

MAY 2026

THE MESSENGER

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Beloit, WI



CELEBRATING WHAT'S RIGHT WITH GOD'S WORLD



Dewitt Jones is a photographer for the National Geographic magazine. He sees a world of possibilities through his camera lenses. That perspective not only allows him to take great images, but also gives him amazing vision in the world.

In a world that is based on fear and scarcity, Jones challenges us to look around us with **a lens of celebration** that challenges us to see the beauty and possibilities around us.

“What’s here to celebrate?”

If we look at the world and all the truly terrible things happening around us, it is easy to sink into despair. Yet in the waters of baptism Jesus has filled with with the Holy Spirit and given each of us gifts to share with the world. And, God knows, the world needs our love for the neighbor and our compassion and passion for life more than ever these days!

“What’s here to celebrate?” In the midst of the darkness, where is the light of Christ breaking through the cracks? Just because it is not obvious at first glance, doesn’t mean it isn’t there. The more we look for God’s presence, the better we will get at recognizing it. Even, especially, in the dark.

We see, largely, what we expect to see. If we are looking for negative things in another person, we will find them. If we are looking for the positive, we will find that. If we are looking for God’s presence, we will begin to see it. And the more we look, the more we will see.

In other words, sometimes “believing is seeing,” rather than “seeing is believing.” We have to believe something is there before we can see it.

Starting this month, on Pentecost (May 24), we will have a monthly temple talk: “**Celebrating What’s Right With God’s World**”. The goal of these moments with the congregation, from a member, is to share a story of where they have experienced God at work in this congregation or through members of this congregation: where they have seen God’s hand of blessing or God’s presence here.

Al Sorenson will offer our first talk to celebrate what’s right with God’s world. I am looking forward to hearing his wisdom and compassion shine through his faithful life.

There is so much darkness in our nation and in the world right now. Using a lens of celebration allows us to see and connect with the beauty of the world. Instead of focusing on what’s wrong with the world – what’s right with it? Seeing God’s hand at work can lead us to joy. Or at the very least, it can give us the strength and courage to keep on doing God’s work where we are able each day. Mother Theresa says, “Do small things with great love.” Indeed.

None of us will do great things, but we can make a difference in many small ways. And that does make a difference; in our hearts and in the lives of the people around us.

Every day we get to choose what lens we will use to see the world. It’s our choice. Change your lens. Change your life! Fill it up to overflowing with beauty and it will spill into everything you do. Wouldn’t you rather focus on the light instead of the darkness; on what’s right instead of what’s wrong? May God give each of us wisdom to discern what is ours to do in these days. And may you find strength for each day wrapped in God’s beauty and possibilities.

Yours on the journey,
Pastor Anne

To reflect God’s love through caring service to our church, the community, and the world.

News from the Board



Having completed the joyous celebration of Easter, it is good to take a cleansing breath, and then look to what is next at Our Savior's. This month we settle in to deal with the regularly planned

work of the church.

With summer travel and cabin life, it is not unusual for worship attendance to decline, but financial responsibilities do not go away. We are always cognizant of our fiscal responsibility, and we learned of a generous donation of \$20,000 from one of our members at our last board meeting. This gift will be placed in the General Fund to be used for current expenses and will help to address our seasonal summer shortfall. It is a great blessing to this church that we have members like this who love their church and are ever ready to support the activities that occur here. While this gift is quite special, it reminds us of all the opportunities we have to make a difference with the missions of Our Savior's.

In mid-April, at the invitation of the bishop, Our Savior's sent a representative to attend a workshop held at Lutherdale on the topic of preventing child abuse. Our representative, chair of the Education Committee, Sue Schimke, will also attend follow-up meetings in future months. She will share anything she learns with the board and all committees.

The board also looks toward updating the church constitution and bylaws as well as continuing the call process. If you receive a request to join in these efforts, please give prayerful thought to supporting this necessary work.

Wishing you blessings,
Betty Dygart
Board President

In the OSLC Family



We express our condolences to the families of Linda Swedberg who died March 1 and Bill Austin who died March 26. May light perpetual shine on them. +

About the Dots...



At Easter worship Pastor Anne had sticky dots available for everyone with the encouragement to put one on your phone and/or watch (if you still wear one). Then when someone asks you why it's there, you can say, "it's a reminder to give thanks for something" or "it's a reminder to pray." And when someone asks you what you're grateful for in this day and age, be prepared to give an answer. Consider it a "shy, Lutheran witness". Wouldn't it be great to be known as "that thankful congregation" in Beloit? Let's write a new story line that stands on the shoulders of the largely wonderful history of this congregation. If you want a dot, or need a fresh one, there are some in a dish at the front entrance to the sanctuary.

Thank you from WELCA!



We would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's Salad Luncheon such a success. We are grateful to those who assisted with setup and decorating, prepared salads and bars, served and cleaned up, and attended the luncheon. This event would not have been possible without your support and contributions.

Follow us Online



@OSLCBeloit



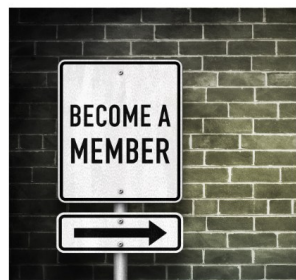
@oursaviorsbeloit

Young @ Heart



Join us for a delightful afternoon of food and fellowship on **Thursday, May 14 from 12:00-2:00 pm**. Enjoy a comforting lunch featuring Norwegian meatballs, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, lefse, and ice cream. We're also pleased to welcome a special guest speaker from SMILES (Special Methods in Learning Equine Skills), who will share about their inspiring work providing equine-assisted programs for individuals with special needs. Please sign up on the sheet located on the counter in the Commons by Sunday, May 10.

New Member Orientation



New Member Orientation will be held on **Sunday, May 17** after worship, from 10:45 am - 1:30 pm. Lunch provided. We'll either meet in Pastor Anne's office or the chapel. New members will be received during worship the following Sunday, May 24 (Pentecost). If you are interested in discussing membership, please contact Pastor Anne at the church office: 608-362-0716. We'd love to welcome you to the body of Christ here at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Foster Grandparent Program



We are pleased to welcome Laura Anastasi from the RSVP Intergenerational to our church on **Sunday, May 17**. She will be available during coffee hour to share information and answer questions about volunteer opportunities supporting children in local schools.

Parents of Graduates



Graduation Sunday is June 14! If you have a student graduating from either high school or college this year please let us know. Send the following information to Molly by June 1:

- Name of Graduate
- Name of School and Degree/Diploma
- Future Plans (College, Career, Military, etc.)
- A few photos
- Favorite verse or quote

Email Molly at molly@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org.

Beloit Sky Carp Game



Our Savior's is going to the Beloit Sky Carp on **Friday, July 24 @ 6:05 pm**. Tickets are \$17 each. In order to secure tickets please sign up and pay by Sunday, May 31.

A sign-up sheet has been posted in the Commons.

Fellowship Opportunity



Diner's Delight is a fellowship dining program that brings members together outside the church in small groups of 4-5 households to share a meal outside the church. One group hosts and provides the main dish, while others bring an appetizer, salad, side, or dessert. Groups change each quarter and meet at a time and place that works for everyone—usually in a home, but if the host isn't able to host there, they may choose a restaurant instead.

If you're interested, sign up in the Commons. With enough interest, we hope to bring Diner's Delight back this fall.

GROW YOUR CHILD'S FAITH WITH JESUS



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Pre-K -- Grade 5

Children learn about HIS love while exploring, stories, crafts, music, and games. Kids Connect is offered Sunday mornings from 9:30 am - 10:15 am.



We are still having a ball upstairs at Kids Connect! Here is the plan for the next few Sundays before we wind down until September, but watch this space for some fun Summer activities and VBS!



May 3

The Human Vine

We are literal "branches" of the same tree! We'll be tangling ourselves in yarn to see how we are all connected to God's growth.



May 10

The Secret Service

We're becoming "Secret Agents of Love," sneaking around to leave signs of kindness for our church family.



May 17

The Bubble Send-Off

We'll celebrate the Ascension with bubbles and skyward prayers, remembering that Jesus is with everyone, everywhere!

Questions about Kids Connect? Contact Molly via email: molly@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org

YOUTH CONNECT

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
YOUTH MINISTRY



All students in grades 6-12 are invited to join Youth Connect, a space to explore what it means to follow Jesus in our everyday lives.

Youth Connect meets Sunday at 10:30 am.

Following the ELCA Lectionary, we are using **Inquiry-Based Learning** to move beyond memorized answers and into "Holy Curiosity." Each week, we start with a Spark (a physical object or mystery) and let the youth's own questions drive the Deep Dive into the Gospel.

May 3 — The Way & The Maze

Compass vs. Map Debating whether faith is a rigid set of turn-by-turn directions or a spiritual compass that helps us navigate life's "Route Not Found" moments.

May 10 — The Advocate

The Invisible Force Discovering how the Holy Spirit "accompanies" us in loneliness and how we can become advocates for others in our local community.

May 17 — The Living Web

Tangled in Grace Wrestling with Jesus' prayer for unity—how can we be "one" church while honoring our diverse backgrounds and different labels?

Contact Molly via email: molly@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org for more details!





Circle Meetings

Anna Circle

Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 pm
Meeting at the church.

Rebekah Circle

Thursday, May 7 at 9:30 am
Meeting at the church.
Hostess: Linda Nelson

Naomi Circle

Monday, May 11 at 5:30 pm
Meeting at the home of Dori Vollmer.

Shalom Circle

Monday, May 18 at 2:00 pm
Meeting at the church.
Hostess: Pat Brogan

Elizabeth Circle

Tuesday, May 19 at 12:30 pm
Meeting at the home of Diane Riesen
for a potluck lunch.

SEWING BEE

Mondays from 8:30-11:30 am
Meets at church in the Fellowship Hall.
No Sewing Bee on May 25

KNIT WITS

Wednesday, May 13 11 at 2:00 pm

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 21 19 at 4:00 pm

TRIENNIAL GATHERING

July 16-19, 2026 | Des Moines, Iowa
Check the website for all of the details:
www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page

Please register no later June 21, 2026
If you have any questions, contact - Gabriela via
email @ Gabriela.Contreras@elca.org.

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

October 16 and 17, 2026

Key Financials | March 31, 2026

Month	2025 General Offerings	2026 General Offerings	Budget Offering Per Month	Monthly Surplus (Shortfall)	Cumulative Shortfall	2026 Expenses	Budgeted Expenses	Reimbursed from Foundation
January	\$30,280	\$28,495	\$33,333	\$ (4,838)	\$ (4,838)	\$25,660	\$35,694	
February	\$33,392	\$33,271	\$33,333	\$ (62)	\$ (4,900)	\$30,969	\$35,694	
March	\$53,283	\$48,388	\$33,333	\$ 15,055	\$ 10,155	\$45,076	\$35,694	
April	\$24,912		\$33,333				\$35,694	
May	\$25,838		\$33,333				\$35,694	
June	\$32,709		\$33,333				\$35,694	
July	\$21,806		\$33,333				\$35,694	
August	\$27,194		\$33,333				\$35,694	
September	\$29,915		\$33,333				\$35,694	
October	\$27,379		\$33,333				\$35,694	
November	\$25,017		\$33,333				\$35,694	
December	\$33,493		\$33,337				\$35,694	
Total	\$365,218	\$110,154	\$400,000			\$101,705	\$428,328	\$0

MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 5 EASTER 8:30am Choir 9:30am Worship 9:30am Kids Connect 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Youth Connect 1:00pm Televised Worship	4 8:30am Sewing Bee	5 9:00am Staff Mtg 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30am Anna Circle 6:30pm WMA	6 9:00am Men's Group <i>(Riverside Terrace)</i> 12:30am P.E.O. Meeting 5:00pm Televised Worship	7 6:00pm OA	8	9
10 6 EASTER 9:30am Worship 9:30am Kids Connect 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Youth Connect 1:00pm Televised Worship	11 8:30am Sewing Bee 2:00pm Care Team 5:30pm Naomi Circle	12 6:00pm Boy Scouts	13 10:00am Second Harvest 2:00pm Knit Wits 5:00pm Televised Worship 6:30pm Church in Society	14 9:30am Rebekah Circle 12:00pm Young @ Heart 6:00pm OA	15 9:00am Newsletter Deadline	16
17 7 EASTER 8:30am Choir 9:30am Worship 9:30am Kids Connect 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Youth Connect 10:45am New Member Orientation <i>(Chapel)</i> 1:00pm Televised Worship	18 8:30am Sewing Bee 2:00pm Shalom Circle	19 9:00am Staff Mtg 1:00pm Elizabeth Circle 6:00pm Boy Scouts	20 9:00am Men's Group <i>(Riverside Terrace)</i> 5:00pm Televised Worship	21 4:00pm Bldg use: Caritas 4:00pm WELCA Board 5:30pm Personnel <i>(Zoom)</i> 6:00pm OA	22	23
24 PENTECOST <i>Come dressed in red, as you are able.</i> 8:30am Choir 9:30am Worship with Reception of New Members 10:30am Coffee Hour 1:00pm Televised Worship	25 Memorial Day <i>Office Closed</i>	26 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Second Harvest 6:00pm Boy Scouts	27 5:00pm Televised Worship	28 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Board Meeting	29	30
31 HOLY TRINITY 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 1:00pm Televised Worship						

Updated:
4/20/2025

Our Savior's
Lutheran Church
749 Bluff Street, Beloit, WI 53511
Phone: (608) 362-0716

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Connect with Us.

Website: www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org

Email: office@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org

Worship with Us.

Sunday mornings at 9:30 am

TO:





**CELEBRATE THE
BIRTHDAY OF
THE CHURCH!**


 **PENTECOST**
Sunday, May 24


WE INVITE YOU TO WEAR RED!

**UPDATE YOUR
INFORMATION**

 Address

 Phone

 Email



Help us stay connected!

We need everyone to update their contact information in our church database.

It takes just a few minutes and ensures you receive important communications, newsletters, and updates.

Visit us online at
www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/update
or call the church office at
608-362-0716