

THE CONNECTION

Weekly Newsletter OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH July 5, 2026



Congregational Vice President John Waldron Receives the Servant of Christ Award Posthumously (p. 7)



SUN. 7/5

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 p.m.

MON. 7/6–TUES. 7/7

Church office closed in observance of the holiday

WED. 7/8

Discussion Group—10 a.m.

THURS. 7/9

Schedule open

FRI. 7/10

Church office closed

SAT. 7/11

Church office closed

Properties Work Day—9 a.m.

ATTENTION:

There will be **no newsletter for next week**

(July 12-18) because of the holiday.

Please hang on to this schedule if you need it.

SUN. 7/12

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

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

MON. 7/13–TUES. 7/14

Schedule open

WED. 7/15

Discussion Group—10 a.m.

THURS. 7/16

Schedule open

FRI. 7/17–SAT. 7/18

Church office closed

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PRAYERS

Prayers for the following OSL church members:

Haroldo Camacho, Carol Chaddock, Marianne DeMinck, Roger Detwiler, Janice Evans, Howard Fischer, Sue Franjione, Karen Goth, Gerry Gruenbaum, Betty Hea, Bob Johnson, Prentis Johnson, Robert Latimer, James Leone, Les Mellott, Carol (Coram) Ross, Malcolm Sears, Victor Smith, Robert Spencer, Duane Srot, 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; **Brock Van Sant** at Officer Candidate School in Quantico Bay, VA.

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 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.*



Beverly Embrack and Debi Bauer socializing at the OSL Birthday Club last Sunday, June 28, 2026 (p.9)

This is My Promise

My dearest sons and daughters, My Church, My Precious ones,
I am your Abba Father through Jesus, My dear Son.

Nothing, I say nothing can take My love from you.

This is My promise; it's certain and it's true:

Through the days of your life, in the wonder and the strife,
Through the laughter and the tears, through the triumphs and the fears,
All the moments, all the years, I'll be there.

My dearest sons and daughters, My Church, My purchased ones,
The price of your redemption was the blood of My dear Son.

No one can accuse you; your sins are washed away.

Safe in Christ Jesus, I'll keep you every day.

My dearest sons and daughters, My Church, empowered ones,
Live your life in victory; the battle has been won.

In My Spirit's power, there's nothing we can't do.

This is My promise; it's certain and it's true:

Through the days of your life, in the wonder and the strife,
Through the laughter and the tears, through the triumphs and the fears,
All the moments, all the years, I'll be there.

My dearest sons and daughters, My Church, My witness true,
Let your light shine brightly within all you say and do.

Be a light to the nations - a beacon of grace,

In both faith and actions, may you reveal My face.

My dearest sons and daughters, My Church, My royal heirs,
When your race is finished, I will joyfully be there.

With my arms wide open, I'll gladly welcome you.

This is My promise; it's certain and it's true:

Passed the days of your life, passed the wonder and the strife,
Through the laughter and the praise that victorious people raise,
For eternity, always, I'll be there.

To the glory of God
Helen Balkie

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH 2026-2027
Proposed Slate of Officers & Boards

PRESIDENT.....	Chris Presson	COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE.....	Nancy Volz
VICE PRESIDENT.....	Greg Goth	PASTORAL APPOINTMENT.....	Nicole Linley
TREASURER.....	John Wheeler	RECORDING SECRETARY.....	Carol Tucek
CORPORATE SECRETARY.....	Juli Mellott		

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY BOARD	LAY MINISTRY BOARD	OUTREACH BOARD	PROPERTY BOARD	SCHOOL BOARD
Erica Betz	Michael Gaffley	Debi Bauer	Marc Benda	Debra Beck
Denise Chang	Jodi Hurst	Chris Presson	John Harrington	Edie Clavelli
Ellen Clark	Agnes Karabetsos	Carol Smith	Brad Heine	Lynn Diamond
Jade Cruz	James Leone	Judy Watson	Ian Johnson	Jodi Hurst
Oteasa Hardy	Juli Mellott		Flavia Sifontes	Lerryn Latimer
De'Mereck Martin	Kim Schuh		Ricky Smith	Kathy Thurn
Jennifer Strickman	David Volz		Cheryl Topalian	Carol Tucek
	Judy Watson			

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH 2026-2027
Proposed By-Law Changes

The following By-Law changes were proposed and approved by the Church Planning Council. As required, the proposed changes are being communicated to the congregation for two Sundays prior to the Annual Meeting on August 2, 2026. The proposed changes will be reviewed and voted on at the Annual Meeting.

The proposed changes are in bold italics:

By-Laws Page 9, Article VII Powers, Organization of the Church Planning Council, and the Administrative Boards. Section A. Powers, paragraph 3 and Section B, paragraph 4.

A. Powers (Paragraph 3)

The President shall appoint a Review Committee consisting of any two qualified communicant members of the congregation other than the Treasurer and Financial Secretary to review the financial records of the congregation. The President shall submit the Review Committee’s report at the Annual Meeting of the Voter’s Assembly.

B. The Church Planning Council (Paragraph 4)

The President may establish a Finance Committee, such members subject to approval by the Church Planning Council, who shall be responsible for ongoing coordination and monitoring of the budget and financial condition of the congregation with the Treasurer.

Replacing both those sections with the following and placed under Section A Powers:

The President shall establish a Finance Subcommittee, chaired by the Treasurer, and composed of at least two qualified communicant members of the congregation, (Cont.➡)

other than the Treasurer. The Finance Subcommittee shall be responsible for ongoing coordination and monitoring of the church and school budget. The Treasurer or a member of the Finance Subcommittee shall submit a report at the Annual Meeting of the Voter's Assembly. When possible, the President shall establish an informal review of the church's finances conducted by a qualified communicant member of the congregation.

The following proposed change is regarding the date of the Annual Meeting. The reason for the proposed change is to conduct the Annual Meeting prior to the start of the church year, July 1. Article III, Section A, page 4 states: "If at all possible, an Annual Meeting of the Voters' Assembly shall be held during each calendar year no later than the 2nd Sunday in August." The proposed revision would replace that with ***"An Annual Meeting of the Voters' Assembly shall be held during each calendar year no later than June 30."*** All remaining language in this paragraph remains the same.

The following proposed change is to align the start of the Officer and Board Member terms with the start of the church year, July 1.

Article VI, Section C, Page 9 of the Bylaws regarding Installation of Officers and when their term begins. It states: "The newly elected officers and Board Members of the congregation shall be installed by the last Sunday in August and shall assume their duties of office as of September 1st. All Officer, Chair and Board Member terms shall be for one year or until their replacement is installed. All Officers, Chairs and Board Members are eligible for successive terms in the same position by nomination."

The proposed revision would replace the underlined verbiage above with ***"The newly elected officers and Board Members of the congregation shall assume their duties of office as of July 1st and shall be installed by the last Sunday in August."***

PART-TIME K-8 MUSIC TEACHER

Do you have a passion for sharing Christ through music? Are you excited to inspire children to use their God-given talents to glorify Him? Our Savior Lutheran School is seeking a dedicated, faith-filled part-time Music Teacher to join our staff. The teacher is responsible for teaching K-8 students to understand musical theory, appreciate different genres of music and practice various types of instruments. It would be a plus if the teacher played the piano or guitar. If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, please contact Danielle Durham at ddurham@oursaviorplantation.org.





JOHN WALDRON'S MEMORIAL —Page 7—

"Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21)



For those of you who were unable to attend [John George Waldron's Memorial Service](#), please scan the QR code on the left or find the recorded livestream on our YouTube channel, Our Savior Lutheran Church Plantation. We thank everyone who came to honor and celebrate John's life and his lifetime devotion to God on Tuesday, June 30. During the service, Our Savior acknowledged John's extensive fellowship and loving service posthumously with the Walter D. Volz Servant of Christ Award (which his sister Robin accepted on his behalf). Friends and family from New York to South Florida remembered him fondly with stories.

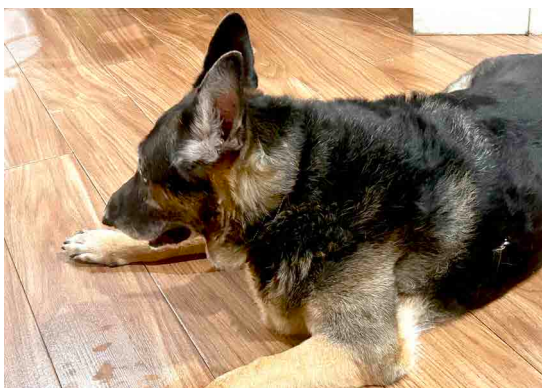
We ask that you continue to keep his daughter Jodi in your prayers as she remains in Florida and processes the loss of her father. As her church family, we hope to surround her with God's love, comfort, and encouragement during this difficult time. For those who are able, we encourage you to visit her or send colorful cards and cheerful pictures. For additional information and points of contact at her group home facility, please call the church office at (954) 473-6888.



John with the Prayer Team (daughter Jodi and Robert Spencer), collecting prayer cards on Palm Sunday 2026



John with OSL family, bringing seafarer care packages to Port Everglades during Bless Broward 2026



PET FAMILY SPOTLIGHT: THE MORRISON PACK

Meet Neville Morrison, a regular attendee of the 8 a.m. worship service at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Neville has been a proud dog dad for decades, dedicating his time to expanding his family with rescue (and gifted) pups in need of extra love and care.

Here is a look at the Morrison pack (pictured top to bottom, left to right):

Blue: Lauren's (Neville's daughter) sweet 10-year-old pup who loves being part of the crew.

Xena: A German Shepherd who was rescued by a Delray Beach police officer before finding her way to Lauren. Xena joined the family at three years old back in 2014, bringing a bright spot of joy right around the time Neville and his late wife Dorothy's home tragically burned down.

Chief: A handsome pit bull who sadly lost his battle with bone cancer recently, passing away peacefully in the arms of his devoted dad. (The picture says more than enough—He absolutely adored his dad, and his beautiful smile says so!)

Chino: The youngest and newest addition! After Chief passed, Lauren wanted to find a new companion for her father. Chino was adopted through the Humane Society all the way from Puerto Rico, making him the only dog in the household who "barks in Spanish."



2026 BIRTHDAY CLUB In January 2026, member Agnes Karabetsos conjured OS�'s first ever Birthday Club, a once-a-month fellowship opportunity for our church community to come together and celebrate monthly birthdays. Each month, she finds a new local restaurant to try, and each time she reports great results of satisfaction, from wonderful conversations to filled bellies. Each gathering has brought together congregants from both services who normally do not see one another. The most recent celebration took place following the late service on Sunday, June 28, 2026, at the Jacaranda Ristorante (pictured above). Thanks be to God for these wonderful moments to commune and belong to Our Savior outside of church, and a heartfelt thank you to Agnes for her dedication in bringing everyone together.



*Bill Wilsher pictured between Rev. Alan Seilk and
Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) Vice President
Kevin Stamper*



BILL WILSHER: BLESS BROWARD HONOREE LSF'S GOOD SAMARITAN BANQUET (SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026)

Saturday, June 20, Bill Wilsher received an award for community service at Lutheran Services Florida's Good Samaritan Award banquet. Bill, a former member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Delray Beach (Pastor Tony's previous congregation), is well known for volunteering his expertise in garden-scaping for non-profit organizations.

When Our Savior Lutheran Church in Plantation planned a tranquility garden at the Lippman Youth Shelter for Bless Broward Community Service Day in April 2025, Pastor Tony remembered Bill and asked if he would design a peaceful space for the shelter's children and staff. Bill exceeded every expectation. He visited the property multiple times, met with church leaders and shelter staff, and produced detailed, hand-drawn plans for the garden and for both the front and back grounds as well. He donated the designs and contributed many of the materials needed for the project. True to his word, Bill was present for all three phases of installation. He worked alongside volunteers, guiding them and getting his hands dirty to ensure the vision became reality.

Our Savior submitted Bill's name for the Good Samaritan Award in gratitude for all his contributions to the tranquility garden effort. Lutheran Services Florida (LSF), a nonprofit organization that helps the state's most vulnerable, accepts nominations from local congregations for Good Samaritan nominees who performed extraordinary acts of volunteer service. Bill was one of twenty recipients of the award at the June 20 banquet held at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Miami. We are deeply grateful for him and the gifts he has shared with Our Savior Lutheran Church and the Lippman Youth Shelter.



SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

GIVE A CHILD A SUMMER THEY'LL NEVER FORGET!

Support Youth at
LIPPMAN YOUTH SHELTER



SCAN
TO GIVE



CARING FOR KIDS IN CRISIS

LSF's Lippman Youth Shelter has been a trusted refuge for youth in crisis since 1979, serving as Broward County's only licensed shelter for teens.

It provides 24/7 care, counseling, and family-focused support to help young people stabilize and heal, serving more than 100 youth each year.

For decades, Lippman has been a place of transformation where youth in their most difficult moments find safety, rebuild connections, and step into a brighter future.

- ✓ 24/7 safe shelter & supervision
- ✓ Individual & family counseling
- ✓ Behavioral support & life skills
- ✓ Family reunification & stability programs

**Broward
County's only
licensed youth
shelter**

A safe place to heal. A path to a brighter future.

WHY SUMMER MATTERS

Every child deserves a summer filled with fun, exploration, and new experiences.

FOR YOUTH IN SHELTER, THESE OUTINGS:

- ♥ Open doors to new experiences
- ♥ Builds confidence and self-esteem
- ♥ Sparks curiosity and creativity
- ♥ Introduction to educational & vocational possibilities
- ♥ Creates joyful memories
- ♥ Helps youth envision a future beyond their current circumstances

These experiences help youth grow, heal, and believe in brighter tomorrows!

HELP YOUTH EXPERIENCE:



THE BROWARD
ZOO



SKY
ZONE



XTREME
ACTION PARK



THE BUEHLER
PLANTARIUM



ESCAPE
ROOMS



OFF THE
WALL



MARKHAM
PARK

...and
more!

✓ PINES ICE
ARENA

✓ BOWLING
OUTINGS

UPCOMING Summer Camps



EACH WEEK BETWEEN
**JULY 6 -
JULY 31**

20 YOUTH PER WEEK!

SPONSOR A CHILD Change a Life.

Just **\$250** provides a full week of:



MEALS



ACTIVITIES



FIELD TRIPS



ENRICHMENT
EXPERIENCES

For more information or questions, please contact:
Kevin Stamper - kevin.stamper@lsfnet.org

Your gift gives youth the chance to laugh, learn, and simply be kids. It's a small investment that creates lasting impact and **bright futures.**



Our Savior Lutheran Church & School

Annual Fund 2025-2026



IT'S TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE!

Help turn this dusty play field into a Field of Dreams! Currently, the permit is being processed, so please join in to help us make this a reality by donating today.

You can contribute by **making checks payable to *Our Savior Lutheran School*** with the memo line "Multipurpose Sports Court" or **scan the QR code** to make an online payment.



\$36,794.41

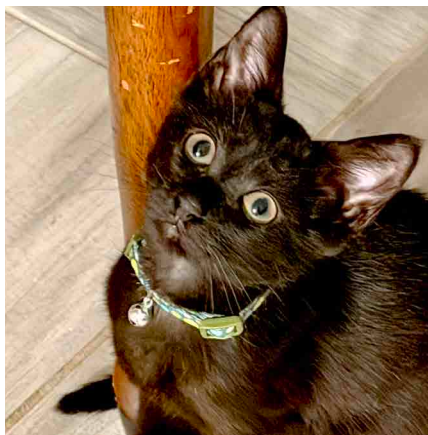
RAISED

53

DONATIONS

\$150,000

GOAL



6-28-2026 PET FAMILY SPOTLIGHT: THE FISCHERS

Meet the family of Rolf and Reina—well, most of them at least! Aside from the snake (not pictured), the couple has a total of four furry friends.

From left to right on the top row are Jessie the schnoodle (Rolf's baby), Elphaba the Bombay rescue kitten, and Rocket (Rolf's other baby), while Cruella—fittingly named—is pictured on the bottom left. If you're noticing a theme, you're right—Reina revealed that most of their pets' names were inspired by Disney characters.

Both Elphaba and Rocket came into the couple's lives during times of need, after two of their senior Norwegian Forest cats passed away. Though Elphaba swats tails for fun, Cruella and Rocket are



very patient with her kitten antics, and they all love each other.

If you'd like to connect with these awesome pet parents, you can find them worshipping with us at the 8 a.m. service on Sundays.

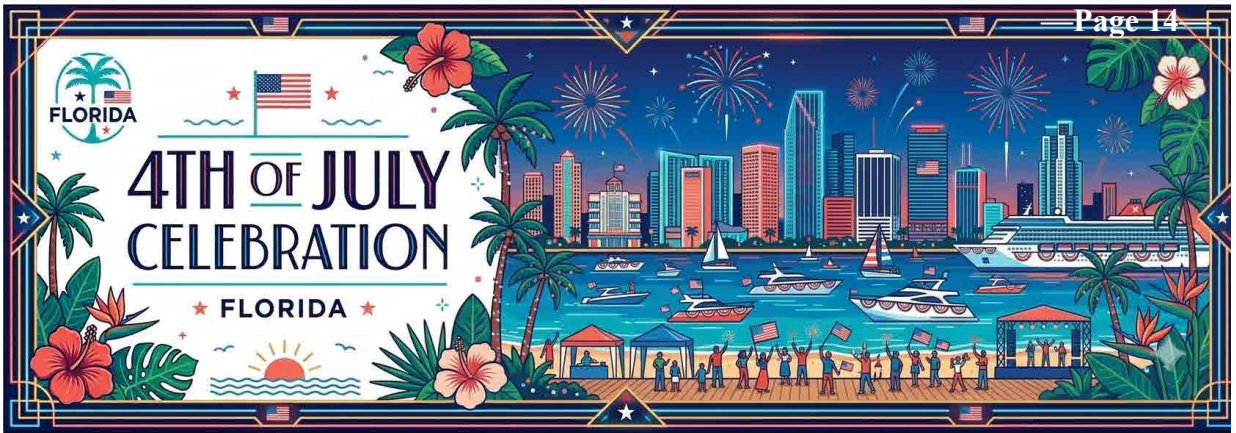


CUPS NEEDED FOR ALTAR FLOWERS



The pictures show large, sturdy, plastic Flanigan's drink cups. They are the perfect size and have the rigidity to hold the weekly altar flowers. If you have any cups like these (they don't have to be Flanigan's), we would appreciate them as donations for our flowers. They will help defray the cost of the bouquets. Please drop them off at the church office. Thank you!





BIRTHDAYS

JUL 1

Iris Benda

JUL 4

John Harrington

JUL 5

Betty Hea

JUL 8

Linda Burkhardt

JUL 9

Edie Clavelli

Brandon Zaske

JUL 10

Helena DeTorres

Shelly Faulkner

Christine Presson

JUL 11

Alfred Balkie

JUL 16

Flavia Sifontes

JUL 19

Benjamin Westby

JUL 22

Kyle Clavelli

JUL 24

Richard Kiesel

Linda Root

JUL 26

Jeston Curry

JUL 31

Marianne DeMinck

Libby Ehrenfeld

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

JUL 3

Tony and Nicole Linley (33)

JUL 16

David and Nancy Volz (26)

JUL 22

Jan and Steve Withers (47)

JUL 24

Roger and Judy Detwiler (61)

JUL 31

Malcolm and Joan Sears (44)



JULY FLOWERS



As of this Sunday, we now have **\$2,347** in our **flower fund**. That is enough to cover two bouquets for **46 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!

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!



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 _____

\$ _____

☐ 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.*