

September 2026 THE GRAPEVINE Our Savior Bethlehem



Chad Trunkhill, Senior Pastor
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"Fall Kick Off!"

A Note from Jarryn

Who is ready to kick off this new school year?! I sure am! We have an exciting year coming up!!

First off, we are excited to announce our full Sunday School kick off this year! This year we will be using the same curriculum as last year, Two or More. If you haven't been apart of it before it is very much VBS focused. The schedule will be very similar to last year. With this program we want the kids to experience God's greatest gifts and know that they are simply loved. Each exciting lesson will have a craft or game to help them remember the lesson. We want our youth and kids to have as much fun learning about Jesus as possible. Reminder Sunday School is not just for the littles it is for all the kids and youth. Youth Sunday School will kick off the same week, this is for Jr. and Sr. High. It is our chance to focus more on how the Bible can help them through situations in this life.

Second off, Ground Zero is back. The evening will kick off with Wednesday Bible School and Rock 456 at 4 pm. Supper will be held every Wednesday at 5:30, this part is amazingly helpful to parents with kids as it means they don't have to rush around to get them feed before class. Parents are welcome to join for supper as well. After supper Confirmation is a 6pm with Sr. High Connect at 6:30. Wednesday Bible School (WBS), the pre-k through 3rd grade will be meeting downstairs. While the 4th grade, lead by Mandi Hartwig, will be in North Classroom. The 5th grade lead by Julie Meneough will be downstairs in the double classroom by the elevator. The 6th grade class will be lead by Jarryn in the South Classroom. Confirmation classes, 7th grade will be in the North Classroom led by Chuck and Darrin. The 8th graders will be in the South Classroom led by the three pastors. Sr. High Connect will be in the youth room led by Jarryn.

Thirdly, Connect! Jr. High Connect will continue on Sundays at 4:30 to 6pm. This is designed for our Jr. High youth. Sr. High Connect will pick back up on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 pm. Connect is a time for our Jr. & Sr. High youth to play games but spend time in devotion.



In Christ,
Jarryn Wiley-Pearce



Register Today!!

Date: Oct 24 & 25

Cost: \$75

Sheraton Hotel West Des Moines
Use the QR Code to register today or talk to
Jarryn for a physical form

Registration Due Sept 20



Youth Group

Sr. High Connect

Starting Wed Sept 23

@6:30

Jr. High Connect

Starting Sun Sept 20

@ 4:30



We Need Your Help Youth and Parents!!

**Join us by helping out in various ways;
hosting a trunk, helping in the kitchen,
helping set up and/or clean up.**

**This is a great event and you need your
help to show Our Savior to the
community.**



Save the Date

November 6-8

Camp Okoboji

Check the bulletin for more youth activities.



Sunday School

Sundays @ 10:15 am

Start Date Sept 20th

Elementary

Prek—5th Grade Upstairs in the South Classroom

With Two or More we will celebrate how we can help kids to be seen, known, and loved. Just like Jesus taught to a small and large groups, Two or More leads the kids whether it is a small group or large group of kids to share Bible-rich experiences as they grow in faith together.

Youth

6th—12th Grade Downstairs in the Youth Room

We will be doing Bible Studies again this year focused on topics that the youth face in today's culture.

We need your help!

We are looking for a few people to add to our teacher roster. Anyone that signs up to help teach will get to pick the Sundays they want and you will usually only have to teach twice in a semester (you can always sign up for more Sundays). The curriculum we use is very easy to prep each week, the supplies for each week will either be in the room or in the notebook. If you are interested in help out please talk to Jarryn or Sydney for more information or to let us know you want to join the team!



ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

Everyone is Welcome!



SUNDAYS

9:15am Bethlehem Bible Study & Sunday School

10:15am Our Savior Bible Study & Sunday School

THURSDAYS

9:45am Bible Study @ Our Savior

OUR SAVIOR (BOLD & BLACK)		SEPTEMBER 2026				BETHLEHEM (BLUE, BOLD, ITALICIZED)
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:00 AA	2	3 9:45 BBS @ OS 6:00 Final Fellowship Ride @ O'meras, Dow City	4	5 5:30 OS Worship ✚ Missions Group Camp Okoboji Fundraiser 9/5-9/6
6 9:00 OS Worship ✚ After Service: Adult BBS	7 Labor Day! Office Closed	8 6:00 Elders Meeting 7:00 Council Meeting 4:00 CCHF Backpacks 8:00 AA	9 5:30 Choir Practice/Potluck 6:00 Confirmation Parent Meeting (4 th -8 th Grade)	10 9:45 BBS @ OS	11	12 5:30 OS Worship
13 Rally Day! Service: 10:30 BBQ & Potluck 11:30 @ Washington Park	14 9:00 Coffee Crew 2:00 Women's Guild Meeting	15 CCHF @ Presbyterian Church: 1:00 Preparation 2:30 Distribution 4:00 CCHF Backpacks 8:00 AA	16 4:00: WBS 4 yr. old – 3 rd grade 4:00: Rock 456 Classes 5:30: Meal/Snack Time 6:00: Choir 6:00: 7 th – 8 th grade Confirmation Classes	17 9:45 BBS @ OS	18	19 5:30 OS Worship ✚
20 Education Sunday! 9:00 OS Worship ✚ After Service: Adult BBS & Sunday School 9:15 Beth Adult BBS & Sunday School 10:30 Beth Worship ✚ 4:30 Jr. High Connect	21 9:00 Coffee Crew 9:00 Quilters 7:00 Bethlehem Leadership Meeting Pastor Chad @Pastor's Conference 9/21-9/22	22 7:00 Right for Life Meeting 4:00 CCHF Backpacks 8:00 AA	23 4:00: WBS 4 yr. old – 3 rd grade 4:00: Rock 456 Classes 5:30: Meal/Snack Time 6:00: Choir 6:00: 7 th – 8 th grade Confirmation Classes 6:30: Sr. High Connect	24 9:00 LWML Fall Rally @OS	25 October Grapevine Info Due	26 5:30 OS Worship
27 9:00 OS Worship After Service: Adult BBS & Sunday School 1:00 Property Board Meeting 9:15 Beth Adult BBS & Sunday School 10:30 Beth Worship 4:30 Jr. High Connect	28 9:00 Coffee Crew 6:30 Discipleship Meeting	29 4:00 CCHF Backpacks 8:00 AA Stephanie @Administrative Assistants Conference	30 4:00: WBS 4 yr. old – 3 rd grade 4:00: Rock 456 Classes 5:30: Meal/Snack Time 6:00: Choir 6:00: 7 th – 8 th grade Confirmation Classes 6:30: Sr. High Connect			CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Mon - Fri 9:00 – 2:00 712-263-3282 Updated 8/31/2026 Communion will be served during this service ✚

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE DIRECTLY IF YOU HAVE A NEW EVENT/MEETING IN THE NEXT 7 DAYS. IF IT IS IN THE FUTURE, PLEASE PUT IT ON THE LARGE CALENDAR POSTED IN THE OFFICE OR CONTACT THE OFFICE DIRECTLY. TO MAKE CHANGES, COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE. THANK YOU!

Our Savior Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2026

Attendees - Steve Frazier, Pastor Chad, Michael Phipps, Terri Martens, Shari Frazier, Alan Suntken, Sue Feller, Lisa Weber

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Frazier at 7:00 PM.

Opening prayer by Pastor Chad.

Review of minutes from July 14, 2026 Council meeting - approved as read.

Senior Pastor Report – August 2026

Worship Attendance

We saw a nice increase in most attendance (except Bethlehem) for the month of July. It is nice to see some new faces and I am working with a few people on new member classes, including one adult baptism!

Official Acts

Wedding

Austin Ahrenholtz and Sarah Branning (OS) – July 18, 2026

Baptisms

Hershel Dean Schiltz (OS) – July 26, 2026

Deaths

Kenny Ransom (Bethlehem) – September 7, 2026 (Graveside Only)

Cleaning Up The Roles

We will have a meeting on August 4, 2026 at 7:00 pm to begin working with a team of people to help identify and clean up the roles.

Treasurer's Workshop

We are scheduled for this event and I am working with Parish Fellowship to see what would work best for food for this event.

Christmas Candles

Ordered and received.

Best Practices

The following are the people who showed interest in Best Practices for Ministry in Phoenix in February:

- Pastor Chad and Brenda
- Jarryn and Ben (Driving)
- Steph and Tristen
- Chuck and Julie
- Eric and Terry
- Steve and Shari
- Bud and Julie
- Darren (Flying out Thursday – Tristen to pick up at Airport)

John Waite?

We found a deal at a hotel and booked that for the conference. We will begin working on flights this month. Please make sure to get your information for flights to Steph by August 15.

Rally Day

We have everything scheduled for Rally Day on September 13, 2026 in Washington Park. Would the elders be willing to grill again this year? Julie is working on the music. I will

preach this year. Jarryn will do the Children's Message. The sound system is ready to go. I will need help moving things over and setting up the day of the service in the park.

Donuts

I reduced the donut order for the rest of the Summer. We will increase again in September.

Ground Zero

Wednesday Night activities will kick off on September 16, 2026. We will have a planning meeting for this on August 17, 2026. We are looking to do a confirmation retreat again this year as well.

Schedule

August 10-12, 2026 – Bethlehem VBS

August 22, 2026 – Frazier Wedding (Out of Town) – Pastor Wade covering Saturday Night

September 13, 2026 – Rally Day in Washington Park

September 16, 2026 – Ground Zero Begins (Confirmation, Wednesday Bible School, Connect)

September 20, 2026 – Sunday School Begins

October 17, 2026 – Carlson Wedding (OS)

October 31, 2026 – Trunk or Treat – 5:30 PM (Grill Hotdogs)

November 7, 2026 – IDW Treasurer's Workshop – OS 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

November 14, 2026 – Hilty Wedding (Out of Town – Pastor Jon Preaching)

November 25, 2026 – Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Bethlehem – 5:30 pm

Our Savior – 7:00 pm

December 12, 2026 – Christmas Cantata (Beth – 7:00 pm) – NO SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE OS

December 13, 2026 – Christmas Cantata (OS) – NO BETHLEHEM SERVICE

December 20, 2026 – Children's Christmas Service (OS)

December 24, 2026 – Christmas Eve Services (Thursday)

Our Savior (Family) – 4:00 pm (Candles, no communion)

Bethlehem (Children's Program) – 5:30 pm (Communion and Candles)

Our Savior (Service of Lesson and Carols) - 8:00 pm (Communion and Candles)

December 25, 2026 – Christmas Day

Our Savior – 9:00 am (Communion)

Bethlehem – 10:30 am (Communion)

January 2-3, 2027 – Missionary Gary and our yearly Mission Update

January 22-23, 2027 – Life Sunday

February 10, 2027 – Ash Wednesday

February 17-21, 2027 – Best Practices for Ministry

March 28, 2027 – Easter Service (Communion)

Our Savior Easter Lite 5:30 pm (Saturday, March 27)

Bethlehem Sunrise – 7:00 am

Our Savior – 9:00 am

April 28, 2027 – Confirmation Banquet

May 2, 2027 – Confirmation Sunday (Our Savior)

May 22-23, 2027 – New Member/Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

DCE Report – Education for August

Sunday School

We have begun looking for new Sunday School teachers for this fall

Ground Zero

We will be holding an evaluation meeting Aug 17 to look at this past year and to look ahead at the 26 – 27 school year.

VBS

VBS went very well this year!!

We had 132 registered this year! There were a couple of days where we were right at 120 kids in the building. The decorations were amazing! We did have a very short window for tear down as there was a wedding rehearsal that afternoon after vbs was over.

We had a lot of volunteers helping out in the different areas during VBS! There are 36 to 38 here during the day. The Thursday Night Program went well and was followed by a cookie reception. We were able to collect enough food for it to fill the back of Rex's truck when he took it down to TAP.

Upcoming/Other

Ground Zero – Sept 16

Sunday School – Sept 20

Kindle – Program will start in September

Volunteer background check is currently in the works to get everything going. I have information from Terri just waiting to see if that is all we need.

Trunk or Treat – It will be on Halloween from 2 to 4 just to make sure we can get everything cleaned up before church.

DCE Report - Youth for August

Youth Group

Summer connect will be coming to a close at the end of this month.

We will be having an end of summer BBQ on Aug 30. This will also be to welcome the incoming 6th graders. Location is still TBD.

Youth Events

Full Lock in – Aug 20 – 21, 7 pm to 7 am. We need parent volunteers for this event to happen as we have a lot of youth that attend. There is a sign up sheet with time slots for parents to sign up for 2 and half hour time slots.

Jr. High Rally – Oct 24&25, as soon as we receive information from the district we will be sending out registration information.

Fundraiser

By the end of the month, we will be working on Fundraisers for a van

We have started work on scheduling the cookie walk with Zion for December

We will be looking towards Advent Meals in December

Service Projects

Thankful Baskets in November

Cookies and Cards in December

Upcoming

Regular Connect starting back up Sept 20. Jr. High on Sundays from 4:30 to 6, Sr. High on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8.

Council Board Reports

Board of Elders – No report this month

Education/Youth – Jarryn

Missions – No report this month

Discipleship - No report this month

Parish Fellowship - Jackie Suprenant

On July 16, we had 2 helpers serve around 100 VBS students, family, and staff. Everyone enjoyed cookies, water, and lemonade.

Property – Alan Suntken

New defibrillators have arrived. The kitchen project is almost complete.

Stewardship – Becky Jacobsen

Bulletin notes for July 25-26 and August 1-2 were published related to “Stewardship: God’s Grace Enables Giving” and “A Quick Thought on Stewardship”.

Treasurer – Terri

Met with Elaine Gotto to receive more information on accounts, etc. Budget work for 2027 will be starting soon.

Old Business

- The dishwasher is completely installed. The installer will explain how to run the machine correctly before it is used. The old dishwasher racks can also be used in the new machine.

New Business

- The parking lot will be re-stripped by the property committee sometime this Fall. The two spots by the stairs/dumpster will be eliminated due to the tight space. Motion made by Alan Suntken, seconded by Michael Phipps, to approve the purchase paint for restriping the parking lot for an estimated cost of \$400. Motion carries.
- Service Proposal & Contract from Rasmussen Contracting for servicing all heating and cooling equipment four times a year. Motion by Alan Suntken, seconded by Sue Feller, to approve the service proposal with Rasmussen Contracting. Motion carries.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Frazier, Council Secretary



The 69th regular convention of the Lutheran Church Missouri synod was held in Phoenix AZ from July 18-23, 2026. I (Chuck Downing) was honored to serve as the Lay Delegate from the Denison circuit.

Saturday night July 18 was the formal dinner and Church with Holy Communion. President Harrison (in his last time as President presiding over the convention) preached on the "woes of Paul", and on "Christ is Risen Indeed".

July 19 at 8am Morning worship was held and then convention went into session for business. The morning started with basic convention rules and people in the Phoenix area welcoming us to the area. Some of the resolutions that we approved where: RES 1-01A Encourage All Nations ministry in North America, RES 1-02 To Proclaim 2029 the 500th year of Luther's Catechisms, RES 2-02A To Direct Districts and Encourage Congregational Participation in Global Ministry through Prayer and Partnerships and Support.

Elections for the following were held: Rev Peter Lange was reelected as 1st VP, Rev Ben Ball elected as VP for Central Region, Rev Christopher Esget VP of East-Southeast Region, Rev Eric Skovgaard VP Great Lakes Region, Rev Nabil Nour VP Great Plains Region (this is the one IDW is in), Rev Alfonso Espinosa West-Southwest Region. Then we elected 2nd VP to sixth VP: Ball 2nd VP, Espinosa 3rd VP, Esget 4th VP, Nour 5th VP, and Skovgaard 6th VP.

July 2 at 8am Morning worship was held and then convention went into session for business. Resolution passed this day: RES 6-03 To give thanks for the office of the Holy Ministry and our Synods pastors, RES 6-05A To Reaffirm the Synod's process for Training and Certification for Pastors (many opinions on this as it relates to SMP Pastors, Pastors on how they are trained, online classes, AI computer issues), RES 4-04B To Clarify Oversight and Revitalize role of Registered Service Organizations, RES 4-07 To Condemn Political Violence and Encourage participation in Public Life (this was in reference to Charlie Kirk) many wanted his name in the resolution but it putting his name in the resolution failed, RES 4-08A To Direct the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to Examine Current political and social issues (CTCR takes many years to give back opinions on the issued given to them), RES 4-09: To Address uses of Artificial Intelligence (many fear Church workers will start to us AI and it will not be biblical factual), RES 6-07A To Encourage and Support Specific Ministry Pastors (SMP) to Pursue General Pastor Certification. RES 1-07A To increase Church Planting, RES 1-12 To Support Campus Ministry, RES 1-09A To Promote Ministry Among Youth and Young Adults. Rev John Sias was reelected as Secretary of the Synod, and many other elections (we elected 74 people to different boards this takes allot of the convention time)

July 21 at 8am Morning worship was held and then convention went into session for business. More elections held to start off the day. Resolutions passed this day: RES 10-02A To respond to Sexual Misconduct by Rostered Workers and Make Provision for Spiritual Care of those Affected, RES 6-09A To Implore Council of Presidents to fulfill (RES 6-03 2019 convention) Oversight of Specific Ministry Pastors, RES 6-11 To Embed Church work formation and Recruitment in the Culture of the LCMS, RES 10-04A To Seek Unity and Peace in the Synod and to Establish a Practical Statement for God Pleasing us of Digital Communications

July 22 at 8am Morning worship was held and then convention went into session for business. More elections held and finally all positions who needed to be voted in was done. Resolution passed this day: RES 9-12 Lutheran Church Extension Fund (so they can real estate things), RES 7-01 To Commend the Concordia University System, RES 5-09A To Address the Public Reading of Scripture in Public Worship, RES 3-02A To Promote Awareness of Christian Adoption and Fostering needs. RES 9-18 To Elect the Synod President at Convention (we elect the President before the convention via on line voting, more the 5800 people voted in 2026) If we would go back to election at the convention only around 1000 people would be voting for the President. This Motion Failed (so election in 2029 for President will be online)

July 23 at 8am Morning worship was held and then convention went into session for business. Resolutions passed this day: RES 3-03A To give thanks for Work of LCMS Disaster Response and Human Care Partners, RES 7-08A To study Synodwide Corporate Status of Concordia University Systems, RES 3-06A To Encourage Synod to Respond to Growing Addiction Crisis, RES 3-04A To Encourage Use of Counseling and Telehealth Services for care and Retention of Church Workers, RES 5-08A To reaffirm the Synods Positions of Men and Women in the Church (to again unequivocally reaffirm its opposition to the ordination of women as pastor, RES 5-05 To address Open Communion and Pastoral Exceptions in Extraordinary Circumstances (this one would be best explain if you talked with a Pastor on this one), RES 5-04 To address concerns with Partner Church, RES 1-11A to confess God's design for the Family.

The convention ended with closing service.

If you have any question about the Resolutions you can look them up on the LCMS website.

Our Savior Women's Guild Meeting Minutes August 10, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of Our Savior Women's Guild was on August 10th at 2:00 PM. There were 6 members in attendance. Following the Common Table Prayer, we enjoyed snacks and conversation.

President Dianne Furne opened the meeting with the LWML Pledge.

The business meeting opened with the Secretary's report by Sandy and the Treasurer's report by Jan N. Both were accepted as read.

For Christian Growth Dianne read an inspiring poem named Hope.

Reports:

GRACEWELL:

Free concert by two singers on August 26th at 6:30

Eventide Alzheimer's fund-raising potato bar September 10th, 11:30

CARDS:

Anniversary cards have been added to the variety of cards available.

MISSIONS:

Refer to list of Mission Grants selected at Convention from July meeting. This is where our mites will go.

QUILTS:

Sale will be this fall, dates pending.

COMING EVENTS:

Zone Board meeting August 27th at 9:00 at Our Savior. Rolls, coffee cake, and coffee will be served for this event. Several members volunteered to bring a pan of treats and serve those attending.

Mission Central Retreat will be on Saturday, September 19th at 1:00 PM. Missionary speakers will be from Dominican Republic. Can sign up on Internet.

Fall Rally will be on September 24th. We are responsible for serving, and have decided to serve sliders, chips, carrots/celery and dessert. Dianne has chosen to provide LWML cookies to be used as the favor.

No birthdays this month, but the group sang Happy Birthday to Sandy for her birthday last month.

Mite box was passed.

Dianne's hymn for this month is "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me", written in 1775 by Augustus Toplady, an English clergyman. He was active in his ministry, serving his Lord. His life was short, dying at age 38 of TB. We joined in singing four stanzas of this hymn.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer. We meet again on September 14th at 2:00 PM.

Sandy Johnson, Secretary

SEPT. 24TH OUR SAVIOR LWML IS HOSTING THE LWML FALL RALLY STARTING AT 9:00. REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 FOLLOWED BY THE SERVICE AND LUNCH.



AUGUST 2026 PARISH RECORDS

August Official Acts		
<u>Baptisms</u>		
Jordan Dennis Schiltz	Born: June 6, 1997	Baptized: August 8, 2026
Parents: Dennis & Sandy Schiltz		Our Savior
Colin Anthony Lansink	Born: December 10, 2025	Baptized: August 23, 2026
Parents: Austin & Abigail Lansink		Our Savior

Prayers & Praise

"Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests, while giving thanks." Philippians 4:6

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THOSE WITH VARIOUS HEALTH ISSUES:

Lowell Neumann, Tammy Schurke, Denise Buckholdt, Jerry Blackmore, Gabby Riessen, Doris Neumann, Raven Stone, Pauline Meeves, Trent Campbell, Robert Hansen.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SHUT INS

Ruth Blackmore, Jenell Beam, Adlyn Ohl, Melanie Ohl, Norma Berens.

REMEMBER THOSE SERVING AS MILITARY PERSONNEL

Cody Vogt – United States Air Force, Creech Air Force Base, Nevada, son of Mike & Lisa Vogt
Tanner Krayneski – United States Marines, Camp Pendleton, Grandson of Byron & Pauline Meeves
Rob Garvey – United States Air Force, Fort Mead, Maryland., son in law of Rex & Catherine Lechtenberg
Alex Wingert – United States Navy, California, nephew of Larry Gittins
Payton Malone – United States Air Force, Grand Fork, North Dakota, Grandson of George & Julie Malone
Kaya Auen – United States Navy, Fort Sam, San Antonio, Daughter of Kristin Kastner
Jed Wiley – United States Army, Tacoma, Washington, Brother of Jarryn Wiley-Pearce
Chandler Lee – United States Air Force, Missouri, Grandson of Sam Lee, and nephew of Travis & Rondi Wessel
Trevor Koenck – United States Air Force Reserve, Dayton, Ohio. Son of Bob & Melanie Coenen
Matt Eiten – United States Air Force Reserve, Sioux City, Iowa. Grandson of Bob & Linda Quandt
Maggie Hennings – United States Navy, Okinawa, Japan. Daughter of Eric & Miranda Hennings
Quinton Juhl – United States Army, Fort Lee, Richmond, Virginia. Son of Rick and Jennifer Juhl

REMEMBER THOSE WE SUPPORT SERVING AS MISSIONARIES

Benjamin and Ella Goehring – Romania	Rev. Jason and Emily Groth and Family – Belize
Rev. Dr. Thomas Park – Taiwan	Ruth Maita - Puerto Rico
Timothy & Lisa Sandeno – Germany	Hannah Hester - Asia Region
Rev. Jonathan Anderson – Panama	Pastor Carl & Chenhsi Li Hanson and Family – Korea
Rev. James and Angela Sharp – Puerto Rico	Zachary Turley – Japan
Eddy & Jamie Bynum – Spain	

Our Savior Prayer Chain Co-Captain
Shelly: 263-4376

Bethlehem Prayer Chain Co-Captains
Julie: 269-7715, Sue: 263-9613

SEPTEMBER THY STRONG WORD

Tune in Monday through Saturday, 6:25 a.m. KDSN (104.9 FM) 3-4-minute devotions sponsored by the local LCMS congregations.

September 7th—September 12th
September 14th—September 19th
September 21st—September 26th
September 28th—October 3rd

Rev. Merle Mahnken
Rev. Chad Trunkhill
Rev. Richard Merrill
Rev. Nathan Peitsch

Immanuel LC, Schleswig
Our Savior & Bethlehem
Multi-Point, Charter Oak
St. Paul LC, Ute

To financially support these broadcasts, please send donations to Our Savior and earmark for "Thy Strong Word."

Lutheran Family Services

www.lfsiowa.org

Crossroads of Crawford County

www.crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.com

3707 Timberline Dr., Denison

712-263-9950

Director@Crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org

FCC (Family Crisis Center)

712-449-7196

michellej@familycrisiscenters.org

Additional online resources:

Lutheran Hour Ministries: www.lhm.org

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod:

www.lcms.org

Lutheran Women's Missionary League:

www.lwml.org

Men's Network: www.lhmmen.com

Online Bible: www.biblegateway.com

Concordia Publishing House:

www.CPH.org

Rightnow Media: www.rightnowmedia.org

Our Savior's Website

www.oursaviordenison.com

Facebook

Our Savior Lutheran – Denison, IA

Our Savior Denison-Youth Ministries

APP

"The Church App"—Our Savior Lutheran

"The Lutheran Hour"

6:30 a.m. Sundays:

KDSN-FM 104.9 Denison

10:30 a.m. Sundays:

KDSN-AM 1530

"Thy Strong Word"

Every Mon-Sat. 6:25 a.m.

KDSN-FM 104.9

Iowa District West

www.idwlcms.org

Camp Okoboji

www.campokoboji.org

Mission Central

www.missioncentral.us

Let's Connect!

CHURCH MAILBOXES

Don't forget to check your church mailbox. Located in the gathering area.

If you do not currently have a church mailbox and would like one, or if you have any name corrections you need made, please contact Stephanie at the church office!

Happening in September, and beyond

Rally Day Worship

Washington Park

SEPT 13TH - 10:30 AM

(COMMUNITY WORSHIP, FOOD, FUN, GAMES FOR EVERYONE)



ADULT CHOIR

PRACTICE RESUMES SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 WITH A POTLUCK AT 5:30!

CONTACT JULIE BURHOOP FOR MORE INFORMATION



Confirmation/Rock 4,5,6 Parent Meeting

September 9th at 6:00pm. This will be for all students and parents from 4th - 8th grade. The meeting will last no more than 1 hour.

Portals of Prayer

New copies of Portals of Prayer (October – December 2026) are now available! Check the Welcome center or the office to get your copy!

**Our Savior Lutheran
Trunk or Treat
October 31, 2026
2:00-4:00PM**

Food, Fun, and Candy
Trunks and Treaters needed!



Camp Okoboji Fundraiser

The Missions group will once again be helping with the omelet breakfast at Camp Okoboji on September 6th. This is a big fundraiser for the camp, and a cabin has been reserved for us to stay in on September 5th, so we don't have to drive so early on Sunday to be there. It's a very fun weekend of socializing and uniting with others in faith. If you would like to join us, please contact Sue Bergamo (269-2791) or Rachel Greene (269-6983). As always, the more hands, the lighter the work!



**WEDNESDAY
EVENING
ACTIVITIES
BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 16TH**

oursaviordenison.com

4:00: WBS (4 yr. old – 3rd grade)
4:00: Rock 456 Classes
5:30: Meal/Snack Time
6:00: Choir
6:00: 7th – 8th grade Confirmation Classes
6:30: Sr. High Connect (starting 9/23)

**Bethlehem Lutheran
Trunk or Treat
October 31, 2026
5:00-7:00 PM**

Food, Fun, and Candy
Hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, hot chocolate



Local Events to Share

Help Childhood Cancer Warriors Keep Up the Fight



DENISON COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Your donation can provide strength, stability and hope to patients facing T-cell leukemia. Give blood. Give platelets. Help someone keep fighting.

monday
September 14
12:15 pm to 5:30 pm
Crawford County YMCA
Upper Level Fitness Room

APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED

TEXT lifeserve to 515.815.7242
CALL 800.287.4903
VISIT lifeservebloodcenter.org

LifeServe BLOOD CENTER
YOUR BLOOD. YOUR HOSPITAL. YOUR NEIGHBORS.



St Patrick's Annual Fall Festival

Sunday, September 13th
St. Patrick's Parish Center
Hwy 30 Dunlap, Iowa

11:00am – 1:30pm

Adults \$17.00
Children \$7.00
10 & under

\$8,500.00 in Cash Drawings!
\$5,000.00 1st Place Prize!

Broasted Chicken Dinner

Country Store By Staley's Catering Voted #1 in Iowa! Cup Cake Walk

Kids Games Cash Drawings Raffle Items!

Bring the Family and Join the Fun!
For In-Town OR Carry out Dinners
call 712-643-5115 OR 712-579-2012

THE POW/MIA MISSING MAN TABLE

★★★★★

The Missing Man Table is a powerful symbol of our nation's commitment to honor and remember America's Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action. This solemn table is set in remembrance of those who cannot be with us.

EACH ITEM HAS A MEANING

- THE TABLECLOTH** – White is for the purity of their motives when answering the call to serve.
- THE SINGLE ROSE** – Reminds us of the loved ones and family who keep the faith while awaiting their return.
- THE CANDLE** – Symbolizes the light of hope that lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home.
- THE LEMON** – Represents the bitter fate of those captured and missing from a grateful nation.
- THE BIBLE** – Signifies the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country.
- THE INVERTED GLASS** – They cannot toast with us today. It is turned upside down to show their absence.
- THE EMPTY CHAIR** – They are not here. This chair is reserved for our missing brothers and sisters.
- THE BLACK NAPKIN** – Stands for the emptiness these warriors have left in the hearts of their families and friends.
- THE SALT UPON THE BREAD PLATE** – Represents the tears of their families.

A PROMISE WE WILL KEEP

"We will never forget our missing men and women.
We will never stop working toward their return.
We will never cease to remember."

★★★

When you see the Missing Man Table, take a moment to reflect on the sacrifice of those who served and never made it home. They are not forgotten.

All gave some. SOME GAVE ALL.
YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.



Rev Richard Merrill

May Christ continue to keep you secure in His Hand,
and shower you with His Grace.
YOU ARE A BLESSING TO US.
St John Congregation

Congratulations
PASTOR MERRILL
35 YEARS
OF FAITHFUL SERVICE
IN THE LUTHERAN MINISTRY
AUGUST 11, 1991 – AUGUST 11, 2026

*St. John Lutheran Church
Charter Oak, Iowa*

+ Congratulations Pastor Merrill on serving in the Lutheran Ministry for 35 years (August 11th, 1991 to August 11th, 2026) serving first at Zion Lutheran Church in Humboldt, Iowa and then serving our St. John Congregation since March 13th, 2005 for 21 Years. Along with serving Immanuel and St. Paul Congregations since July of 2019.

♥ We honored Pastor with an engraved ink pen and case on Sunday August 16th after the church service.

👥 We will be continuing this honor with a card shower telling him how his presence and messages have impacted you (us) along with a potluck meal on Rally Sunday September 13th. With the children back at Sunday School they can "Rally" around him along with the adults.




NEWS FROM IOWA DISTRICT WEST—THE MESSENGER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 28-29...Spiritual First Aid, Iowa District West Office, **Fort Dodge**
September 7...Labor Day, District Office Closed
September 18-19...Engaged in Mission Conference, St. Paul Lutheran, **Carroll**
September 21-22...Fall Pastor's Conference, Gloria Dei Lutheran, **Urbandale**
September 29...Administrative Assistants Conference, St. Paul, **Fort Dodge**



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2-4...Senior Youth Gathering, **Camp Okoboji**
October 9-11...Clergy Wives Retreat, **Camp Okoboji**
October 24-25...Junior Youth Gathering, Sheraton Hotel, **West Des Moines**
November 7...Conflict/Difficult Conversations Workshop...District Office, **Fort Dodge**
November 7...Fall Treasurers Workshop, **Denison**
December 28-January 4...IOWAY Pedal Pushers Trip, **Pasadena, CA**



Update

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept 6: 9:30 AM TO 1:00 PM OMELET BRUNCH
Sept. 9-11: Outdoor Education Session 1
Sept. 16-18: Outdoor Education Session 2
Sept. 23-25: Outdoor Education Session 3
Oct. 2-4: IDW Senior High Youth Gathering
Oct 4: 9:30 AM TO 1:00 PM OMELET BRUNCH
Oct. 9-10: CAMP OKOBOJI FALL VOLUNTEER WEEKEND
Oct. 9-11: IDW Pastors Wives Retreat



Summer Chaplain Schedule Join us for worship - 9 am

August 23 - Rev. Chris Nitzel - Hartley
August 30 - Rev. Benjamin Dose - Algona
September 6 - Rev. Robert Zellmer - Lawton

Thank You!

THANKS to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in serving Camp Okoboji.

- A very special THANKS to all the volunteers who serve as Youth Camp Deans, Staff and Counselors! You are greatly appreciated! We couldn't do our ministry well without you!

Fall Volunteer Weekend

Our Fall Volunteer Weekend will be Oct. 9-10. We will also host a dinner on Saturday evening at 5 pm to honor and celebrate our volunteers that help us throughout the year. Fall Volunteer Weekend is a great way to share your time and talents while you enjoy God's Creation at Camp Okoboji. Help prepare Camp Okoboji for the upcoming winter. Room and board will be provided for volunteers. Please save the date and make plans to come and help! For room and board accommodations, please call the office at (712) 337-3325!

LOVE GOD LOVE PEOPLE

IOWA DISTRICT WEST
JUNIOR YOUTH
GATHERING

Sheraton Hotel
West Des Moines, IA
October 24-25, 2026



“His Steadfast Love”

Daily Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His Name! For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100:4-5)

If faithful church-goers respond to a survey about their reasons for attending worship, there may be as many different answers as there are respondents. Why do they worship every Sunday? Some enjoy music and like to sing the hymns that celebrate our salvation. Others want to hear the Scripture readings and the sermon, teachings that will help them grow in faith. Many look forward to receiving God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. There will be those who especially long for the peace and comfort they find in the words of the absolution. Others enjoy fellowship with their brothers and sisters in Christ, and many may attend simply in joyful obedience to the Lord’s command to keep the Sabbath day holy.

These are all reasonable answers, but the psalmist might have a different response for a worship survey. He worships with joy, entering the Lord’s temple with thanksgiving and praise. He blesses the holy Name of the Lord. But why is he there in God’s house? The psalmist is not there because he enjoys music, although it is very likely that he does because he composes songs! The temple is a place to learn the Word of God and to grow in faith and fellowship with all who trust in the God of Israel. But the psalmist has another reason for his attendance. He goes to the temple because the Lord is good. The psalmist worships in God’s presence because the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever, and His faithfulness lasts through all generations.

“The Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever.” Whatever our personal likes or opinions might be as we go to church, our reasons are the same as those of the psalmist. We come together to worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ because of the enduring, steadfast love of our Lord. That steadfast love led our Savior to take up His cross and die for us. The Lord’s steadfast love and faithfulness are revealed in the gift of His holy Supper as we receive His body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. It is the steadfast love of the Lord that comforts and encourages us through the reading, teaching, and hearing of His Word. Week after week, we “enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise” to receive God’s gracious gifts of Word and Sacrament. We might respond to a survey with a variety of answers about our reasons for worship, but each time we gather to worship in the presence of the Lord, we are there because of His steadfast love!

WE PRAY: Now and forever, Lord, accept my grateful praise for Your steadfast, enduring love. Amen. This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Carol Geisler.

Reflection Questions:

Do you have a favorite reason for going to church? If you don’t always find that on a given Sunday, can you still get a lot out of church anyway?

How has God shown us that His love and faithfulness extend to all generations?

How can you make church more agreeable, inviting, engaging for someone else, the next time you go?

Thank you, Chuck Downing for sharing this devotion!



Our Savior Lutheran Church
500 N 24th Street
Denison, Iowa 51442

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