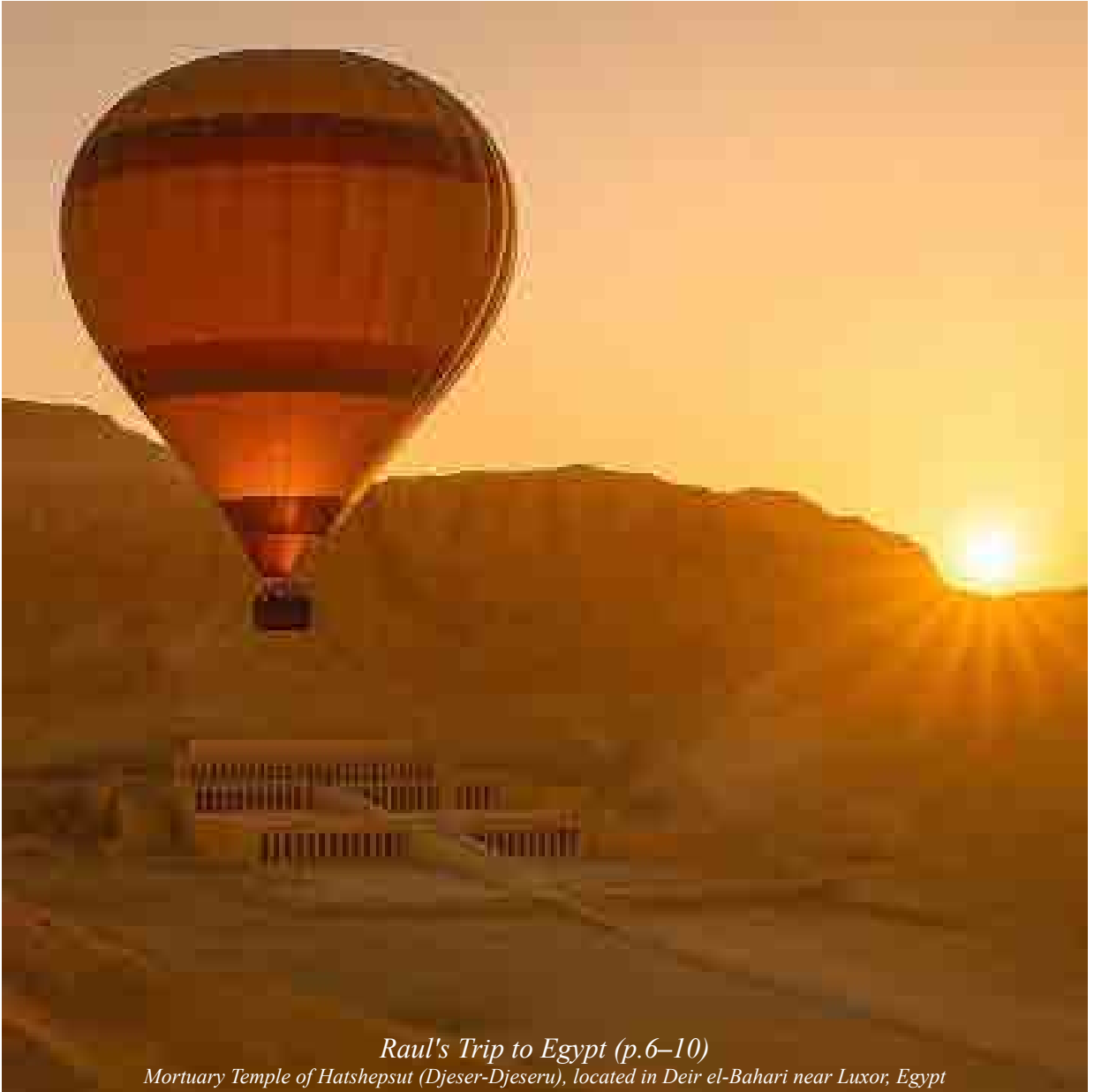


Weekly Newsletter



May 31, 2026

THE CONNECTION



Raul's Trip to Egypt (p.6–10)
Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut (Djeser-Djeseru), located in Deir el-Bahari near Luxor, Egypt



MAY

TRINITY SUNDAY 5/31

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

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



JUNE

MON. 6/1 –TUES. 6/2

Schedule open

WED. 6/3

Discussion Group—10 a.m.

THURS. 6/4

Schedule open

FRI. 6/5

Church office closed

SAT. 6/6

Nathan Walter's Memorial Service—11 a.m.

SUN. 6/7

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—12:15 p.m.

MON. 6/8 –TUES. 6/9

Schedule open

WED. 6/10

Discussion Group—10 a.m.

THURS. 6/11

Schedule open

FRI. 6/12 –SAT. 6/13

Church office closed



Prayers for the following OSL church members:

Haroldo Camacho, Carol Chaddock, Marianne DeMinck, Roger Detwiler, Claire Edwards, Howard Fischer, Sue Franjione, Karen Goth, Gerry Gruenbaum, Betty Hea, Bob Johnson, Prentis Johnson, Robert Latimer, James Leone, Les Mellott, Mary Ann O'Keefe, Carol (Coram) Ross, Malcolm Sears, Jennifer Sird-De La Horra, Robert Spencer, Linda Verdi, Jodi Waldron, Glen & Cheryl Walters, 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; **Brock Van Sant** going into aviation training in the Marine Corps.

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.*

Sunrise on the Red Sea (Photo from Raul's trip to Egypt)



NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

If you are interested in serving as an officer or on a board, **we need your nomination to be submitted by June 21**. Please submit the nomination to **Nancy Volz** at **(954) 473-6888**.

The officer positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corporate Secretary, Council Member at Large and Recording Secretary. The Vice President position is vacant. Those currently serving in the remainder of the positions on the Church Planning Council (CPC) have agreed to an additional one year term. This does not preclude you from submitting a nomination for any officer position.

The following are the boards: Property's Board, Lay Ministry Board, Outreach Board, School Board and the Children and Youth Ministry Board.

The term for officers and board members is one year. We are asking you to prayerfully consider serving with your time and talents. The talents needed include but are not limited to: the ability to plan, ability to execute your plan and the ability to empower others in the congregation to get involved.

If you have questions, please ask Chris Presson, Nancy Volz or Pastor Tony. Pastor Tony along with the CPC will review all nominations.



CELEBRATING MISS CARISA MEIER: 2026 EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Miss Carisa Meier on being nominated as Teacher of the Year at the Jacaranda Country Club on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. With 22 years of teaching experience, including 14 years at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Miss Meier is recognized for her innovation, dedication, and commitment to student success. Holding degrees in Education and Church Music, as well as a Master's in Reading, she seamlessly blends traditional teaching methods with modern technology and collaborative learning. Beyond the classroom, she generously supports colleagues, co-directs the annual Christmas program, and faithfully serves as organist for church services. We are proud to celebrate Miss Meier's many contributions and this well-deserved honor as Our Savior's 2026 Educator of the Year.



New members pictured right to left: Flavia Sifontes, Tiffany Fabian-Schmidt, Ginette Orrett, Lorna & Bryan Goodluck

MEET NEW MEMBERS: Ginette Orrette & Flavia

We excited to welcome Ginette to our church family! Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Ginette and her husband, Colin, have two young children who currently attend our school. She works as an optometrist and enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.

Speaking about her experience at the church, Ginette shared, “The members and Pastor have always treated me like family ♡.”

Please also join us in welcoming Flavia to our church family! Originally from San Lorenzo, Paraguay, Favia has worked as a flight attendant for the past 20 years. In her free time, she enjoys gardening and cooking. Her son, Roman, attended Our Savior Lutheran School, and together they quickly found a home within both the school and church community. Roman is currently participating in Confirmation classes and has faithfully served as a crucifer during special services.

When asked about her experience at the church, Flavia shared, “OSL has a small community of very caring people. We are always very welcomed at Sunday service. Pastor Tony and his family have brought together an amazing group of people who share the same love for the Lord.”

We are blessed to have Ginette, Colin, Flavia, and their children as part of our church and school community! You can find them all worshipping at the 10:30 a.m service.



FOLLOWING THE EXODUS: FROM THE NILE TO SINAI

Member Raul Martinez recently returned from his 21-day spiritual journey through Egypt. His trip began in the middle of April, and he returned at the beginning of May. The adventure took him through Egypt from sky, land, and sea—planes, hot air balloons, cruises, busses, camel-back, and on foot.

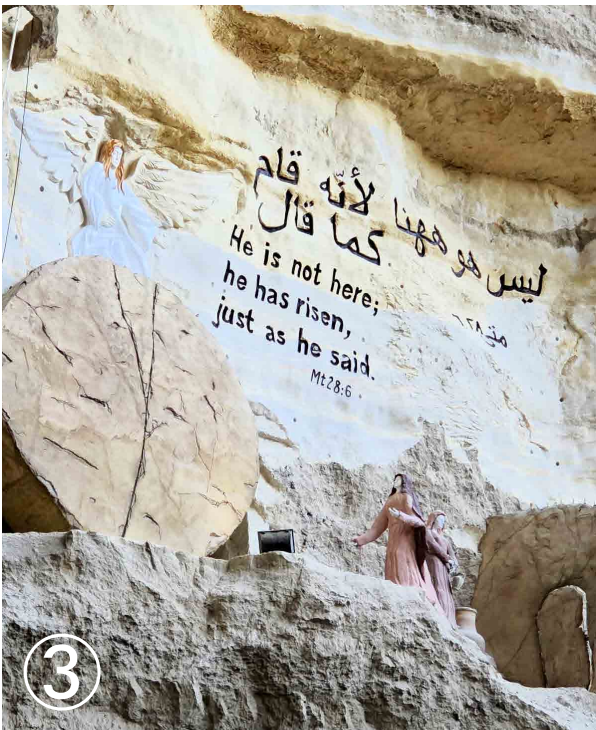
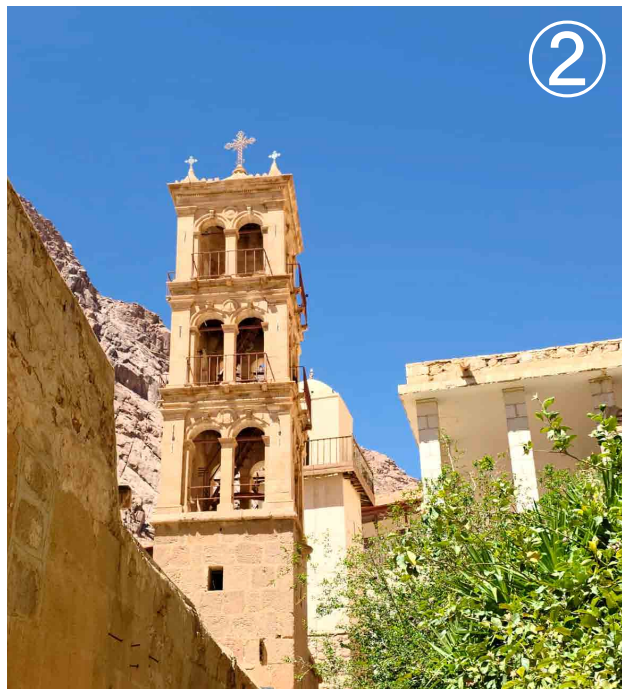
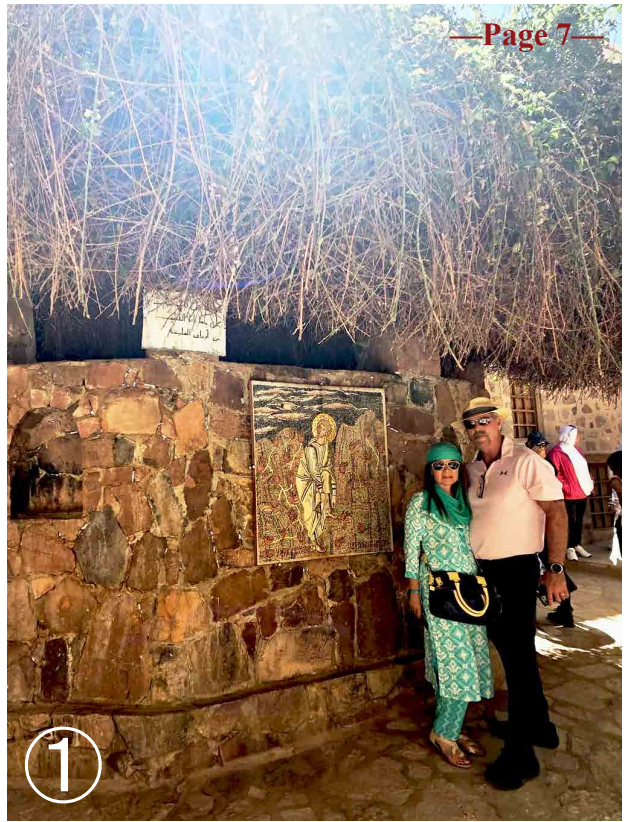
When asked about his inspiration, he remarked, “As a little kid, these are stories you hear over and over again; they’re ingrained in you.” So, he had to see it for himself. Initially, he aimed to witness the sites of Mt. Sinai, the burning bush, and Nile River, but he saw much more. The sheer scale and austere conditions astounded him: The Red Sea was endless and wide and seemingly more impassible than the Bible proclaims; the Nile River was several times wider than a creek and more turbulent than a baby could comfortably endure, let alone drift safely; and the desert was inhospitable for a sanctuary for God’s chosen. “Moses was in a lot of these places in Egypt. It’s unbelievable just how much stuff is there,” Raul observed.

Mt. Sinai with UNESCO World Heritage site, Saint Catherine's Monastery sitting at its base.



① **The burning bush, found in the UNESCO World Heritage Site, St. Catherine's Monastery.** It has extensive and profound historical, architectural, and cultural significance for the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim peoples. The monastery is one of the oldest, founded in the 6th century by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian the First. ② **The bell tower at the St. Catherine's Monastery.**

③ **The massive Cave Church (Monastery of Saint Simon) hides in the limestone cliffs of Mokattam Mountain in Cairo, Egypt.** It is one of the largest churches in the Middle East. The church was named after St. Simon the Tanner, a legend in the Coptic Orthodox Church, which owns it. Raul recounts he saw several carvings on the cave walls. The amphitheater-style gathering space provides ample space for 20,000 worshippers. For comparison, the Notre-Dame in Paris can only hold 6,000 to 9,000 people.



Raul took two separate groups of six people to watch the sunrise over the Red Sea during his vacation.



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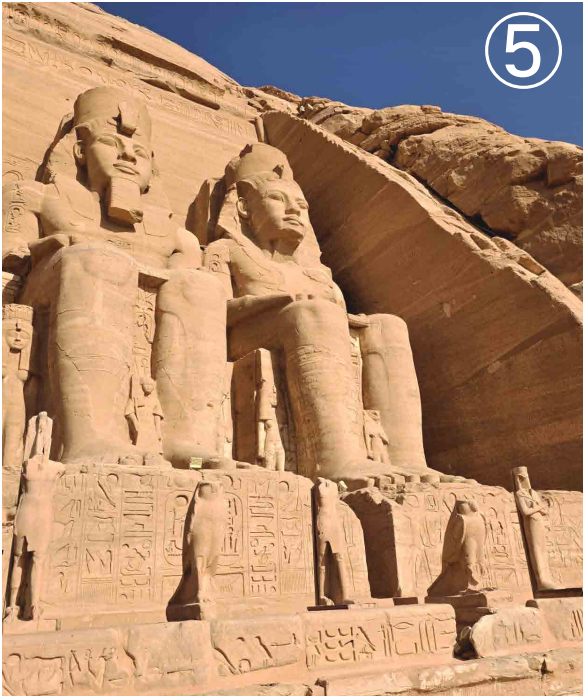
FOLLOWING THE EXODUS: FROM THE NILE TO SINAI (CONT.)

④ **The Red Sea** stretches about 1,400 miles from Northeast Africa to the Arabian Peninsula. Beneath its powerful currents lurks steep trenches and treacherous depths exceeding 7,000 feet. It was indeed no small feat for Moses to part it.

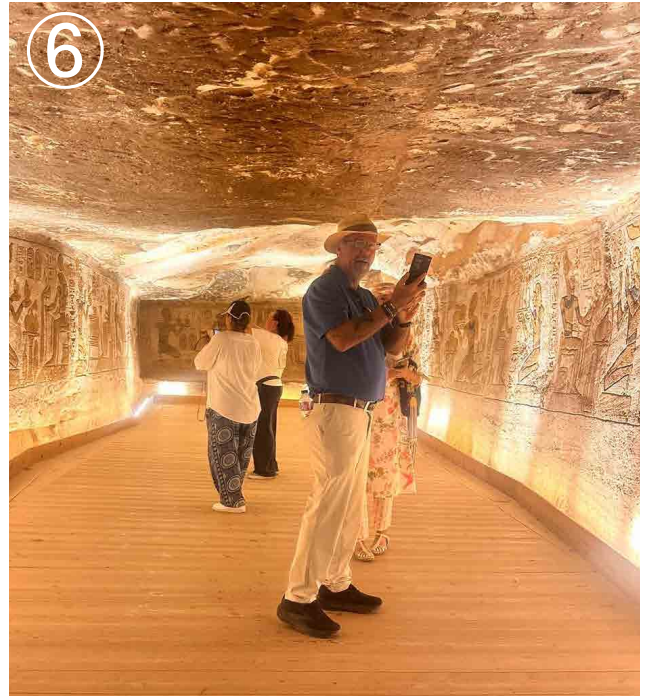
⑤ **Statues of Pharaoh Ramesses II and Queen Nefertari at the Great Temple in Abu Simbel.**

They were carved with two other statues directly into the sandstone to guard the temple. Each statue is 66-foot tall with the intent to overwhelm and intimidate anyone crossing into their frontier. Historians make a distinct note that Nefertari was made to the same scale as her husband, unique and rare honor as queens were often made smaller than the pharaohs.

⑥ **The interior of the Great Temple of Abu Simbel in Egypt.** Pharaoh Ramesses II commissioned its architecture around 1264 B.C. with the interior wall intricately carved with accounts of his military campaigns and other iconic religious reliefs.

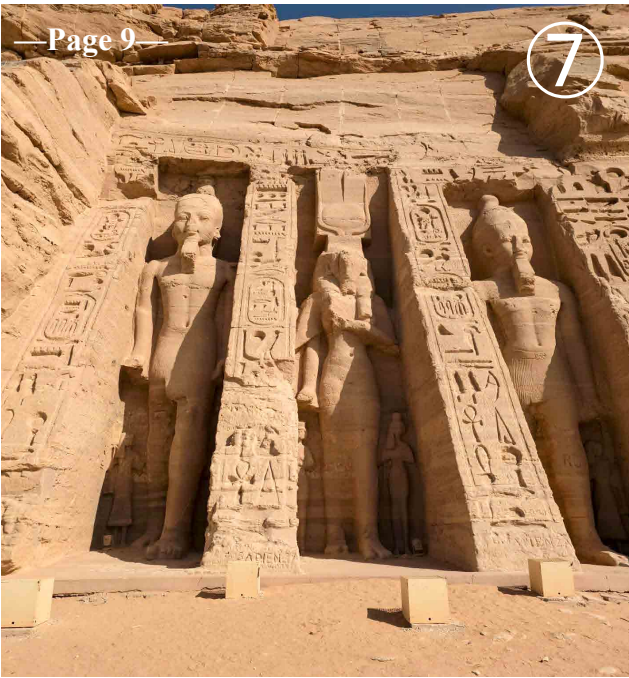


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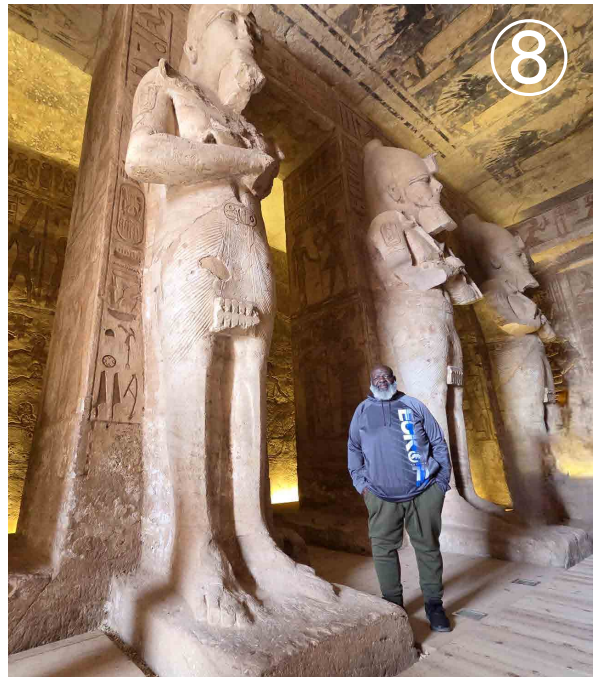


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FOLLOWING THE EXODUS: FROM THE NILE TO SINAI (CONT.)

⑦ **The second temple at Abu Simbel** is a smaller temple dedicated to the goddess Hathor and Queen Nefertari. Again, this was a significant honor for a queen at the time, and expressed Ramesses II's favor, respect, and devotion to his wife.

⑧ **Statues of the pharaohs within the Great Temple of Abu Simbel.** Pictured is a man roughly 6-foot tall for scale. Twice a year, around the time of Ramesses's birth (ca. February 22) and coronation (ca. October 22), the sun's rays hit hidden statues and creep along the entire length of the corridor all the way to the deepest chamber of the Great Temple (roughly 60-65 meters). This illustrates the Egyptian builders' mastery of astronomy and engineering as well as their innovative intentionality and ability to commemorate their religion and politics.

⑨ **The Kiosk of Trajan (98-117 AD)** is a small pavilion constructed by the Romans during their rule over Egypt. The architecture blends Roman craftsmanship with Egyptian temple design. Historians believe it served as a ceremonial landing station for sacred boats for the god Isis.

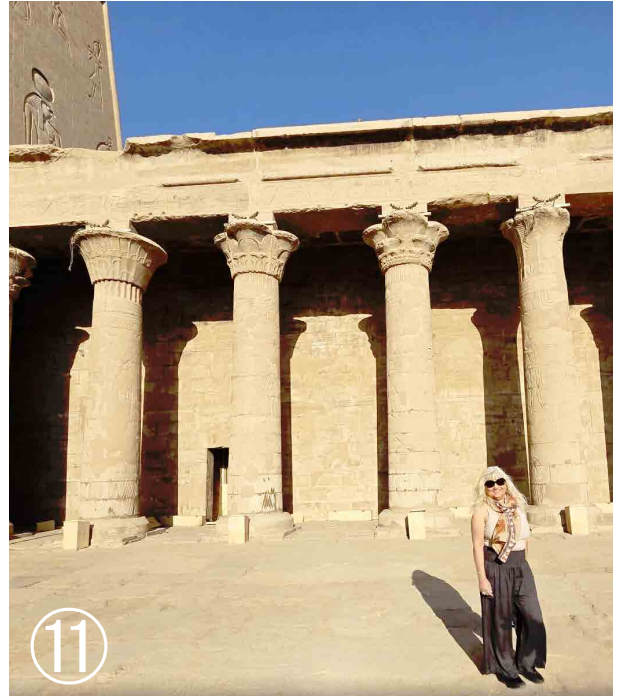
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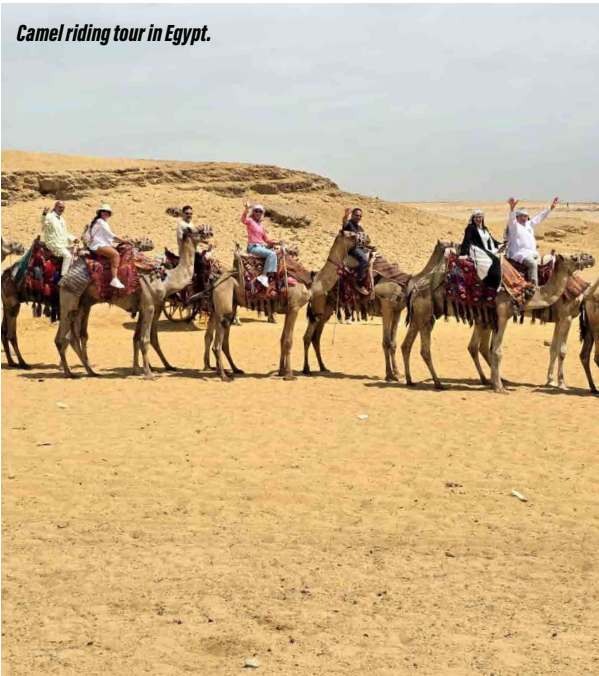
FOLLOWING THE EXODUS: FROM THE NILE TO SINAI (CONT.)

⑩ Inside the tomb of Ramesses III in the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, Egypt. Raul notes that while some tombs had ample space to stand and walk, others were so cramped that even people less than six feet tall needed to crouch to navigate its catacombs.



⑪ **The Temple of Horus (237–57 BCE).** The Court of Offerings is as the name suggests. It houses one of the most complete surviving sets of religious hieroglyphs, giving us an eye into spiritual, political, and historical affairs at the time. Its iconic elements include the 33–43-foot tall sandstone columns as pictured above. The Egyptians designed them to withstand the weight of the roof and control the acoustics for a meditative audio effect depending on the space. Though stripped with time of their original vivid paints, this temple is one of the best preserved temples in all of Egypt due to being made with resilient materials and being once buried under sand. Archaeologists did not begin to uncover it until the 19th century.

Camel riding tour in Egypt.





Our Savior Lutheran 65th Anniversary Testimonial

by Howard Fischer

APRIL 19, 2026 Most everyone covered what I want to say, but Our Savior had a remarkable team. That team was Pastor Walter Volz, my wife Barbara, and Jan Withers.

One of the most memorable moments in the church's history was the reconstruction of the church. I was amazed everyone stayed together. During this period of construction, worship took place in the fellowship hall for over one year.

My children were confirmed here and my oldest daughter was married here.

We loved the church and the congregation. I'll continue to come down monthly for as long as I can to see all the people we love, all the people present in our 49 years at Our Savior. It was a great 49 years.

God bless and Jesus loves you.



The Fischers at the 50th Anniversary reception (2011).



Jan Withers's 20th Anniversary at Our Savior.



**25th Anniversary Celebration of Barbara Fischer
Our Savior's Early Childhood Director
Rev. Walter Volz, Barbara Fischer, Rev. Edwin Nicklas**



CHURCH FAMILY SUPPORT FOR JODI

Please keep Jodi in your prayers as she grieves the unexpected loss of her father, John. As her church family, we hope to surround her with God's love, comfort, and encouragement during this difficult time. For the time being, Jodi continues to live in a professionally supported group home facility in Margate. As her church family, we would like to share God's love and presence as well as general comfort in these hard times. For those who are able, we encourage you to visit her or send colorful cards and cheerful pictures. Because she is autistic, her reading abilities are limited; however, she recognizes especially appreciates music and colorful cartoons and recognizes images of Jesus. For additional information and points of contact at her facility, please contact the church office at (954) 473-6888.

Dear Our Savior Family,

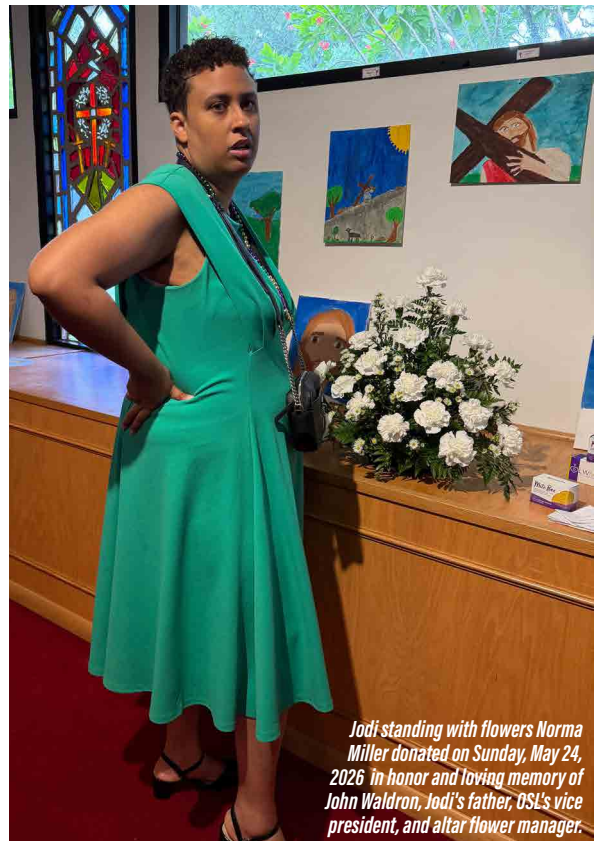
Christ has risen! Alleluia! This salutation provides a necessary foundation as I share difficult news with you.

It is with deep sadness that I inform you of the death of **John Waldron** (72), our congregational vice president, who died on Sunday, May 10, 2026 in an automobile accident on University Drive in Sunrise.

John's sister, Robin, who lives in New York and is his next of kin, notified me after being contacted by the police department. The accident is still being investigated, and no other information is readily available. Robin asks for our prayers for their family and for John's daughter, Jodi (pictured below), as they navigate the days ahead. This is our prayer:

Merciful God and Father, graciously look upon the family of our departed brother, John. Remember us in all our sorrow and grief. Support us when we are unable to understand the things that happen to us and those we love. Comfort and console us, and grant that through Your merciful help we may have courage to face the days ahead; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*In faith,
Pastor Tony Durante*



Jodi standing with flowers Norma Miller donated on Sunday, May 24, 2026 in honor and loving memory of John Waldron, Jodi's father, OSF's vice president, and altar flower manager.

JAN'S HEALTH UPDATE

Hello Family and Friends,

Jan was discharged from the hospital this past Tuesday—she is so happy to be home! Her son Erik arrived just in time to bring her home and be with her for the next week...doctor appointments, blood draws, transfusions, bone marrow biopsy, the journey continues....

Her doctors are positive about how she is responding to the chemo and are taking no risks with infection or virus - the medications are endless —there is always something new to add to the mix of targeted therapy.

The next round of chemo will be determined in the next few weeks

Jan remains positive, eating well, moving around keeping her strength, and resting regularly. She also looks absolutely beautiful with her new hairdo (not pictured)!

—Mary (Jan's sister)

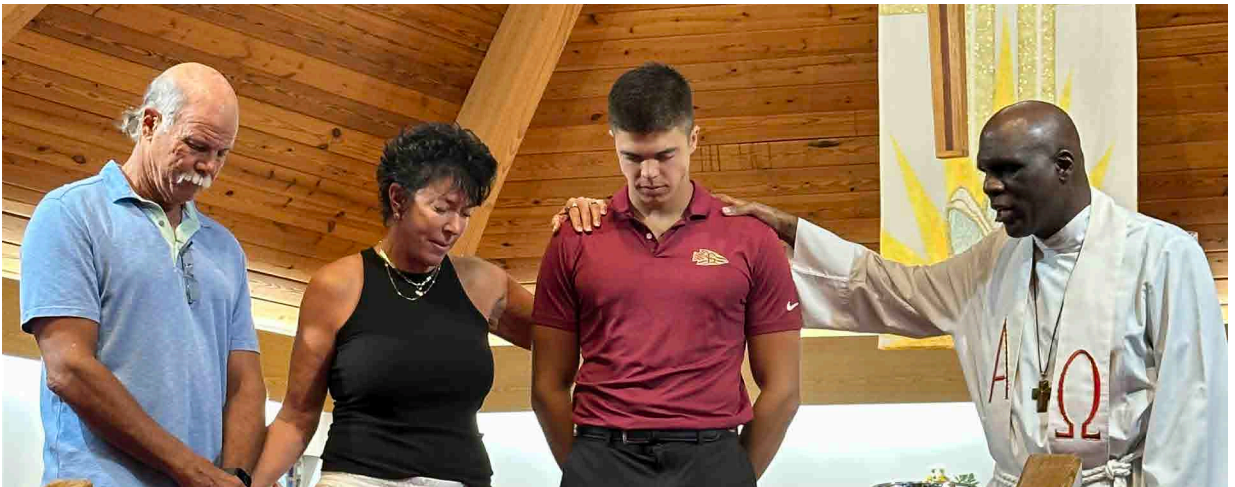


—Page 13—

I feel so blessed to have such an amazing family supporting me through this journey and the prayers keep coming in from my community of believers and all over the states through all of you. It really does take a village, and I feel all the love.

Most important is that God is with me all the time and I had many opportunities to speak the name of Jesus in the hospital with many of my caregivers.

*I Love you all,
Jan*



GODSPEED FOR BROCK On Sunday the 17th, the church prayed for Brock Van Sant, a long time member of the congregation who grew up at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Pastor Tony said a blessing for him and his parents, Kim and Mitch, as he departs us to do base training for aviation in the Marine Corps. May God bless and keep him safe as he prepares to serve our country.



WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY!

At the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, May 17, 2026, Our Savior celebrated the holy baptisms of baby Violet Rodriguez as well as David and Jonathan García.





School Board president Lynn Diamond with her late husband Mike at the OSL's 50th Anniversary (2011).

BIRTHDAYS

MAY 31

Heston Curry

JUN 2

Susan Franjione

Michael Gaffley

Raul Martinez

JUN 8

Edward Stannard

JUN 9

James Maynard

JUN 14

Meredith Barboza

JUN 15

Jodi Hurst

Carisa Meier

JUN 17

Duane Srot

JUN 18

Debi Bauer

JUN 21

Tim Gaffley

JUN 24

Lorna Goodluck

JUN 25

Michael Burkhardt

Brad Heine

JUN 26

Robert Johnson

Ray Long

Donna McLeod

JUN 28

Jessica Mellott

HELP US

UPDATE

OUR DATABASE

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

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

JUN 9

Frank and Beth Ahrens (54)

JUN 10

James and Pamela Leone (20)

JUN 14

Robert and Belinda Aguilar (30)

JUN 24

Dick and Linda Burkhardt (65)

JUN 24

Lorna and Bryan Goodluck (1,926)

JUN 28

Charles and Sue Hofman (57)

🌸🌺🌻🌹🌸 MAY FLOWERS 🌹🌺🌻🌸

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

- **[5/10] Belinda Aguilar:** "Thank you OSL for 22 wonderful years. I will miss my church family".; **The Flower Fund & John Waldron** in celebration of all mothers.
- **[5/24] Norma Miller:** In loving memory and honor of John Waldron. *Well done good and faithful servant.*

As of this Sunday, we now have **\$2,547** in our **flower fund**. That is enough to cover two bouquets for **50 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

mdurante@oursaviorplantation.org

SCHOOL

(954) 370-2161

www.oslplantation.school

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 app 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.*