



Our Savior Lutheran's

July Voice
2026

Church and State — *Reflection Three*

Government comes as God's gift and His agent. Whatever its structure, it exercises His authority for the good of all humankind.

Whatever its corruption, it participates in His protecting and providing in order to impede evil and preserve existence. So it evidences His Gospel grace and goodness, as our sinful race does not deserve even this degree of protection and providence.

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed." — Romans 13:1-7

"For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." — Matthew 5:45

In Him Is Gladness...

In Abram was gladness, amid all the sadness and death of this life - God counted him righteous. No longer was he to be Abram, but now - because of Jesus - he would be called Abraham. Kings would come from him... a son promised him... an everlasting possession granted him. God made a covenant with man. He declares a promise and remembers his mercy. Forth from his mouth comes his mighty Word. To break our bonds and to make us his own special people.

Evil ruled in your heart and darkness reigned over you. Locked in Satan's chains, your bondage like that of your father Adam. Lost in your sin, you despise God and his good things, fearing powers - of earth, and sin, and death. The state of man - is great depravity - evil lurks and fills the hearts of men as your sin leads you astray.

But the Son has dawned on father Abraham and upon your hearts, too. The promise is for Abraham and for you. But why does God look out over the land and count **you** righteous? What have you done to receive the gifts of heaven?

Nothing! In fact, apart from God, you can do nothing, your souls are sleeping, your bonds hardening, and your hearts are troubled. But the promise is for Abraham and for his children - for you. For you, because you are the object of his love and attention. For you, because of his great love. He likes **you** and no power, not of earth, nor sin, nor death can have you from his hands. Forth from his mouth comes his mighty Word...to break your bonds and to make you his own bride.

For we rejoice that amid all our sadness, God did not ignore us and leave us to our own destruction. Instead, he became man... seeking... traveling... finding you. The Lord remembers his promises and showers you with his mercy. This promise - the gifts of heaven come flowing from the darkness of Calvary's cross. The sunshine of your hearts shines forth only from the darkness of Jesus' crucifixion. For while you were caught in your sin, the God-man Jesus died and shed his life - body broken & blood shed - true gifts to wake your souls and break your bonds.

A promise - He will be your God! What does this mean? God's life is yours. He gives you all of himself. On Calvary's cross he defeated Satan and destroyed death. He brings that blood - the life of the world and washes you in his Word. With his very breath he takes away the sin of the world and speaks comfort to his bride. With blood spilled and Word spoken, Jesus places crowns upon your heads and calls you his love.

We shout for gladness, triumph over sadness... God has made kings come forth from Abraham! He has established great nations for by Jesus' blood God has given the gifts of heaven to you! Your souls now awake, your bonds now broken. You stand with Jesus forever! Alleluia.

Pastor Cholak

Hey, parents!

If you have kids attending Sunday School, would you consider volunteering to be substitutes when teachers are out? If you are interested in helping, please call or text me.

Thanks for your consideration and prayers,

Matt Daniel, Sunday School Superintendent: 832-312-4505



CHILDREN'S ministry
VOLUNTEERS needed

Hymn of the Month: *Christ Be My Leader*

LSB #861

Timothy Dudley-Smith, born 1926, wrote this hymn in 1964. Timothy Dudley-Smith has become one of the foremost English hymn writers in recent history. The Scripture verse that inspired Timothy to write this is St. John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Stanza 1, line 2 has Christ as the way; stanza 2, line 2 has Christ as the truth; stanza 3, line 2 has Christ as the life. This hymn also speaks of the contrast of darkness and light. Christ leads both by night and day, safely through the darkness of the night and past all the shadows of the day. For that reason, all may follow Christ gladly into the future; even though the future is unknown, it is in Christ’s care.

The second stanza depicts Christ as teacher in both the early and the later years of one’s life, in times of both drifting and doubting.

The third stanza has Christ as Savior, securing our peace with God and our calm in all strife. Because of this, death has no grip upon the believer. In Christ, salvation is sure, and the believer confidently trusts all the promises of His kingdom.

Noteworthy in this short hymn is Dudley-Smith’s skillful use of alliteration in all three stanzas: stanza 1, line 4: darkness/daylight; stanza 2, line 2: drifting/doubting; stanza 2, line 4: doubt/daunt; stanza 3: darkness/doubting; sin/stain.

Through this hymn we can be assured that Christ is our leader from the time of our conception to the point of our death. Through trials, dangers, joys and life, Christ is with us leading us, strengthening us, comforting us.

Jeff Armstrong

Minister of Music

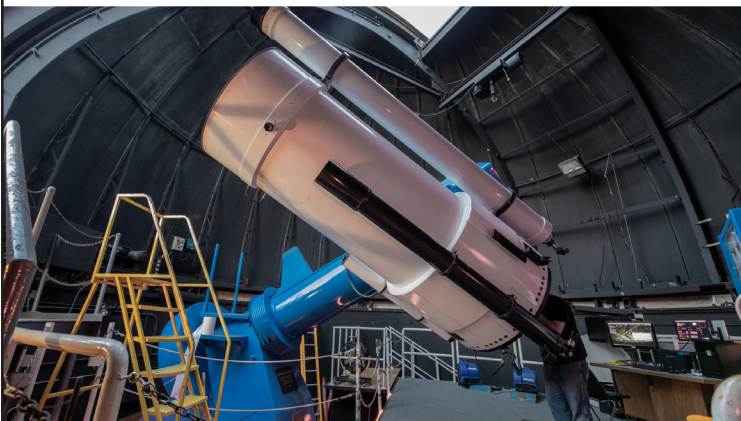


An Evening Under the Stars
Saturday, September 5, 2026
George Observatory

Join us as we caravan to Brazos Bend State Park for an astronomy experience you will never forget. The program begins at 9:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 each. Please contact Bill Prestwood for tickets 806-626-5244.

HOUSTON MUSEUM
of NATURAL SCIENCE
George Observatory

OSL Astronomy Club



Looking Ahead to the 2026–2027 School Year

This June, we began preparations for the 2026–2027 school year. We are blessed to have 425 OSL scholars registered for the upcoming year!

As we look ahead, we are excited to add talented Logic School teachers in Language Arts and Mathematics to our team.

We are also excited about the continued progress of the new Logic School building. Construction is moving steadily forward, and we can now clearly envision the future classrooms and learning spaces that will serve our students for years to come. In preparation for this transition, our Logic School, Upper Grammar School, and Lower Grammar School are all relocating classrooms. The Upper Grammar and Lower Grammar students will begin the new school year in newly assigned learning spaces.

While campus is quieter than usual during the summer months, we have been blessed with full classes of summer campers each week. Our camp staff has done an outstanding job creating engaging weekly themes and special events that make summer both educational and fun for our students.

One highlight of this summer’s Vacation Bible School was the impressive Tree of Life displayed in the gymnasium, which served as a beautiful centerpiece for the program.

Our Summer Reading Challenge is in full swing! Students are encouraged to continue reading throughout the summer to earn recognition and free dress passes when school resumes in August.

Thank you, Our Savior Lutheran Congregation, for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support of our school ministry. We are grateful for your partnership as we prepare for another year of Christ-centered education.

Erik Morrissey, Principal



LWML Cheerful Helpers

Bunco: Saturday, July 18 @ 10am

We are still collecting items for health kits and school kits! Please feel free to donate one item or several, or enough for a full kit. We assemble kits as we have enough items to fill them.

Hygiene Kits:

- 1 bath towel
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 bath-size bar of soap
- 1 plastic soap box holder
- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 nail clipper
- 1 toothbrush (individually pre packaged)
- 6 band-aids (½" or ¾")
- 1 small pre-packaged facial tissues pack (usually 10-15 per package)

School Kits:

- 1 backpack
- 2 spiral notebooks
- 2 pencils
- 2 pens
- 10 sheets of construction paper
- 1 package crayons (24 count)
- 1 ruler
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 scissors
- 1 rectangular eraser
- 1 package, colored pencils (12 count)
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 single pocket folder

Reminder:

Potter's Vessel does not meet in July, but will resume in August.

Chrismons

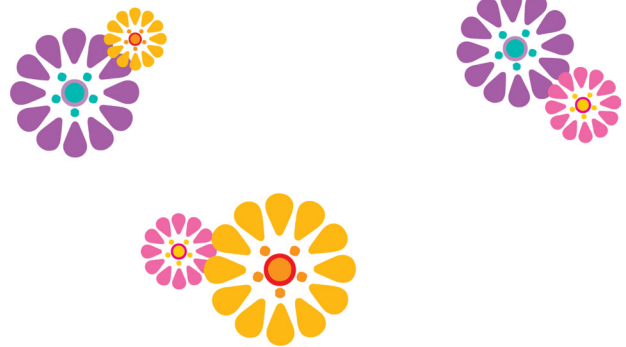
This year, we are making the Lamb pattern. If you need supplies or are interested in helping with this, please reach out! (sbaughman@osl.cc or call the church office)

Women's Retreat

Save the Date!

Join us at the beautiful Trinity Pines!

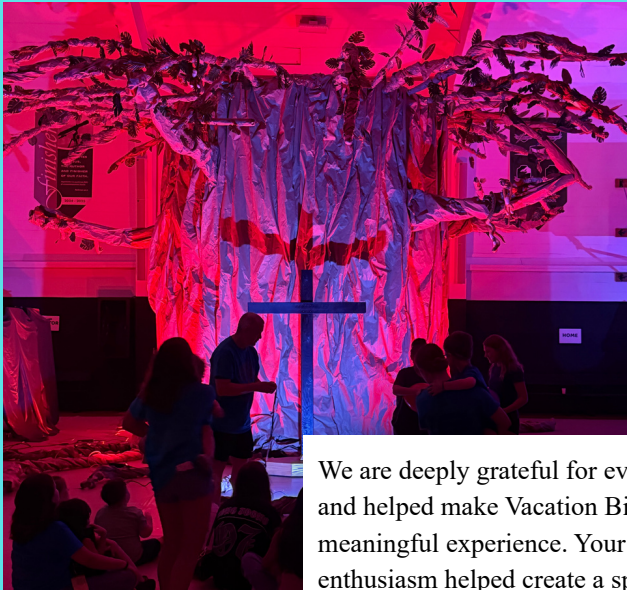
September 25-27, 2026



MOTHER'S DAY DIAPER DRIVE:

Thank you to everyone who donated diapers to Houston Coalition for Life! Mommies are very grateful!





We are deeply grateful for everyone who joined us this week and helped make Vacation Bible School such a joyful and meaningful experience. Your presence, support, and enthusiasm helped create a space filled with faith, learning, laughter, and love.



A special thank you to our many dedicated volunteers whose time, talents, creativity, and hearts made this event possible. From planning and preparation to teaching, leading, serving, and cleaning up, every act of service helped bring this week to life. We truly could not have done it without you.

We also extend heartfelt thanks to all who prayed, supported behind the scenes, and encouraged our team throughout the week. Your love and commitment helped reflect Christ in every moment.

Thank you for helping us share the love of Jesus with our children and community. We are blessed beyond measure by this church family.

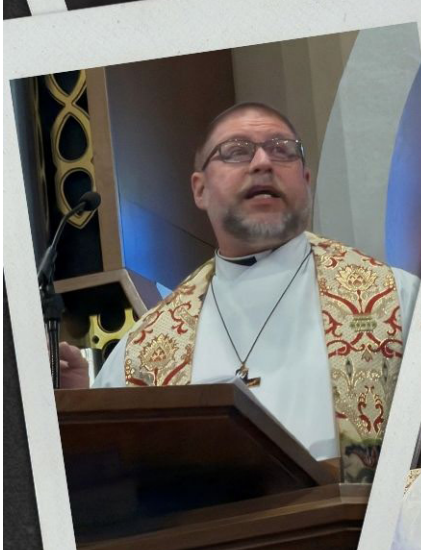
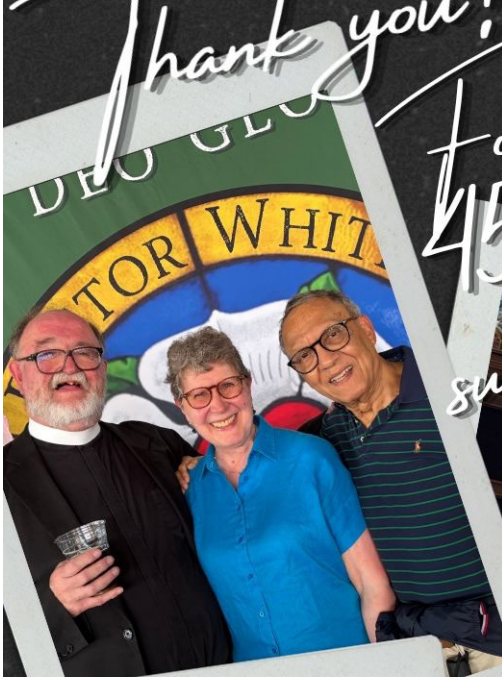


Ruben Luna





*Thank you!
For making Pastor White's
45-year retirement celebration
such a special day!*



You can still submit pictures to share with Pastor White and others until July 19!

Also download any submitted photos with the same QR code to keep for your collection.



**Need help?
Contact Jackie at the church office: jlowery@osl.cc**

Membership Changes

May 16 through June 15

TRANSFERS IN:

Abigail, Asher & Jace Sedory

Lois Newbauer, *Mother of Pastor Steven Cholak*

WEDDING:

Annie Thielke & Christian White — May 24, 2026

BAPTISMS:

Stephanos Belisarius Kauffman — *May 31, 2026*

Sydney Parker Lee — *June 6, 2026*

Miles Theodore Lee — *June 6, 2026*

Cora Violet Cheng — *June 7, 2026*

Angelina Hernandez — *June 12, 2026*



Memorials

The following memorials and honorariums were given to the glory of God to Forward Faithfully: Building for Our Future, in loving memory of...

- Mike Jolley Janice Jolley
- Glyn Lunsford Janice Jolley
- Eunice Witt Pat Wottrich









Honorariums

- Pastor White Janice Jolley
Tim Fenneberg
- Norman Adams Tim Fenneberg

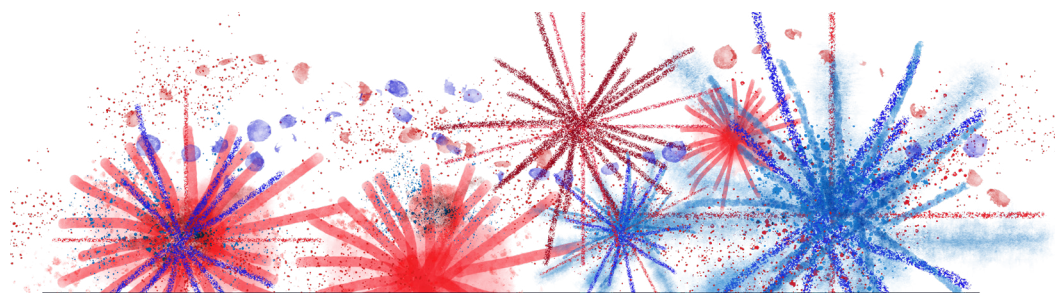
Missions

- Lutherans in Africa – May Family Diana Stachowiak
- Africa – Wokoma Laura Boyd

JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:15am Bible Class 9:30am Communion 9:30am Patriotic Festival Service 10:45am Sunday School 12:00pm Patriotic Festival-A101	29 <i>Summer Youth Trip</i> 6:30pm Revelation - Monday Night Bible Study 	30 <i>Summer Youth Trip</i> 6:30pm Stitches Fellowship Group - FR	1 <i>Summer Youth Trip</i> 6:30am Men's Bible Study-BC 10:00am Bible Class-BC 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline	2 <i>Summer Youth Trip</i> 3:00pm Prayer Request printing deadline	3 <i>Church Office closed</i>	4 Independence Day 2:30pm Houston Lutheran Chorale Patriotic Concert 1311 Holman St. 77004 
5 8:15am Bible Class 9:30am Matins 10:45am Sunday School 12:00pm Evangelism Meeting - EO	6 6:30pm Revelation - Monday Night Bible Study 	7 6:30pm Stitches Fellowship Group - FR 7:00pm Church Council- BC	8 6:30am Men's Bible Study-BC 10:00am Bible Class-BC 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline	9 3:00pm Prayer Request printing deadline	10 9:00am Joseph's Guild of Colors-LWML	11
12 8:15am Bible Class 9:30am Communion 10:45am Sunday School	13 <i>Pastor Cholak @ CCLE Conference</i> 9:00am Joseph's Guild of Colors-LWML 6:30pm Revelation - Monday Night Bible Study	14 <i>Pastor Cholak @ CCLE Conference</i> 8:30am Braille 6:30pm Stitches Fellowship Group - FR 6:30pm Trustees- Maintenance Bldg. 7:00pm Parish Ed mtg- YR	 ARTICLE DEADLINE Newsletter Deadline <i>Pastor Cholak @ CCLE Conference</i> 6:30am Men's Bible Study-BC 10:00am Bible Class-BC 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline	16 <i>Pastor Cholak @ CCLE Conference</i> 3:00pm Prayer Request printing deadline	17 <i>Pastor Cholak @ CCLE Conference</i>	18 10:00am Bunco Women's Social-BC BUNCO SOCIAL 
19 8:15am Bible Class 9:30am Matins 10:45am Sunday School 12:00pm Fellowship Potluck - BC 12:00pm Life Team Meeting-YR	20 6:30pm Revelation - Monday Night Bible Study 	21 6:30pm Stitches Fellowship Group - FR 6:30pm Stitches Fellowship Group - YR 7:00pm Elders mtg-BC 7:00pm LWML Night Circle-FR	22 6:30am Men's Bible Study-BC 10:00am Bible Class-BC 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline	23 3:00pm Prayer Request printing deadline	24	25
26 8:15am Bible Class 9:30am Communion 10:45am Sunday School 12:00pm Jr Youth Fusion-YR	27 6:30pm Revelation - Monday Night Bible Study 	28 6:30pm Stitches Fellowship Group - FR 7:00pm Parochial Ed-BC	29 6:30am Men's Bible Study-BC 10:00am Bible Class-BC 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline	30 3:00pm Prayer Request printing deadline	31	1 <i>Men's Breakfast</i>  8:30am Men Alive-A101 11:00am Bon Appétit

A=Gym/Cafeteria; B=Early Childhood; C=Classrooms; BC=Bible Class; EO=Evangelism Office; FR=Family Rm; YR=Youth Rm; *Italics=not OSL*



Those To Serve – July 2026

Acolytes	07/05/26	9:30 AM	Holly Crabtree / Katrin Daniel
Carts	07/05/26	9:30 AM	Gavin Team
Elders	07/05/26	9:30 AM	Chuck Hall / Scott Nitsch / Shaun Downie / Karl Baughman
Evangelism	07/05/26	9:30 AM	Team Malson
Greeters	07/05/26	9:30 AM	TEAM 10: Schmidt / Stuhr
Sound	07/05/26	9:30 AM	Greenwood
Ushers	07/05/26	9:30 AM	Downie Team
Acolytes	07/12/26	9:30 AM	Aria Ferrarese / Iris Ferrarese
Altar Guild	07/12/26	9:30 AM	Barbara Mushinski Team 8
Carts	07/12/26	9:30 AM	Work Team
Comm Asst.	07/12/26	9:30 AM	Chuck Hall / Scott Nitsch / Shaun Downie / Karl Baughman / Brian Nitsch
Elders	07/12/26	9:30 AM	Chuck Hall / Scott Nitsch / Shaun Downie / Karl Baughman
Evangelism	07/12/26	9:30 AM	Team O'Neill/Schmidt
Greeters	07/12/26	9:30 AM	TEAM 1: Carter/Malsons
Sound	07/12/26	9:30 AM	T. Wilbanks
Ushers	07/12/26	9:30 AM	Gobrogge Team
Acolytes	07/19/26	9:30 AM	Alex Dellaughter / Prynce Willis
Carts	07/19/26	9:30 AM	Adams Team
Elders	07/19/26	9:30 AM	Chuck Hall / Scott Nitsch / Shaun Downie / Karl Baughman
Evangelism	07/19/26	9:30 AM	Team Kriegel
Greeters	07/19/26	9:30 AM	TEAM 2: Renevier
Sound	07/19/26	9:30 AM	Whiting
Ushers	07/19/26	9:30 AM	Symcox Team
Acolytes	07/26/26	9:30 AM	Abby Frazier / Isabelle Frazier
Altar Guild	07/26/26	9:30 AM	Glenda Cochran Team 2
Carts	07/26/26	9:30 AM	Pampell Team
Comm Asst.	07/26/26	9:30 AM	Chuck Hall / Scott Nitsch / Shaun Downie / Karl Baughman / Brian Nitsch
Elders	07/26/26	9:30 AM	Chuck Hall / Scott Nitsch / Shaun Downie / Karl Baughman
Evangelism	07/26/26	9:30 AM	Team Stuhr
Greeters	07/26/26	9:30 AM	TEAM 3: Cherington / Guevara
Sound	07/26/26	9:30 AM	Witt
Ushers	07/26/26	9:30 AM	Halbert Team



Church Staff Directory

Rev Steven Cholak, Vacancy Pastor
scholak@osl.cc

Jeff Armstrong, Minister of Music
jarmstrong@oslschool.org

Erik Morrissey, Principal
emorrissey@oslschool.org

Jackie Jolley-Lowery, Office Manager
jlowery@osl.cc

Barbara Mushinski, Publicist
bmushinski@osl.cc

Sarah Baughman, Office Assistant
sbaughman@osl.cc

Donna Hebert, Accountant
dhebert@osl.cc

Mary Beth Witt, Business Manager
mwitt@osl.cc

Bill Prestwood, Evangelism Dir
wprestwood@oslschool.org

Jeanene Lunsford, Asst Principal
jlunsford@oslschool.org

Lynette Cherington, Asst Prin, ECE Dir
lcherington@oslschool.org

Alec Kemnitz, Athletic Director
akemnitz@oslschool.org

Diane White, School Manager
dwhite@oslschool.org

Ed Witt, Maintenance Supervisor
ewitt@oslschool.org

Worship Sundays at 9:30am
Bible Classes at 8:15 & 10:45am
Church: 713-290-9087
Fax: 713-290-0224
Web: www.OSL.cc
School: 713-290-8277
5000 W Tidwell Rd, Houston, TX 77091

Summer Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 9:00 am-4 pm

- 
- 
- 1 Kim Cezeaux
Lizzie Dellaughter
Jason Kramer
Melvin Miller
Greyson Williams
 - 2 Stephen Gbur
 - 3 Jim Synnott Jr
 - 4 August Baughman
Gilda Candella
Alexander Gutierrez
 - 5 Nancy Boddicker
Beckett Dinsmore
 - 6 Blake Crabtree
Alex Pollock
 - 7 Steve Caka
Vanessa Cook
 - 8 Mikayla Eifert
Sonya Whiting
Mandy Temple
 - 9 Kristie McDonald
Everett Tannert
 - 10 Erich Eifert
Andy Manriquez
Jeff Hemingway
 - 11 Kaitlyn Kramer
Ted Reyes Sr.
 - 12 Julie Azzi
Anna Daniel
Alex Payne
Allie Synnott
 - 13 Sharon Petree
Caroline Silva
 - 14 Benjamin Witt
 - 15 Kyle Aisenbrey
Brenda Jones
James Kriegel
Paul Proske
 - 16 Charles Jeske
Sandra Seyffert
Iris Willis
 - 17 Scarlett Heefner
 - 18 Carmina Contreras
 - 19 Asia Clark
Lisa Petree
 - 20 Julie Hester
Roger Synnott
Jaide Thomas
Joi Thomas
 - 21 Kimberly Eifert
Rocky Noack
Stephanie Savoie
Katy Kramer
 - 22 Donna Ginn
Shepard Morris
Thelma Oberndorfer
 - 23 Jordan Jones
 - 24 Patrick Downie
Sandy Fritsche
Giovani Galindo
Jeff Skweres
 - 25 Jack Gobrogge
Joy Lunsford
 - 26 Max Banes
Clayton Wilbanks
 - 27 Bianca Williams
 - 28 Colin Noble
 - 29 Lucas Downie
Doris Hackemack
 - 30 Zoey Burge
Edward Witt
 - 31 Sandra El-Gamil
Henry Holeman
Lee Kauffman
Mallory Key
Lanny Moore

Birthdays in July

Our Savior Lutheran
Church & School

5000 W. Tidwell Rd
Houston TX 77091-4633

Return Service Requested



presents a free concert . . .

SATURDAY, JULY 4 @ 2:30 PM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1311 HOLMAN ST

HOUSTON TX 77004

GOD BLESS
America
250!

CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

Unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed! — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence in the long run will be dictated by Wisdom and by common sense to hold them fast unless they become impracticable in their application to the circumstances of the time.