

Weekly Newsletter



April 19, 2026

THE CONNECTION



He is risen indeed! OSL member Glen Walters fills the air with joy, leading a procession of praise and resurrection hope.



SUN. 4/19

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

Bible Study—9:15 a.m. | Blood Bus—9 a.m.

Kids Connect—10:30 a.m.

OSL Anniversary Celebratory Reception—1 p.m.

MON. 4/20

Women's Group Meeting—6:30 p.m.

TUES. 4/21

Property Board Meeting—6:30 p.m.

WED. 4/22

Discussion Group—10 a.m.

Handbells Practice—6:30 p.m.

THURS. 4/23

Church Planning Council Meeting—6 p.m.

FRI. 4/24– SAT. 4/25

Church office closed

SUN. 4/26

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

Bible Study—9:15 a.m. | Kids Connect—10:30 a.m.

Birthday Club—12:30 p.m.

MON. 4/27–TUES. 4/28

Schedule open

WED. 4/29

65th Anniversary of Our Savior Lutheran Church

Discussion Group—10 a.m.

Handbells Practice—6:30 p.m.

THURS. 4/30

Schedule open

FRI. 5/1–SAT. 5/2

Church office closed

Prayers for the following OSL church members:

Haroldo Camacho, Carol Chaddock, Marianne DeMinck, Roger Detwiler, Junko Durante, Claire Edwards, Howard Fischer, Sue Franjione, Betty Hea, Bob Johnson, Prentis Johnson, Robert Latimer, James Leone, Les Mellott, Mary Ann O'Keefe, Carol Ross, Malcolm Sears, Jennifer Sird-De La Horra, Robert Spencer, Linda Verdi, Jodi Waldron, John Wheeler, and Jan Withers.

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.

Rehabilitation Home: Ron Holub

*If you have prayer requests, please let us know by filling out a **Connect Card** or **colored prayer card** found in the pews. Our Prayer Team (Debi Bauer, Norma Miller, Robert Spencer, and John and Jodi Waldron) will gather the cards and pray for those needs. For personal prayers and/or additional spiritual guidance, please contact Pastor Tony at (954) 473-6888.*



Prayer Team members, John and Jodi Waldron with Robert Spencer (not pictured: Debi Bauer and Norma Miller), collecting prayer cards during the 10:30 a.m. service on Palm Sunday.

Roman's Bless Broward Testimony: From Service to Growth

I was part of the Bless Broward community event on March 14th, 2026. My group was part of the serenity garden project at the Lippman Youth Shelter. That day meant so much to me and the other people who participated because it was amazing to see everyone come together and help for such a great cause.

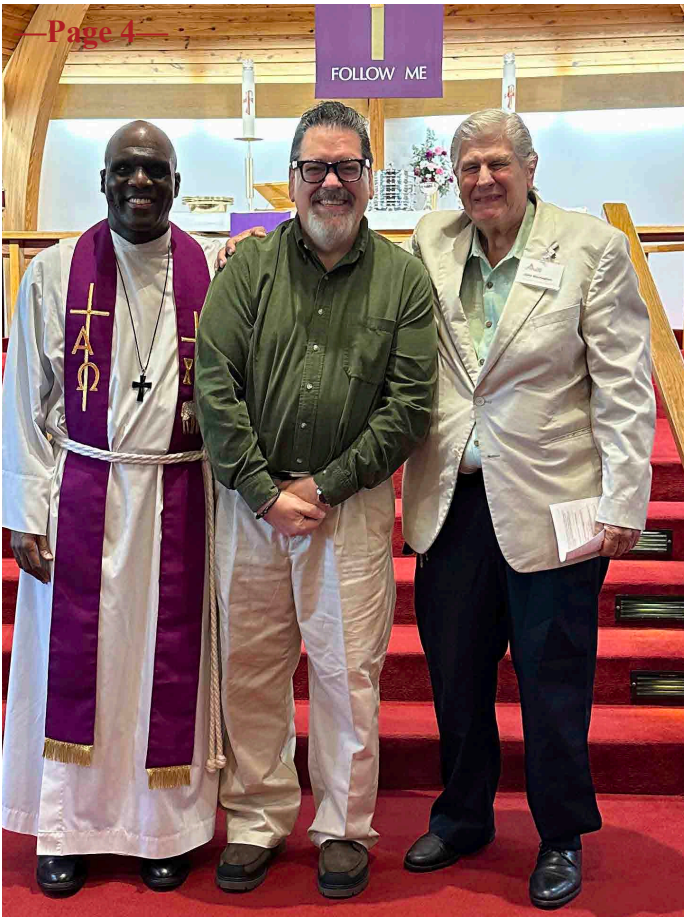
That day reminds us of when Jesus went into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray before His arrest. It was a place of struggle, reflection, and choosing to do what was right even when it was difficult. By helping rebuild the garden, we stepped into a space of care, growth, and renewal—kind of like turning something broken or neglected into something peaceful and life-giving.

Just like Jesus showed love and sacrifice, we were helping others in need. A restored garden can symbolize new beginnings, like the spiritual strength shown in Gethsemane. Gethsemane was a quiet, humble place, and our work—though it might seem small—can have a deep impact on the people who use that space.

Thank you to everyone who helped host and participated in the activity, and I am very blessed to be a part of this community.

Roman Sifontes





Welcome, New Members: Rolf Fischer & John Harrington

We are delighted to warmly welcome two new members to our church family: Rolf Fischer and John Harrington!

Rolf Fischer, originally from Pottsville, PA, serves as a neonatal respiratory therapist at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. In his free time, he enjoys cycling, metal forging, and archery, as well as fishing, boating, and target shooting with his wife, Reina. Rolf shared that he came to Our Savior because he "refound his want and desire to find a relationship with God," and he especially values the "warm family and best friend attitude" he has experienced here. You can find Rolf alongside his wife at the 8 a.m. service, greeting others with their big, welcoming smiles and helping create that same warm, family-and-best-friend atmosphere they've come to love.

Pictured from left to right: Pastor Tony Durante with Rolf Fischer and John Harrington at the 8 a.m. service on March 22, 2026.

We also warmly welcome John Harrington, whose lifelong faith journey started in Kanakee, IL and spans many denominations, from nondenominational to Episcopal, giving him a deep appreciation for theology and diverse teachings. He believes that Jesus is miraculously present in the Communion sacraments and reflects often on "the unfolding of God's plan and all the wonders He has brought us." John has spent his career in security, serving with both the Miami-Dade Aviation Department and the Correctional Rehabilitation Department. He enjoys cars and has a special fondness for cats and dogs.

You'll often find John chatting with anyone and everyone, quickly making connections across the congregation. He serves as a greeter at the 8 a.m. service, attends both Sunday services, and is also part of the Wednesday morning discussion group. What drew him to Our Savior was "the loving, welcoming acceptance" he felt from day one, along with the motivation he finds in Pastor Tony—something that continues to encourage his walk in faith.

Rolf and John each bring unique gifts, experiences, and perspectives that enrich our congregation. We are truly grateful to have them with us and look forward to growing together in faith, fellowship, and friendship. If you see them around, be sure to introduce yourself and extend a warm hello!

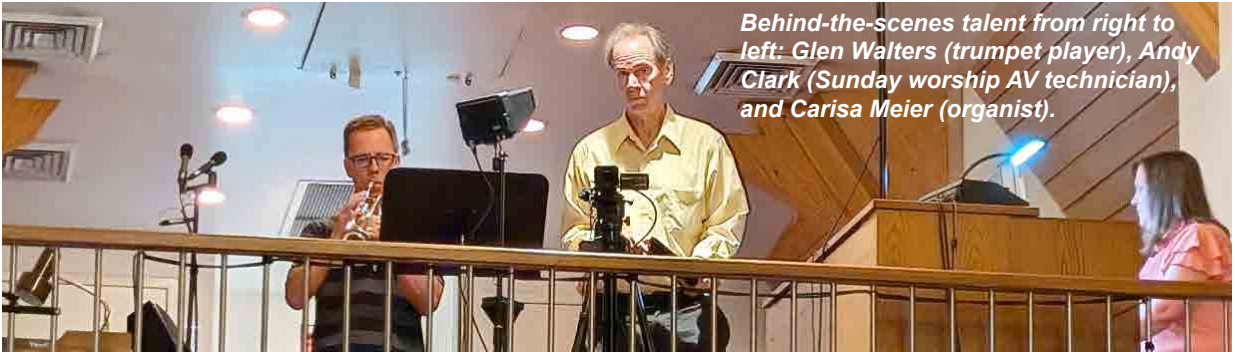


Member Helena DeTorres contributes an Easter song during both worship services.



Crucifer Roman Sifontes (10:30 a.m.), followed by Liturgist Frank Ahrens and Pastor Tony Durante.

EASTER 2026



Behind-the-scenes talent from right to left: Glen Walters (trumpet player), Andy Clark (Sunday worship AV technician), and Carisa Meier (organist).



OSL Handbell Choir



Ian Johnson (violinist)



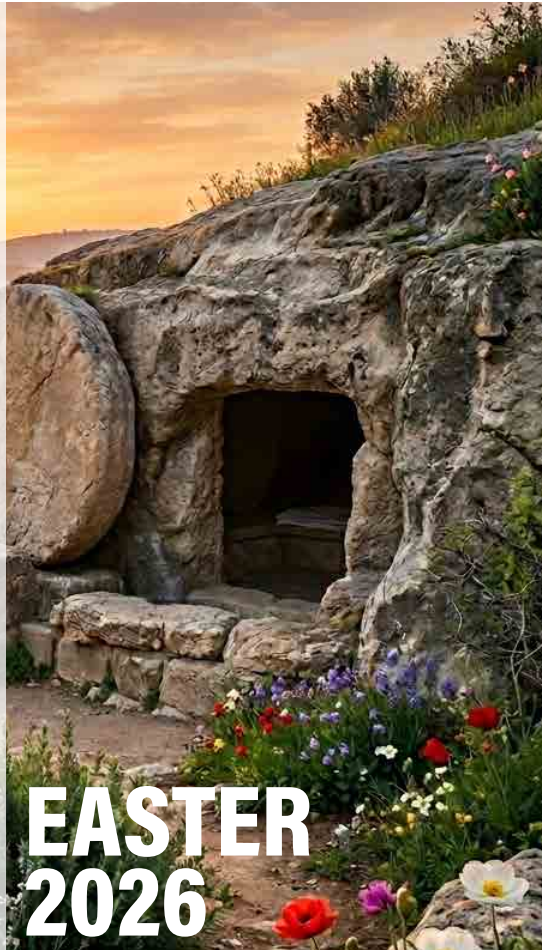
Al Balkie reads his wife Helen's Easter poem, "The Risen Son" (printed below) on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

THE RISEN SON

The golden sun rose slowly in the eastern sky
Shattering the darkness of the night,
Bringing warmth and light to Earth.
Three women, shrouded by the nighttime
Of their grief and sorrow,
Walked the road to the tomb
Consumed by sadness, alarmed by fear.
The life-giving sun climbed higher in the morning sky
Illuminating their pathway,
Enabling them to see
The stone removed,
The grave empty,
Angels waiting.

And in the radiant glory of the new day's sun,
They heard with wonder these words:
"Don't be afraid! The tomb is open.
Come and see! He is not here.
Laugh and shout for Christ has triumphed!
He has conquered death and fear."
Alive with a message that demanded telling,
They hurried from the vacant tomb
Into the light of the Risen Son.

*To the glory of God
Helen Balkie*



EASTER 2026

EASTER 2026



Members Doug and Myke MacLeay diving into the celebratory breakfast buffet.

Members Ellen Clark and Jodi Hurst, two of many event servers and organizers this Easter.



Annual Easter breakfast hosted by the Women's Group in the Bays.



A Special Thank You

The Flower Committee wishes to thank those who assisted in making the sanctuary beautiful for Holy Week.

- Neville Morrison for the exterior palms
- Ivan Swartsfigure for interior palms
- Denise Bedner for generously providing the lillies for the sanctuary
- All of you who donated lillies in honor and thanksgiving of loved ones

Thank you for making the job of the committee easy.

John Waldron



Church Donations—Financial Update as of 03/31/2026

*The end of month financial report for Our Savior Lutheran Church is available for view. **You can pick up a copy in the narthex.** Please note that they will not be printed in the Connection.*



Our church year begins July 1, 2025 and ends June 30, 2026. Going forward as the next month closes, updates will be provided for current month and year to date. Each month is unique in giving and expenses based on payments due and the church's special seasons during the year.

The report will be updated on the last Sunday of the following month.

In addition to your church tithes, our current project focused on the outdoor sign. Our goal was to raise \$30,000, and we are pleased to announce that this goal has been met. Thank you for your faithful generosity and support.

Angie Rodriguez

Our Savior Lutheran Church & School

finance@oursaviorplantation.org

Member Michael Gaffley serves as the liturgist for both worship services on Sunday, March 29, 2026.



Pastor Tony leads the congregation in shouts of praise: Hosanna!



PALM SUNDAY 2026

Member Oteasa Hardy leads Kids Connect.





—Page 11—
Usher Erica Betz greets congregants.



Member Ricky Smith hands palm leaflets.

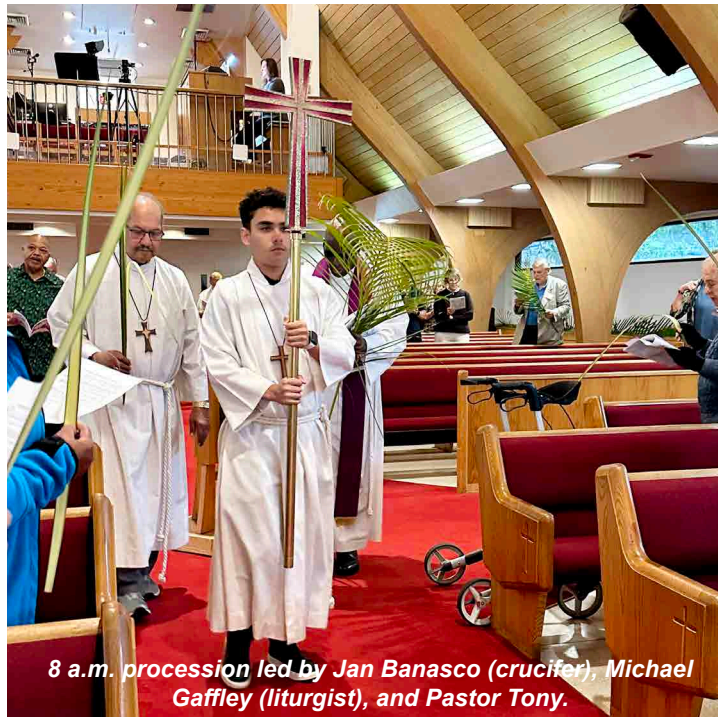
PALM SUNDAY 2026





Norma Pollio sings "One Day at a Time" at the 10:30 a.m. service.

PALM SUNDAY 2026



8 a.m. procession led by Jan Banasco (crucifer), Michael Gaffley (liturgist), and Pastor Tony.



10:30 a.m.
Praise Team leader,
Wayne Rediker.

Brothers & Sisters in Christ

LWML Gold Coast Zone
Spring Rally 2026
May 2, 2026

Shepherd of the Coast Lutheran Church
1901 East Commercial Boulevard

Registration begins at 8:30a.m. \$5.00 per person

Gifts from the Heart: Covenant House

For *Covenant House*: hygiene products: personal size shampoos,
conditioner, soap, deodorant, razors, socks,
T-shirts, new and gently used towels, baby needs,
household cleaning products., paper towels, etc.

Colossians 3:14-15

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.



**Please call Roberta Murphy at
954-772-8010 or 954-806-5837
no later than Monday April 28th
with the number of attendees**



Brothers and Sisters

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School Annual Fund 2025-2026



IT'S TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE! The “Saints Sports Court”

Here is how you can help...

- Give what you can...we need to raise \$150,000 to fund this major improvement. Your gift of \$100, \$250 or any amount will move us closer to our goal!
- Pray daily for Our Savior Lutheran Church and School and for the ever growing vision of our campus.
- Please donate with the QR code or link (above). Cash, as well as checks (payable to Our Savior Lutheran School), are accepted in the office.



GET IN THE GAME! We are starting from the ground up, and we need your help. The playing field at OSL has long been a field of struggling grass and expanding patches of dusty ground. No more with the installation of a multi-sport court surface our students will have a dedicated, safe, clean space to play, practice, and compete. Imagine a space for us to hold tournaments, play pickleball, volleyball, basketball and more, and host church or family gatherings. To help turn that dusty play field into a Field of Dreams, please get in the game and donate today!



[Instagram](#)
(@osl.church)



[YouTube](#)
(Our Savior Lutheran
Church Plantation)



[Online Offering](#)



[Facebook](#)
(OSLSAINTS)

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!

BIRTHDAYS

APR 2

Helen Balkie
Monica Westby

APR 3

Denise Kunz

APR 5

Kate Koontz

APR 6

Anneli Liebig

APR 7

Nan Bhalai

APR 8

Louise Acton
Susan Grimmatt
Camio Bernard
Charlotte Brangan

APR 10

Gail McGowan

APR 11

Susan Reinhardt

APR 12

Brenda Saunders

APR 13

Paul Krug

Gloria Volz

APR 15

Patricia Maynard

APR 16

Michael Duffy
Claire Edwards

Denise Hayle

Steve Stephenson

APR 17

Alicia Boatwright

APR 18

Caitlin Haeseker

APR 19

Kai Zoe Fellows

APR 20

Michael Aldrich

Phyllis Jahn

APR 23

Cheryl Moore

APR 25

Marley Fellows

APR 26

Beth Ahrens

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

APR 1

Duane & Carol R. Srot (37)

APR 8

Cary & Libby Ehrenfeld (54)

APR 10

Rodger & Maureen Burrows (27)

APR 11

Manuel & Jennifer S. De La Horra (17)

APR 13

Jennifer & Howard Strickman (30)

APR 16

Dolor & Mary Ginchereau (43)

APR 19

Benjamin & Monica Westby
(18)

Michael & Cathy Koontz (25)

APR 30

Colin & Ginette Orrett (10)



The flowers adorning the sanctuary this month were graciously provided by:

- **[4/5] Karen Walbridge** in celebration of Louise Acton's 99th birthday.
- **[4/11] Ray Long** in celebration of his grandson Christopher Bijker's birthday.
- **[4/19] Thomas Boatwright:** *"To Mom (Alicia Boatwright) with love always, Tom and your OSL family."* Happy birthday, Alicia!

As of this Sunday, we now have **\$2,697** in our **flower fund**. That is enough to cover two bouquets for **53 Sundays**. Thanks be to God!



Our Savior Lutheran Church & School

8001 NW 5th Street, Plantation, Florida 33324

CHURCH

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www.oslplantation.church

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Mika Durante, Administrative Assistant

mdurante@oursaviorplantation.org

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.



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.*