Lutheran Church
OUR SAVIOURS
ELCA

Weekly Connections

November 6, 2026



Photo Credit: Lisa Hamman | Lake Geneva

Come & Worship

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

Our Saviour's Campus Worship

- Saturday: 5 pm Worship Music - Men Sing
- Sunday: 9 am Worship Music - Anima Sings!
    - Anima Singers at Worship: a renowned youth choir committed to helping young people of diverse backgrounds and abilities discover the joy of singing in an inclusive, supportive community.
- Sunday: 11 am Worship Music - Ensemble

Celebration Campus Worship

- Sunday: 10 am Worship Music Celebration Worship Team

Worship in the Weeks Ahead:

- **Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service:** Wednesday, November 25, 7pm, Our Saviour's Campus.

    - **Gather the Harvest, Decorate the Altar:** Share the season's harvest by ***donating pumpkins, gourds, corn, and other seasonal items.*** Place donations outside the northeast door near the Altar Guild kitchen. ***Join us to decorate the altar*** Monday, November 23, at 3:00 pm, or ***lend a hand with cleanup*** after the Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 25. Questions? Contact Jan Dusek.

Your Advent & Christmas Guide Awaits! Scroll to the end of the newsletter for everything happening this season, or find it all on our **webpage**.

Comprehensive Worship Bulletins, including all projected worship content, are available for those with visual or mobility challenges, caregivers, or anyone who prefers a printed copy. Please see an usher if you would like one, *or if you notice someone who may benefit from this accommodation.* As a community, we are committed to caring for one another and creating a worship experience that is *accessible and welcoming* for all.

Online Worship Information: Visit our **YouTube page** to watch the livestream, which can be found on the **OSLC Home page**.



Upcoming Events

Ways to Get Connected:

- **Grief Around the Holidays & Building Beds for Kids:** *This weekend!* Keep scrolling for more details.

- **Room4Both *Thanksgiving, Gratitude and Grief, Making Room4Both*:** Monday, November 16, 7:00-8:30 pm, Our Saviour's Campus, 2nd Floor Youth Classroom 3. The holidays can bring connection and comfort, but they can also bring loss, difficult relationships, and reminders of where we haven't felt accepted or understood. Join us for an honest conversation about how gratitude and grief show up in our lives, and how we can make room for both without minimizing either. Come or share this invitation with someone who might be looking for community. Questions? Email Tracy Jackway at **communications@oursaviours.com**.

- **Mahjong & Mingle...*Mah-Jingle!*:** *Choose the time that works best for you!**

  Every Second Monday: Begins November 9, 1:00-3:00 pm

Every First Monday: Begins December 7, 6:30-8:30 pm
Tuesday Games: 1:00-3:00 pm

***Both Monday gatherings meet in Our Saviour's Campus, Classroom 2.

- **Women's Ministry Book Discussion:** Friday, November 13, 7:00 pm, Our Saviour's Campus, Fellowship Hall. Join us for a discussion of *Take My Hand* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez, a compelling novel inspired by true events that explores the intersection of healthcare, race, power, and the importance of listening to and believing women's stories. Bring a food or drink to share if you'd like, and feel free to bring a guest. *You're welcome to attend even if you haven't read the book!* Questions? Contact Kris Reenstjerna at **k2r123@aol.com**.

- **Banned Book Club:** Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 pm, Our Saviour's Campus. Two boys. A reform school hiding a dark truth. A story that demands to be heard. Join us to discuss The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead, a powerful novel about friendship, injustice, and the cost of looking away. Come ready to share, listen, and consider perspectives beyond your own. You don't have to have read the book to join us! RSVP and suggest future selections to Kelly Holden at **kholden614@yahoo.com**.

- **Haiti Art Fest:** November 21-22. More details to come.

- **Chicago Gargoyle Brass and Organ Ensemble Concert:** Sunday, November 29, 2:30-4:00 pm, Our Saviour's Campus. Enjoy this free concert featuring a leading Midwest brass and organ ensemble known for adventurous programming, major commissions, and acclaimed recordings. Learn more at **gargoylebrass.com**.

- **Women's Ministry:** Flower Arranging Class: Friday, December 4, 6:30–8:30 pm, Celebration Campus. Join professional florist Janet Gallagher for a fun evening of creativity and fellowship! Create your own winter floral arrangement with Janet's guidance ($40; register by November 15) or observe and enjoy the fellowship ($10; register by December 4). Contact Susan Szymanski at **Swan716@comcast.net** or 630-605-5119 with any questions. **More details and registration.**

Leadership & Organizational Updates

Council News: **Council Meeting Minutes** **UPDATED**

Faith in Action

- **Little Free Pantry UPDATE:** Thank you for continuing to help keep our Little Free Pantry outside Door #3 stocked for our neighbors! If you're able to donate, please leave items on the shelves outside the Bonhoeffer Conference Room at the Our Saviour's Campus. You can also donate by purchasing items from the **Little Free Pantry Amazon Wish List.** *And if you need something, please help yourself!*

- **Sleep Out Saturday:** Saturday, November 7, 4 pm to Sunday, November 8, 10:30 am, St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 1313 N Mill St, Naperville. Join us as we partner with Pastor Sarah Swindall and the St. Timothy's youth group to raise awareness and support families experiencing homelessness. Sign up **here**.

- **Help Decorate for Advent and Christmas:** Saturday, November 28, 9:00 am, Our Saviour's Campus. Be part of the fun as we prepare our church for the beauty and joy of the Advent and Christmas seasons!

Material Wellness Month

- **Faith, Money, and the Common Good:** Sunday, November 8, at 10 am, Our Saviour's Campus. Teresa Thompson will lead the first conversation in our new Gratitude in Action: Love Made Practical speaker series, offered alongside *Dialogues in Faith*.

- **Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs):** *Giving with Purpose:* Sunday, November 15, at 10:00 am, Our Saviour's Campus, Fellowship Hall. Join Thrivent to learn how Qualified

Charitable Distributions may offer tax benefits while supporting the causes you care about. This presentation invites us to explore thoughtful ways to put gratitude into action.

Questions? Contact Alexandra at **(312) 576-9421** or **alexandracolaianni@oursaviours.com**.

Building Beds for Kids

HAPPENING THIS SATURDAY!

Every child deserves a safe, comfortable place to sleep. Join the Wellness Ministry for a ***Sleep in Heavenly Peace*** *(SHP) Bed Build* as we put **November's Material Wellness** theme into action. To learn more, **watch** the SHP Impact Video.

Two hours of your time can help provide a child with a bed of their own!

We'll gather at 7:45 am at Our Saviour's Campus for coffee and donuts, then carpool to the indoor build in Tinley Park, about 40 minutes away.

When: Saturday, November 7, 2026
Meet: 7:45 am at Our Saviour's Campus
815 S. Washington St., Naperville, IL 60540
Planned return: Around 12 pm
Our church's volunteer shift: 9–11 am
Build location: Lippert Corporation's indoor distribution facility, 18801 South Oak Park Avenue, Tinley Park

Register here
OSLC event leaders: Kelly Cassity & David Thomas
Questions? Contact Alexandra at **(312) 576-9421** or **alexandracolaianni@oursaviours.com**.

Bridge Communities



Donate toward Sleep Out Saturday

Comfort & Connection



Grief Around the Holidays

THIS SUNDAY

The holidays can be a difficult time when we are grieving the loss of someone we love. Traditions that once brought joy may feel different, familiar gatherings may bring unexpected sadness, and we may wonder how to navigate a season filled with memories and emotions.

Yet even in grief, there's room for connection, comfort, and moments of joy. We don't have to forget the people we love to celebrate the holidays, and we don't have to do everything the way we always have. Sometimes, giving ourselves permission to change traditions, honor memories in new ways, and ask for support can make the season a little more manageable.

Please join **Pastor Elisabeth** and Our Saviour's member and grief therapist **Sue Harvey, LCSW, ACHP-SW, CT, FT,** for **Grief Around the Holidays**, a supportive presentation and question-and-answer session exploring practical ways to care for ourselves and one another during the holiday season after a loss.

Together, we'll consider ways to honor loved ones, navigate difficult moments, adapt holiday traditions, and make space for both sadness and joy.

E**ach participant will receive a complimentary resource booklet** from **What's Your Grief,** filled with practical suggestions for coping with grief during the holidays.

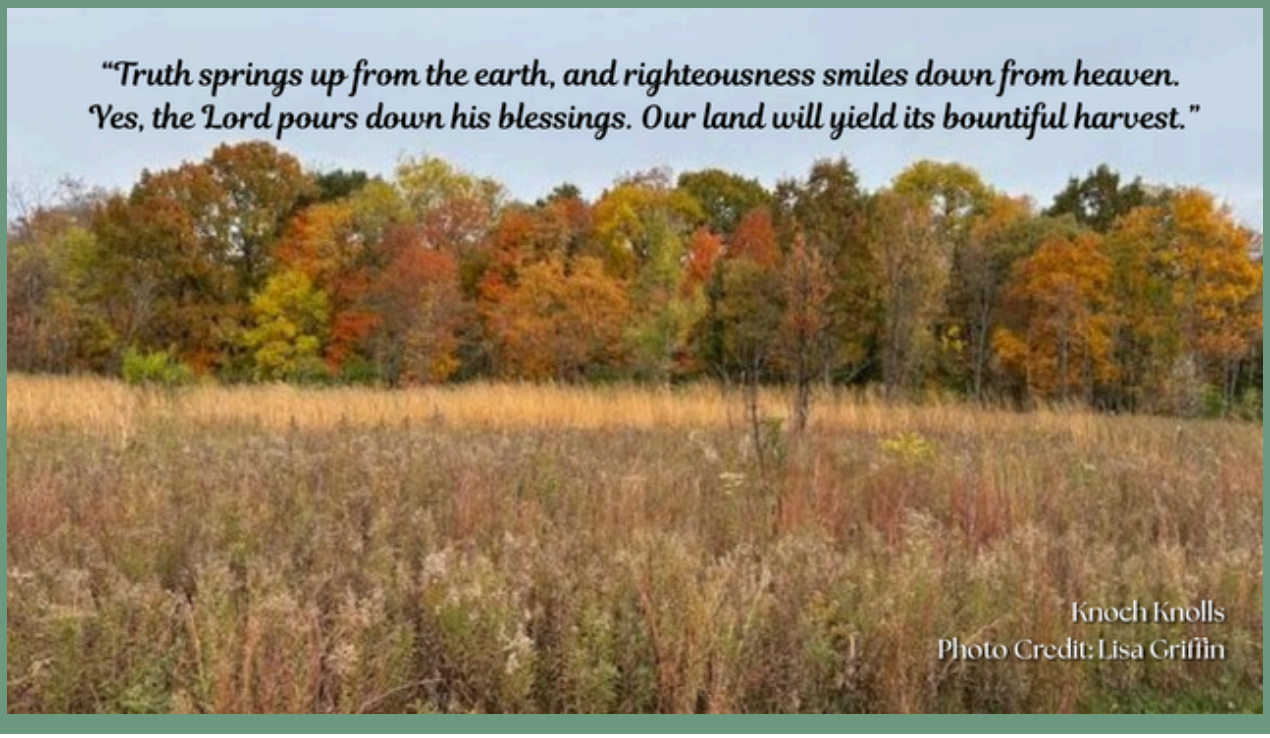
Sunday, November 8 | 2:00–4:00 pm
Our Saviour's Main Campus | Fellowship Hall

This event is open to the public and sponsored by **Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home**.

Space is limited to 100 participants; please **register** in advance. Refreshments will be served.

There is no right or wrong way to grieve through the holidays. Come as you are, and find support for the season ahead.

Stories & Celebrations



- **Women's Ministry Mindful Walk:** On October 24, seventeen women, led by Kari Shatzer and Lisa Griffin, gathered at Knoch Knolls Park for a beautiful morning Mindful Walk.

  Lisa contributed the following reflection on the day: *We enjoyed the day as we slowed down, explored God's amazing creation in this changing fall season, and made space for Scripture, prayer, and reflection.*

  Throughout our walk, we incorporated concepts of "forest bathing," inviting everyone to open their senses to the natural world around us. As we paused to notice creation's beauty, we reflected on how God is always present through every season of change in our lives. These moments of slowing down helped us experience a greater sense of awe, gratitude, and peace. One Bible passage we reflected on was Psalm 85:11–12, which speaks of truth springing up from the earth and the blessings of God's creation.

  I returned to Knoch Knolls early one morning to take pictures of the places and natural details that inspired awe during our walk. We didn't take any group pictures that day because we silence our phones and disconnect from electronics during our Mindful Walks, so we can be more present with the beauty around us. Returning to this special place gave me another opportunity to appreciate those moments and capture a few reminders of the beauty we shared. It was a meaningful morning and an opportunity to experience God's creation together.

National Caregiver's Month

Care Connects Us

Behind Every Caregiver Is a Story. A story of love, commitment, sacrifice, and often, challenges that others may never see.

Throughout November, we'll recognize and support the many people caring for family members and loved ones. Jesus teaches us to love our neighbors, and sometimes that love looks like a listening ear, a helping hand, or simply letting someone know they're not alone.

Over the next four weeks, we'll explore the realities of caregiving, share helpful resources, highlight the importance of connection, and celebrate the people who give so much of themselves. Whether you're a caregiver, know someone who is, or want to learn how to support someone who is, we hope you'll follow along.

Caring for someone is an expression of love, but it isn't always easy. Millions of people provide care for family members and loved ones while balancing jobs, families, and their own responsibilities. The physical and emotional demands can be significant, yet often go unseen.

Did You Know?

- More than 50 million U.S. adults provide unpaid care to loved ones.
- Approximately 85% of long-term care services are provided by unpaid caregivers.

A little encouragement goes a long way.
Jesus showed us what it means to love others through compassion and action. We can carry that example into our everyday lives by noticing where help is needed and finding ways to show up.

Twelve Ways to Support a Family Caregiver from ***UNSEEN How We're Failing Parent Caregivers & Why It Matters,*** **caregiverdoc.com.**

Caregiver's Journey: Looking for a place to connect with others who understand the caregiving experience? Join us for Caregivers Journey at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on the ***last Friday of each month***. Come share, listen, learn, and find encouragement along the way.

Season of Sharing

- **Toilet Paper Drive for Loaves & Fishes!** Last year, we collected more than 6,000 rolls! Think we can beat that this year? Loaves & Fishes serves more than 3,000 families every week, so this simple everyday essential can make a *real* difference. Bring a package or two the next time you're at church and help us overflow the bins.

- **Men's Winter Coat Drive:** November 7–22. Share the gift of warmth this season by donating a men's winter coat in any size. *Drop off coats at the coat racks near the Mission Area corner.* In partnership with Pastor Fanya Burford-Berry, Director of the West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force, coats will be distributed before colder weather arrives. Thank you for helping keep our neighbors warm!

- **Season of Sharing Tree:** Beginning November 10, the Season of Sharing Tree will feature ornaments highlighting our mission partners and opportunities to give. Look for ornaments supporting **Holy Family Little Learners, Loaves & Fishes, Feed My Starving Children, Mozambique, Slovakia, LSSI, Haiti, and the OSLC Good Samaritan Fund.**

- **Recycle Your Christmas Lights:** Look for bins labeled "Recycled Christmas Lights" at both campuses beginning November 14/15. *We'll keep the collection going through the New Year to accommodate those taking down decorations after the holidays.*

Thanksgiving Pies



Order a freshly baked pie for your Thanksgiving table or as a gift!

Pies are $30 each, with 100% of the proceeds supporting the Mozambique mission. *Gluten-free options are available for all flavors.*

Choose from: Pumpkin, apple, pecan, triple berry, strawberry rhubarb, or cranberry apple crunch. *Pick up Wednesday, November 25, at 10:00 am at Celebration Campus.* Other pickup arrangements can be made.

Your $30 pie provides 300 nutritious meals for children and patients in Chimoio.
A delicious way to celebrate Thanksgiving while supporting our mission partners!

Community Connections

- **Emergency Furnace Assistance:** DuPage County Community Services offers furnace repairs or replacement for residents whose furnace is inoperable or unsafe to use. **Applicants must meet LIHEAP income guidelines.** Learn more or call 630-407-6500 to schedule an appointment, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

- **Thanksgiving Meals:** Mesón Sabika and Tapas Valencia are providing complimentary Thanksgiving meals for individuals and families in need. Reservations are required and subject to availability. **Call Mesón Sabika at 630-983-3000 by Monday, November 16.** Pick up meals on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Mesón Sabika, 1025 Aurora Ave., Naperville.

- **Community Thanksgiving Dinner:** Enjoy Thanksgiving with neighbors at Parkview Community Church, 764 St. Charles Road, Glen Ellyn. A free dinner with all the traditional fixings will be served Thursday, November 26, from noon to 2:00 pm. No reservations are needed. Details

Stewardship 2027

God Works in the Word. God Works in Us. God Works in the World.

This year's theme reminds us that God is at work in our worship, relationships, service, and care for our neighbors. Through our time, gifts, and generosity, we get to be part of that work.

Visit our Stewardship page to read Pastor Brian and the Stewardship Committee's letter, reflect on all that God is doing at Our Saviour's, and imagine what we can do together in the year ahead. As you prayerfully consider your commitment, thank you for being part of our church family and helping God's work continue to unfold.

2027 Pledge Campaign

VBS 2027 Survey



VBS 2027 Feedback Survey: **VBS 2027: We'd Love Your Input!**

Celebration Children's Center

Early registration for the 2027-2028 school year begins Monday, November 16, ***for Our Saviour's Church members.*** If you have a child ages 2-5, we'd love to show you what makes our preschool special. Call 630-281-4300 to schedule a tour and learn more about our program and curriculum.

Our Saviour's members may drop off registration forms at the preschool office (Door #8 at Celebration) between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm beginning November 16.

Community registration begins Monday, November 30, and *spots fill quickly.*

Ready to learn more?
Email Kelly at **KellyGilligan@OurSaviours.com** for registration materials or to schedule a tour, or visit **www.celebrationchildrenscenter.com**.

Come learn, play, grow, and make memories with us!

Advent & Christmas



The Advent and Christmas seasons are just around the corner! Mark your calendars and join us as we prepare our hearts, gather in worship, and share the joy of the season.

Poinsettia Plants Presale: November 28-December 20. Help decorate both campuses for Christmas and take a plant home with you after worship.

Help Decorate for Advent and Christmas: Saturday, November 28, 9:00 am, Our Saviour's Campus. Be part of the fun as we prepare our church for the beauty and joy of the Advent and Christmas seasons!

Advent Worship Dates:

- November 28-29
- December 5-6
- December 12-13
- December 19-20

OSLC Cantata: *The Promise Fulfilled*- Enjoy the story of Jesus' birth through music performed by OSLC ensembles and orchestra. This concert is free and open to the public.

- Sunday, December 6: 2:30 pm

Chorus of DuPage Christmas Program: Celebrate the season with the Chorus of DuPage! Tickets are required for this performance.

- Saturday, December 12: 7:00 pm
- Sunday, December 13: 3:00 pm

Longest Night Service: Join us for a candlelit worship service on the longest night of the year as we acknowledge how God is at work amid our grief and joy this season.

- December 19 - 5:00 pm service

Sunday School Christmas Pageant: Our Daily Bread kids are getting ready to share the Christmas story! *Here are the upcoming rehearsal dates and performance details:*

- December 6 & 13: Pageant rehearsals during Daily Bread at 9:00 and 10:00 am
- December 9 & 16: Pageant rehearsals during Midweek Meetup, after dinner, from 6:30-8:00 pm
- December 20: Christmas Pageant at 11:00 am at Our Saviour's Campus. *(No Daily Bread.)*

Christmas Eve Worship:

- Our Saviour's Campus: 2:30 pm, 8:00 pm, and 11:00 pm
- Celebration Campus: 4:30 pm

There will be **NO** Christmas Day Service this year. But we hope you will join us for a *special service* we are calling...***Breakfast Church!***

- Sunday, Dec. 27, 9:00 am, Our Saviour's Campus, Fellowship Hall. *Imagine eating during worship! Keep an eye out for details.*

Highlights Gallery Tab

Not on Social Media? No problem!

Come here to find the latest photo and video recaps.

- **Highlights Gallery**: Everything you want to see--all in one place! (*God at Work, Pastor Moments, Seen and Celebrated, and Impact Talks!*)

Knowing Jesus and Making Jesus Known

Two campuses - one mission

815 S. Washington St

919 S. Washington St.

Church office: 630-355-2522

oursaviours.com

Looking for ways to give? Explore our Donate **page** to support Our Saviour's, our ministries, or our local and global mission partners.

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