

# NEWS

## FROM OUR SAVIOUR

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR  
GATES, NEW YORK

JUNE  
2026



## CONGREGATION RAISES \$1,300 FOR COLDWATER HOUSE

During April, our Mission of the Month gifts supported the ministry of Open Door Mission's Coldwater House, which provides shelter, meals, and programs for women and children in need.

Pastor Egensteiner presented the \$1,300 donation to Christopher Scribani of Open Door Mission, who visited with our congregation during worship.

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### HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

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# GROWING SEASON



“God is a gardener.”

“...go and bear fruit –  
fruit that will last.”

**G**race to you all and peace, dear ones.  
God is a gardener.  
This is obvious from the creation story in Genesis 2, where Scripture tells us, “the LORD God planted a garden in Eden.”

Some of you are gardeners, too, and now is the busy season as gardens are prepared, seeds are planted and care is given to their nurture and growth. There is anticipation of the flowers and produce that will come as a result of the gardener’s effort.

In the Church, June begins the Season after Pentecost, the longest season of the Church Year (It lasts until the season of Advent in November.) and is represented by the color green. The green reminds us that this is, in the world (at least in the Northern Hemisphere) and in the Church, the “growing season.” As we gather for worship, in our Gospel passages (from St. Matthew this year) we hear of the

ministry of Jesus that occurs between his baptism by John the Baptist and his entry into Jerusalem, where he will be crucified and then rise from the tomb. These are accounts of teaching, healing, miracles and accompaniment of God’s people. The intention of these experiences in the lives of those who were present and in ours as we hear them retold is to incite and inspire growth.

God is a gardener. God patiently nurtures and cares for creation, including (and especially) us, hoping for growth. I see such Godly growth here at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour. These are certainly challenging times, congregationally and globally, but God has promised never to leave us or forsake us. This is a community of faith with great commitment and love, for one another and for Jesus. We can grow in our outreach to our neighborhood, and I see efforts being made in that direction.

My prayer is that, in this Pentecost season of growth and flourishing, we may be strengthened by the Spirit’s presence together so we may continue to “go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.”

Happy gardening!

In Christ,

*Pastor Paul*

# CHILDREN GROW IN FAITH



## CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR

Under the direction of Diane Parker-Potter, the Children's Bell Choir played two songs at the beginning of the service on Pentecost Sunday. The children loved participating in the worship service.



## HOW MANY TIMES SHOULD WE FORGIVE?

The Sunday School has been studying the Lord's Prayer this past month. They discussed forgiveness and reviewed Matthew 18:22 when Jesus said to forgive not just 7 times, but 70 times 7.

Although we know this number is symbolic and your forgiveness should be infinite, the children had fun calculating the number, placing 490 stars on the poster.

Chantal and Lisa wanted to share the poster with the congregation.



# COLDWATER HOUSE

*Continued from Page 1*



*Assistant Development Director of Open Door Mission, in support of Coldwater House and its ministry to women and children.*

**L**utheran Church of Our Saviour's April Mission of the Month focused on supporting Coldwater House, a residential program of Open Door Mission that provides transitional housing and support services for women and children in the Rochester area.

Through the generosity of the congregation, a total of \$1,300 was collected during the month of April. On behalf of the church, Pastor Egensteiner presented a ceremonial check to Christopher J. Scribani, Assistant Development Director for Open Door Mission, during a recent worship service.

While visiting the congregation, Scribani shared information about the many ministries of Open Door Mission and the ongoing needs throughout the Rochester community. He spoke about the thousands of meals served through the organization each year, as well as the many women and children who have found shelter, support, and hope through Coldwater House and its related programs.

Coldwater House provides transitional housing for women and their children while helping families work toward long-term stability. Residents receive individualized support, including case management, parenting and life-skills education, financial guidance, job-readiness assistance, and vocational development opportunities designed to help participants build a more secure future.

Scribani also shared information about newer vocational and job-training efforts that help residents gain practical skills as they prepare for independent living. In addition to speaking during his visit, he brought pamphlets, pens, and other informational materials to help members of the congregation learn more about Open Door Mission's work and ways to support its ministry.

Lutheran Church of Our Saviour is grateful for the generosity of its members and for the opportunity to partner with organizations that provide compassionate care, shelter, and practical assistance to neighbors in need throughout our community.



## JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH

During the month of June we will be collecting donations for our Food Ministry Fund. This fund is being used for all of the food related functions in our church such as Maunday Thursday, Palm Sunday breakfast, special brunches for Pastor Hanrahan and Pastor Egensteiner plus many more activities. In addition, we are going to support the peanut butter and jelly sandwich ministry out of this fund going forward. Your past contributions have allowed us to pay for these activities without having to put out offering baskets at these functions. Envelopes can be found on the narthex table. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated!

There is one more scheduled Mission of the Month for Loop Ministries in October.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



# BARB COLLINS



“

*She loves to  
be here where  
people are kind  
and welcoming.*

”

**B**arb Collins came to Our Saviour when Reformation closed its doors and Pastor Imani led her here.

Barb lives on North Street in the city of Rochester. She was born and raised there.

In her working years, she was an EMT. She also worked for the Police Department on Goodman Street for five years.

Charlyne Hickey and her brother, Don brought her to Our Saviour. Her brother, Don, has now passed and Ruth Otto is kind enough to give her a ride each Sunday.

She loves to be here where people are kind and welcoming. She loves all the people she has met here and those that have been so kind in helping her.



Her favorite hymn is “I Love To Tell the Story.” She loves to laugh and play clean jokes on friends.

Her favorite bible story involves the Ten Commandments.

Barb will be 85 on June 4th. When you see her next, don't forget to wish her a happy birthday!



*Happy 85th Birthday!*

**JUNE 4**

When you see Barb next,  
don't forget to wish her  
a happy birthday!

*We are blessed by the  
many gifts and faithful  
presence of Barb Collins  
at Our Saviour!*



# REALM UPDATE



In April, Lutheran Church of Our Saviour began its conversion to the new Realm platform. Realm is a secure, cloud-based system that helps our church operate more efficiently and keeps our information safe and organized.

As we move forward with Realm, we are excited about the opportunities it brings to better connect, communicate, and care for our church community. Realm helps strengthen the connections that make our church family so special. It helps us grow in faith and fellowship.

What will you notice? Not much at the beginning. Our staff will be using Realm behind the scenes to streamline many of our processes.

Soon, you will be invited to create your own Realm account. Once you do, you will be able to update your contact information, view the church directory, see your giving history, and even sign up for events and activities.

It is easy to get started when the time comes. Keep an eye out for more information in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your patience and support as we make this important transition. We are confident that Realm will help us build an even stronger, more connected church community!

“ *What will you notice?*  
*Not much at the beginning.* ”

## FINANCIAL REPORT

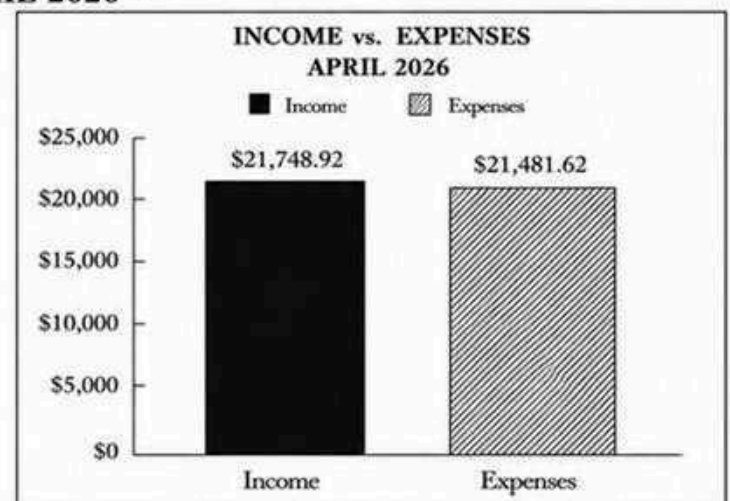
APRIL 2026

	APRIL 2026
INCOME	\$21,748.92
EXPENSES	\$21,481.62
NET INCOME	\$267.30
YEAR-TO-DATE NET INCOME	\$26,257.15

Income for the month of April slightly exceeded expenses with income of \$21,748.92 and expenses of \$21,481.62. The net income was \$267.30.

Year-to-date net income is \$26,257.15.

As we approach summer it is important to continue our regular donations. We appreciate all you do for our church.



*Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful support!*





# The Sound of America

*250 Years of Black Contributions to American Music*



Join us for a powerful afternoon of music and storytelling as we celebrate the incredible impact of Black Americans on our nation's musical heritage.

Through spirituals, sacred songs, and inspiring narratives, this concert honors a legacy of faith, resilience, and creativity that continues to shape the soundtrack of America.



FEATURING  
**GREGORY SHEPPARD**  
*Bass-Baritone*

ACCOMPANIED BY  
**LUCAS MYERS**  
*Pianist*



**SUNDAY  
JULY 5, 2026**



**3:00 PM**

AS OUR NATION MARKS ITS  
**250<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR  
PRESENTS

**THE SOUND  
OF  
AMERICA**

250 YEARS OF BLACK CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO AMERICAN MUSIC

FEATURING  
**GREGORY SHEPPARD**  
BASS-BARITONE

ACCOMPANIED BY  
**LUCAS MYERS, PIANIST**

AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC CELEBRATING THE ENDURING  
CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK AMERICANS  
TO OUR NATION'S MUSICAL HERITAGE.

FREE ADMISSION \* ALL ARE WELCOME

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR  
2415 CHILI AVENUE, ROCHESTER, NY 14624  
585-247-7824

## Celebrating Two 90-Year Milestones



Lutheran Church of Our Saviour is blessed to recognize two members who recently celebrated their 90th birthdays.

◆  
**Elaine DeVantier** will be honored during a special birthday celebration following worship on June 21. Members of the congregation are invited to join in celebrating this milestone and to extend their congratulations and best wishes to Elaine.

◆  
We also recognize **Ron King**, who celebrated his 90th birthday earlier in May. Ron's family surprised him with a special birthday celebration of their own, and he reports that he is "all partied out." Although he preferred not to have another gathering at church, we are pleased to recognize this important occasion and extend our congratulations.

◆  
Ninety years is a remarkable milestone. We give thanks for Elaine and Ron, for their years of faith, friendship, and service, and we wish them God's continued blessings in the years ahead.

Happy 90th Birthday,  
Elaine and Ron!

## WestSide Express

— VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY —

*Your Neighbors Could Use a Lift*



WestSide Express is a program giving no cost rides to appointments for senior citizens in the Gates Chili area who do not have their own transportation.

They need volunteer drivers to assist with their mission. The program is run by Lifespan. Lifespan covers all insurance for these trips. Seniors are required to request their rides at least 10 days in advance. Volunteer drivers are then called by a central office to see if they are available.

The Seniors have to be able to get in and out of the car without assistance. WestSide Express can also use office volunteers if you are not a driver.

Pam Brady has been a driver for the past year and is happy to speak about how rewarding it is to help your neighbors.

Information about this opportunity is available on the Narthex table.



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Call Lifespan at  
**585-498-4040**



NEED A RIDE TO AN APPOINTMENT?

(medical, banking)  
Call WestSide Express at  
**585-889-6104**



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**Last Day of Sunday School – Sunday, June 14**  
 Sunday, June 14, will be the final day of Sunday School before our summer break.

We are grateful for all of the children who participated throughout the year and for the many families who supported our Sunday School program.

A special thank you goes to all of our Sunday School teachers and helpers who generously shared their time, talents, patience, and faith with our young people throughout the year.

Your dedication helps plant seeds of faith that will continue to grow for years to come.



*We wish everyone a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall!*

## WELCA NEWS



Our next WELCA meeting will be our “dinner out” on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 4:00 pm at Fazool’s Italian Bistro Restaurant at 120 Pixley Road, Gates, NY.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. All women are welcome.

Wishing everyone a happy, safe and fun filled “Summer”.

The next time we meet will be on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 11:30 am.

*Ann Seppa, Secretary*



## NEW PIANO ARRIVES FRIDAY, JUNE 5



Our new piano is scheduled to be delivered on **Friday, June 5, at 9:00 a.m.**

We give thanks for this wonderful addition to our music ministry and look forward to the many ways it will support worship and special music in the years ahead.

A special dedication of the piano will take place during worship on **Sunday, June 7.**

## JUBILEES PICNIC

**Wednesday, June 24 at 11:30 a.m.**

The Lodge in Memorial Park Gates, NY

Deli lunch with a variety of meats and cheese, side dishes, beverages and coffee included.

Games, music and fellowship.



**\$18**  
per person

Sign up and pay on the Narthex table by **Sunday, June 14.**  
*Please bring a dessert if you are able.*



## SUMMER THURSDAY WORSHIP BEGINS JUNE 25

Join us for our Thursday Evening Worship beginning **Thursday, June 25.**

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour



A relaxed service of worship, fellowship, and community.



# NEWS FROM OUR SAVIOUR

JUNE 2026

## Church GARAGE SALE

⇒ *Saturday, June 27* ⇐

Our annual Church Garage Sale is quickly approaching, and we are looking forward to another opportunity for fellowship, service, and community involvement.



### DONATE ITEMS

Donations are now being accepted. If you have items you would like to contribute, please speak with Jonathan Howell to arrange a pickup. Whether you are cleaning out a closet, downsizing, or simply have useful items you no longer need, your donations can help make the event a success.



### VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are also needed in a variety of areas. Help is welcome with setup, organizing donations, assisting shoppers, and cleanup.



If you would like to volunteer, please use the volunteer link that was emailed to the congregation or complete a volunteer form available on the Narthex table.



Events like our Garage Sale are made possible by the many members who generously donate their time and talents. Thank you to everyone who contributes items, volunteers, and helps spread the word!

*If you have questions about donations — or scheduling a pickup, please speak — with Jonathan Howell.*

## Exploring CONTEMPORARY LITURGY — THIS SUMMER —



During the summer months of Pentecost, we will be exploring more contemporary styled hymns and music. We are going to adapt or create a modern liturgy that flows nicely and is shorter than our usual services during the year.



Many of the contemporary hymns will be well known, but we are challenging you to be open minded about learning some new songs. Some of the songs, like the one we are going to use in place of the Holy, Holy, will repeat for many weeks in a row which should help us learn them.



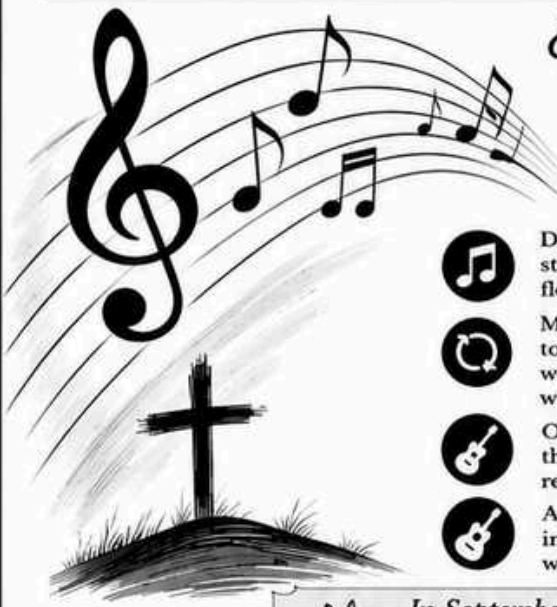
Often the nature of contemporary praise music is quite repetitive. The idea being that by the middle of the song you will be able to at least sing along with the refrains or repeated parts.



As part of this, we are open to having other instrumentalists join us. If you play an instrument and would like to play during worship, speak to Jonathan Howell and we will see how to fit you in.

*In September we will return to a blended service and the old familiar service music and chestnut hymns will return.*

*Think of contemporary liturgy as a nice summer breeze that will carry us from Trinity to Rally Sunday.*





# NEWS FROM OUR SAVIOUR

JUNE 2026



## June BIRTHDAYS

### JUNE 22-28

- JUNE 2-20**
- Jun 2 ..... Kenneth Keller
  - Jun 4 ..... Barbara Collins
  - Jun 4 ..... Gordon Seppa
  - Jun 5 ..... Alice Newbury
  - Jun 12 ..... Ruth Pearce
  - Jun 17 ..... Trudy Reich
  - Jun 20 ..... Elaine De Vantier

- Jun 22 ..... Barbara Sihto
- Jun 23 ..... Cheryl Stone
- Jun 23 ..... Jason Stone
- Jun 24 ..... Edward Jarvis
- Jun 24 ..... John Tesch
- Jun 25 ..... Steve Fries
- Jun 25 ..... Jaxson Karcher
- Jun 27 ..... James MacBride
- Jun 28 ..... Jakob Wiesmore



## June ANNIVERSARIES



- Jun 1 ..... Norman and Catherine Carlson ..... 3 years
- Jun 6 ..... David and Becky Wiesmore ..... 33 years
- Jun 9 ..... Stephen and Pamela Brady ..... 42 years
- Jun 17 ..... Frank and Francine Johnson ..... 20 years
- Jun 17 ..... James and Ann Marie MacBride ..... 59 years
- Jun 22 ..... Lawrence and Sharon Nazarian ..... 63 years
- Jun 25 ..... Steve Fries and Meredith ..... 16 years
- Jun 25 ..... Edward and Daryl Jarvis ..... 60 years
- Jun 30 ..... Kenneth and Nedra Keller ..... 42 years



*Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary  
to all who are celebrating this month.  
May God bless you with joy, good health,  
and many happy memories in the year ahead.*



# NEWS FROM OUR SAVIOUR

JUNE 2026

## Prayers for Our Saviour

*As summer begins, we invite you to join us in lifting up these prayers for our congregation, community, and nation.*



### For Travelers

Gracious God, watch over all who will be traveling during the summer months. Grant safe journeys, restful vacations, and joyful reunions with family and friends. Bring all travelers safely home again.



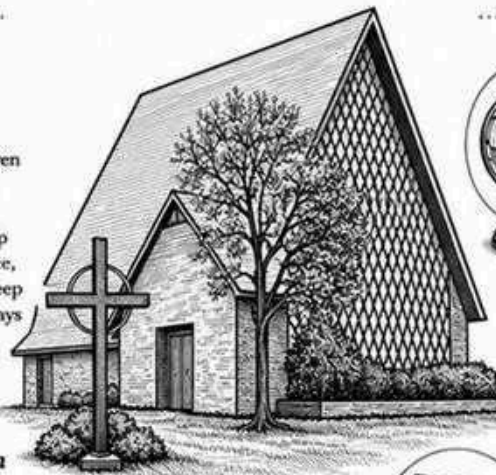
### For Graduates

Loving God, bless all who celebrate graduations this season. Guide them as they begin new chapters of life. Give them wisdom, courage, and faith as they pursue the paths before them.



### For Children Attending Summer Camp

Lord, watch over children who will spend time at camps, retreats, and summer programs. Help them grow in confidence, friendship, and faith. Keep them safe and fill their days with joy.



### For Those Without Air Conditioning

Merciful God, remember those who struggle during the heat of summer. Protect the elderly, the vulnerable, and all who lack adequate, cooling. Move us to care for our neighbors with compassion and generosity.



### For a Good Growing Season

Creator God, we pray for favorable weather and a fruitful growing season. After a slow start to spring, bless farmers, gardeners, and all who depend upon the bounty of the earth. Send sunshine, rain, and growth in their proper measure.



### For Children Who Depend on School Meals

Compassionate Lord, be with children and families who face food insecurity during the summer months. Bless the organizations, churches, schools, and volunteers who provide meals and assistance. May no child go hungry.



### For Our Country

As our country celebrates its 250th anniversary, we pray for wisdom, unity, and gratitude. Help us remember both our blessings and our responsibilities. Guide our leaders and citizens toward justice, mercy, and peace.



### For Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Lord, bless all that we undertake in the months ahead. We give thanks for concerts, fellowship gatherings, the Jubilees picnic, the Garage Sale, worship services, and opportunities to serve our community. Strengthen our congregation as we seek to share Your love with others.



*Lord, hear our prayers and bless us with Your peace, Your presence, and Your love throughout this summer and always.*

*Amen.*

