

JULY 2026

# THE MESSENGER

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Beloit, WI



## HOW ARE WE DOING?



As you receive this newsletter, I will have been with you for five months. Some of you have been asking me, "How are we doing?" "What's happening with the call process?"

First, how are we doing? Your leadership is leaning into the hard work of identifying areas that still need attention after the departure of your last called pastor.

On June 11, the board and personnel committee met with Pastor Dick Inglett for two hours. Dick is a licensed therapist with an active practice in addition to serving a congregation. His time with us focused around healing. He asked questions, listened, and made observations. While he is willing to meet with us again, the board will reflect together and decide if that seems helpful. So far the only answer I have heard is "Yes. Absolutely." I think it is clear to everyone that there is more work to be done before the congregation is ready to welcome a new pastor. That work is neither easy nor comfortable. And we're not all in the same place.

Meanwhile, my work as an interim is to attend not only to the congregational needs, but to the administrative needs of the congregation. There are some areas that need some attention. We are not in compliance of ELCA best practices with all our financial practices, and while there is absolutely no reason to think there is anything nefarious happening, they are called "best practices" for a reason.

We want everyone to be confident that the congregation is being the best stewards possible with your tithes and gifts.

There is a committee working to update our congregation's constitution, which has not happened since 2008. We hope to have that work completed so it can come before the congregation for a vote at the next regularly scheduled meeting in November.

It is also an interim's responsibility to examine the congregation's membership roles to be sure that they are an accurate reflection of the life of Our Savior's. This has not been done for some years, so it will take time. A letter will be sent to anyone who has not communed or given a gift of record in the last two years to see if they still wish to be a member of the congregation.

When my husband and I were walking the Camino, we found some of the ancient Roman roads across Spain made for hard walking. Other paths were smooth and comfortably shaded. Some days (weeks!) were a steady downpour of rain as we walked. And, we learned again and again that there is power in small steps. We kept moving forward and eventually we had covered 500, then 800 miles. On foot. One step at a time.

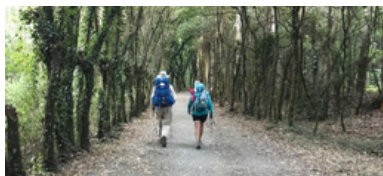
This time is like that as you are awaiting your new pastor. Please keep that person in prayer, as the Holy Spirit prepares them even now to receive a call here at Our Savior's. Yes, there are many fewer pastors being ordained. In 2001 there were 270 Master of Divinity students ordained in the ELCA. In 2021 there were 212. In 2025 there were 126. The ELCA is committed to training individuals who are called to ministry, and so is working to provide other routes into congregational leadership. Maybe that will be next month's article.

*(continued on page 2)*

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

The board leadership here is to be commended. They take their work seriously, and are trying to be open and transparent with the congregation. Please also keep them in prayer. Meanwhile, there is power in small steps, and we keep moving forward as a congregation one step at a time.

Yours on the journey,  
Pastor Anne Andert



## News from the Board



It has been an interesting and busy spring for us here at Our Savior's. First, thank you for your generous support for our brothers and sisters at First Lutheran in Janesville to help with their recovery from the disastrous flooding event earlier this spring. This reflects our commitment to caring for our community of God, and it is a wonderful thing to see.

As our call committee continues their work in reviewing candidates for our pastoral position, we have also applied to be part of the Awaken Beloit program looking at ways to partner with other local churches in building the faith community here in Beloit. This is an area to increase our outreach to the community and experience some new approaches and ideas for spreading the good news.

On a more mundane level, the church building and operating systems show some signs of their age. The Board has approved the repair of the air conditioning units on the roof to replace some parts with the intention of getting another 3-5 years' worth of service from them. And the recent hailstorms have damaged some of the roofs on the buildings, we are in process of evaluating the scale of damage and determining a path forward for repair or replacement. This is likely to be a very large expense but necessary to keep the building functioning well.

Blessings to you,  
Mark Sorenson  
*President Emeritus*

## In the OSLC Family



Congratulations to Bailey Dusso who graduated from The Medical College of Wisconsin with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree! Dr. Bailey has taken a position with Walgreens in Milwaukee, WI.

## Congratulations Dawson!



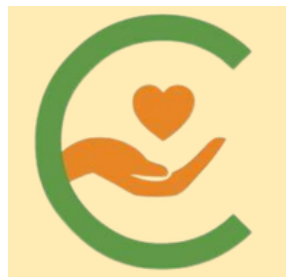
On Sunday, June 14 the congregation presented Dawson Van Fleet with a quilt made by the Sewing Bee and blessed him during the Outdoor Worship. Dawson graduated from The Lincoln Academy in June and plans to attend Blackhawk Technical College for CNC and work at Prent. We are very proud of Dawson and all of his achievements!

## Investing in Our Students



Thanks to the generosity of Our Savior's Lutheran Church the Scholarship Committee awarded three deserving students scholarships on Sunday, June 14. Ava Coldren, Austin Coldren, and Dawson Van Fleet each received a \$1000 scholarship for the coming school year. Thank you for supporting these young people in their quest for higher education.

## Caritas Wish List



Caritas is in need of the following items: Canned meat and vegetables, Chef Boyardee canned pasta, individual applesauce cups, individual fruit cups and soup. Donations may be placed in the blue collection container located in the Commons near the Library. Thank you for your support!

# Renewed in Faith, United in Mission

## *Synod Assembly Recap submitted by Erin Parker*

The 2026 South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Assembly of the ELCA began the evening of Friday, May 15, with an inspiring opening message from Bishop Daniel W. Schwerin of the United Methodist Church. His words were both moving and encouraging, helping many attendees rediscover excitement and renewed energy in their faith journeys.

The evening included opening worship filled with upbeat and energetic music, creating a joyful atmosphere for the Assembly. Following worship, attendees shared a meal together and participated in the nominating vote, during which members nominated potential clergy candidates for the role of bishop before reconvening Saturday morning for the official Assembly proceedings.

Throughout the Assembly, attendees had opportunities to visit vendors and ministry partners representing a variety of Lutheran organizations, camps, and causes. These organizations highlighted the many ways they support faith formation, youth ministry, and outreach throughout the region. Assembly members received Boomerang Bags from Messiah Lutheran Church in Madison, made from reused and recycled textiles.

Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe led opening worship and remarks on Saturday, centering the Assembly in prayer, worship, and shared mission. A meaningful focus was the faith offering benefiting Parroquia San Jose in Beloit and Parroquia Santa Maria in Madison. Both congregations shared powerful videos demonstrating how they serve their communities while highlighting the challenges immigrant populations. Their stories reminded Assembly members of the church's calling to walk alongside vulnerable neighbors with compassion, advocacy, and hope.

The Assembly passed a climate justice resolution encouraging participation in the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action. It calls on congregations and ministries to deepen their commitment to creation care through worship, education, advocacy, and support for vulnerable communities.

After four rounds of voting, Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe was reelected to serve another six-year term as bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. The Assembly also elected members to the Synod Council, Consultation Committee, and Discipline Committee, reflecting its commitment to shared leadership, faithful governance, and representation from both rostered ministers and lay members.

Overall, the 2026 Assembly was marked by meaningful worship, thoughtful discussion, renewed faith, and a shared commitment to serving both local and global communities through Christ's love.



*Thank you to Jason, Erin, and Callie Parker who served as Our Savior's voting members for the 2026 Synod Assembly.*



## Young @ Heart



Join us on **Thursday, July 9 from 12:00-2:00 pm** as we continue to celebrate the country's 250th birthday! This month we will have Donna Langford from the Beloit Historical Society come and

speak to us about Beloit's Early Settlement. From an indigenous settlement to the creation of a city, this program shares the story of Caleb Blodgett, the New England Emigrating Company and the development of local business. Come join us for this wonderful program. We will be having sub sandwiches, salad, and ice cream.

All are welcome, just be sure to sign up on the sheet located on the counter in the Commons by Sunday, July 5, so we know how much to prepare. Hope to see you there!

## Ring Together in Worship



Have you always dreamed of playing handbells during church? Do you miss being part of a bell choir? Now's your chance-we're bringing the bell choir back! Whether you're a seasoned ringer or

have never picked up a bell before, all ages and experience levels are welcome. We'll rehearse twice a month (schedule to be determined) as we learn, make music, and prepare to share our gifts in worship. Come ring with us-we'd love to have you join the choir! Contact [molly@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org](mailto:molly@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org).

## Lutheran World Relief



This month we highlight Personal Care Kits. We are in need of **light-weight bath-size towels** (between 20"x40" and 27" & 52") dark color recommended and **bath-size bars (4-5 oz) of soap**, any

brand, in original wrapping. A collection bin is located in the Commons under the LWR bulletin board.

## Compassion Camp VBS



Join us as we explore Compassion Camp VBS: What Every Living Thing Needs, and discover what all living things need to live – shelter, food, water, air, and community through the lens of Psalm 104.

Vacation Bible School is for all children 4K thru 5th grade and will be held **August 3-5 from 5:30-7:00 pm**. Register online at

[www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/families/#VBS](http://www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/families/#VBS)

## Quilt Auction



Lutherdale's largest annual fundraiser will be held on **Saturday, August 8 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**. Generous support from donors & bidders makes it possible for campers to experience God's

love in a powerful way. This outdoor event will have craft and fabric sales, gift gallery, baked goods, silent auction bidding, and a LIVE quilt auction. Visit [www.lutherdale.org/quilt-auction](http://www.lutherdale.org/quilt-auction) for all of the details!

## Care Team Needs Your Help



Do you have an hour a month to brighten someone's day and make a new friend?

Our Care Team is growing, and we are looking for additional volunteers to visit members who are no longer

able to attend worship in person. A simple visit can provide connection, encouragement, and a reminder that they remain an important part of our church family. If you would like to learn more about this meaningful ministry, please contact the church office at (608) 362-0716 or speak to Wanda Faust.



# SUMMER splash

**SUNDAY, JULY 12**  
 immediately following worship

Rain date:  
 Sunday, July 19

**All ages welcome -  
 bring your super soaker or  
 water gear and get ready for  
 some friendly, splash-filled fun!**

**We hope you'll join us for this  
 refreshing summer celebration!**

## Key Financials | May 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               | \$23,430               | \$33,333                  | \$ (9,903)                  | \$ 252               | \$35,995         | \$35,694          | \$1,825                    |
| May          | \$25,838               | \$26,607               | \$33,333                  | \$ (6,726)                  | \$ (6,474)           | \$32,690         | \$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          |                            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$365,218</b>       | <b>\$160,191</b>       | <b>\$400,000</b>          |                             |                      | <b>\$170,390</b> | <b>\$428,328</b>  | <b>\$1,825</b>             |



# COMPASSION CAMP VBS

➤ **What Every Living Thing Needs** ◀

Join us for a fun and meaningful  
**Vacation Bible School**  
at Our Savior's Lutheran Church!

## EVENINGS FILLED WITH:

- ♥ Compassion
- ♥ Kindness
- ♥ Faith
- ♥ Fun Activities



**August 3-5, 2026**



**5:30 - 7:00 PM**



**749 Bluff St., Beloit WI**

**REGISTER TODAY:**  
[www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/families/#VBS](http://www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/families/#VBS)



➤ **Showing compassion to  
all of God's creation!** ◀

# JULY 2026

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|-----------|
|   |  |  | <b>1</b><br>9:00am Men's Group<br><i>(Riverside Terrace)</i><br>5:00pm Televised<br>Worship                                   | <b>2</b><br>6:00pm OA                                | <b>3</b><br><br><b>Office<br/>           Closed</b> | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>5   PENTECOST 6</b><br>9:30am Worship<br>10:30am Coffee Hour<br>1:00pm Televised<br>Worship                              | <b>6</b><br>8:30am<br>Sewing Bee                         | <b>7</b><br>9:00am Staff Mtg                               | <b>8</b><br>10:00am Second<br>Harvest<br>2:00pm Knit Wits<br>5:00pm Televised<br>Worship                                      | <b>9</b><br>12:00pm Young<br>@ Heart<br>6:00pm OA    | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b> |
| <b>12   PENTECOST 7</b><br>9:30am Worship<br>10:30am Coffee Hour<br>10:30am Summer<br>Splash<br>1:00pm Televised<br>Worship | <b>13</b><br>8:30am<br>Sewing Bee<br>2:00pm Care<br>Team | <b>14</b><br>9:00am Staff Mtg                              | <b>15</b><br>9:00am Newsletter<br>Deadline<br>9:00am Men's Group<br><i>(Riverside Terrace)</i><br>5:00pm Televised<br>Worship | <b>16</b><br>5:30pm<br>Personnel (Zoom)<br>6:00pm OA | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b> |
| <b>19   PENTECOST 8</b><br>9:30am Worship<br>10:30am Coffee Hour<br>1:00pm Televised<br>Worship                             | <b>20</b><br>8:30am<br>Sewing Bee                        | <b>21</b><br>9:00am Staff Mtg                              | <b>22</b><br>5:00pm Televised<br>Worship  | <b>23</b><br>6:00pm OA<br>6:30pm Board<br>Meeting    | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b> |
| <b>26   PENTECOST 9</b><br>9:30am Worship<br>10:30am Coffee Hour<br>1:00pm Televised<br>Worship                             | <b>27</b><br>8:30am<br>Sewing Bee                        | <b>28</b><br>9:00am Staff Mtg<br>10:00am Second<br>Harvest | <b>29</b><br>5:00pm Televised<br>Worship  | <b>30</b><br>6:00pm OA                               | <b>31</b>   |           |

Updated:  
6/25/2025

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

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**Connect with Us.**

Website: [www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org](http://www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org)

Email: [office@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org](mailto:office@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org)

**Worship with Us.**

Sunday mornings at 9:30 am

**Follow us Online:**

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