

Weekly Newsletter



June 7, 2026

THE CONNECTION



Our Savior Lutheran School's Graduating Class of 2026 (June 3, 2026)



JUNE

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

SUN. 6/14

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

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

MON. 6/15

Women's Group Meeting—6:30 p.m.

TUES. 6/16

Schedule open

WED. 6/17

Discussion Group—10 a.m.

THURS. 6/18

Schedule open

FRI. 6/19—SAT. 6/20

Church office closed

FATHER'S DAY SUN. 6/21

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

Bake Sale—9 a.m. | Bible Study—9:15 a.m.

Kids Connect—10:30 a.m.



Prayers for the following OSL church members:

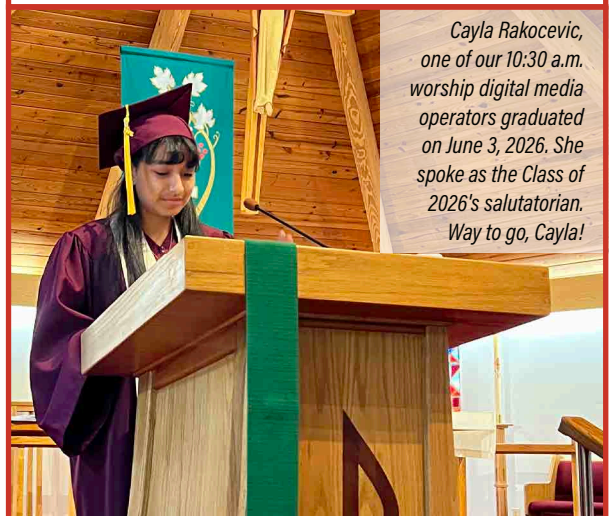
Haroldo Camacho, Carol Chaddock, Marianne DeMinck, Roger Detwiler, Claire Edwards, Howard Fischer, Sue Franjione, Karen Goth, Gerry Gruenbaum, Betty Hea, Bob Johnson, Prentis Johnson, Robert Latimer, James Leone, Les Mellott, Mary Ann O'Keefe, Carol (Coram) Ross, Malcolm Sears, Jennifer Sird-De La Horra, 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.*



It's that time of the year again to take nominations for officer and board positions for the 2026–2027 fiscal year. The term for officers and board positions 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 a plan and the ability to empower others to get involved. Any Communicant Member of this Congregation may submit names for consideration by the Nominating Committee.

Ways you can SERVE

The list of positions is as follows:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Corporate Secretary
- Recording Secretary
- Council Member-at-large
- Lay Ministry Board Member
- School Board Member
- Children & Youth Ministry Board
- Church Properties Board
- Outreach Board



A brief description of the boards is as follows:

Lay Ministry Board

Members should be noted for their passion and experience in the spiritual work of the Kingdom of Christ. The basic objectives of this Board are the spiritual welfare of the pastor and congregation members, individually and corporately.

School Board

This Board provides for the planning and administration of the educational programs of Our Savior Lutheran School and Early Childhood Educational Center.

Children/Youth Ministry Board

The basic objectives of the Board are to involve the young people of the congregation in the work of Christ, provide for their spiritual growth and nurturing, and to promote genuine Christian Fellowship for the children and youth. This Board addresses ministry to all children and youth under the age of 18.

Property Board

The Property Board will address all property maintenance and upkeep concerns and perform work as needed. The board will work on projects throughout the church and school campus as needed. They will make recommendations for repairs and work that cannot be completed by the Church Properties Board.

Outreach Board

The Outreach Board brings the Gospel to the unchurched; enlists all of God's people in the work of making disciples. This Board coordinates events to involve the community and the congregation.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS JUNE 21, 2026

Contact **Nancy Volz** at nvolz27@gmail.com with your nomination or questions.

You may also contact **Pastor Tony** or **Chris Presson** at **(954) 473-6888** or church@oursaviorplantation.org with any questions.



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.



JESUS & ART (SHANNON HELD'S TESTIMONY)

I started painting three years ago because I needed a new hobby that was sedentary. Up till then, I was an exercise and sports addict, who was always on the run. Painting gave me an opportunity to slow down, try something new, and discover my creative side. I never considered myself good at any type of visual arts. In fact, I didn't even know what visual arts was! I played violin when I was younger, never well, but I never drew or painted—I didn't even have coloring books.

My husband asked me, "What are you going to do with all your paintings" My answer was, "I don't know—throw them in a fire?" I only had plans to paint. I had no idea what I was gonna do with the actual paintings once they were finished. I had no plan except to paint and make a mess and have fun.

At that time, I was about six years sober from alcoholism. I was in a lot of recovery support groups online, both receiving help and trying to inspire others. One day, I decided to share a photo of a painting that I had done, and immediately people said it was good. There were even people who said they would hang my painting in their house, which shocked me, if I'm honest.

The first painting I offered to give away was sent to a man in Canada from the recovery group. I only asked him to pay for the postage, and he sent me \$500. I tried to send the money back, but he refused. He said my artwork was that good. I figured it must be onto somethings, so I bought more paint. And more canvases. And ink. And markers, and paper. And acrylic mediums, spray paint... You artists know how this goes!

Since I was certain I had no talent, when the next person asked me to paint something for them, I was terrified. He asked me to paint the three crosses at Calvary. No pressure, right? I ended up painting the most beautiful sunset, and the crosses were perfect. I was so inspired, that I started painting for people and writing Bible verses on the back. I would give all the paintings away, but just ask for the cost of my supplies and postage. I still do this to this day, offering paintings for charities, churches, and just to make people happy. Giving away my paintings gave me an opportunity to continue studying, get to know what type of style I enjoy, and learn so many different techniques and styles of art.

Every time I start painting, I pray and ask God to reveal something in my artwork to either help someone in pain or to inspire someone with joy.

*Over these last three years, I've painted Jesus on the cross, Calvary, Abraham with his staff among the masses, and I was lucky enough to paint for a non-speaking autistic boy in Maryland (**cont.** →)*

(SHANNON'S TESTIMONY CONT.)

to help inspire him to work on spelling to communicate. I've given out at least thirty painted mandala crosses like this one, and painted an heirloom for a friend with stage 4 cancer. She's in heaven now.

I'm currently studying abstract expressionism...If it comes out awesome, I'm going to offer it up for auction for my friend's daughter who has stage four cancer currently.

I had no idea that art could help someone heal, help invoke an emotion, and inspire people with positivity. I'm grateful to God for giving me the idea to begin painting, as well as all the opportunities God has opened up for me to distribute my art and make people happy.

Member Julio Sarmiento (pictured beside Pastor Tony) won the silent auction of Shannon's Moses piece in March 2025.

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Elliette Villamizar represented the Class of 2026 as valedictorian alongside Salutatorian Cayla Rakocevic.

ART, LOVE, & FAITH (ELLIE VILLAMIZAR'S TESTIMONY)

Hi, I'm Ellie. I'm in 8th grade at OSL. Today I want to talk about how I've used art to strengthen my faith and help others. Ever since I was little, the world has always fascinated me. Especially with the pretty things that you can look at, and just enjoy. That's why making art has always been one of my favorite things to do to replicate the beauty of God's creations, whether it's making a little doodle or crocheting a tiny gift for my friends. I've used my art in a number of ways, but I've used it to help others and express my faith the most.

First, I want to briefly explain how I got into being a creative kind of person. Sure, I've always loved art and drawing and whatnot, but this one point in my life was when I really started to enjoy creating artwork. And this was during the pandemic. You all remember. We were stuck inside the house, quarantined. (Ew!) It was boring. I turned to watching art videos on youtube out of pure boredom. Those little videos I would watch actually helped me a lot and taught me different techniques and actually made me discover new hobbies, like crocheting and watercolor painting.

I learned how to use these ideas in my head and make something out of them. (cont. →)

ELLIETTE'S TESTIMONY CONT.)

So I decided maybe I could help people be happy with art. One thing that I religiously do for others is I'll always make homemade birthday cards or any type of card. I tackle making intricate flip up designs and embellish them with florals or animals according to the person I'm giving the card to. It's something I really enjoy doing because I know that people will appreciate a card made specifically for them.

My art also helps expand my faith and love for God and all he does for me. One way I do this is by appreciating his creations. For context, I travel to Colombia a lot, and not every part of the country is filled with buildings. There, I really get to see so many beautiful things, like mountains and rivers and lots of wildlife. When I see all the breathtaking things that God has created for us, it just makes me want to draw it, or paint it, or crochet it so I can keep a piece of that memory when I come home. All of this is why I love to draw nature and animals, and it's also why I want to become a veterinarian. I want to take care God's gifts and honor him in every way I can. Yeah, I know I'm not painting crosses or drawing pictures of Jesus, but appreciating nature is just my way of giving thanks and showing respect to God, because he's helped me along the way in many more ways than I can imagine.

Thank you for listening to my presentation, and God bless.



Sunday morning Praise Team drummer Delon Wright (left) graduates with Baron Betz (right), our very own 10:30 a.m. worship AV volunteer technician. Congratulations Delon and Baron!

Thursday, May 28, 2026





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

MEET NEW MEMBERS: Ginette Orrette & Flavia

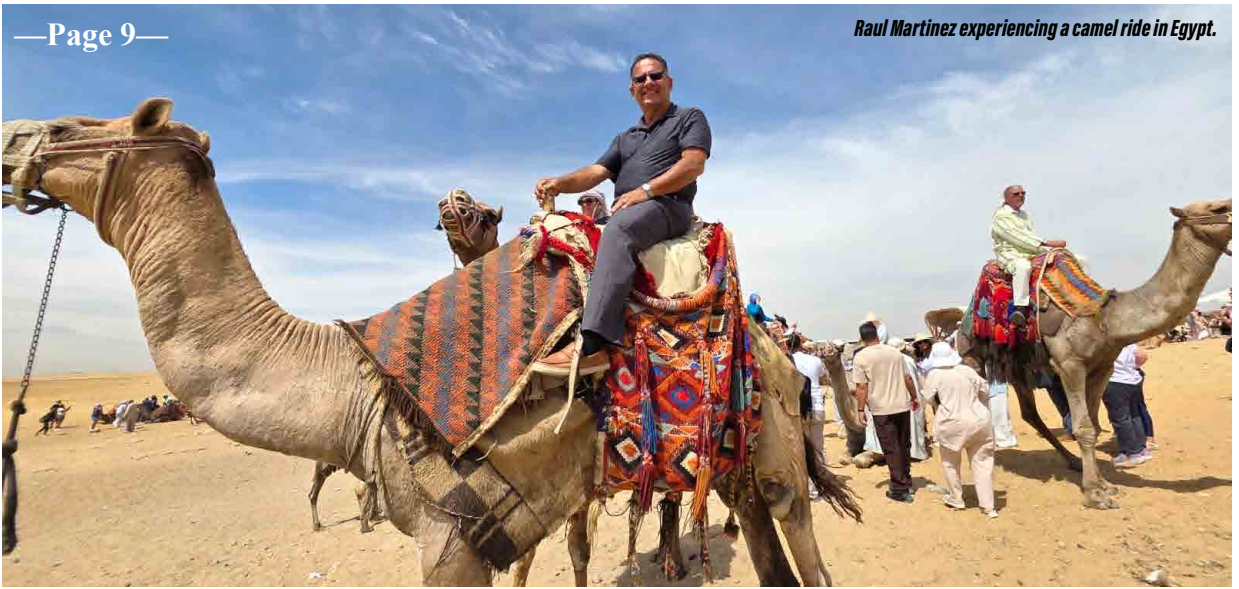
We excited to welcome Ginette to our church family! Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Ginette and her husband, Colin, have two young children who currently attend our school. She works as an optometrist and enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.

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, Flavia 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.

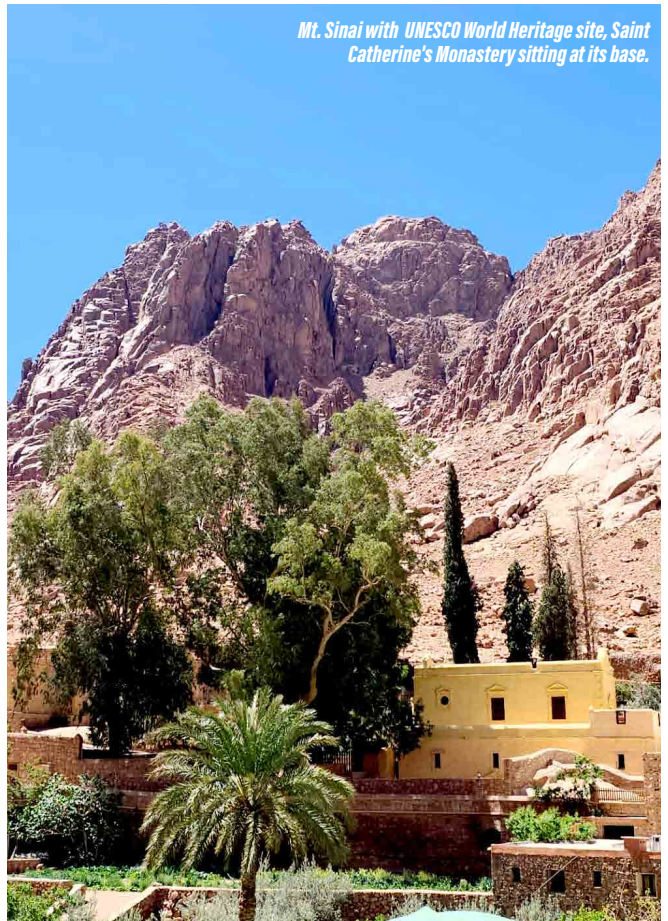


FOLLOWING THE EXODUS: FROM THE NILE TO SINAI

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.

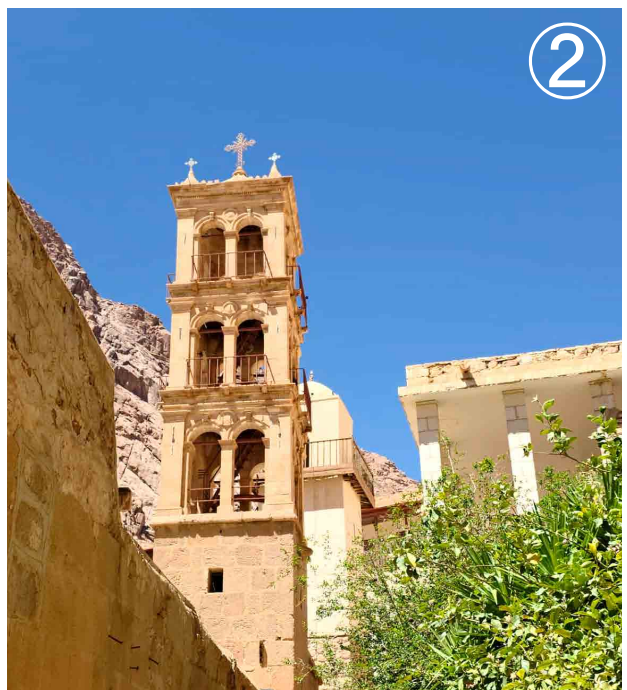
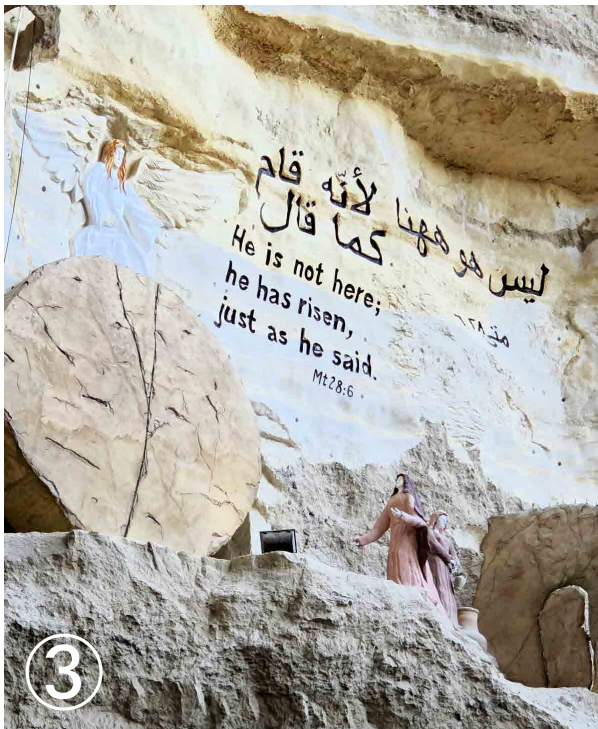
When asked about his inspiration, he remarked, “As a little kid, these are stories you hear over and over again; they’re ingrained in you.” So, he had to see it for himself. Initially, he aimed to witness the sites of Mt. Sinai, the burning bush, and Nile River, but he saw much more. The sheer scale 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 worshipers. 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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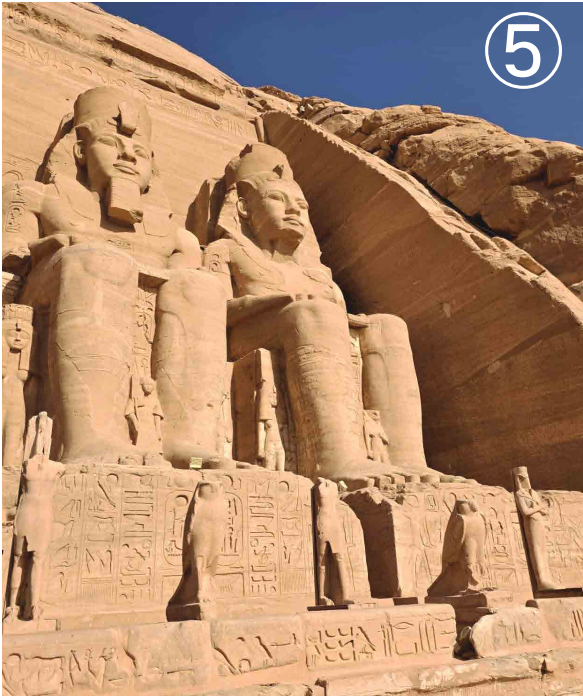
FOLLOWING THE EXODUS: FROM THE NILE TO SINAI (CONT.)

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.

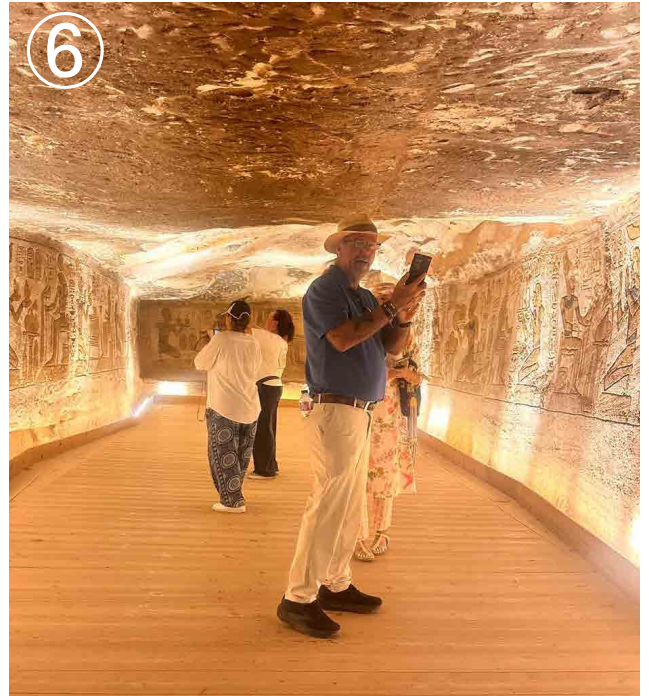
⑤ **Statues of Pharaoh Ramesses II and Queen Nefertari at the Great Temple in Abu Simbel.**

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.

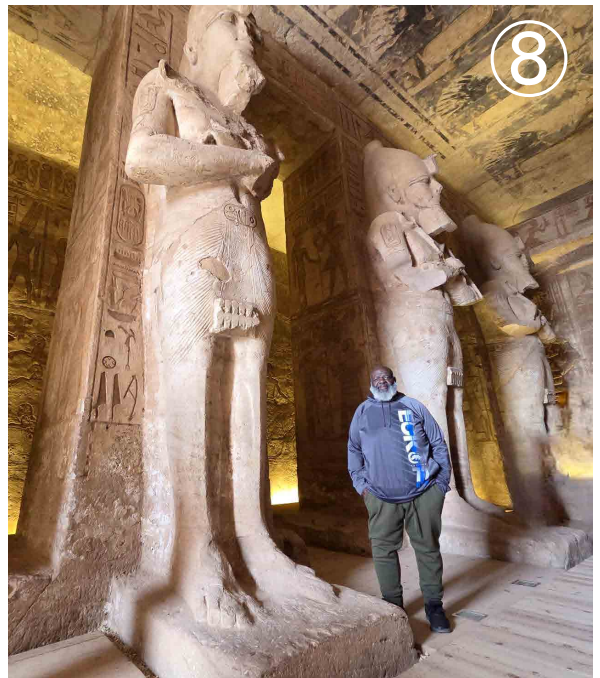
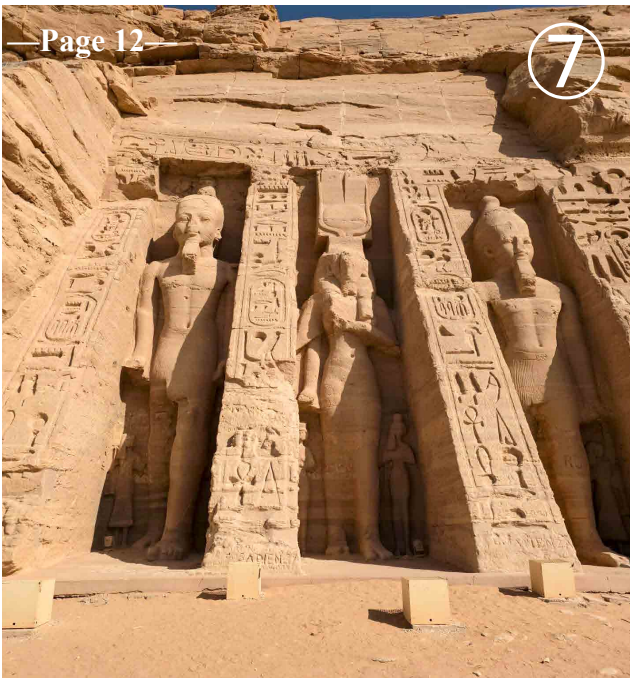
⑥ **The interior of the Great Temple of Abu Simbel in Egypt.** Pharaoh Ramesses II commissioned its architecture around 1264 B.C. with the interior wall intricately carved with accounts of his military campaigns and other iconic religious reliefs.



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6



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.

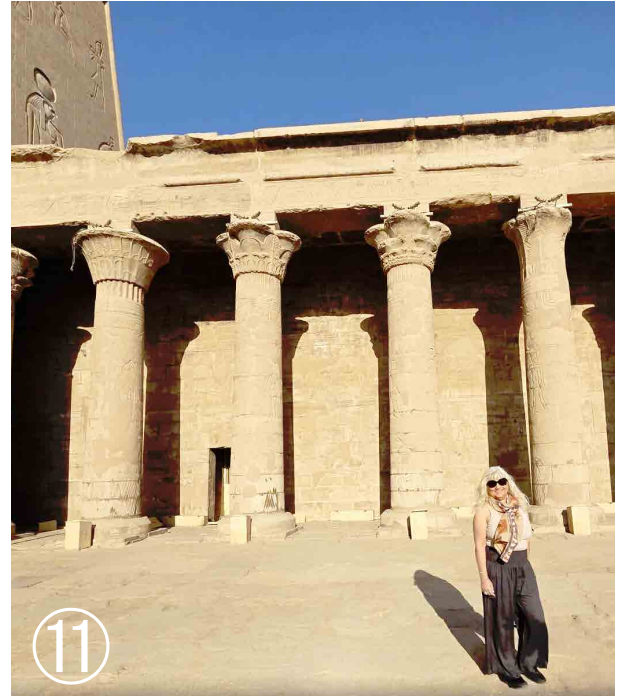
9 The Kiosk of Trajan (98-117 AD) is a small pavilion constructed by the Romans during their rule over Egypt. The architecture blends Roman craftsmanship with Egyptian temple design. Historians believe it served as a ceremonial landing station for sacred boats for the god Isis.





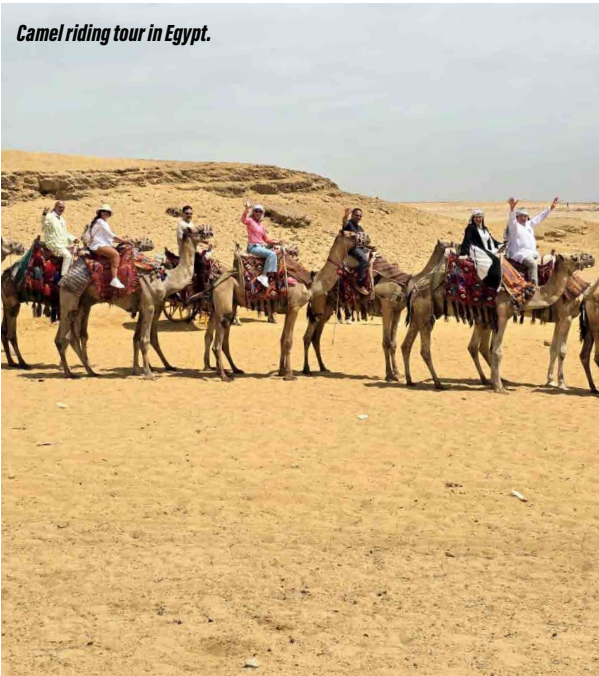
FOLLOWING THE EXODUS: FROM THE NILE TO SINAI (CONT.)

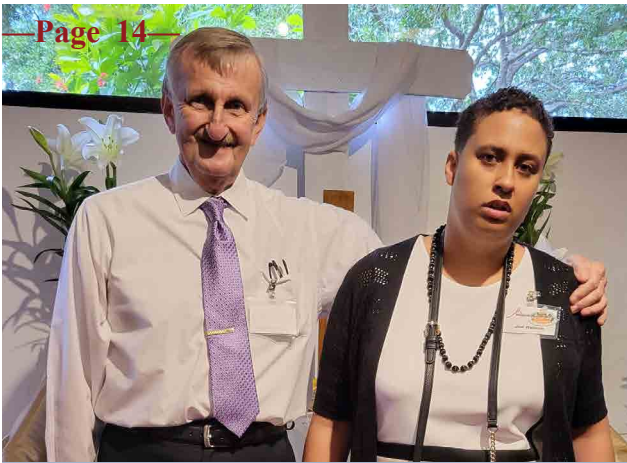
⑩ Inside the tomb of Ramesses III in the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, Egypt. Raul notes that while some tombs had ample space to stand and walk, others were so cramped that even people less than six feet tall needed to crouch to navigate its catacombs.



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.





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.

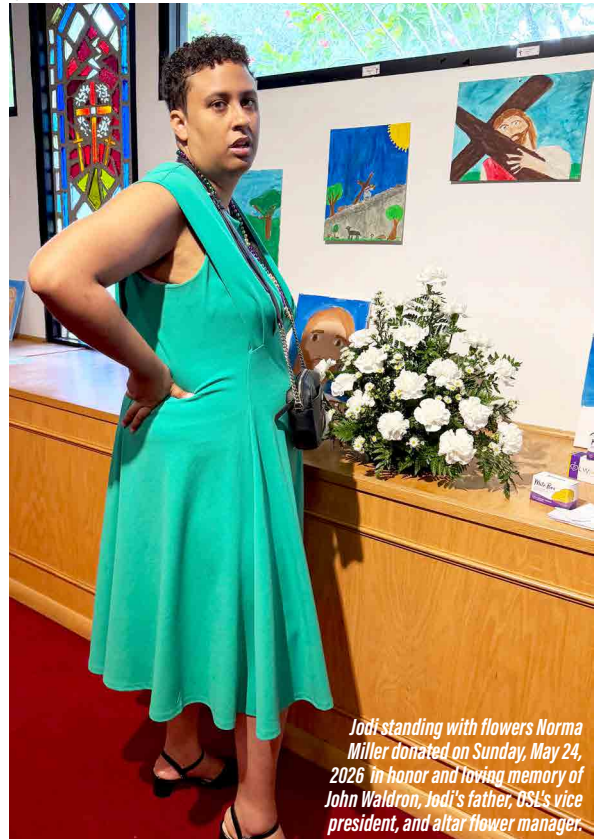
John's sister, Robin, who lives in New York and is his next of kin, notified me after being contacted by the police department. The accident is still being investigated, and no other information is readily available. Robin asks for our prayers for their family and for John's daughter, Jodi (pictured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

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. We would like our congregation 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 and 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.



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



Class of 2026 Our Savior Lutheran School

BIRTHDAYS

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)

Lorna and Bryan Goodluck

JUN 28

Charles and Sue Hofman (57)



JUNE FLOWERS



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

- **[6/7] Ray Long:** "In loving memory of Mabel and Raymond Long."

As of this Sunday, we now have **\$2,497** in our **flower fund**. That is enough to cover two bouquets for **49 Sundays**. Thanks be to God!

Since the passing of our beloved brother in Christ John Waldron, we have been in need of a rotation of volunteers to help pick up and drop off altar flowers on Saturdays. If you're interested, please contact us at (954) 473-6888. We would appreciate it!



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.*