



THE CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church Newsletter | February 1, 2026



Praise Team drummer and OSL student, Delon Wright, celebrates his baptism on Thursday, January 29, 2026 (p. 3).



FEBRUARY

SUN. 2/1

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services

Bible Study—9:15 a.m.

Kids Connect—10:30 a.m.

MON.2/2–TUES. 2/3

Schedule open

WED. 2/4

Discussion Group—10 a.m.

Handbells Practice—6:30 p.m.

THURS. 2/5

Schedule open

FRI. 2/6

Church office closed

SAT. 2/7

Properties Work Day—9 a.m.

Chili Cook-Off—6 p.m.

**Please keep the following
OSL church members in prayer:**

Haroldo Camacho, Marianne DeMinck, Roger Detwiler, Janice Evans, Howard Fischer, Sue Franjione, Betty Hea, Bob Johnson, Prentis Johnson, Robert Latimer, James Leone, Anthony Linley, Les Mellott, Malcolm Sears, Jennifer Sird-De La Horra, Robert Spencer, Linda Verdi, and Jodi Waldron.

Rehabilitation Home: Ron Holub

Members & Family in the Armed Services:

Dustin Douglas (son-in-law of Les and Juli Mellott) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, WA; **Scott Tucek** (son of Carol Tucek) at Yokota Air Base in Japan.

SUN. 2/8

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services

Bible Study—9:15 a.m.

Kids Connect—10:30 a.m.

Board of Lay Ministry Meeting—12:15 p.m.

MON.2/9–TUES. 2/10

Schedule open

WED. 2/11

Discussion Group—10 a.m.

Handbells Practice—6:30 p.m.

THURS. 2/12

Schedule open

FRI. 2/13

Church office closed

SAT. 2/14

Church office closed

FEBRUARY 2026

S M T W T F S

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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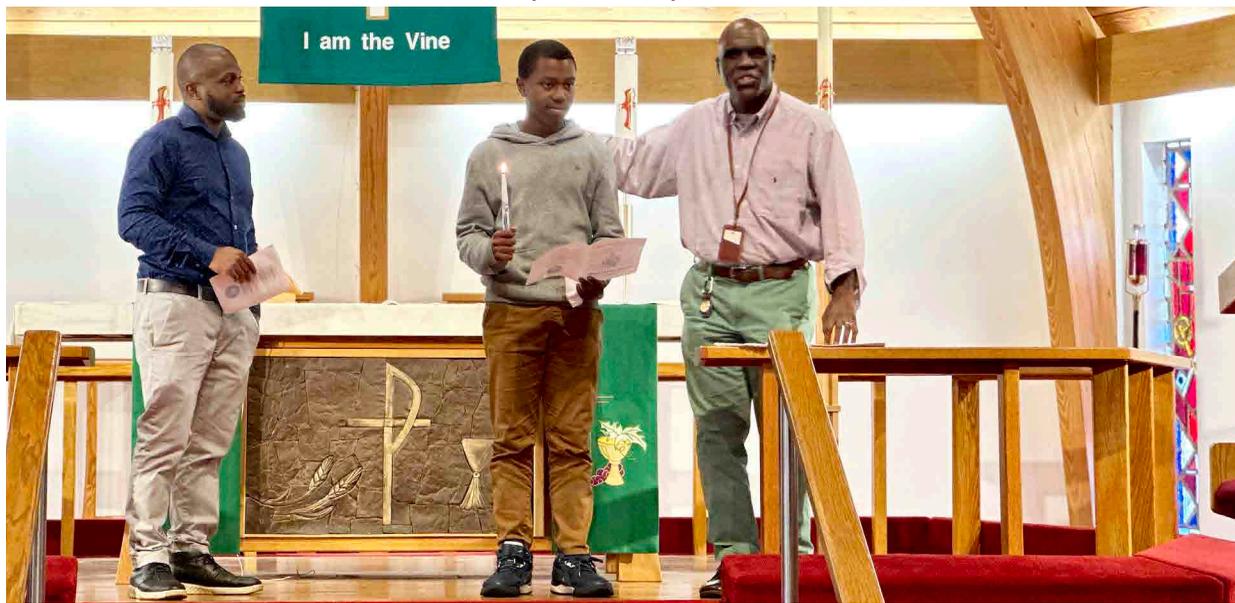
FEBRUARY FLOWERS



As of this Sunday, we now have \$2,657 in our flower fund. That is enough to cover two bouquets for **53 Sundays**.



Welcome to the Family, Delon!
Thursday, January 29, 2026



On January 29, 2026, our school family had the joy of celebrating a truly special and heartwarming baptism for Delon Wright, whom many already know and love as the newest—and youngest—talented drummer on our 10:30 Praise Team. While baptisms usually take place in church, this beautiful moment took place during the school hours, surrounded by cheering classmates and teachers—his friends and family in Christ. With the middle school classes and his father in attendance, the room was filled with love, encouragement, and unity. When the ceremony concluded, his classmates burst into loud cheers and applause, making the moment unforgettable and a joyful reminder of the strong, faith-filled community we share. We pray that God guides him in his spiritual growth!



WHAT TO EXPECT FOR TITHES, OFFERINGS, & YEAR-END STATEMENTS IN 2026

Dearest brothers and sisters in Christ,

Starting January 2026, Our Savior Lutheran Church will start a new method of recording your monetary gifts, tithes, and offerings.

Offering envelopes were originally designed to provide financial records for registered members, primarily for tax deduction purposes. Due to changes in tax deductions, this accounting is no longer necessary for your tax returns.

Following current tax law guidelines, **Our Savior will no longer track individual offerings.** It will now be your personal responsibility to keep records of your gifts, tithes, and offerings. Hence, **the church office will no longer provide any year-end giving print outs for your taxes.** Any donation receipts, if required, will be handled as per the tax law guidelines.

After careful review and consultation with our finance team, we confirmed that **the church is legally required to provide written receipts only for single, undivided contributions of \$250 or more.** Therefore, going forward, if you wish to receive a paper receipt, contributions must be made as a single, bulk donation of the aforementioned amount. These receipts will be generic and simple in nature in consideration of our volunteer-based and limited staffing. Please expect only the date of deposit, total contribution amount, the church's EIN, and a statement confirming that no goods or services were provided in exchange for the generous donation.

Please be assured that Our Savior Lutheran Church will continue to maintain a system of internal checks and balances when collecting, counting, depositing and documenting service collections, as required by tax law.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and generosity.

In Christ,
Your Office Staff & Volunteers
Our Savior Lutheran Church

An Evening of Neighborly Connection *Saturday, January 17, 2026*



The Outreach Board, Pastor Tony, John Waldron and Bill Presson enjoyed dinner with our friends from Plantation Garden Apartments. We shared prayers, food and ideas on how to build relationships with our neighbors. Our friends were so grateful for the dinner and conversation. We are planning another dinner and look forward to meeting more friends from Plantation Garden Apartments. OSL mom Jackelynn Han attended along with OSL preschool teacher Elizabeth Sandigo and her parents Leo and Geraldine. Our Board members learned a lot from our new friends, we have many things in common and first and foremost we shared our love for Jesus.

CHILI COOK-OFF

THINK YOU MAKE A GREAT CHILI?
BRING A POT AND SHOW US

Hot Prizes for the best chili

Feb 7th 6:00 PM

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
8001 NW 5th St, Plantation, FL 33324



Hot dogs available for kids

TICKETS
ADULTS \$10
KIDS \$5
(UNDER 10)

CONTESTANTS GET IN FREE



Global Groove

A Multicultural Celebration



International Food, Entertainment, and Crafts
Saturday, February 21, 2026

3-6 pm

Our Savior Lutheran School
8001 NW 5th Street, Plantation, FL

**Please sign up to bring
a dish! Scan here!**

**FREE
EVENT**





Matt Mondo's Testimony

Sunday, January 11, 2026

I'm grateful for the opportunity to stand here today and share what God has been doing in my life—because the truth is, I'm only here by His grace.

I grew up knowing about God, but for a long time my faith was something I kept at arm's length. I trusted Him when life felt good, but when things became uncomfortable or painful, I leaned on myself instead. I tried to control outcomes, relationships, and even my own growth. And along the way, I hurt people I love and fell short of the man God was calling me to be.

There were seasons marked by pride, impatience, and selfishness—especially in how I loved. I confused desire with love, control with leadership, and strength with stubbornness. But God, in His mercy, didn't give up on me.

Then my life changed in a way I never expected.

I was diagnosed with a terminal illness.

There's no way to prepare yourself for words like that. It shakes everything—your plans, your confidence, your sense of control. I won't stand here and tell you I handled it perfectly. I didn't. There were moments I was angry. Moments I questioned God. Moments I asked, "Why me?" and "Why now?"

But even in my anger—even when my faith felt fragile—I never stopped trusting God.

John 15:4 says, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." That verse became real to me in a new way.

Matt Mondo's Testimony (Cont.)

God showed me that I was trying to live, love, and lead in my own strength. But when everything else was stripped away—my health, my certainty, my control—I realized that abiding in Him wasn't optional. It was everything.

I've learned that trusting God doesn't mean you never feel anger or fear. It means you bring those emotions to Him instead of letting them pull you away from Him. It means saying, "Lord, I don't understand this, but I trust You with where You're taking me."

And I do. I trust Him with my future. I trust Him with my marriage. I trust Him with my life—however long or short it may be. Because my hope isn't rooted in an outcome. My hope is rooted in Christ.

God has been reshaping my heart—teaching me humility, patience, and what real love looks like. He's shown me that faith isn't about having all the answers. It's about surrender. It's about waking up every day and choosing to rely on Him.

I'm still growing. I'm still learning. But I can say this with confidence: God is faithful. Even in the hardest seasons. Even in the unknown. Even when the road ahead looks different than what we imagined.

If you're here today carrying pain, fear, or uncertainty, I want you to know you're not alone. God is near. He is working. And He can be trusted.

Thank you for letting me share.



***MITE BOXES ARE AVAILABLE
IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX.***



Scan the QR code above or visit www.lwml.org/mites to learn more about the history of Mite Boxes.

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program.

✦ **SIMPLIFY YOUR GIVING WITH** **vanco** ✦

(NO TECH SKILLS REQUIRED!)

Tired of rising check costs?

There's an easier way to contribute—secure, scheduled giving through VANCO.

Why Make the Switch?

- Checks are getting expensive
- Scheduled bank transfers are FREE
- You stay in full control of your giving
- Helps reduce envelope costs and paper waste

Did you know?

Offering envelopes were originally created when most people gave cash and loose change. Today, many contributors give by check or electronically, which helps us cut down on printing costs and minimize waste.

If you're still giving by check and are concerned about privacy, **you can simply fold it and place it in the offering plate—no envelope needed!**

Need Help Setting It Up?

We understand that setting up online giving can feel intimidating—but we're here to help every step of the way.

Contact **Mika** at **(954) 473-6888** or **stop by the church office** during business hours. She'll walk you through the setup—or take care of it for you!

What You'll Need:

- Your **bank account and routing number** (preferred)
 - Or your **credit/debit card details**
- (Note: Credit card donations include a ~3% processing fee)*

Choose the Giving Schedule That Works for You:

You can set your donations to recur:

one-time, weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually.

You pick the start and end date.

Need to make changes later? Just call or email—we'll handle it.

Real Support. Real People.

Don't worry if you're "not techy." Our staff is here to help, and you'll only need to set this up once. After that, it's automatic and stress-free.

 Still not sure? Ask your bank about their **Bill Pay** or **ACH transfer** services—these can be free or lower-cost alternatives to giving by personal checks or credit card.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

FEB 1

Connor Brangan

FEB 2

Janice Evans

FEB 4

Denis Cruz

FEB 5

Patricia Jablansky

Preston Strickman

FEB 7

Timothy Brangan

FEB 9

Erica Betz

FEB 10

Edith Southerton

FEB 12

Ingrid Pisasik

FEB 14

Tammy Weidner

FEB 15

Cary Ehrenfeld

FEB 18

Bradley Bhalai

Dolor Ginchereau

FEB 19

David Volz

FEB 25

Pastor Tony Durante

FEB 26

Linda Verdi

FEB 28

Maureen Burrows

FEB 29

Olga Gotting

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

JAN 26

Wayne & Marie Shaw

(8)

JAN 31

Garnet & Nan Bhalai

(34)

FEB 2

James & Jodi Hurst

(6)

FEB 24

Michael & Desiree Gaffley

(47)

FEB 29

Robert & Rosemary Johnson

(62)

*Please help us update
our computer
databases!*

If you are a member and have not seen your birthday or anniversary listed in our newsletter, kindly contact Mika at, (954) 473-6888 or mdurante@oursaviorplantation.org.

Not sure if you're a member? Contact us. We'd love to help you find out!

CONNECT GIVE SHARE



YouTube

(Our Savior Lutheran Church Plantation)



Online Offering



Instagram

(@osl.church)



Facebook

(OSLSAINTS)



Our Savior Lutheran Church & School

8001 NW 5th Street, Plantation, Florida 33324

CHURCH

(954) 473-6888

www.oslplantation.church

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Mika Durante, Administrative Assistant

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SCHOOL

(954) 370-2161

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Linda Root, Principal

lroot@oursaviorplantation.org

Danielle Durham, Assistant Principal

ddurham@oursaviorplantation.org



ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS



If you would like to direct your contribution toward our **general flower fund**, please write "Flower Fund" on the memo line or envelope. For **personal orders**, kindly fill out the **Chancel Flower Sign-Up** slip and include it with your payment. These are found below or in the pews. We currently only accept checks, cash, or VANCO payments. Please notify the church office when giving through the VANCO a-pp or website. *If you choose to give by credit card (via VANCO), please consider including the processing fee so the church receives the full amount of your gift.*



CHANCEL FLOWERS SIGN-UP



If you would like to have flowers on the altar on a given Sunday in honor of someone, in memory of a loved one, or to commemorate a birthday, etc., all you need to do is fill out this form and put it in the offering plate. The cost is \$25.00 per order; two pieces would cost \$50.00. Call the church office if you have any questions, (954) 473-6888.

Name: _____

Date you would like flowers: _____

In Honor, Memory, Celebration, or Thanksgiving of _____

FOR OFFICE:
of bouquets _____
\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Paid ____ / ____ / ____

Check this box if you would like to collect your flowers after the 10:30 a.m. service. Any unclaimed flowers will be donated to a local nursing home. Thank you.