

O S L MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2026
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Church Family -

We are in the process of updating and maintaining our membership records. More information can be found in the letter on the last page of this newsletter.

Please reach out to Pastor or any Church Council member if you have any questions. Thank you & God Bless!



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from Pastor Gary's Desk

As I write this, we are one week into a six-week sermon series. As I've made clear, this isn't something I normally do on Sunday mornings. I pick my own texts to preach during Wednesday evening services in Lent and Advent and usually build the readings around a theme of my choice, but I tend to shy away from doing this on Sunday mornings. But why? Many pastors do a sermon series at least once a year. Some churches never do anything else. Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln never, or at least very rarely, uses the Revised Common Lectionary. Furthermore, the RCL isn't the only lectionary option that is out there. Many pastors use the Narrative Lectionary instead. So why do I usually stick with the RCL?

We should start with explaining what the RCL is. According to wikipedia, the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) was compiled by two groups: The North American Consultation on Common Texts (CCT) and the International English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC). The CCT is made up of Catholics and many mainline Protestant denominations throughout Canada and the United States. While pastors and priests are mostly probably free to diverge from these prescribed readings, because of the wide-ranging agreement on the RCL, you can walk into just about any mainline Protestant or Catholic church in North America, and possibly the UK and Australia, and hear the same texts that are being read in your home church any given Sunday.

Perhaps the easiest and simplest reason I like this is familiarity. People know the RCL. These are the passages we've been reading every year in a familiar format. Some churches just use one Scripture lesson on a Sunday morning, and they take more time focusing on that one lesson. The RCL gives us three lessons and a Psalm every Sunday, a nice diversity of options. We probably would feel a little weird if we didn't hear three lessons on a Sunday. We'd feel like we were missing something. Part of the reason I stick with the RCL is to keep everyone comfortable. We don't have to reformat the service. We stick with what we know.

And while the RCL doesn't cover the entire Bible, it gives us some important samples that feed us spiritually. They did a pretty good job of thematically matching passages from the Old Testament and the New Testament when they could, and I really appreciate that. It reminds us that the two testaments run together, that all point us to Christ and the cross. Sometimes, we think that the God of the Old Testament is cruel and vengeful and the God of the New Testament is loving and kind. This is, to be clear, an ancient heresy, but it is also a view that comes from not paying enough attention to the love and hope present in the Old Testament. The RCL reminds us to dwell in the entirety and unity of God's word, wrestling with passages that challenge us while also enlivening us with the passages our spirits need for comfort and growth. Is the RCL perfect? No. Does it cover all the passages I would like to? No. But it is a great resource.

But perhaps the most important reason why I like the RCL comes from its very nature. The word "common" has at least two popular meanings at this point: unremarkable and shared. Both work for the Revised Common Lectionary. It is so familiar to us at this point, it's hard to think of it as particularly exciting. In the same way, few of us get particularly excited when we see dirt or grass. We may love the soil, but it's everywhere. Not exactly remarkable. But I think it is more important to think about how the RCL is not merely familiar but also shared.

There are churches who believe they are the only ones that are saved. And by that, I mean, not even their denomination. They think only the people who attend their particular congregation are saved, but church is not just one congregation. Church isn't even a bunch of different, disconnected congregations. The church is the whole body of Christ throughout the world, united in one through Word and Sacrament, mystically changed from all kinds of different people with different cultures, languages, and traditions, into the one body of Christ. On the average Sunday morning, we might start to think of ourselves as separated from others. We might feel bad about going to a different Lutheran church because we aren't worshipping with our particular congregational family, but we shouldn't see it that way. As much as I think it is important for people to be part of their own community, the whole church is your family. American Lutheran in Filley is your family. Our Savior's Lutheran in Wymore is your family. Zion Lutheran, St. John's in Beatrice, Southwood and Sheridan in Lincoln, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, Moravian, UCC, and Reformed churches are your family. The joy of using the RCL is that when we read these texts on a Sunday morning, we remember that our family is much bigger than just the people we see on a Sunday morning.

I'm happy to do a sermon series every once in a while, and if this goes over well, I'll be sure to do one next summer too. It's fun to take some time to deep dive into something different, to really focus on something we don't think much about. But even now, we are still using several of the readings from the RCL. When you hear them, take a moment to think about them and appreciate them. Hard work went into picking the right passages to make them spiritually fulfilling and familiar. But more than that, hard work went into bringing Christians of many different denominations together to put us all on the same page, to remind us all that despite our differences, we are one body of Christ wherever we may be worshipping on Sunday morning.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 28 -Community Coffee - KWBE @ Park Lodge - 10:00 a.m.

September 3 - Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m.

September 4 - Community Coffee - Wymore Library - 10:00 a.m.

September 9 - Faith Formation begins - 5:30 p.m

September 9 - Confirmation Classes begin - 4:30 p.m @ Filley

September 16 - Church Council Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

September 17 - Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m.

September 20 - LYF @ 6:00 p.m. - Church Cleanup & Lesson

September 27 - Spirit of Ministry @ Glacial Till Cider House - 2-4 p.m.
for more information, scan the QR code:



Learn
more
and
register
here

All school aged children are welcome!



Welcome back to
Faith Formation!!

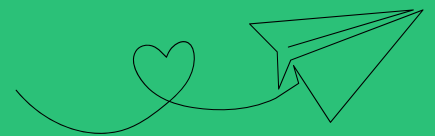


September 9th at 5:30pm!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 - JAXSON MAILAHN
02 - CHARLEIGH ACTON
07 - EMERY SAATHOFF
12 - BETSY FRERICHs
15 - CALEB MCKEEVER
15 - DOROTHY SKEENS
16 - HADLEE MAXSON
19 - SETH SAATHOFF
20 - JACQUES SMIT
21 - MOSELY WEYER
22 - RON SCHROEDER
27 - JAIDYN ALLINGTON
30 - JARED EPP
30 - RACHEL FRERICHs



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

05 - JEFF & KELLI MURPHY
20 - JACQUES & JAMIE SMIT
24 - JASON & DYAN ALLINGTON
26 - GARY & LARISSA GRINVALDS
28 - STEVE & SHELLEY WHITWER



THANK YOU to everyone
who made the LYF
ice cream social
a success!
We raised \$189, which
will be used to fund
upcoming LYF events.



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

420 West L Street | Wymore, NE 68466

August 22, 2026

Dear Church Family:

We are grateful for each person who is a part of our church family. Your presence, prayers, service, and support are important to the life and ministry of our congregation. As we review our membership records, we want to remind everyone that active membership includes a commitment to remain connected to the church through worship, participation, and support of the ministry.

In accordance with the provisions outlined in our church Constitution, active membership requires members to maintain a connection with the church through attendance or by making at least one financial offering to the church during the year.

For those who choose to fulfill this membership requirement through a financial offering, the offering must be properly documented for membership records. A designated envelope will be available for this purpose. Please clearly identify the envelope as your annual membership offering so that the church can accurately record it.

We understand that circumstances can sometimes make regular attendance or giving difficult, and we want to extend grace and understanding to those facing such situations. Our purpose is simply to keep our membership records current and to ensure that those listed as members have an ongoing connection with and commitment to our church family.

We encourage each member to prayerfully consider their continued connection to our congregation and to make every effort to remain active in the life of the church.

If you have questions or would like to discuss your membership status, please feel free to contact Pastor Gary or church leadership.

Thank you for being a valued part of our church family. We appreciate you and pray that God will continue to bless you and your family.

With Christian love and appreciation,

Chavonn Mailahn
Vice President
Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council