

THE CONNECTION

Weekly Newsletter

April 5, 2026



OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
Plantation, FL

The 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday procession led by crucifer Roman Sifontes on Sunday, March 29, 2026 (p. 3-6).



EASTER SUNDAY 4/5

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

Bible Study—9:15 a.m. | Easter Breakfast—9 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt—10:30 a.m.

MON. 4/6–TUES. 4/7

Office closed in observance of Easter

WED. 4/8

Discussion Group—10 a.m.

Handbells Practice—6:30 p.m.

THURS. 4/9

Schedule open

FRI. 4/10–SAT. 4/11

Church office closed

SUN. 4/12

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

Bible Study—9:15 a.m.

Kids Connect—10:30 a.m.

MON. 4/13–TUES. 4/14

Schedule open

WED. 4/15

Discussion Group—10 a.m.

Handbells Practice—6:30 p.m.

THURS. 4/16

Schedule open

FRI. 4/17–SAT. 4/18

Church office closed

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

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

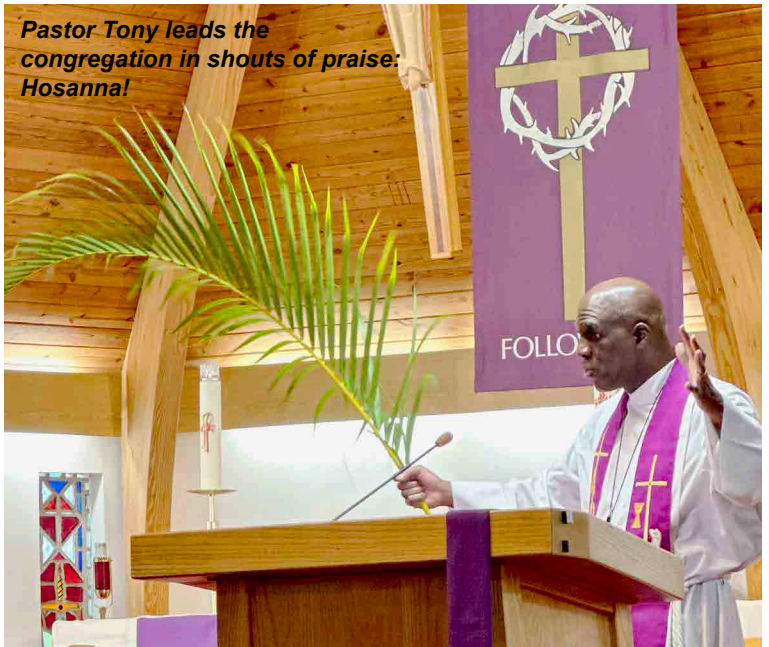


Prayer Team members, John and Jodi Waldron with Robert Spencer (not pictured: Debi Bauer and Norma Miller), collecting prayer cards during the 10:30 a.m. service.

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

Cantor Ian Johnson leads the processional hymn. Member Jan Banasco leads the procession as the crucifer for the 8 a.m. service.





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*Usher Erica
Betz greets
congregants.*



*Member Ricky
Smith hands palm
leaflets.*

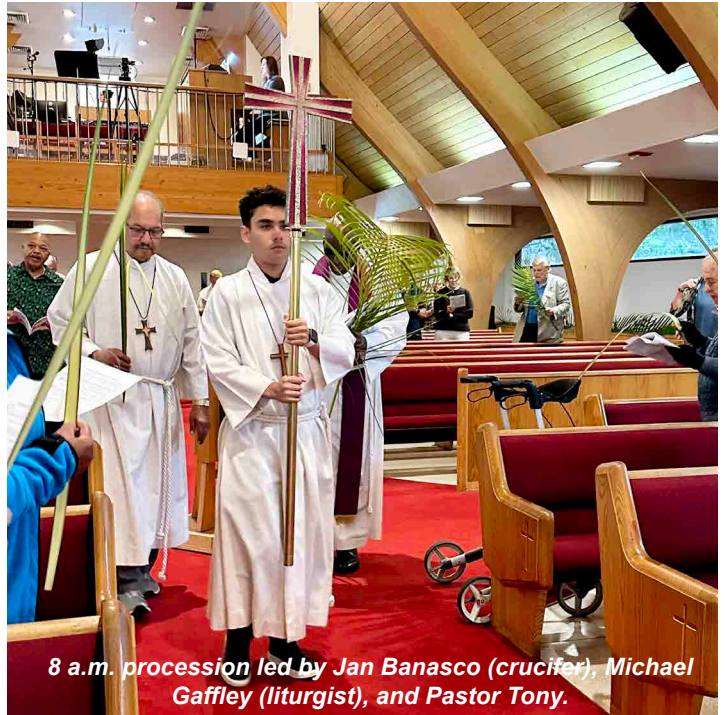
PALM SUNDAY 2026



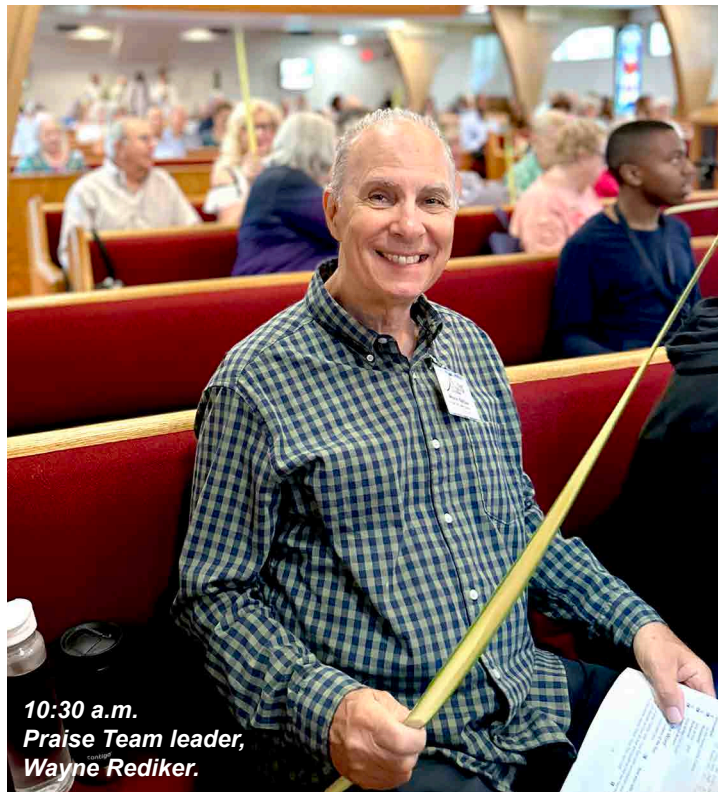


Norma Pollio sings "One Day at a Time" at the 10:30 a.m. service.

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.

Member Oteasa Hardy leads Kids Connect.



PALM SUNDAY 2026



Spreading God's Love One Sandwich at a Time

This effort, inspired by Chris at the women's group (Chris—absent due to illness), brought together Norma, Kim, Judy, and Agnes to prepare 76 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and deliver to the **Legacy Closet** Sunday, March 29, 2026. The Legacy Closet is a local nonprofit serving those in need with food, clothing, and essentials. For more information visit thelegacycloset.org.



EASTER LILY DONATIONS



Lynn Diamond

In honor of Mike Diamond & Virginia Machulak.

Brad Heine

In loving memory of Sandy Heine & Marie Heine.

Charles & Sue Hofman

*In loving memory of our parents,
Bill & Dorothy Hofman and John & Ella Endorf.*

Robert & Rosemary Johnson

In memory of loved ones, gone before us.

Rob & Lerryn Latimer

In celebration of our 58 years of marriage.

Ray Long

*In loving memory of Mabel & Raymond Long,
Martin Long, Dr. Edward C. Prehn,
May Long Lombardi, and Charles Swanson.*

Mary Ann O'Keefe

In loving memory of Allen O'Keefe.

Diane Rupert-Harmon

*In loving memory of my dear husband Brian,
my parents, and my dear sister Paula Ann Cohol.*

Kim Schuh

*In loving memory of my parents,
Bill & Virginia Rooks.*

Kathy Thurn

In loving memory of Dave Thurn.



OUR THANKS TO...Denise Bedner, for providing the aromatic and lovely Easter lilies that adorn our sanctuary this morning; John Waldron, for fundraising and coordinating chancel flower orders; the Altar Guild, for preparing the chancel and altar for worship; all who contributed lilies for the sanctuary's beautification; our pastor and guest preachers, Frank Ahrens and Brad Heine who served during the Lenten season; the Kids Connect (Sunday School) leaders, for a memorable Easter lesson and egg hunt; all who helped assemble and hide eggs, and those who participated in the hunt; everyone who set up or cleaned up, cooked, or served the Easter breakfast—thank you for your warm hospitality; Carisa Meier and Guy Shepherd, our organist and guest midweek Lenten keyboardist respectively, for beautiful music each week, and all the musicians, soloists, bell choir, and Praise Team for uplifting Easter music; our faithful teachers and staff in at OSLS and Sunday School for teaching our children the Easter story; the crucifers (Jan Banasco and Roman Sifontes) and cantors (Ian Johnson and John Waldron), for leading joyful and reverent processions; everyone who serves—ushers, greeters, communion assistants, AV/livestream volunteers and staff, church office volunteers, money counting volunteers, and more—thank you for making worship possible week after week; and above all, thanks be to God for the joy of celebrating the resurrection of our Lord!

Our Handbell Choir offered a truly beautiful rendition of *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* (arr. by S. Gingrich) at the 8 a.m. service this past Sunday, March 29, 2026. Under the direction of Nancy Volz, the ensemble played with grace, precision, and heartfelt expression that enriched the morning worship.

We are grateful for each member, ringing from highest to lowest: Ricky Smith, Judy Watson, Jodi Hurst, Lerryn Latimer, Cheryl Moore, Ian Johnson, Donna Watson, Beth Ahrens, Juli Mellott, and Linda Root, and we also acknowledge our absent member, Carol Tucek.





Come join Our Savior Lutheran Church as we celebrate 65 years of God's faithfulness and the impact of our church community. Enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food, and joyful reflection with us. All are welcome!

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

10:30 AM—Celebratory Service

Our Savior Lutheran Church (no RSVP necessary)

1:00 PM—Reception

Colony West Golf Course

6850 NW 88th Ave, Tamarac, FL 33321

Tickets are \$40/adult, \$10/child (age 10 and under).

We hope to see you there!

Please **RSVP** in advance for the celebratory reception through **Nancy Volz** at **(954) 473-6888**. A paper ticket is required at the door for admission. **Tickets are available for purchase between services on Sunday as well as at the church (Monday–Thursday; cash or check only) or school (Monday–Friday)**. They will not be sold at the door. For questions and non-local residents, please call the number above.



Welcome, New Members!

We are delighted to celebrate and welcome new members who officially joined our church family during both services on Sunday, March 22, 2026!

At the first service, we joyfully welcomed two new members (pictured top: Rolf Fischer and John Harrington). Later, during the 10:30 a.m. service, five more individuals were received into membership (pictured bottom: Flavia Sifontes, Tiffany Fabian-Schmidt, Ginette Orrett, and Lorna and Bryan Goodluck), bringing the total to seven new members.



It is always a special blessing to see our church family grow, and we are grateful that each of these individuals has chosen to walk in faith and fellowship with us. Please join us in extending a warm welcome and encouragement as they begin this new chapter in their spiritual journey.

From Shamrocks to Sombreros

On Saturday, March 28, 2026, Our Savior Lutheran School's PTO collaborated with the Women's Group to host a fun Fiesta-themed BINGO fundraiser, complete with a buffet taco dinner (pictured left).

Just a week earlier, on March 21, the OSL family gathered for an Irish meal to celebrate St. Patrick's Day (pictured below). Everyone enjoyed a buffet meal prepared by Jodi Hurst and team, featuring corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, hot dogs, mac 'n cheese, as well as cookies and cake. Green beer was also available.

This was followed by a bagpipe performance and line dancing led by Judy Watson. Not only were the food and music excellent, but there was also an opportunity to enjoy fellowship and fun conversation.

Partially written by David Volz



Judy Watson teaching line dancing at the St. Patrick party.



BLESS BROWARD

Our Savior Lutheran

March 14, 2026



On March 14, 2026, roughly 100 people from local Lutheran congregations participated in Bless Broward, a morning of community service at various locations in the area. Our Savior in Plantation, Shepherd of the Coast, and Trinity in Fort Lauderdale sent combined teams of volunteers from all three churches into the community that morning to share the love of Jesus.

A caravan of spring carolers visited the residences of the homebound and ailing, while a half-dozen drivers delivered bags of groceries to eight families in need, departing from Our Savior. A group of 16 walked from Shepherd of the Coast to sing carols at two neighboring nursing homes.

SEAFARER CARE



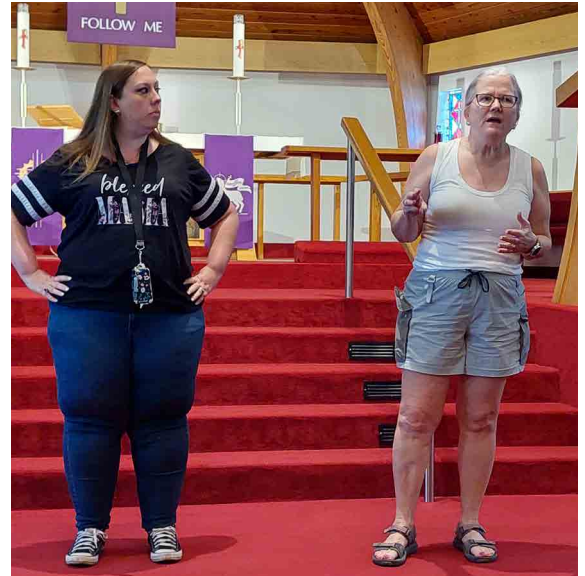
At Trinity, a team of 44 adults and youth visited crews on merchant ships at Port Everglades to share the Word of God, pray, sing, and deliver care packages with Gideon Bibles. Meanwhile, volunteers at the Lippman Youth Shelter in Oakland Park completed the third phase of a Serenity Garden project begun during Bless Broward 2025. Many participants also helped with the City of Fort Lauderdale's beach clean-up.

Our Savior Lutheran School's National Junior Honor Society students, parents, and youth from American Heritage Girls Troop 1483 joined volunteer groups at the beach, Lippman Youth Shelter, and Port Everglades. Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Weston also participated in two of the activities. *(CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE →)*



BLESS BROWARD (CONT.) Each service project was well attended by parents and students from Our Savior’s and Shepherd of the Coast’s schools. The community service day began at Our Savior as Bless Plantation in 2023, with the goal of mobilizing laity in community outreach by creating opportunities to share their passions with others. As the annual event expanded to include other congregations and sites in additional cities, it came to be known as “Bless Broward.”

*“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.
There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.”
— 1 Corinthians 12:4–6*





Lippman Youth Shelter, Oakland Park, FL



SERENITY GARDEN PROJECT



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 Grimmert

APR 9

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)



APRIL FLOWERS



The flowers adorning the sanctuary this morning were graciously provided by Denise Bedner and 10 donors ([p.7](#)). Additional April altar flowers were donated 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.

As of this Sunday, we now have **\$2,222** in our **flower fund**. That is enough to cover two bouquets for **44 Sundays**. Thanks be to God!



Our Savior Lutheran Church & School

8001 NW 5th Street, Plantation, Florida 33324

CHURCH

(954) 473-6888

www.oslplantation.church

Tony Durante, Pastor

tdurante@oursaviorplantation.org

Mika Durante, Administrative Assistant

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SCHOOL

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Linda Root, Principal

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Danielle Durham, Assistant Principal

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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.