

THE CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church Newsletter | Sunday, August 23, 2026



Pastor, Lerryn and Rob Latimer pray for and bless young member Jan Banasco as he heads off to college.

AUGUST



SUN. 8/23

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. 8/24–TUES. 8/25

Schedule open

WED. 8/26

Discussion Group—11 a.m.*

THURS. 8/27

CPC Kick Off Orientation Dinner Meeting

Jim Ward Community Center—6 p.m.

FRI. 8/28– SAT. 8/29

Church office closed

SUN. 8/30

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

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

SEPTEMBER



MON. 8/31– TUES. 9/1

Schedule open

WED. 9/2

Discussion Group—11 a.m.*

THURS. 9/3

Church Planning Council Meeting—6 p.m.

FRI. 9/4– SAT. 9/5

Church office closed

PLEASE NOTE: Wednesday Discussion Group's starting time has moved to 11 a.m. (This is to help resolve the parking situation during school hours.)

PRAYERS

Prayers for the following OSL church members:

Haroldo Camacho, Carol Chaddock, Marianne DeMinck, Roger Detwiler, Howard Fischer, Sue Franjione, Desirée Gaffley, Susan George-Kenyon, 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, Linda Verdi, Nancy Volz, Jodi Waldron, Judy Watson, and Jan and Steve 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.*



GOOD LUCK AT UNI, JAN!

**INSTALLATION OF
OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OFFICERS &
BOARD MEMBERS
(SUN. 8.16.2026)**





Aug. 16-Sept 6

Other species, with their keen senses, experience the world very differently from us. The preaching series Sanctified Senses highlights places in God's Word that describe how being made holy through faith in Jesus enables us to see, hear, smell and taste the blessings of life.

KIDS
connect

This summer at Kids Connect, children have been exploring the theme 'God is Our Creator' through Imagination Station Science! Packed with exciting, hands-on experiments that kids can't get enough of, these fun activities do more than entertain—they provide powerful, memorable ways for kids to discover timeless Bible truths.





Crafted to Give

Handmade Cards by the Ladies of Our Savior

Starting in September, the ladies' card crafting group will be selling greeting cards after both worship services on Sundays. These lovely cards have been handmade by the ladies of the church and will be sold for cash only. All proceeds will go to the school's Multipurpose Sports Court Fund. Questions? Contact **Judy** at (954) 473-6888. Pictured below are sample cards and a few of the group members.



From left to right: Lerryn Latimer, Chris Presson, Judy Watson
(Not pictured: Agnes Karabetos, Arlene Lyth, and Nancy Volz)



The easiest, crunchiest and queso-iest fundraiser EVER!



LIME FRESH OSL School Spirit Night!

You Dine. We Donate.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

5:00-8:00 PM

THE FOUNTAINS

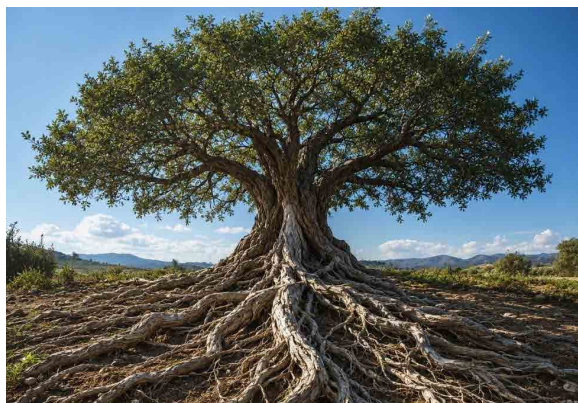
801 S. UNIVERSITY DR. PLANTATION, FL 33324

Order online LimeFresh.com

**10% of proceeds* will go to
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

**DINE IN . TAKE OUT . PICKUP
Call 954-472-5550**

**Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Does not apply to alcohol sales.*



WORDS FROM PRINCIPAL ROOT

AMAZING START: BACK-TO-SCHOOL

What a great start to the school year! There was little to no crying in preschool which, on the first day of school, is a wonderful way to start. In addition, all across campus, all day long, students were making friends and learning routines. Then, to top it off, it was the smoothest first day dismissal in history! All in all, [the day] was a major success thanks to your collaboration and patience as parents, the friendliness and willingness of this year's students, and the care and preparation of our amazing staff.

[Everyone's] preparation and planning all made a wonderful impact on students and parents. I have heard so many good things in the last few days. During the Preschool Families Tears and Cheers meetup, we heard that parents felt a strong connection with the faculty and staff when they toured, attended Monday night, and came Tuesday to the Visitation Day, and dropped off their children on Wednesday. One parent said on Wednesday morning, that in that one morning she had been greeted with more smiles and welcoming words than she has experienced the entire year at her child's last school. Thursday's parents at Coffee and Connect had experienced the same welcoming atmosphere...My thanks to Danielle, Mrs. Keim, and our School Board members who helped with these events.

—Principal Linda Root



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.

\$38,991.94

RAISED

57

DONATIONS

\$150,000

GOAL

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHAPEL (THURS. 8.13.2026)—"ROOTED IN CHRIST"



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

3rd Annual CRAFTERS Marketplace

Join us for handmade treasures,
warm hospitality, and community connection.



8001 NW 5th St,
Plantation, FL



Saturday

SEPTEMBER 26TH

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM



Sunday

SEPTEMBER 27TH

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



WE INVITE YOU!

Come shop, connect, and support local artisans
while encouraging our ministry and
reaching our community.

Join us for worship at 8:00am or 10:30am
on Sunday and stay afterward
to enjoy the Marketplace!



FOR VENDOR INFORMATION GO TO:

<https://form.jotform.com/oslfundraising/3rd-annual-craft-marketplace-2026>



HANDMADE
CRAFTS & GIFTS



FAMILY FRIENDLY
ATMOSPHERE



SUPPORT LOCAL
ARTISANS



SUPPORT OUR
MINISTRIES

Questions? Call (954) 347-0082
www.oslplantation.church



A WEEKEND OF
FELLOWSHIP
CREATIVITY
COMMUNITY



ALL ARE
Welcome!



*Serving Christ.
Serving Others.
Changing Lives.*



MEET OUR SAVIOR'S MINISTRY LEADERS ADVISOR: JADE CRUZ

—Page 10—

A message from Jade Cruz to the greater OSL Community regarding a new position within the church office.

"I want to cover three things plainly: who I am, what new role I will be filling, and, most importantly, what I'm here to help you with.

My name is Jade Cruz. I currently serve on the 10:30 worship music team and recently joined the Youth Board. I've been a member of the Lutheran church my whole life, and grew up serving within and supporting church events. I later owned and operated a business for three years doing the same thing within my community, helping bring to life the visions of leaders throughout Miami-Dade, with several events even sponsored by the city. As I began to take my walk with Christ more seriously, I was simultaneously given the opportunity to serve as music teacher and youth choir director at Our Savior Lutheran School last school year. I'm sure there are a few teachers here who know how difficult, but rewarding, that experience was; it truly felt like the first and most important form of ministry I ever participated in. During that time, and currently, I've also served as Vice President and Director of Operations for the nonprofit my husband, Denis Cruz, founded in 2021, planning and strategizing events for youth and the community.

Over this summer, I was presented with the opportunity for a new ministry within our church, and not just new to me, but new to all of us. This position has been titled Ministry Leaders Advisor. This title feels enormously profound to me, and its meaning is just as it says: I'll be serving as an advisor and support to the ministry leaders throughout this church, with a primary focus on guiding and encouraging them on how to develop new disciples. The harvest is plenty, but the workers are few.

As I contemplated what that meant, this is the vision statement I landed on, and those of you in attendance at the voters meeting last week have already heard it, but I did make one slight adjustment: "My personal vision for this role is to encourage and inspire a disciple-making culture at OSL where all people may recognize their value and purpose within the body of Christ and are excited, supported, and equipped to use their God-given strengths, talents, and skills, to share the love of Jesus within our community and beyond."

So, as my role is already active, I want to be clear about what I'm here to help you with, so you can begin using my support and give me the opportunity to serve and be a disciple myself.

Maybe you're the chairperson of a church board looking for a way to meaningfully involve your members. I'm here to help, and can support you on how to delegate various tasks effectively. **(CONT. ON NEXT PAGE)**



Maybe you're planning an event that requires a lot of hands. I'm here to help, and can show you strategies to gather those people. Maybe you're trying to engage children and families in our school. I'm here to help process your ideas and connect you with the right people and support. And in the months leading up to your pre-planned event or project, I may even check in with you, asking what ideas you have, what concerns you're sitting with, and probably invite you to stop by my office for some tea or coffee to talk about it all.

So again, whatever you're leading this year, I'm here to help. Maybe you've never led something before, but feel inspired and want some guidance. Please reach out any time, or stop by my office during the hours listed on my door located in the church office. I may be here to help us make disciples, but the truth is, your asking gives me the opportunity to be one too, and I thank you for that.

I am grateful beyond words to be part of this community. Thank you all for your time. I can't wait to see what God has in store."



Questions? Contact **Judy** at (954) 473-6888.

PROPERTIES WORK DAY (BACK-TO-SCHOOL SPRUCE-UP)

—Page 12—

We give thanks to the Lord for the incredible spirit of Christian stewardship shown by our church and school volunteers, staff, and families during our Back-to-School Spruce-Up Day! Acting as the hands and feet of Christ, our hard-working team pressure-cleaned entryways, trimmed gardens and hedges, unclogged gutters, and gave our classrooms a thorough deep-clean—dusting, sanitizing, and erasing away every stray mark. Special thanks to Tom Mahale and the Property Board for their organizing efforts, and Juli Mellott and Brad Heine for the refreshments and BBQ after a long, hot day of hard work. Your joyful service has blessed our campus with a refreshed, welcoming space where our children can learn, grow, and thrive in a Christ-centered environment this coming year. To God alone be the glory for your faithful hearts and hard work!



ROOTED IN CHRIST *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. —Colossians 2:6-7*

On Sunday, August 9, Pastor preached on the school's theme "Rooted in Christ" inspired by the above passage. In his sermon, he targeted the angst and disconnect people feel in the modern world due to things such as a lack of belonging in meaningful communities. The world teaches us to be rooted in the worldly things like money, health bodies, and relationships with other humans. Though not all inherently bad, God reminds us and teaches us to be rooted in Him. He is the one true God.

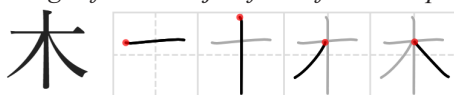


As an illustration, Pastor showed an orchid, flowerless but full of a network of strong roots almost overtaking the pot it grew in. Orchids are epiphytes, plants that naturally grow not in the ground but with the support of another tree. What's the connection? If we are the orchids in need of a tree, God sent us that tree, the one Christ died on for all of us because he loves us. He is that tree; He is the Tree of Life, the supplier of everlasting life and a peace that passes all understanding.

What can you do this week to stay rooted in Christ outside of church? Read scripture; listen to your favorite hymns, Christian songs, or devotional podcasts; pray and give thanks to Him. Remember that we the church are the body of Christ, and we are also rooted with you in His love. Lean on each other in God's strength.

KANJI 漢字 CORNER *"Kanji" is the Japanese word for the alphabet borrowed from Chinese characters. Japan uses three alphabet systems: hiragana ひらがな, katakana カタカナ (for loan words that have no Japanese origin, foreign names, or portmanteaus), and kanji 漢字. This is one of the few reasons why learning Japanese can get confusing—even for its native speakers. Officially "native level" readers, need to comprehend roughly 2,000 kanji characters (alongside complicated honorifics and grammar hurdles).*

At the 8 a.m. service, Pastor and his wife taught us how to write two very simple kanji for "tree" (木) and "book" (本). Knowing these two alone will get you will get you surprisingly far. Both are considered "radical kanji", so they are not made up of other kanji. More complicated characters, however, can have layers of multiple radicals. This makes this alphabet system very poetic and visually easy to make educated guesses for some words. The English equivalent for this would be knowing your Greek and Latin roots. Some examples are 果物 (fruit) and 十字架 (the cross of Christ), where each set has one tree (木). Can you see how the meanings of both kanji reflect of Christ's purpose and our life source? Try to practice writing them yourself!



Meaning: tree (*ki*), wood (*moku*)



Meaning: book (*hon*), present, main, origin (*moto*), true, real



BIRTHDAYS

AUG 25

Ian Burke
Judy Detwiler

AUG 30

Joan Sears

AUG 31

Nicole Linley

SEP 1

Addison Westby

SEP 4

Carole McClure
Cheryl Walters
Judy Watson

SEP 10

Robert McClure

SEP 13

Tony Linley

SEP 16

Craig Chaddock

Bill Presson

SEP 18

Pamela Leone

Kathy Thurn

SEP 19

Neil Topalian

SEP 20

Heyabey Kifle

Jodi Waldron

SEP 23

Harry Haeseker

SEP 25

Frank Ahrens
Lauren Bhalai

SEP 26

Anne Chiaro

SEP 27

Nancy Volz

SEP 28

Dorothy Royce

SEP 30

Emmanuel Kifle

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

AUG 24

Les & Juli Mellott (40)

AUG 27

Neil & Cheryl Topalian (37)

SEP 1

Tom Mahle & Gail McGowan (31)

SEP 2

Robert & Carole McClure (59)

SEP 10

Paul & Maria Krug (43)

SEP 20

Carol & Bruce Ross (40)

SEP 21

Tony & Junko Durante (32)



ALTAR FLOWERS UPDATES



Kindly fill out the Chancel Flower Sign-Up slip and include it with your payment. These are found on the back of the newsletter or in the pews (green slip). Please include it with your payment. Please notify us if you are paying via VANCO.

The flowers adorning the chancel this Sunday were
graciously provided by the Flower Fund.
Thanks be to God!

HELP US UPDATE UR 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!

PLEASE NOTE: All altar flowers will be gathered and held in the church office immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. This will ensure that flowers paid for by members are received by the intended recipients. Thank you!



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



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 _____



Check this box if you would like to collect your flowers after the 10:30 a.m. service.

We will hold them in the church office.

Any unclaimed flowers will be donated to a local nursing home. Thank you.

FOR OFFICE:

of bouquets _____

\$ _____

☐ Paid ____/____/____