

O S L MESSENGER

JUNE 2026
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4



Congratulations to the following young people on their confirmation! May you continue to grow in your faith!



Front Row: Lainey Trauernicht, Emery Saathoff, Gracelyn Weyer
Middle Row: Dalton Dorn, Easton Kostal, Kash Crome
Back Row: Landen Frerichs, Pastor Gary, Weston Whitwer

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from Pastor Gary's Desk

The time after Pentecost is a long season in the church, almost long enough for the altar guild to forget where they put the paraments. For the span of several months, we will be seeing green in the front of the church without much of a change. It's almost unfortunate to think that just after the excitement of confirmation and the festival of Pentecost, we are moving into what some have affectionately called, "The Church's Offseason."

Obviously, it isn't the church's offseason. The church is still very much active, even with people going on vacation and youth education paused. We will continue to gather for worship. We will continue caring for our neighbors. The Gospel will be faithfully proclaimed and the sacraments faithfully administered. We are not taking the summer off.

Some churches use this time to get liturgically creative. They split away from the revised common lectionary and do sermon series that the pastor wants to explore, choosing Bible passages that don't get a lot of attention. Some churches change the liturgy, exploring different musical settings for the words we say throughout the year. Some churches get really exciting and experiment with reordering worship entirely. There are all kinds of varieties in how we keep ourselves engaged with worship over the long season from the end of Easter to the beginning of Advent.

So, how do we keep our worship interesting over the summer and into the fall? Perhaps we could start with taking time to think about why we do what we do on a Sunday morning. I suspect that many of us find ourselves "going through the motions" on Sunday morning, speaking and singing along without really thinking about what we are saying. On the one hand, everyone singing and speaking together gives us a sense of unity. On the other hand, if we do that too long, we get our brains out of it. Although, this may not be a bad thing, more on that later.

If I'm being honest, even parts of the liturgy feel like autopilot for me, and I'm the pastor. But let's take a moment to just pause and think about one aspect of the liturgy. Normally, the Creed is the example I like to use, but I feel like I have given that example too many times. If you'd like to hear my opinions about the Creed, let me know. But right now, I want to focus on the Sanctus.

What does "Sanctus" mean? Sanctus is the Latin word for "holy," just like Creed comes from the Latin word credo for "I believe." The Sanctus is an ancient hymn that we sing right before Communion. You know the words well: "Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might..." Where do these words come from? Well, there are at least two places in the Bible from which these words are drawn.

Isaiah 6:3 is the song of the seraphim worshipping God in Isaiah's vision of God in the temple. This comes from the call story of the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz and dates back to the 8th Century BCE. Psalm 118:26 covers the other part of the quote that we sing before Communion. In Jewish tradition, this Psalm belongs to a grouping called the "Egyptian Hallel" ("praise") psalms, which were sung before and after the Passover meal.

It is likely that both Isaiah 6:3 and Psalm 118:26 were both used liturgically during the time of Jesus and even before. While we can't be certain about the exact origin of the Sanctus in its current form, some part of that predates Jesus himself. I think this is amazing. When we sing the Sanctus before Communion, we are joining our voices with believers in God going back to before the church itself. This is a small element of interfaith coordination between us and our Jewish siblings that has rolled on through the years and spread around the entire world.

You might not think about this when you are singing it, but you are communicating ideas that Jesus may have sung himself on his last night with his disciples. If the words themselves don't strike you, and they are beautiful in and of themselves, remember the story behind them. Think about all the people in varied languages across time and space who are joining with you in these words.

As I conclude, I want to talk a little bit about another way of looking at all this. While I think it can be very powerful to bring your brain into the liturgy with you by thinking intentionally about what the words mean and where they come from, maybe it isn't a bad thing to leave your brain out sometimes. We often think we need to be actively, intellectually engaged for something to be meaningful, but I don't think that is necessarily true. It might be too metaphysically creative to draw a distinction between your mind and your spirit, but I suspect leaders in the early church would have been comfortable with mind and spirit being different things. Maybe it isn't bad for us to leave our mind out of worship sometimes, going through the motions may feel boring to our overstimulated brains, but maybe these things give our spirits much needed exercise. I suspect many of us might not even know what it would mean, what it would feel like, to train ourselves spiritually.

I think it is all well and good to think through the liturgy. I think that is something we should do. Sometimes we should change things up to draw our attention more carefully. But I also think that sometimes it's okay for the liturgy to carry us away, outside of our thoughts. Maybe in doing so, we are strengthening our spirits in ways we didn't realize and couldn't possibly articulate with our minds alone.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 29-31st - Synod Assembly in Kearney. Pastor Gary, Council President Josh Schmidt, and Vice President Chavonn Mailahn will be attending.

June 4th - Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

June 14th - Joint Service with Filley @ OSL - 10:00 a.m. Luncheon to follow. See below for more info!

June 14th - Church Council Meeting @ 1:00 p.m.

June 18th - Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

June 28th - Listening Session - Stay after service to express wishes on traditions you would like to see occur on important events, such as confirmation, baptisms, weddings, etc. Your input will be used to compile a checklist to ensure our traditions are carried forward.



Joint Service
with American Lutheran Church of Filley

June 14 | 10 AM
at Our Savior's Lutheran
420 West L Street, Wymore, NE 68466

Stick around for fellowship & a potluck dinner!
Hamburgers, hot dogs & brats provided by OSL.
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

**Bring lawn chairs
& yard games!**

REMINDER:

There are sign up sheets on the table in the entryway for the classes that Pastor is offering to the congregation. If you are interested in any of these, please sign up. There are also descriptions of each class beneath the sign up sheet.

Pastor Gary is still wanting to set up visits with the congregation members to become more acquainted with everyone. He is available to meet on Sunday and Thursday afternoons. It can be at your home, the church, or another place of your choice. Please contact a Council Member to set up a time.



JUNE

BIRTHDAYS

01 - TRAVIS ARNOLD
02 - KASEN FOSSLER
05 - CURTIS RICKERS
06 - DEE BEDNAR
07 - ADDISYN FOSSLER
07 - STACY FOSSLER
07 - ALICE MEINTS
07 - GRACELYN WEYER
09 - AARON WHITWER
12 - KARLEE DIETER
17 - MARYA HAKEL
17 - JEFF MURPHY
18 - JONNA ARNOLD
22 - JON ACTON
23 - ROBERT DORN
24 - PAUL MEINTS
27 - KASEN ALLINGTON
27 - STEVE WHITWER



JUNE

ANNIVERSARIES

02 - SETH & ERIN SAATHOFF
03 - TRAVIS & KAREN KLOVER
04 - DELL & MARGARET MICHAELIS
06 - JIM & KAYE OBLINGER
10 - JUSTIN & BECKY WEYER
30 - LOREN & MAXINE TRAUERNICHT

Our Savors Rocky Railway VBS

JULY 7TH-9TH

5:30-7:30pm

WHAT TO EXPECT

-  Train station opening
-  Music and sing-alongs
-  Crafts
-  Snacks
-  Games
-  Bible adventures
-  Time with friends



All kids welcome!

Our Saviors Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

April 23, 2026

Present: Josh Schmidt, Chavonn Mailahn, Rachel Frerichs, Roger Henrichs, Jodi Wegner, Erin Saathoff, Pastor Gary, Pam Gerdes

Absent: None

Meeting called to order by: Pastor Gary and opened with a prayer.

Approve Agenda - Motion to approve amended agenda by Erin, seconded by Roger

Approve Previous Month's Meeting Minutes - Moved by Roger, seconded by Jodi

Financial report - Pam reviewed the financial report. Moved by Jodi, seconded by Chavonn

Pastor's Report:

- Adding an Assisting Minister, anyone can volunteer, Confirmation students needing points will earn 10 points per Service when serving as Assisting Minister. Schedule a date for Assisting Minister training.
- Scheduling Pastor home visits, streamlining the easiest way to get members scheduled.
- We will continue to utilize the robes for Acolytes and Josh is looking into getting an additional bench to add up front for Acolytes and Assisting Minister.
- May 10th, Mother's Day, hand out flowers to the Mothers and do something similar on Father's Day.
- "How We Got The Bible" Class

Old Business:

- Ushers for May Services updated on Google Calendar
- Electronic Sign - Received bid from PSG for \$11,230.00. Council decided to not move forward with electronic sign.
- Grants - ideas for application for grant funds- update sound system, new mics for Pastor and Assisting Pastor, tuning pianos, laptop (waiting to purchase-outrageously priced at the moment)
- Seasonal Maintenance -Darin Frerichs spraying parking lot, replace filters (Lauby's), Genrichs spray
- Discussed having separate slide show for announcements to run while members are arriving.

New Business-

- Date for next council meeting will be Thursday, May 21 at 7:30
- Confirmation - Sub for Filley/Wymore, Confirmation May 24, ask Shirley to hem robes, Confirmands are co-greeters, need someone to present the class for Confirmation, cake
- Discussed organizing a combined Church picnic
- Wednesday, April 29 is quarterly meeting with Filley

All business concluded, Motion to adjourn by Chavonn, seconded by Erin

Closed meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Council Members' emails:

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Our Saviors Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

May 27, 2026

Present: Chavonn Mailahn, Roger Henrichs, Jodi Wegner, Erin Saathoff, Pastor Gary, Pam Gerdes

Absent: Josh Schmidt, Rachel Frerichs

Meeting called to order by: Vice President Chavonn Mailahn and opened with a prayer.

Approve Agenda - Motion to approve amended agenda by Erin, seconded by Jodi

Approve Previous Month's Meeting Minutes - Pam noted the date was incorrect. Motion to approve amended minutes by Erin, seconded by Roger

Financial report - Pam reviewed the financial report. Motion to approve by Erin, seconded by Jodi

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor reported Josh, Chavonn and him will be attending the Synod Assembly in Kearney this weekend. He encouraged everyone to watch the live stream of the Synod's service. Chavonn will post the link to the live stream on social media.
- Moved by Pastor, seconded by Erin, to hold a Listening Session on June 28th after church service for members to express their wishes on traditions they would like to see occur on important events, such as confirmation, baptisms, weddings, etc., and use that input to compile a checklist to ensure our traditions are carried forward.

Old Business:

- Ushers for June Services were updated on the Google Calendar
- Newsletter Content - Erin sent a rough draft to the Council. She will add the June 28th listening session to the upcoming events in the newsletter.
- North sign/South sign - Due to Josh being absent, there was no discussion.
- Laptop - Due to Josh being absent, there was no discussion.
- WBSAF Grant - Jodi has submitted an application for an iPad to run the SOS program and other items.
- Music & Worship Committee - Jodi will reach out to the Committee to schedule a June meeting.
- Seasonal Maintenance - Roger will contact Lauby's to clean the AC units and replace filters. Pam reported the outside and inside spraying has been completed. Pam noted the boiler was inspected as well.
- Communion Supplies - Pam will order more wine to ensure there is enough for the joint service.

New Business:

- Downspouts - Due to Josh being absent, there was no discussion.
- Additional bench for acolytes/associate minister - The Council agreed the acolytes would sit in the front pew and associate minister can sit in the additional bench by Pastor Gary. Pastor Gary reported there was not much interest in being an associate minister from the confirmation students & he suggested reaching out to three (3) established members of the congregation and three (3) of the confirmands to have a meeting, with a walk thru of what would be expected & hopefully create a rotation of members to perform the duties.
- Date for next council meeting will be Sunday, June 14th @ 1:00 p.m. following the luncheon
- Sub/Service Leader for Sunday, May 31st - Erin will lead the service.
- Parish Meetings - Due to Josh being absent, there was no discussion.
- Joint Service/Luncheon on June 14th - Service will be at 10:00 a.m., with communion. Luncheon will follow after the service. Chavonn will reach out to Carmen McKeever for additional tables/chairs. Chavonn will check with

the Church Ladies regarding paperware. Items needed to be purchased include: meat, buns, condiments, ice, tea, and lemonade. Councilmembers will bring lawn games they have to share.

- Sound system quote/Headsets - Chavonn received a quote from Midwest Sound & Lighting, who was recommended by Pastor Kramer and Roger, who has used them in the past for the fairboard. The quote was for \$18,000, which includes one (1) wireless microphone, three (3) headsets, and two (2) lapel microphones. The system will be bluetooth compatible and should work with our existing speakers. Chavonn will submit this quote, along with the quote for fifty (50) ELW hymnals and fifty (50) ELW supplements, to the Morris Foundation grant, which is due Monday, June 1st. She will include a progress report of the previous items purchased with grant funds. Chavonn stated a new portion of the Morris Grant is to include how the grant funds awarded will be publicized and it was discussed to purchase a plaque to be displayed in the Church, as well as listing in the bulletin, social media, and newsletters.

All business concluded, Motion to adjourn by Roger, seconded by Erin

Closed meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

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rbhenrichs@diodecom.net (Roger Henrichs)

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