected to the Churchwide Women's Organization Board as Vice President, serving from July 14, 2026, to 2029. She said, "Listening to God's call provided this new opportunity for me to serve. I will continue to mobilize women to act boldly in their faith in Jesus Christ. I look forward to this journey with each of you." Gwen has served as president and treasurer for NSWO and has been a constant with the Expressions Newsletter.

Our Northeast NSWO Board Member, Lynette Krie, attended the 2026 Triennial Gathering, July 16-19 in Des Moines, Iowa. She reflected, "WOW!! I am Worthy, was the theme for the gathering. I really was overwhelmed with the whole gathering; this was the first one I had attended. Over 1,000 women gathered to celebrate the Women of the ELCA, amazing speakers, workshops, music and Bible Studies. We had a surprise visit from Presiding Bishop Curry; he is an awesome man. Closing worship was very inspirational. Thank you for allowing me to attend this amazing gathering."

Remember to give thanks to God for all the blessings he has bestowed on you!

Dorothy Wert
WELCA President



3 Veronica Jaqua
4 Brenden Swanson
6 Jill Brodersen, Aiden Brunssen, Jason Jorgenson
7 Aaron Daniels
8 Bill Blecke
9 Kimberly Havranek, Alec Schaffer
11 McKaeya Becker
13 Jace Jorgensen, Lundy Labenz
14 Martina Swanson, John Vakoc
16 Roger Lentz
19 Tim Keller, Lee Larson, Cohen Woehler
22 Ron Carnes
23 Perry Backstrom
25 Vernon Bauermeister, Sophia Petersen
27 Betty Heier, Tyler Robinson, Corby Schweers
28 Brian Johnson
29 Logan Miller, Mackenzie Wheeler, Lou Wiltse

& ANNIVERSARIES

2 Chad & Tiffany Henderson (13)
8 Shawn & Elizabeth Milligan (29)
13 Robert & Kathy Burke (44)
20 Joe & Carrie Wendte (16)
23 Ron & Sandra Wriedt (59)
24 Bryan & Nancy Reinhardt (53)
29 Darrell & Cynthia Miller (35)

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



November 26, 2026

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE FOUNDATION

The fourth-quarter meeting of the Foundation Board of Our Savior Lutheran Church will be held on **Monday, November 16**, at 7pm. **All grant applications need to be turned in to the church office by November 9, to be considered. Applications are available in the church office.**

You're Invited... to Coffee with Council

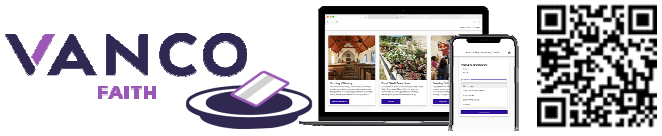


Coffee with Council is an opportunity to meet with members of the church council for coffee, refreshments and discussion. Join them prior to worship, 9am, **Sunday morning, November 8**.

Dollar Door Offering

—Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services Center

Each month our Dollar Door Offering *(offering plate in center of the Narthex)* goes to support the efforts of a different ministry. The **November** offering will go to the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services Center in Madison. (*Monies raised will be delivered to the center in December when members go for the annual Christmas visit.)*



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 October 15, 2026	Year-to-Date
Beginning balance, 9/15/2026	-$15,127.59	$50,047.26
Add: Income	29,363.53	320,346.19
Less: Expenses	-26,583.09	-382,740.60
Ending balance, 10/15/2026	-$12,347.15	-$12,347.15

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

PRAYER Time

LIVING A LIFE OF GRATITUDE

This time of year often makes us think of things for which we are thankful. Some families share what each is thankful for around the table on Thanksgiving Day. Others set a goal at the beginning of November to find something for which they are grateful each day of the month. Some people mark this year as the year they are going to start keeping a gratitude journal. I'm sure each of us has a means of making note of the things for which we are thankful.

Being grateful is the ability to feel and show deep appreciation or thanks for kindness, help, or good things in our lives, not limited to only favorable situations or favorite gifts we've received. Gratitude isn't only a momentary feeling but a way of life that produces joy, contentment, and a deeper relationship with God and others. Gratitude is a word that helps us shift from looking at what we don't have to seeing the abundance of blessings in our lives. True gratitude goes beyond major gifts, promotions, or wins. It finds value in everyday moments, such as a kind word, a warm cup of coffee, or a letter from a good friend. Gratitude allows us to view challenges we face as opportunities for growth, for building strength, and for building character.

Living a life of gratitude means intentionally noticing, appreciating, and acknowledging the good things that are present in our lives every day. When we choose to live a life of gratitude, we start to recognize and appreciate all that God has provided. It opens our eyes to God's abundant goodness. We can be appreciative of His presence in our lives, His peace, and His boundless love. Living a life of gratitude reminds us that life itself is a gift.

How can we develop a life of gratitude? Here are six suggestions to help you cultivate gratitude.

1. ***Find time in your day to hold a 2 or 3 minute gratitude session***. Sit in an area where there are no distractions. Close your eyes. Think about what you are grateful for and who you are grateful for. It simply means to take 2 to 3 minutes to close your eyes and silently give thanks. This practice reminds you of the positive things in your life and it makes you happy about the people in your life.
2. ***Notice God at work***. You are unable to praise God for work you never notice. Be aware of what God is doing in your life; and don't ignore the people He is using to bless your life. When you see God at work, call attention to it and offer thanks.
3. ***Express your gratitude with words***. Gratitude will start in your heart and mind, but don't let it stay there. Say something! People like being appreciated for who they are and what they do. It takes so little effort, but it makes someone else happy. Making someone else happy will make you happy, too.
4. ***Add thanksgiving to your prayers***. God invites us to exchange our worries for His peace. We are used to offering God our cares and concerns for Him to help us, but we don't always offer words of thanks. It is good to balance all that we ask for with words of thanks. In Philippians 4:6-7 we read*: ":Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*."
5. ***Keep a gratitude journal***. Keeping a gratitude journal forces us to pay attention to the good things in life we might otherwise take for granted. Use a notebook, your cell phone's notes application, or your laptop or computer – use whatever works best for you. Write down 2-3 things for which you feel grateful. Do this at least 3 times a week, preferable every day. You will soon start looking for things during the day to write in your journal.
6. ***Learn a gratitude prayer***. There are many prayers that can remind you to be grateful. Find one you like, and print it out. Here are a couple of gratitude prayers that I have found.

(continued)

PRAYER Time (continued)

Heavenly Father,

I come before you today with a heart full of gratitude. Thank you for your countless blessings and your unwavering love. Thank you for the gift of life, for the air I breathe, and for the strength you give me each day. Your grace and mercy sustain me, and I am deeply grateful for your presence in my life.

Thank you for my family, friends, and the community you have surrounded me with. Thank you for providing for my needs and for guiding me with your wisdom. Even in times of trial, I thank you for the lessons and the growth that come from trusting in you.

Lord, may I never take your blessings for granted. Help me to remain mindful of your goodness and to share your love and kindness with others. I praise your name and give thanks for all that you are and all that you do.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

By Jonah McKeown found in Common Good: A Magazine for All of Life

BE THANKFUL

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire,
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?
Be thankful when you don't know something
For it gives you the opportunity to learn.
Be thankful for the difficult times.
During those times you grow.
Be thankful for your limitations
Because they give you opportunities for improvement.
Be thankful for each new challenge
Because it will build your strength and character.
Be thankful for your mistakes
They will teach you valuable lessons.
Be thankful when you're tired and weary
Because it means you've made a difference.
It is easy to be thankful for the good things.
A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.
GRATITUDE can turn a negative into a positive.
Find a way to be thankful for your troubles and they can become your blessings.

Author Unknown

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  9:00am Fellowship Hour 9:00am Sunday School **10:00am Worship**	2 Radio Devotions 10:30am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Executive Committee 5:30pm Property Team Mtg	3 Radio Devotions 10:00am Cluster Text Study  2:00pm Communion @ Wayne Countryview 3:00pm Communion @ Kinship Pointe 6:30pm Cultivate Faith Bible Study	4 Radio Devotions 10:00am OWL's Bible Study 10:00am WELCA Executive Board 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Joyful Noise 7:45pm HS Youth Group	5 Radio Devotions 9:00am Sleeping Mat Ministry  6:00pm Women Who Love to Talk-and Eat (at Runze)	6 Radio Devotions 6:00pm Front Porch Program	7  8:30am Pies-4-You **5:30pm Worship**
8  9:00am Coffee with Council 9:00am Sunday School **10:00am Worship**	9 Foundation Grant Deadline 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:30pm Fellowship Team Mtg 7:00pm Church Council	10 10:00am Cluster Text Study 6:30pm Cultivate Faith Bible Study	11  10:30am WACAM 2:00pm Joy Circle 6:00pm Confirmation 7:45pm HS Youth Group	12  8:30am Pies-4-You 10:00am Book Study Group 3:30pm Bible Study at Kinship	13	14 **Celebration & Commitment Weekend**  8:30am Pies-4-You **5:30pm Worship**
15 **Celebration & Commitment Weekend** 9:00am Fellowship Hour 9:00am Sunday School **10:00am Worship**	16 9:00am Sleeping Mat Ministry 10:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Foundation Board Meeting	17 10:00am Cluster Text Study 6:30pm Cultivate Faith Bible Study	18 10:00am OWL's Bible Study 1:00pm Visitation Ministry Group 3:30pm Devotions @ Kinship 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Joyful Noise 7:45pm HS Youth Group	19  **6:30pm** Christmas in Wayne Parade of Lights	20  6:00pm Front Porch Program	21  9:30am Wayne Food Truck @ Journey Christian Church **5:30pm Worship**
22  9:00am Fellowship Hour 9:00am Sunday School **10:00am Worship** 1:30pm Worship at Countryview	23 10:30am Staff Meeting	24 10:00am Cluster Text Study 6:30pm Cultivate Faith Bible Study	25	26  Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 **5:30pm Worship**
29  9:00am Fellowship Hour 9:00am Sunday School **10:00am Worship**	30 10:30am Staff Meeting					

COUNCIL CORNER

—Monday, October 12, 2026 Meeting

- Nine high school youth went with Addysen to work at the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk on Sunday, October 11.
- Loads of Love, in partnership with WACAM, will be held Saturday, October 24, at the community laundromat.
- Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 31, from 4–6pm at the parking lot at the corner of 6th and Logan Streets in conjunction with the First United Methodist Church. Families and ministry teams are invited to participate.
- Advent services begin Wednesday, December 2; A Touch of Brass will provide special music during worship on Sunday, December 6; and the Sunday School Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, December. 13.

The next council meeting will be held on **Monday, November 9, at 7pm.**



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.*

SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS

In an effort to provide continued support to the Wayne Food Pantry; each month we designate particular items that the pantry provides. A blue basket is available in the Narthex to collect the donated items.

For November: **Peanut Butter,** jelly, jams, honey. **Juices** not needing refrigeration; **Dry, Boxed or packaged items**—rice, complete meals, ramen noodles, Jell-O and puddings, cereal (both hot and cold), flour, sugar, Bisquick, pancake mix, Rice-a-Roni meals, pasta of all kinds, boxed meals of all kinds, instant potatoes, dressing, sweet bread mixes, cookie mixes. **An extra emphasis for the month of November is soda crackers.**

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, November 21, 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

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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–4th)
Sundays—9am; Fall/Winter/Spring

Confirmation: (5th–8th)
Wednesdays—6pm; Fall/Winter/Spring

- Staff -

Rev. Chad Rademacher
Pastor

Amy White
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Addysen Wyant
High School Youth Coordinator

Connie Webber
Director of Music

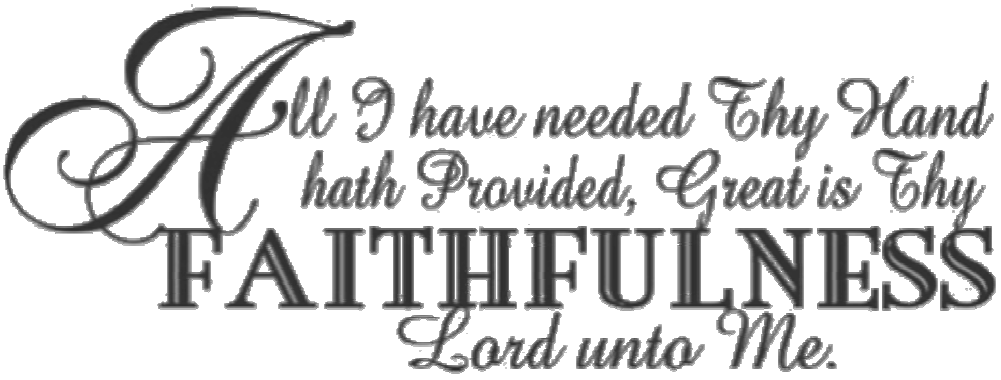
Kris Robinson
Administrative Assistant

- 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

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