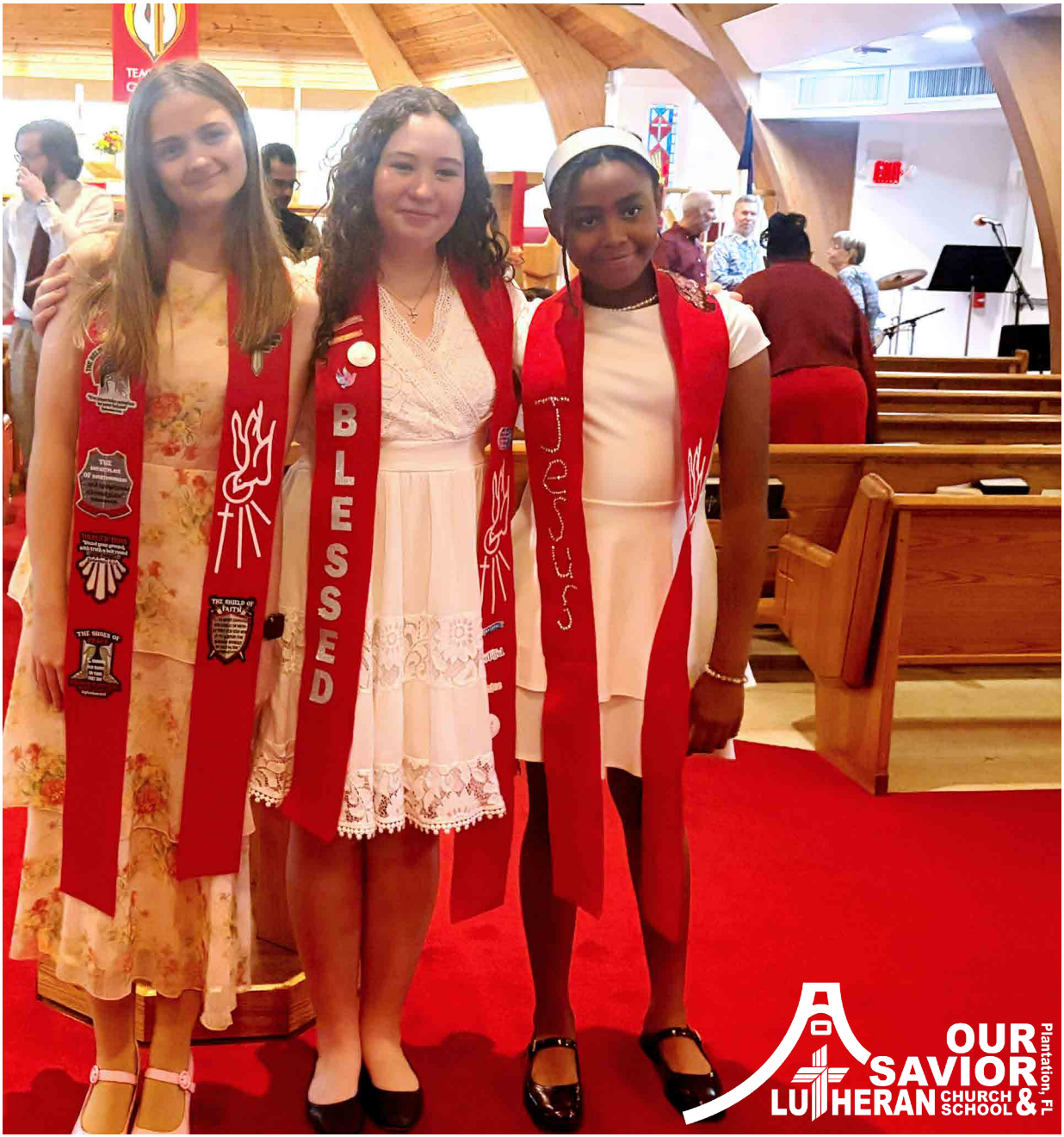
THE CONNECTION

Weekly Newsletter

November 8, 2026



Confirmands Brooklyn Roche, Skylar Dacks, and Iariel McKinney on Reformation Sunday (p.7-9)

NOVEMBER

SUN. 11/8
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services
Bible Study—9:15 a.m. | Kids Connect—10:30 a.m.
Shining Light: OSLS K & 1st Sing—10:30 a.m.

MON. 11/9–TUES 11/10
Schedule Open

WED. 11/11 VETERANS DAY
Campus closed in observance of the holiday

THURS. 11/12
Schedule Open

FRI. 11/13
Office Closed

SAT. 11/14
OSL School Fall Festival—9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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
Church Planning Council Meeting— 6 p.m.

FRI. 11/20
Office Closed

SAT. 11/21
Unidos Por Sabor Potluck (p.10)— 6:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING OSL CHURCH MEMBERS: Carol Chaddock, Roger Detwiler, Claire Edwards, Howard Fischer, Sue Franjione, Susan George-Kenyon, Karen Goth, Gerry Gruenbaum, Betty Hea, Bob Johnson, Prentis Johnson, Robert Latimer, James and Pam 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-law 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**.*



WELCOME TO THE PRAYER TEAM, NOAH! On Sunday, November 1, Noah joined Jodi and Robert in collecting prayer cards during offering time at the 10:30 a.m. service. The church gave him a nice warm round of applause and many members expressed joy at the new addition. Pictured are Noah and his mother, Holly, who have been actively attending for over a year at the late service. Please don't hesitate to say hello if you have the chance!



NEW MEMBER CORNER

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

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.

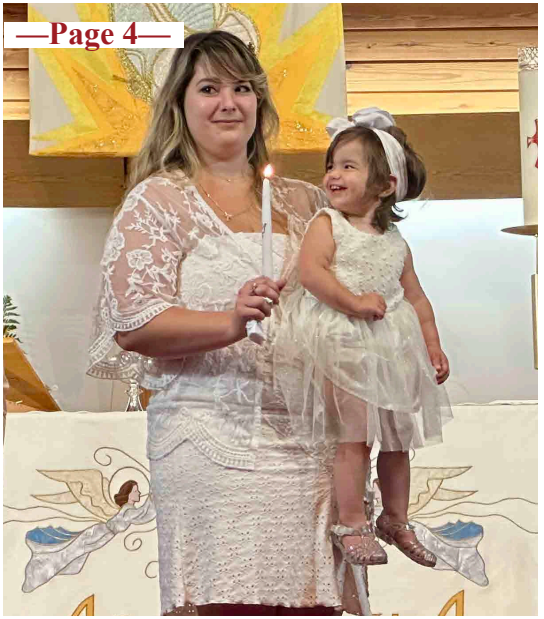
Since finding OSL, David says, “I'm a big fan of Pastor Tony, the engagement, discussions, and the young adult group/activities. I also like the church-related events/engagement!”



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

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.

[10.16 UPDATE] Subjects Arrested in the Death of John Waldron

October 16, 2026 a WSVN news story reported that two people were arrested in connection with the May 10, 2026 car crash causing the death of Our Savior Lutheran Church member John Waldron. You can find the story on the WSVN website: wsvn.com/news/local/broward/joshua-saindyc-court-appearance. This All Saints Sunday, we will remember John as well as all those we have lost over the years.



PTO Fall Festival

Celebrate the beauty of a South Florida autumn day filled with sweet treats, handmade crafts, food, music, and joyful moments.

SATURDAY · NOVEMBER 14, 2026
11:00 AM — 4:00 PM
8001 NW 5th Street, Plantation, FL 33324

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Petting Zoo
- Pony Rides
- Bounce House
- Obstacle Course
- Rock Climbing Wall
- Sports Challenge Inflatable
- Variety of local vendors
- Food off the grill & more
- Face Painting
- Pie in the face
- Kids Craft Corner
- Games

FREE ENTRY
KIDS WRISTBAND $15
CHILDREN UNDER 1: FREE



[10.21] LETTER FROM JAN

Dear church family,

There are no words that I can express to thank you for all the cards, texts, calls and prayers I receive from you. When I heard the announcement that a blood drive in my honor was being held at the church I actually cried as I was watching the service from home. Thank you to all that donated blood or platelets and even those that tried to give this precious gift. As of this date I have had 31 platelet transfusions and 19 blood transfusions and without blood donations I would not be alive today.

I also thank the "Care Team" for coming to my home and cleaning up my yard and pressure cleaning my sidewalks because I can't do this work at this time. My tears of gratitude fell as they prayed for me before they left. I miss all of you and can't wait to greet you again someday!

Love,
Jan

CHRISTMAS ARTISAN MARKET

SATURDAY, NOV. 14
9 AM - 3 PM
FREE ENTRY!

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
580 INDIAN TRACE, WESTON

CONTACT: (954) 384-9096 | STPAULWESTON.COM



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD It's that time of year again! Bless a child overseas with a shoebox gift and God's love. Each box bursting with items such as a soccer ball, doll, or stuffed animal becomes a tangible expression of God's love to the child and their community. **OSL will collect boxes in the church through Sunday, November 15, 2026.** Scan the QR code above for more information or visit samaritanspurse.org/occ. For labels, call Nicole at the OSL school office (954) 370-2161.

ANNUAL POTLUCK THANKSGIVING FEAST

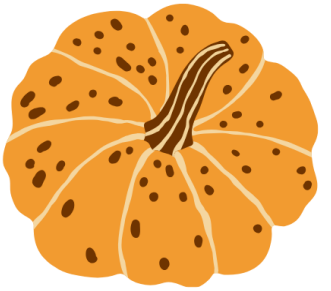
12:15 PM
Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026

CELEBRATE THIS SEASON WITH FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND GRATITUDE!

Everyone must bring a covered dish
(store-bought or homemade)

WHAT TO BRING:
side dishes
vegetables
stuffing
desserts

(Turkey, drinks, plasticware, paper goods, and serving utensils will be supplied.)



Let's give thanks and enjoy a meal together as a church family!

8001 NW 5th Street
Plantation, FL 33324

Please contact **Ellen** at ***(954) 473-6888*** if you have any questions.



A CELEBRATION OF FAITH: 4 STUDENTS CONFIRMED

—Page 7—

We joyfully celebrate four students who recently affirmed their faith through the Rite of Confirmation! Three students—**Skylar Dacks**, **Brooklyn Roche**, and **Iariel McKinney**—were confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 25, while another student, **Roman Sifontes** will be confirmed this Sunday, November 8 in the 10:30 a.m. service.

The Reformation Sunday service was especially memorable as BR, SD, and IM shared heartfelt testimonies of faith and blessed the congregation with their musical harmonies. Their words and expressions of faith deeply touched those in attendance, leaving many moved, reflective, and perhaps even a little speechless as they departed that day.

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!

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. **(CONT. ON NEXT PAGE→)**

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.

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. **(CONT. ON NEXT PAGE→)**

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

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.

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.



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

[9/29] SPLASH-WORTHY NEWS The fountain is back! After Neville repaired the fountain's electrical system, Brad laid four 6-inch-by-10-foot planks across the mud to reach the rock, then climbed a 6-foot ladder to access the fountain head. Lying across the rock, he drilled out all the holes. The iconic fountain has been restored to its original glory, flowing once again, proudly spraying water into the air for all to see, even from 5th Street and University!



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



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

WED. 11/25
12:15 P.M.

WITH HOLY COMMUNION RITE





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

WE'RE BACK!! Thank you all for your prayers, well wishes, and patience during our time away and transitioning back out of vacation mode. This year, my family and I brought along some extra (unwanted) hitchhikers in the form of funky weather; we expected flash flood warnings throughout the Southwest but not tropical storms! But God blessed us with safe travels: no jumpy deer, cool weather, many sunny days, dry, and awesome places for our tires and shoes to tread. We drove about 2,600 miles to reach our final, sandy destination in Twenty-Nine Palms, CA. Once we get settled again, we'll share some highlights in the newsletter as space allows. *—Mika*


—Page 12—





TRUNK OR TREAT
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL















TRUNK OR TREAT: SHARING GOD'S LOVE, ONE TREAT AT A TIME 🍁🎃

Our Savior's Outreach Board teamed up with the school yet again for their annual and well-attended Trunk or Treat on October 24. Under beautiful fall skies, several families gathered for an afternoon filled with creative costumes, imaginative decorated trunks, exciting games, festive craft stations, and a delicious BBQ food truck. The costume contests added extra excitement to the festivities.

Even sweeter than the treats was the wonderful fellowship among our church members, school families, and community neighbors. Smiles, laughter, and new connections were shared all around as we celebrated the joy of coming together. It was a wonderful reminder of God's good gifts and an opportunity to share His love with those around us.

We're blessed and grateful for everyone who helped make this day such a success! It was truly a bountiful harvest of fun, fellowship, and blessings. As we enjoy this beautiful season, may we continue to grow together in Christ and give thanks for His steadfast love!



[SAT. 10/17] PROFESSING OUR SAVIOR

Organized by Agnes, 13 PROFESSors gathered at the corner of Our Savior Lutheran Church at 5th Street and University Drive in Plantation for a unique twist on a protest—not to protest against something, but to profess love, hope, and encouragement to the community! This event paid homage to a rally held during the COVID pandemic a few years ago, renewing our commitment to sharing Christ's love and hope with our community.

Despite the intense heat, the four-hour outreach was met with countless honks, waves, and words of appreciation from passing motorists. Some even rolled down their windows to thank us! The day was overwhelmingly positive, offering a wonderful opportunity for community outreach and fellowship.

A beautiful day of professing love and spreading positivity and love throughout Plantation!







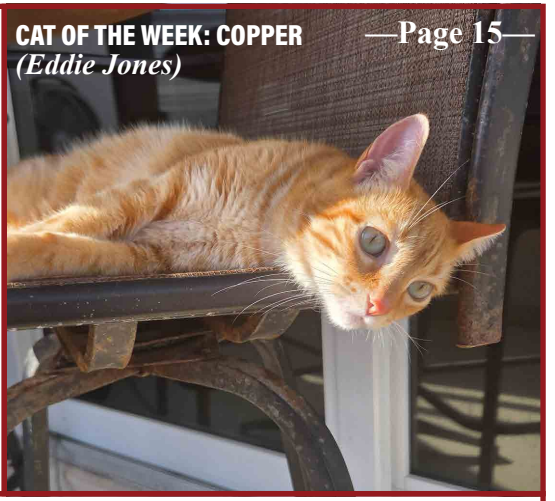


ALTAR FLOWERS UPDATES

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 RAY LONG:
"In loving memory of my son, Martin."

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!



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**.

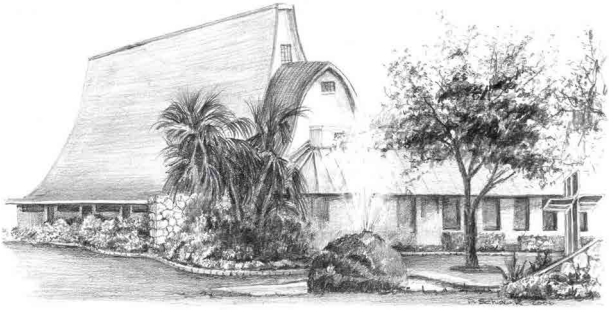
Not sure if you're a member? Contact us. We'd love to help you find out!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

11/14
Patricia & John Jablansky (39)







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

Jade Cruz, Ministry Leaders Advisor
jcruz@oursaviorplantation.org

SCHOOL (954) 370-2161
school@oursaviorplantation.org
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.*

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.