THE CONNECTION

Weekly Newsletter

November 15, 2026



Confirmand Roman with his mother new member Flavia Sifontes on Sunday, November 8, 2026 (p.6)

NOVEMBER

SUN. 11/15
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services
Bible Study—9:15 a.m. | Kids Connect—10:30 a.m.
THANKSGIVING FEAST—12:15 p.m.

MON. 11/16
Women's Group Meeting—6:30 p.m.

TUES 11/17
OSL School Spelling Bee—9 a.m.
School Board Meeting—6 p.m.

WED. 11/18
Discussion Group—11 a.m.
Handbells Practice—6:30 p.m.

THURS. 11/19
Schedule Open

FRI. 11/20
Office Closed

SAT. 11/21
Unidos Por Sabor Potluck (p.3)—6:30 p.m.

SUN. 11/22
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services
Bible Study—9:15 a.m.
Kids Harvest Party—10:30 a.m.
Thanksgiving Basket Delivery—12:50 p.m.

MON. 11/23
Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)—5:30 p.m.

TUES 11/24
Schedule Open

WED. 11/25
THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP—12:15 p.m.

THURS. 11/26–FRI. 11/27
Campus closed in observance of Thanksgiving

SAT. 11/28
Hanging of the Greens—9 a.m.

PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING OSL CHURCH MEMBERS: Marc Benda, Carol Chaddock, Roger Detwiler, Claire Edwards, Howard Fischer, Sue Franjione, Susan George-Kenyon, Gerry Gruenbaum, Betty Hea, Bob Johnson, Prentis Johnson, Pam and James Leone, Jack Lowe, Carol (Coram) Ross, Beverly Smith, Robert Spencer, Linda Verdi, and Jan and Steve Withers.

MEMBERS & FAMILY IN THE ARMED SERVICES: Dustin Douglas (son-in-la of Les and Juli Mellott) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, WA; **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, Noah Tello, 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**.*





Unidos por Sabor

UNA CELEBRACIÓN DE LAS CULTURAS HISPANAS

SÁBADO, NOV 21 | 5:30 p.m. | 11501 NW 44th St, Sunrise, FL



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
PLANTATION, FLORIDA

CONFIRMAR ASISTENCIA
786-246-7732



THANK YOU, MARC! On Sunday, November 8, Our Savior recognized Marc Benda for his faithful service as interim chair for the Property Board. He was appreciated with many words of praise and admiration, grateful applause, and blessings from Pastor in the 10:30 a.m. service. In light of the sudden passing of his younger brother, we ask for prayers for his long, solo journey back to Africa, where he will be reunited with his family for a couple of weeks. Thank you, Marc, and may God surround your family with peace, comfort, safety, and love.



OUR SAVIOR SHINING LIGHT SERIES: K & 1ST GRADE SINGS

Accompanied by new music teacher, Mike McDermott (pictured left), the kindergarten and first grade classes led the Our Savior Lutheran congregation in two songs. The kids sang so wonderfully and wholeheartedly that everyone couldn't help but to smile and sing along—just as loudly and just as proudly! Good job little Saints and way to go 10:30 attendees for learning the songs so enthusiastically and quickly! Thank you, Mike, for sharing the joy of children and the power of sharing the Gospel through music.



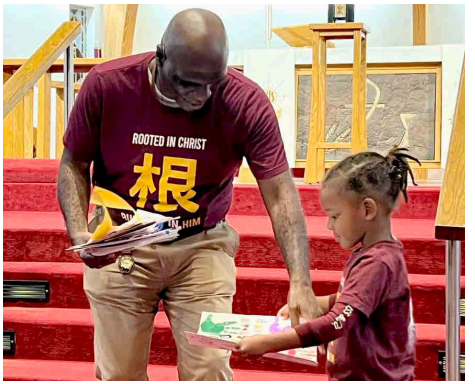
THANK YOU FROM PASTOR

Dear Our Savior Family,

Thank you for the outpouring of love and encouragement that you shared with me during Pastor Appreciation Month. I was deeply touched by all the cards, messages and gifts that I received. It is a true joy to serve such a wonderful community.

Ever appreciative,

Tony Durante
Pastor





Thanksgiving Meal Baskets

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026

The Outreach Board is sponsoring the Thanksgiving Meal Basket event again this year. We would love for you to be involved.

If you are interested in donating an entire meal basket or in being part of a meal basket team, please sign up after church.

We will also have a list of food items to be included in the basket. We also need people to deliver baskets on Sunday, November 22, after the late service.

Contact **Chris Presson** at ***(954) 473-6888*** to sign up or ask questions.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
8001 NW 5th Street, Plantation, FL 33324

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Decorating for Christmas Together

Tradition of Hanging of Greens

The Hanging of the Greens is a cherished Christian tradition of decorating the church for Advent and Christmas. Evergreens, wreaths, holly, and the Chrismon tree symbolize enduring life, hope, love, and faith. For centuries, Christians have used these decorations to celebrate the season, reflect on the meaning of Jesus' birth, and prepare for Christmas with joy and gratitude.

Sat. 11/28
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Lunch afterwards

Asking donations for:
Clean soft rags
Murphy's Oil Soap



Please join us as we prepare our church for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you have any questions, please contact **Juli** at ***(954) 473-6888***

Our Savior Lutheran Church
8001 NW 5th Street, Plantation, FL 33324



A CELEBRATION OF FAITH: 4 STUDENTS CONFIRMED

We joyfully celebrate four students who recently affirmed their faith through the Rite of Confirmation! **Skylar Dacks**, **Iariel McKinney, Brooklyn Roche,** and **Roman Sifontes**—were all confirmed over the past few Sundays.

We congratulate all four students on this meaningful milestone in their faith journey. May the Lord continue to guide them, strengthen them in His Word, and keep them steadfast in His grace as they grow in faith and walk with Christ!

CHRIST'S HOPE & STRENGTH THROUGH LOVED ONES: ROMAN SIFONTES

My name is Roman Sifontes, and I would like to share my story on this day of my Confirmation.

When I was in 8th Grade, I was closing a gate at home, and it cut my leg right above my Achilles [tendon]. My mother was with me when this happened and she quickly responded to my injury and took me to the hospital. I felt protected by my mother and Jesus knowing that they were with me. I began praying to Jesus, so I wasn't as scared of what was going to happen to me and my leg. I was so scared that it would damage the muscle or permanently damage my nerves. The doctor gave me a few stitches and that was definitely not an experience I would like to have again.

During my recovery, I was surrounded by people who truly cared for my wellbeing; my mother, the entire school staff, and my classmates were there for me. I had to use crutches for two weeks—this was not an easy task for me. Some of my classmates helped me and carried my backpack since I had to go upstairs to get to my classes. I am very grateful to have experienced the care of good people around me. I am most grateful to have my mother always by my side; I would not be who I am without her. I prayed to Jesus every day that I would be able to play sports again because soccer is one of my biggest passions.

Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." This verse relates to my story because, during that time, believing in Jesus brought me hope and strength, and I thank Jesus every day that my leg healed up properly. My faith has given me the opportunity to continue to play my favorite sport. Since then, because of this experience, I have grown to have a stronger relationship with Jesus. I feel very blessed and I am very grateful. Thank you.





DAUGHTER OF CHRIST: SKYLAR DACKS



Today, I want to share with you a personal experience that has helped me understand what it means to put my faith in Jesus. As a seventh grader, I am still learning about my faith and what it means to have a relationship with Him. But one thing I have learned is that having faith does not mean that everything in your life will be easy. It means trusting Jesus even when things are hard, scary, or difficult to understand.

One of the hardest things in my life is not having my dad involved in my life. Sometimes, I wonder what it would be like to have him there for important moments, to have him encourage me, or to know that I could count on him. There are times when I feel sad and ask myself why things have to be this way. It can be hard watching other kids with their dads and wondering why my life is different.

Another thing that has been difficult for me is knowing that my mom has a rare heart disease.

My mom is the person I depend on for so much. She is my best friend and the thought of something happening to her can be scary. Sometimes, when my mom has to go to the doctor or when I think about her heart condition, I worry about what could happen. I do not always know how to talk about those feelings, and sometimes I keep them to myself.

There have been moments when I have felt scared, sad, and unsure about the future. I cannot control what happens with my family, and I cannot make my mom's heart disease go away. I also cannot change the fact that my dad is not in my life. But I have learned that I do not have to face these feelings all by myself. That is where my faith in Jesus comes in.

I am learning that Jesus is not just someone I hear about at church or read about in the Bible. He is someone I can turn to when I am hurting. I can talk to Him when I am afraid, pray when I feel worried, and trust Him even when I do not understand why certain things happen. Putting my faith in Jesus means believing that He loves me, that He hears my prayers, and that He will stay with me through the difficult moments in my life. One Bible verse that gives me comfort is John 14:18, where Jesus says, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

This verse is special to me because Jesus reminds us that we are never abandoned by Him. Even when someone in our life is not there for us, Jesus promises that He will not leave us alone. When I think about my dad not being in my life, this verse reminds me that I am still loved and that I will always have Jesus. And when I worry about my mom's health, it reminds me that I can bring my fears to Him instead of carrying them all by myself.

Putting my faith in Jesus does not mean I never get scared or sad anymore. I still have questions, and I still have moments when I worry about the future. But I am learning that faith means trusting Jesus even when I do not have all the answers. It means believing that He is with me on the days when I feel strong and on the days when I feel weak. **(CONT. ON NEXT PAGE→)**

WITNESS OF FAITH: SKYLAR DACKS (CONT.)

I know I am still young, and I have a lot to learn about being a Christian. But I want to keep growing in my relationship with Jesus. I want to remember to pray not only when I need something, but also when I am thankful. I want to trust Him with my worries and remember that my faith is not based on having a perfect life. It is based on knowing that Jesus loves me and that I can depend on Him.

If there is one thing I hope you take away from my experience, it is that you do not have to wait until you are older to have faith in Jesus. You do not have to have everything figured out. You can bring Him your fears, your sadness, your questions, and your worries. He already knows what is in your heart, and you can trust Him with it.

Even though I cannot change everything that happens in my life, I can choose to put my faith in Jesus. I can trust Him with my family, my mom's health, and my future. I know that I will still face challenges, but I do not have to face them alone.

Jesus is my hope when I am afraid,my comfort when I'm sad , and my strength when life feels difficult. And that is what putting my faith in Him means to me.

PUTTING MY FAITH IN JESUS: IARIEL MCKINNEY

One time in my life when I had to put my faith in Jesus was when I started playing basketball last year. I was excited to try something new, but I was also nervous because I did not know if I would be good at it. I wondered if I would be able to keep up with the other players, make shots, and do well during games. I knew that learning a new sport would take time, but I wanted to have confidence in myself. During this time, I decided to put my faith in Jesus and trust him to help me through my journey.

When I first started basketball, I knew I would have to practice and work hard to improve my skills. Sometimes, I worried about making mistakes or not playing as well as I wanted to. I wanted to become a better player and feel confident when I stepped onto the court. Instead of letting my fears stop me, I reminded myself that I could pray to Jesus and ask Him for strength, courage, and confidence. I learned that having faith does not mean everything will always be easy; it means trusting Jesus even when I feel nervous or unsure of myself.

Another reason basketball means so much to me was because I wanted to make my uncle proud. My uncle passed away from cancer three years ago, and he played in the NBL. Knowing that he played professional basketball made the sport even more special to me. I wished he could be there to see me play and watch me improve. Even though he is no longer here with me, I want to honor his memory by working hard and giving basketball my best effort. I believe that putting faith in Jesus helped me stay motivated, and remember why I wanted to keep going. **(CONT. ON NEXT PAGE→)**



PUTTING MY FAITH IN JESUS: IARIEL MCKINNEY (CONT.)

As I continued my basketball journey, I began to understand that confidence comes from believing in myself, practicing, and trusting Jesus. I learned that I would not become a great player overnight, and that making mistakes was part of learning. My faith reminded me that I did not have to let fear control me. I could pray before games, do my best and trust Jesus to help me stay strong when things became challenging. I also learned that winning was not the only thing that mattered. Giving my best effort, learning from my mistakes, and becoming a better teammate were important too.

Looking back, starting basketball taught me an important lesson about faith. Putting my faith in Jesus helped me face something new, even though I was not sure how well I would do. It also helped me keep my uncle's memory close to my heart and gave me another reason to work hard. I know that I will face other challenges in life, but I want to remember what basketball has taught so far and that is I can trust Jesus, believe in myself, and keep trying even when I feel afraid. My faith reminds me that I do not have to face challenges alone, and I will continue to carry that lesson with me on and off the basketball court.



LIGHT OF LIFE: BROOKLYN ROCHE

The first chapters of my life started in Los Angeles, California. We decided to move to South Florida, which felt like it was God's will. It was a blessing to find not only a church, but a school as well. Everyone was welcoming and happy to see me there. That's when I knew this is where I belong. To be honest, before I came here, I never knew what confirmation was or what [being] Lutheran meant. Everyone here has helped me grow closer to Christ and build bonds with not only the fellowship, but lifelong friendships.

Jesus brought me here and has shown my family and I a life with Christ, family, friends and a supportive community. I look forward to helping others by being a vessel for God. As Jesus states in the scripture, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." — John 8:12

Thank you everyone for lifting me up and making my paths clear.

OUR SAVIOR, OUR TRAVELS SERIES
POSTCARDS FROM OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH: PERU

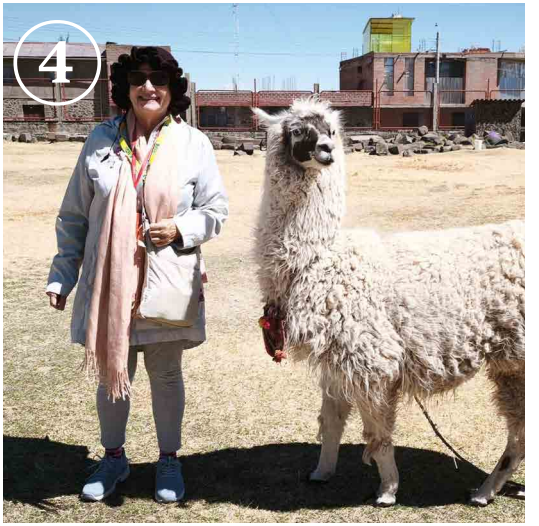
Carol Reynolds-Srot, Duane Srot, and Debi Bauer visited Peru the first week in October. The trio was in the cities of Lima, Cusco, and Puno. The highlight of their trip was visiting Machu Picchu (pronounced maw-chew pee-chew), a 15th-century Inca citadel in the Andes Mountains that is one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

In addition to their adventures on land, the OSL church members also had a couple of culinary experiences. They got to taste guinea pig (a traditional, high-protein food source with thousands of years of history in the Andes that tastes like a less meaty duck). Families raise the rodents at home and cook them regularly, as well as for special occasions throughout the year. Also, Debi and Duane each ordered a meal that featured alpaca. Of course, Carol took a bite. The consensus is that it tasted like pork. **(CONT. ON NEXT P.11→)**











P.10 CAPTIONS

① Carol and Duane at Machu Picchu. ② Debi strikes a pose after making it (almost) to the top of Machu Picchu. ③ Srots & Debi in Peru: The trio pose at the central plaza in Lima. ④ Debi Lama: Debi is always doing outreach. Here, she tries to recruit a new OSL member.
⑤ Andes High Elevation: The high elevation in Peru can cause dizziness, nausea, and a host of other symptoms. 5489 m.s.n.m. (metros sobre el nivel del mar) is equal to 18,008.53 feet.

P. 11 CAPTIONS

⑥ Guinea pigs are raised at home for cooking. ⑦ A roasted guinea pig is presented on a platter. ⑧ Alpacas provide fleece for sweaters and blankets, pose for photos, and can grace the dining table as an entrée. ⑨ Debi is always a missionary at work. Here she gifts our tour manager, Rolly Carrasco, with a Gideon Bible in Spanish.









POSTCARDS FROM OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH: PERU (CONT. FROM P.9)

The only downside to the trip was battling lightheadedness and nausea that hit when they were at high altitudes (of up to 14,000 feet), which made Carol ill for a couple of days. Nevertheless, they came back home safe, weighing a few pounds less, and with wonderful memories.

NEW MEMBER CORNER

On Sunday, October 4, Our Savior welcomed 7 new members in both services.



WELCOME, PENNY! Most of you probably recognize Penny worshiping at the 8 a.m. on Sundays. Since she lives nearby and she has a Lutheran background, she found her way to us. The warm, supportive family-like atmosphere encouraged her to become part of the OSL family. When asked to describe herself, she identified herself as a former engineer and a dog lover. Additionally, she loves to paint ceramics. We're happy you're with us, Penny!



NEW MEMBER CORNER (CONT.)

—Page 12—

WELCOME, WINSTON! You may recognize Winston as one of the friendly faces occasionally greeting worshipers at our 10:30 a.m. service. Originally from Jamaica, Winston currently works in the field of education and has an interest in getting involved with the singing and Bible studies. He came to our church in search of a congregation that aligned with his spiritual needs and was drawn to the warm interactions among members and the way God's Word is shared during worship: "with honesty, simplicity, clarity, and an uplifting" message. We're delighted to have Winston Chin as part of our OSL family!

WELCOME, GARCIAS (AND RODRIGUEZES)! Originally from Queens, New York, **David** is a former U.S. Marine and currently works as a registered nurse, with particular interests in medicine, science, and pharmacology. Outside of work, he enjoys martial arts, including boxing, karate, judo, and jujutsu, as well as weightlifting. He also pursues various scholarly interests, dedicating his extra time to independent research, teaching, discussion, and debate.



David's search for a church home came after becoming disillusioned with modern non-denominational churches that, in his view, often have weak or missing theology. His interest in Lutheran theology was sparked by YouTube theologian Dr. Jordan B. Cooper, which led him to search online for confessional LCMS congregations and eventually discover OSL.

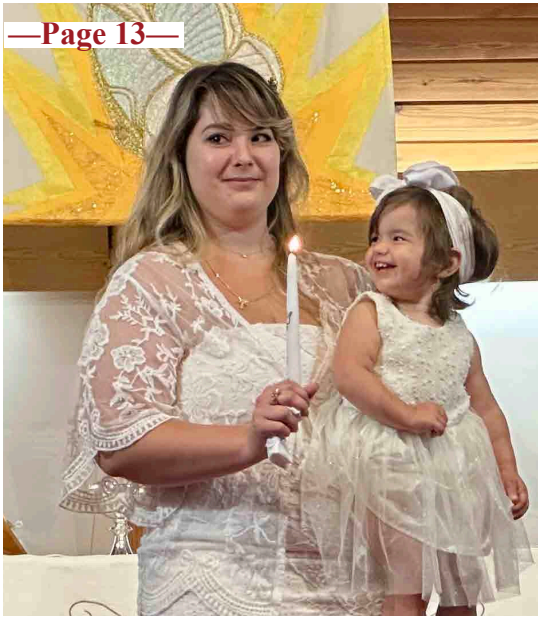
Since finding OSL, David says, “I'm a big fan of Pastor Tony, the engagement, discussions, and the young adult group/activities. I also like the church-related events/engagement!”



Sharing the same hometown of Queens, New York, as his brother, David, **Jonathan** enjoys boxing and has a strong interest in teaching, learning, and education.

When asked what brought him to OSL, Jonathan shared, “I feel like a lot of churches lose their way by not following close to the Word.” His appreciation for OSL has continued to grow as he has experienced the welcoming nature of the congregation, particularly the friendliness of fellow church members and Pastor Tony.

(CONT. ON NEXT PAGE→)



NEW MEMBER CORNER (CONT.)

A proud mom to almost two-years-old Violet, **Alex** is already making her mark on the OSL community. Her daughter was baptized earlier this spring alongside her uncles, David and Jonathan. Alex enjoys art, decorating, and praying for others. She also has a natural gift for working with children and caring for them. Beyond that, she has been actively advocating for, supporting, and helping organize many of OSL's young adult activities, with the encouragement and support of her brothers.

Originally from Miami, Alex found her way to OSL alongside her older brother, David, after he researched and discovered the congregation. She shares his appreciation for Pastor Tony and says the church's strong leadership was also a major attraction in making OSL their church home. We're delighted to welcome Alex, her little one, and all her siblings into the OSL family!



LifeNet4Families

HYGIENE ITEMS NEEDED:

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, lotion, razors, shaving cream, feminine hygiene products, mouthwash, dental floss, combs & hair brushes, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, tissues, toilet paper. Washcloths and towels (white preferred) are also needed.

DO NOT drop off items at the church; instead, email Carol Reynolds-Srot, OSL church member and a LifeNet4Families volunteer, at trinisrot@bellsouth.net to arrange transfer of your donation.

ALTAR FLOWERS UPDATES

Kindly fill out the Chancel Flower Sign-Up slip and include it with your payment. These are found 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.

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!

POSTCARDS FROM OSL: DURANTE'S SOUTHWEST TRIP (P.15)

This year, the first park we explored was, at the time, still Chiricahua National Monument—right as we returned, several of you excitedly told us it's an official National Park! We agree that this is a much-deserved honor, as it truly was a hidden gem. The pictures on p.15 don't do the park justice.

Thanks to the love and care of the church, Junko was able to hike more than 2 hours on her first trail the Echo Canyon Trail, since her knee surgery in April. We did not complete it; it winded the whole party with the increasing switchbacks and altitude.

BIRTHDAYS

11/1
Glenda Strang
11/8
Rodger Burrows
11/10
Jennafer Douglas
Julio Sarmiento
11/11
Sandra Curry
11/12
Sue Hofman
Sean Koontz
11/14
Judith Simpson
11/16
Haroldo Camacho
Catherine Curry
11/17
Lynn Diamond
11/19
Janice Adams
Harlem Hardy
Lois Voith
Glen Walters
11/23
Gloria Metin
11/24
Marc Benda
11/25
Andy Clark
11/29
Lerryn Latimer
11/30
Philip Ramcharitar



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!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

11/14
Patricia & John Jablansky (39)

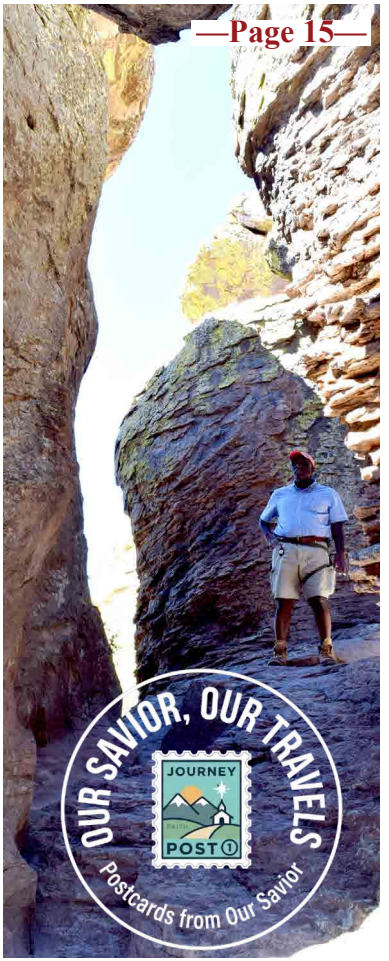


[10.11.26] THE DURANTES VISITED ZION LUTHERAN CHUCH, BLYTHE, CA
(Pictured with visiting pastor, **Reverend Ramón Contreras**, former coordinator of Lutheran Border Concerns Ministries (LBCM) in San Diego. He preached on the parable of the wedding feast in Matthew 22.

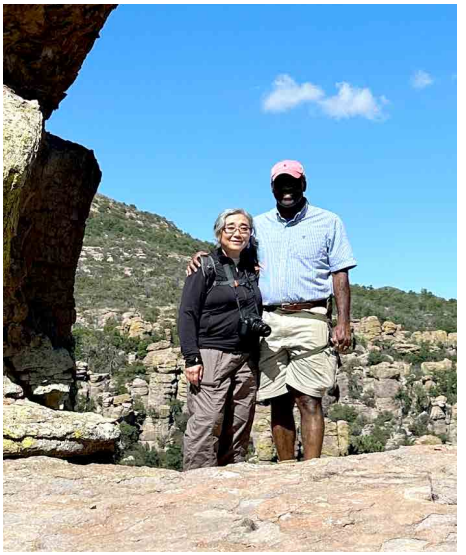


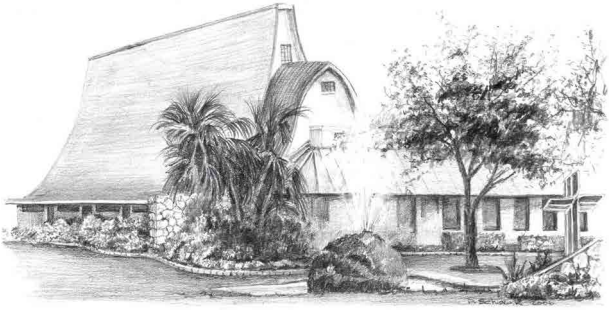

CHIRICAHUA
National Monument
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service




OUR SAVIOR, OUR TRAVELS
JOURNEY
POST 1
Postcards from Our Savior







Our Savior Lutheran Church & School

8001 NW 5th Street, Plantation, Florida 33324

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Mika Durante, Administrative Assistant
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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.*

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

All orders are due Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2026.

If you wish to donate a poinsettia plant as a memorial or as a gift to adorn the chancel during the Christmas season, please let us know by returning this form with payment attached. Please make checks payable to "Our Savior Lutheran Church" along with this order form.

Please print names clearly.

Name: _____

In memory/honor/celebration of:

_____

For office:
Paid: ☐ _____

Number of plants desired *($10 ea.)*: _____

Poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas worship service on Dec. 25 by 11:30 a.m.