# Our Savior's Lutheran Church
**Redfield, South Dakota**

# *"Messenger"*

## August 2026

*"Through the Grace of God We Are Worshiping, Sharing, Growing"*

## Blessing of the Backpacks

September 6 or 9, 2026

As a new school year begins, we invite students of all ages to bring their backpacks to worship for a special Blessing of the Backpacks. Together, we'll pray for encouragement, confidence, and God's presence in every classroom and challenge ahead.

Join us on Sunday, September 6th or Wednesday, September 9th during worship as we celebrate learning, community, and a bright year to come—ready to shine!

## BULLETINS FOR YOUNGSTERS

We now have children's bulletins available at both Wednesday and Sunday worship services. These follow the church year scriptures. There are two bulletins – one for pre-readers and one for readers. Since we use the scriptures on Wednesdays for the coming Sunday we have them available at that time. They are placed on the stands in the middle behind the main pews. They will remain there until the next Wednesday am. You can pick them up when you come to worship or any time during the week. Thank you to Mike Williams for alerting us to their availability.

## LOOKING FORWARD

As we reach the end of summer vacation time, we are getting ready for fall activities to begin. Several members have spent many hours over the summer with cleanup and painting the classrooms in the basement in preparation for WOW classes to begin. Much work is still on going.

New energy efficient light fixtures have been installed in the rooms to improve the light and reduce the noise from the old fixtures. Thanks to Jessen's for completing this project efficiently.

If you would like to help with these updates, talk to Amanda Evans or Morgan Piehl and I am sure they will find a project for you to work on.

We look forward to all the activity that Wednesday afternoons and evenings bring to our church for WOW. If you know of children new in the area for WOW classes (4 yr old through 6$^{th}$ grade), Morgan is the one with answers to questions. Encourage these families to contact her. Those 7$^{th}$ and 8$^{th}$ can contact Pastor Joy and high school can contact Amanda for LYO information.

# From the Pastor's Desk

I was born early and underweight, not enough so that it would be seen as remarkable today, but, in that place and time, it was still seen as a sign that I would not survive. A doctor even suggested that my parents leave me at the hospital to save themselves the trauma of being attached to me. Naturally, my parents' pastor offered to do a private emergency baptism at the hospital, given what everyone thought. My mom was steadfast that I would be baptized at church in the midst of the congregation and the first Sunday that I was cleared to go home, I was. This is one of the foundational stories told about my early life, so I grew up with an appreciation of the importance of both baptism and the promises made by the congregation to the baptized in public baptism. I admit I delight in getting to introduce y'all to your newest member in the act of baptism.

That being said, not all of the baptisms I have done have been public, because not every circumstance warrants it. I had a friend whose father was a powerful minister within his community. He baptized all of his children, except his youngest, my friend. It was a sign of that child's disfavor, already displayed toward an infant. My friend hungered for baptism, but did not dare, because then people would discover that their father had not baptized them, and, in their particular culture, the shame would attach to the child for having been unworthy of baptism and not the father for being a (bleep) parent. Welcoming that person into the family of Christ and affirming God's love for them in baptism matters. Letting someone else's judgement of them hang over them in baptism is wrong.

That understanding applied when some parishioners approached me cautiously about baptizing their friend. Apparently my blessing of the animals service had won their friend over enough to permit them broach whether I might be willing to do a private baptism for their friend who was not a member of my congregation. They explained that she had grown up going to Sunday school and VBS in their congregation, but the woman believed her parents had only done it for convenient childcare and never cared enough about the Christian faith themselves to have her baptized. She was afraid if people found out through public baptism that she had been unbaptized all these years, they would think she had been a fake Christian. I never want shame to stand between someone and baptism, and baptism into Christ, more than into a specific congregation, can reasonably be done without a congregation to make promises to the newly baptized. I said yes to a baptism witnessed by her two friends and her canines. (My dog was the only outsider invited.) The woman was so excited about her baptism that she even had her dogs specially groomed for the occasion. She was baptized with her friends as witnesses and canines in attendance. I gave her a keychain proclaiming her to be a "beloved child of God" and her dogs each a tag proclaiming them to be a "beloved puppy of God." Then we celebrated with pizza and wine in the fellowship hall.

Over the years I have done private baptisms for a variety of reasons and in a variety of places (everywhere from a church baptismal font to a boat ramp in a river). I will always love getting to introduce a congregation to its newest member in public baptism, but private baptism has its place as well. It has a place where fear and shame do not. Baptism is about God's love for us expressed in Christ's death on the cross. It is about the wiping away of sin and shame. It is about a love that transcends time, and place, and denomination, and even death itself.

Pastor Joy

# Children's Ministries

As summer winds down, that means the church is buzzing with ideas for the upcoming WOW year! Pastor will start us off with a backpack blessing offered at our Sunday, September 6th and Wednesday, September 9th services. Your student may bring their backpack to worship and receive a blessing during worship.

We will also be starting our WOW program on Wednesday, September 9th at 5:00-5:50pm. Please be watching for our online registration sign up on our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you all again!

Morgan Piehl, Children's Ministries Chairperson

# YOUTH

Hope everyone had a fun summer!! Incoming 9th graders who will be confirmed this fall, please be thinking of your mentor. Last year confirmation was held at the end of October, we are looking at a similar time.

A parent meeting for 7th and 8th grade confirmation youth will take place the beginning of September. We have been contacting parents with Remind, so make sure your notifications are set correctly. See you all soon.
Amanda Evans, Youth Ministries Chairperson

## Church Library

Check out the church library table. We receive many newsletters from entities that our church is a part of either thru our giving or the wider ELCA – both national and South Dakota Synod. Take a few minutes to read some of the stories of life changing experiences.

## Church Council Notes

OSL Church Council met on June 14, 2026. The meeting was called to order, agenda presented, secretary's report from May was approved and the May financial report was accepted. Dana will summarize the sanctuary upgrades/carpet project/technology upgrades versus the donations to share with the congregation.

Morgan and Amanda shared the progress of painting and cleaning the classroom area (basement). The newly installed LED lights are amazing! They have compiled a wish list of other items needed to reduce the noise level and provide air flow.

Updates have been made to the OSL website. Committee reports were given.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is Sunday, August 16th at 5:15 pm. Diane Dangel, Council Secretary

## WORLD HUNGER AT WORK

A letter from a nurse in rural Tanzaia:

At age 25, shortly after giving birth to her second child, Cassia (name changed for privacy) learned that she had diabetes and that her blood sugar levels were dangerously unstable. Cassia couldn't afford to stay in school after eighth grade, so she had trouble finding ways to earn money and support her family. Food was often scarce — and for someone living with diabetes, eating whatever is available can be life-threatening. Cassia was referred to my palliative care team at Nkoaranga Lutheran Hospital, which is supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger. When she first arrived, she was weak and her blood sugar critically unstable. She was admitted for close monitoring.

As Cassia recovered, our team listened to and encouraged her. We explained how food, stress and medication affect blood sugar, and we gave her a glucometer so she could understand what was happening inside her body. We also provided a special box where she could safely store her insulin. Before this, she had been burying it in the ground because she didn't have a refrigerator to keep it cool.

**"I no longer feel alone in managing my condition," Cassia said. "These changes have given me peace, hope and the strength to keep moving forward for my children."**

**I have watched your gifts build stronger futures for people such as Cassia in my community. But there is so much work to do and so many more people to reach. An extra gift will go to work in my Tanzanian community and around the world, strengthening bodies, minds and spirits.**

# August

| *Sun* | *Mon* | *Tue* | *Wed* | *Thu* | *Fri* | *Sat* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Regular Sunday Schedule**<br>9:00 am – Worship, Communion<br>10:00 Fellowship<br>**Additions listed weekly** | | | | | | **1** |
| **2** | **3**<br>Deliver Meals | **4**<br>1 pm – Pastor's Text Study | **5**<br>6 pm – Worship | **6**<br>7:30 am – Bible Study<br>9 am – Coffee Time<br>Food Truck | **7** | **8** |
| **9** | **10** | **11**<br>1 pm – Pastor's Text Study | **12**<br>6 pm - Worship | **13**<br>7:30 am – Bible Study<br>9 am – Coffee Time<br>1:30 pm – Love Circle | **14** | **15** |
| **16**<br>Deacons deliver home Communion<br>5:15 pm - Church Council | **17** | **18**<br>1 pm – Pastor's Text Study | **19**<br>Thordys gone<br>6 pm - Worship | **20**<br>7:30 am – Bible Study<br>9 am – Coffee Time<br>2 pm – Faithful Readers | **21** | **22** |
| **23** | **24** | **25**<br>1 pm – Pastor's Text Study | **26**<br>6 pm - Worship | **27** | **28** | **29** |
| **30** | **31** | | | | | |

2026

# August 2026

1 Erika Frank
Kevin Kocer
2
3 Aidyn Spotanske
4 Jordan Hansen
5 Jenna Dawson
Emily Hoekman
Amanda & Dominic Evans
Chace Odland
Hoytt Curtis
6 Kayla Hochhalter
Darin & Jessica DeYoung
7 Marlene Brugger
Darin DeYoung
8 Eric Baird
Kyle Hamilton
9 Diann Steinheuser
10
11
12 Gordon & Thordys Blume
13 Cole Schroeder
Tynan Anderson
14 Sandra Blume
15
16 Perry Schmidt
Micah Zastrow
Larry & Rita Price
17 Reilly Schmitt
Slade Swanson
Cleo Jandel
18 Francelle Fuss
Jim Ellenson
Ellen Kay Marshall
Spencer Lewis
Colton & Colette Taylor
19 Eliza Taylor
20 Marlowe Kocer
21 Clark Davis
22 Kelsey Spotanske
23 Terry Hansen
Scott Roeber
Staci Uzzle
Allen & Sharon Mohr
24
25 Shane Croeni
Jeff Klebsch
26 Les Helm
Landon Roach
Doug & Diane Dangel
27 David Jessen
28
29 Sue Christensen
Sloane Kelly
30 Clark & Diane Roeber
31 Dan Booze

**Please** notify the office of corrections and omissions so our records can be updated.

## Gifts - Memorial & Honor

**In memory of:**

**Approved Memorial wish list includes:**

- Tables of various sizes
- ELW hymnals
- Library Fund
- Endowment Fund
- Radio Broadcast Sponsors
- Sanctuary
- Technology Equipment
- Undesignated

## June/July 2026 Statistics

There were no baptisms, deaths, marriages, transfers in or transfers out.

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**
**1514 E. 1st. Street**
**P O Box 16**
**Redfield, SD 57469**

Non Profit Standard
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Redfield, SD 57469

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

The "Messenger" is published monthly at
Our Savior's Lutheran Church

**Sunday Worship – 9:00 am**
**Fellowship – 10:00 am**
Our Sunday worship service is also broadcast live on radio station KNBZ, 97.7 FM, at 9:00 am.
Also on Facebook

**Wednesday**
**WOW Classes – 5:00 pm**
**WOW Worship – 6:00 pm**
**6:35 pm – Confirmation Class**

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday – Friday: 9 am – 3 pm
Church Office – 472-2640
Pastor Joy Proper – 541-255-8455
secretary.osl@midconetwork.com
web site: www.oslredfieldsd.com

**Our Savior's Lutheran Staff**
Pastor Joy Proper
Thordys Blume, Secretary
Della Osborn, Custodian
Dana Lewis, Treasurer

**"Through the grace of God we are worshipping, sharing, growing."**

## THANK YOU:

Thank you so very much for your wonderful donation of grocery items to the Tri Co Good Samaritan. You good folks fill a need in our community. Your helping hand means so much to us. May the Lord bless you for your generosity to our community. Thank you again der friends. Sincerely, Penny Ihnen & Sherry Wurtz, Co-Directors

**Dear Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Thank you for the blanket. It will be very helpful when I attend Lake Area Technical College in the Childcare Management program this fall. Thanks again, Jayde Englund**

Thank you to those delivering meals for the Senior Center in June and July. Bob & Deb Stroud, Henry & Diane Dunkel, and Thordys Blume.

## CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY –

**Weekly Offerings – June & July 2026**
Operating - $ 19,042.64
Building - $ 1,000.00
Disaster Relief - $ 20.00

**VANCO – May& June 2026**
Operating - $ 3,046.98
Sanctuary - $ 40.00

## FAITHFUL READERS

Faithful Readers Book Club will meet in the church Library on August 20 to discuss The Bridge by Karen Kikngsbury. Everyone that enjoys reading books is invited to join us. The book for October is Second Story Bookshop by Denise Hunter. .

**REMEMBER THE GROCERY CART IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY. FILL IT UP AND SUPPORT THOSE LESS FORTUNATE.**