

O S L MESSENGER

AUGUST 2026
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6



Our Faith Formation and VBS kids participated in the Barneston Days parade in July!

**“From Our Hometown to His Glory, Jesus’ love
pulls us through”**

Thank you to everyone who helped with the float and getting the kiddos there!

PASTOR:

Gary Grinvalds
402.658.2253
garygrinvalds@gmail.com

SECRETARY:

Pam Gerdes
402.239.2715
oursaviorslutheranwymore@gmail.com

CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: Josh Schmidt
402.520.0950

Vice President: Chavonn Mailahn
308.214.0039

Secretary: Rachel Frerichs
402.239.0466

At Large Members:

Roger Henrichs
402.239.7740

Erin Saathoff
402.239.9117

Jodi Wegner
402.223.8263



from Pastor Gary's Desk

Usually, I preach on the Gospel lesson on Sunday mornings and livestream another mini sermon over another one of the lessons on Tuesday from Filley, but this week, I found all three lessons interesting. Fortunately, this also happens to be the week I am writing my newsletter blurb, so I want to talk about Romans 8. But first, I want to talk about Dayenu.

Dayenu is an old Jewish hymn text used during the Passover meal. Its origins aren't exactly clear, but some scholars think this was a Jewish response to Christian liturgies that accused the Jews of being ungrateful to God for all God had done for them. Whether this was the origin or not, no one could accuse someone taking Dayenu seriously of being ungrateful.

Dayenu means "it would have been enough." Each line of the text ends with that phrase. If God had led us out of Egypt, it would have been enough. If God had parted the sea, it would have been enough. If God would have let us cross on dry land, it would have been enough. The whole point is that each statement builds on the previous one. We would have been grateful for any of these gifts, but God gave gift after gift.

In retrospect, we often look at great moments of deliverance in the past as a single, coherent event, but this hymn breaks it down into its component parts. God could have simply led them out of slavery and abandoned them, and they should still have been grateful for that, for the opportunity to forge their own destiny free from oppression. But God did so much more. Maybe this is a lesson we could take for ourselves today. If God had brought you this far and let you die in your sleep, it still would have been a life worth thanking God for, but God has given you another day to live and breathe and experience the world. If God had simply woken you this morning, it would have been enough, but God will fill you with blessings beyond your ability to name and count.

Romans 8:26-39 is one of the most moving passages in the entire book, maybe in the entire Bible. Paul really summons the best of his rhetoric, stringing together dramatic statements with cosmic significance. Seriously, try reading it through a few times to get the sense of what Paul is talking about and then read it aloud, imagine preaching it to an early church community in Rome, huddled together in a house church fearing persecution from people who have not yet come to believe, but who you have not given up on.

I want to give particular focus to verses 28 through 30, where we get a chain of five things God has done for us. God foreknows, predestines, calls, justifies, and glorifies. Paul links these together intentionally, and I think there is a logic to them, which we can see if we work backwards. We can't really be glorified if we aren't justified. If God doesn't take away our sins, we don't belong in glory. We aren't getting justified without being first called by God through the Holy Spirit. God isn't going to call us if there is no purpose in it, so God gives us a destiny, but we don't get that destiny without God knowing us in the first place.

But it is interesting that Paul doesn't just skip ahead to the glorification. God foreknows us so God will eventually glorify us. That should work just fine. Why does Paul draw it out instead of being more efficient with his writing? It isn't like he had a word count he had to get to. It could simply be that Paul is employing his stirring rhetorical skills here. Chaining things together like this gives the audience time to get excited. But I can't help but wonder if Paul doesn't intend for us to imagine breaking salvation down into its parts.

Let's stop for a moment just to appreciate how nice it is to be known, even to be fore known. The more we think about it, the more we feel like people don't fully know us, and that we don't fully know ourselves. Being unable to fully express ourselves, being limited by society and language to hide some parts of us, is a heavy and lonely burden to bear. But God knows us entirely. God knew who we are now before we were born. God knows who we will be tomorrow. To be fully known and fully loved is something that we don't get in any relationship with other humans, at least not perfectly. If God had simply known us, it would have been enough.

But God not only knows us, God predestines us. God gives us a future, a purpose, a path to walk. God gives us the promise that our destiny is in God's hands. If God had only predestined us but not called us, it would have been enough. But God doesn't stop at silently knowing and guiding us from afar. God calls us into a personal relationship. God speaks to us and gives us a mission in life. If God had only called us, it would have been enough. But God also justifies us, taking away our sins, our guilt, our shame. God makes us fit for God's kingdom. And if God had simply justified us, it would have been enough, but God also glorifies us.

I'm not necessarily suggesting that Paul wrote the Christian Dayenu, but I do think that Paul isn't simply stringing along words for the sake of firing up the audience. We can break down the components of salvation and see the immense, loving gifts of God in each of them. Perhaps this will help us think more deeply about what God has done for us, and perhaps this is simply a good practice in gratitude. Either way, thanks be to God that God has not stopped at "enough."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 29th - Joint Council Meeting @ Filley - 6 pm

July 31st - Community Coffee @ Wymore Country Club - 10 am

August 7th - Community Coffee @ Wymore Public Library - 10am

August 14th - LYF Ice Cream Social - 1-3 pm

August 20th - Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m.

August 20th - Church Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Confirmation & Faith Formation will begin
September 9th!**
Be on the lookout for more information.

Sundae FUN DAY!

YUM!

AUG 16TH
1-3

Sponsored by:
Our Savior's
LYF



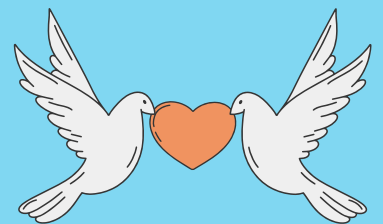
FREE
WILL
DONATION

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN WYMORE
420 WEST I STREET



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

01 - DENIELLE TRAUERNICHT
03 - DANI (MICHAELIS)
BENINGHAUS
03 - BECKY WEYER
05 - LENNON ACTON
08 - SANDRA ELTISTE
12 - LARRY ANDERSON
17 - LENNON FRERICHs
22 - DYAN ALLINGTON
24 - MARK TRAUERNICHT
27 - DARLA ACTON
28 - LARRY FRERICHs
28 - SHELBY SAATHOFF



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

13 - TIM & DARLA ACTON
15 - DARIN & BETSY FRERICHs
28 - DUSTIN & JODI WEGNER
29 - CALEB & LINDSEY MCKEEVER



V
B
S
2026

Our Saviors Lutheran Church
Council Meeting

June 14, 2026

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

Meeting called to order by: President Josh Schmidt and opened with a prayer.

Approve Agenda - Pastor added smoke alarms to Old Business. Motion to approve amended agenda by Roger, seconded by Jodi

Approve Previous Month's Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve minutes by Chavonn, seconded by Jodi

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

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor reported the Synod Assembly in Kearney went well and will present to the congregation at a later date.
- Pastor would like to get the Associate Minister to be scheduled consistently. He requested that we have a list of at least 5 people to ask (Roger, Shirley, Jessi, Carmen, Josh, Erin, Chavonn) and to schedule a time to review the role of the Associate Minister.
- "How We Got The Bible" books were received, sign up and schedule a class time
- Bible study moved up to 6:00 pm

Old Business:

- Ushers for June/July Services were updated on the Google Calendar
- 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.
- Newsletter Content - June 28th listening session was added and Erin will add the VBS BBQ at 6:00 to the upcoming events in the newsletter.
- North sign/South sign - Jodi completed the landscaping on the North sign and Roger will fix or contact someone to fix the light on the South sign.
- Laptop - going to hold off on purchasing due to high cost due to chip shortage
- WBSAF Grant - Jodi has submitted the application for an iPad to run the SOS program and other items, waiting to hear back on the amount received.
- Music & Worship Committee - Jodi will reach out to the Committee to schedule a June meeting.
- Seasonal Maintenance - Lauby's came to clean the AC units and replaced filters. Smoke Alarms need to be serviced/updated. Council will contact Mark Meints to ensure we are up to code on alarms and extinguisher placement throughout.
- Sound System - Chavonn has submitted the grant.

- Parish Meetings - Discussion was to maintain quarterly meetings but possibly holding the second and third quarter meetings via zoom and keep the first and fourth quarter meetings in person. Josh will contact Norm to discuss the possible change.
- Associate Ministers - list of 5 Congregation Members to participate by Listening Session, Sunday, June 28, 2026.

New Business:

- Downspouts - Josh will shop around for downspouts to match existing ones.
- Date for next council meeting will be Thursday, July 16th @ 7:00 p.m.

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

Closed meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Council Members' emails:

rbhenrichs@diodecom.net (Roger Henrichs)

emsaathoff03@gmail.com (Erin Saathoff)

rfrerichs@bpsnebr.org (Rachel Frerichs)

jschmidt1283@gmail.com (Josh Schmidt)

chavonn@cottonwoodhospice.com (Chavonn Mailahan)

jodigailpn@gmail.com (Jodi Wegner)

garygrinvalds@gmail.com (Pastor Gary Grinvalds)