

"From the Top"

A monthly publication of
Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church, ELCA

Volume V, Issue 8

August 2026

Hello Church –

As the Church moves through the long season after Pentecost, our sanctuary is adorned in green – a color which reminds us of life, growth, and the quiet, steady work of God. Unlike the dramatic celebrations of Christmas, Easter, or Pentecost Sunday – these weeks invite us into something equally important: the lifelong journey of growing as disciples of Jesus Christ.



The season after Pentecost is often called the "green season" because it focuses on spiritual growth. Just as gardens do not flourish overnight, neither do our lives of faith. The Holy Spirit works patiently and faithfully, shaping us day by day into the people God has called us to be.

Romans 8:14 reminds us, *"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."* That promise is at the very heart of our Christian identity. Through Holy Baptism, God has claimed us as His own. Through the proclamation of the Gospel and the gift of Holy Communion, the Holy Spirit continues to nourish our faith, forgive our sins, and strengthen us for lives of loving service.

Lutherans believe that spiritual growth isn't primarily about trying harder, or becoming more impressive Christians. Rather, growth comes as God keeps His promises through the Means of Grace. Week after week, we gather to hear God's Word, confess our sins, receive Christ's forgiveness, and share in His body and blood. In these ordinary

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Join Us for Sunday Worship! In person or YouTube live. Traditional Service at 8:30 AM, Contemporary Service at 10:30 AM. Watch anytime on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@SOSLutheran **Wednesday Bible Study** in person or online via Zoom at 10 AM Zoom Meeting ID: 854 2429 7034 Passcode: 487951

**Following Jesus
and led by the Holy Spirit,
we love and serve
God and our neighbors.**

Pastor: Rev. Steve Anderson (951) 217-1885

COUNCIL:

President: Rich Kamiyama 335-3636
Vice President: Eric Ogaz
Council Secretary: Don Drost 864-4660
Treasurer: Kurt Anderson 553-3070
Financial Secretary: Viola Angebrandt 887-0799
Congregation Support: Laura Davis 338-2994
Education: Melissa Anderson 213-1059
Property: Dave Clifford (951) 315-3949
Worship & Music: Barb Frey 881-6069

STAFF:

Accompanist: Zabdiel Miranda
Church Secretary: Becky Tarts 496-9550
Custodian: Joe Balli 380-4018
Worship Leader: Heather Ogaz 725-8473

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Things you may need to know:

Newsletter Deadline: 15th of the month

Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. Wednesdays

Submissions must be in writing—email preferred.

Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church
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Office Hours: M, W, Th 8 AM—4:30 PM Friday 8 AM—Noon

Attendance for June

	Trad	YT	Cont	YT*
6/7	20	1	41	7
6/14	19	4	39	8
6/21	15		27	
6/28	16	2	39	3

*YT YouTube number of devices online, not number of people.

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Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church

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yet extraordinary gifts, the Holy Spirit is continually renewing us.

Renewal also happens as we live out our faith in everyday life. Martin Luther often spoke of vocation – or the various callings God gives us as parents, grandparents, spouses, children, workers, students, neighbors, and friends. The Holy Spirit equips us to serve Christ not only within the walls of the church – but also in our homes, workplaces, schools, and communities. Every act of kindness, every word of encouragement, every moment of forgiveness becomes an opportunity to reflect Christ's love.

Of course, growth is not always easy to recognize. There are seasons when faith feels strong and joyful, and there are seasons marked by struggle, doubt, grief, or uncertainty. Yet God's faithfulness doesn't depend upon our feelings. Like seeds growing beneath the soil, the Spirit is often at work in ways we cannot immediately see. God's promise remains steadfast, even when progress seems slow.

As we continue through these summer months, let us embrace the gift of this season. Make time for worship, prayer, Scripture reading, and fellowship with other believers. Invite the Holy Spirit to continue the work He has already begun in you. Trust that the God who called you in Baptism is still at work today, cultivating faith, hope, and love.

May this green season remind us that our Lord has not finished with us yet. By the power of the Holy Spirit, He continues to renew His Church and each one of us, so that together we may bear witness to Christ's saving love in a world that longs for hope.

iGg,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve".

Pastor Steve

STEWARDSHIP = TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, AND PRAYER

“We are all called to serve”

Ephesian 4: 1 –12, these verses highlight that the primary role of the church leaders is not to do the entire ministry themselves, but to train and empower the congregation so that the entire community can grow and serve effectively.

We the Nominating Committee ask you each to start to pray daily for direction as to where God is calling you to serve.

1 Peter 4:10, Teaches that every Christian has received unique spiritual gifts and is called to use them to serve others.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-7, explains that while Christians have diverse spiritual gifts, ministries, and activities, they all originate from the same Triune God.

Your Nomination Committee asks you to open your bible and read each of these verses and see what part of God’s ministry you fit into. Each one of us is very important to the ministry here at **Spirit of Our Savior**. Where do you feel God is calling you to serve in the coming year? We will be praying for each of you as to where we feel God is calling you to serve. Please be open to our invitation for you to step up and serve. We are at the point to expand God’s ministry and your new ideas and direction are vital to the work of this congregation’s future. Please let us know where and how you would like to grow the ministry of God’s church in our community.

Look at serving as a Blessing from God to you, not as a task you need to do, but that you want to do as a Gift back to God.

Thank You All from:

SOSLC Nomination Committee for 2026

Treasurer's Update

Offerings Through June 30th

	Giving Year-To-Date	Budget Year-To-Date (50%)	Plus/(Minus)
Offering Envelopes	\$112,530.00	\$125,000.00	(\$12,470.00)
Loose Offerings	\$3,324.78	\$7,500.00	(\$4,175.22)
Electronic Offerings	\$11,010.80	\$7,500.00	\$3,510.80
TOTAL	\$126,865.58	\$140,000.00	(\$13,134.42)

Thank You - We have made some progress this month in our giving in relation to the approved budget. With summer upon us with higher electric and water bills, combined with members going on vacation, it is important for you to keep your giving current.

At any time, if you have any questions regarding the church's finances, please contact me at treasurer@soslutheran.org or by texting me at 909-553-3070.

Peace,
Kurt Anderson

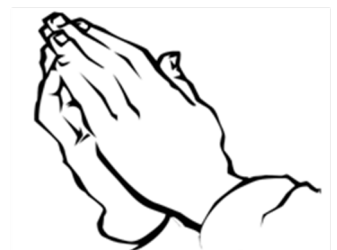
Congregational Household Prayer list for July

Week 1: Raymond Allen; Andrew Anderson; Kurt & Melissa Anderson; Pastor Steve & Arlea Anderson; Elizabeth Anderson-Kennedy

Week 2: Viola Angebrandt; Joe & Margie Arnett; Kiran Arter; Assumma Family; Brenda & Louis Asta; Chris Baer Arter

Week 3: Lillian Ball; Tim & Julie Ball; Joseph & Marlene Balli; Allen Bartleman; Bob & Connie Bell; Gilbert Beltran

Week 4: Karen Blake; Brett & Karen Brossia; Dick & Martha Brossia; Jill Catlin; Alice Chapman; Jorge & Jennifer Cervantes





A Joyful Noise

Have you ever wondered if there is a “right” way to worship?

The Bible paints a beautiful picture of worship that is both diverse and deeply personal. Throughout Scripture, God’s people worship in many different ways, each flowing from a heart devoted to God.

Some worship by **singing**. *“Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord”* (Psalm 95:1).

Others worship by **lifting their hands** in praise and prayer. *“I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands”* (Psalm 63:4). The Bible also speaks of **clapping**. *“Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy”* (Psalm 47:1).

King David even **danced before the Lord with all his might** (2 Samuel 6:14), while Psalm 95:6 invites us to **bow down and kneel before the Lord our Maker**.

Sometimes worship is joyful and expressive. Other times it is quiet and reverent. Both honor God when they come from a sincere heart.

Music itself has always been part of worship. Psalm 150 encourages us to praise God with trumpets, strings, cymbals, and every kind of instrument, ending with the beautiful invitation, *“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!”*

The outward expression of worship may look different from person to person, but the heart of worship remains the same. God is not looking for a particular posture or style. He is looking for hearts that seek Him with sincerity and love.

As we gather each Sunday, remember that there is freedom to worship in ways that help you connect with God. You may sing every word, lift your hands, close your eyes, bow your head, or quietly reflect on the lyrics. However you worship, let it be an authentic response to God’s goodness and faithfulness.

May we never lose sight of why we worship. Whether with a joyful shout, a quiet prayer, or a grateful heart, our praise is always for the One who is worthy of all honor, glory, and praise.



The memorial service for Grace Holtz, wife of Pastor Gene Holtz, is scheduled for Saturday, 8/1 at San Marcos Lutheran Church (3419 Grand Ave , San Marcos, CA). The service begins at noon.



Happy Anniversary to . . .

5 – Rich & Amy Kamiyama
14 – Gary and Janice Eisenbeisz
16 – Richard & Lisa Gutierrez
16 - John & Bertie Vanettes
22 – Kelly & David Eisenbeisz

Happy Birthday to . . .

2 – Noah Ball
5 – Brenda Asta
5 – Rose Gutierrez
10 - Jill Catlin
11 – Katie Kamiyama
17 – Dresä Ehe
18 - Violet Cervantes
19 - Brandy Marion
21 – Alexander Assumma
22 – Richard Gutierrez
23 - John Vanettes
24 – Joe Balli
24 – Heather Evans
26 – Diane Sinclair
27 – Lois Ellinger
28 – Orine Paine
30 – Mitch Assumma
30 – Lucca Gallegos Rosa

Women of the Church News (WELCA) BY MELISSA ANDERSON

Special thoughts shared by a pastor friend. "YOU ARE ... STRONG enough to change, BEAUTIFUL, AMAZING, TALENTED, KIND enough to heal, POWERFUL enough to create , KIND enough to matter, MAGICAL enough to believe in yourself, PRECIOUS enough to be you, FABULOUS enough to embrace your journey, EXQUISITE enough to inspire others, and INDEPENDENT enough to chase your dreams.

MARY BIBLE STUDY GROUP – We meet on the second Thursday of the month from **10:00 - 11:30 A.M. or so), and again this month we will meet at Shirley Nelson's house, 28317 Carriage Hill Drive in Highland (August 13th)**. Turn onto Surrey Lane from Highland Avenue, take the first right and the street will wind around to Shirley's house. The Summer 2026 Bible Study concludes with "I Am: Worthy," Session Three: I am because you are by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. In this session we will share who is someone upon whom we are dependent and who is someone who depends on me. "We will spend time prayerfully and intentionally, thanking God. When we name the people, creatures, places and communities for whom we give thanks, it will remind us that we are all interdependent." We will explore present day examples and biblical examples from John, 1 Corinthians, Luke, Matthew, Acts , and Romans. The study is from Gather Magazine and copies are duplicated for you, so you do not have to have the magazine to participate. Come join us for Bible Study, fellowship, a cup of coffee and a snack.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD BIBLE STUDY GROUP – **This group meets the 4th Thursday from 10:00 – 11:30 in the library (August 27th).** This study did not meet last month, so when we complete the Parable of The Rich Fool from Luke 12:13-21 , we will move on to study The Rich Man & Lazarus from Luke 16: 19-31. In this parable we will focus on what Jesus again told the Pharisees that spiritual wealth is more important than personal wealth. The lessons are from the book Parables: The Greatest Story Ever Told by John White. Copies of the lesson are duplicated so you do not have to have the book to come and join us for Bible Study, fellowship, and a cup of coffee. We are also looking into a new study when lessons from this book are completed.

REBECCA QUILTING GROUP – **This group meets the 1st & 3rd Thursday from 10 – 3 in the Parish Hall (August 6 & 20th).** if you wish, bring something to share for lunch, though it is not required. This is an important fellowship where we make different kinds of quilts for those in need as social outreach that benefits a local veteran's hospital in Loma Linda and raises money for Lutheran Social Services of Southern California. Even if you have never quilted before, we invite you to join us and learn something new to help others as there are many different tasks to be done to complete each quilt. Come and stay for as long as your schedule allows.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP – We meet weekly from 10:00 A.M. to 11:00

A.M. in the library and via Zoom. We are continuing our study during Pentecost on the Revised Common Lectionary A, which involves reading the scripture and discussing important questions. Pastor sends out information in an e-mail at the beginning of each study week. If you are not already on the list, let him know so you can be included. Also, copies of the lesson are available on the day of the study. I invite you to join us for the study led by Pastor Steve. If you want to join via Zoom the Meeting ID is 854-2429-7034 and the Passcode is 487951 for the study.

EVENTS / SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES / INFORMATION

***San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus (formerly known as Central City Lutheran Mission or CCLM) –** They are allowing churches to become involved, which includes cooking and serving dinner. We provide bottled water. Watch for more details.

***Triennial Gathering** was July 16 – 19, 2026, in Des Moines, Iowa. The theme was "I Am Worthy" from Psalm 139:14 which says, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." Viola, Kurt, and I attended. There was an opening worship service, a Bible Study led by the Rev. Sara Olson Smith, amazing learning opportunities and workshops, special speakers: The Rev. Martha Anbarangu, Elis Seyfried, International guests, Campus Ambassadors for Girls Space, a blood drive, 5K Run, Walk & Roll, Quilt Challenge, silent auction, and a closing worship service, concluding with a sending and celebration.

***Fall Synodical Convention** this year will be November 13th – 14th at Good Shepherd Lutheran, 7082 Crescent Avenue, Buena Park. It will include Friday and Saturday workshops, Friday dinner & light entertainment, business, a silent auction, and Saturday breakfast and lunch, and a closing worship service. We will also have Pastor Jennifer Zahnow with us. Continue to watch for more details.

***Check Out These On-line Sites:** Pacifica Synod Notes and Newsletter and Pacifica Synod Women of the ELCA Pacifica Partners are both available on Facebook. You may also email questions to the Pacifica WELCA President's e-mail at welca@verizon.net

Questions or Need More Information – Contact Melissa Anderson at 909-213-1059 or e-mail at custernut@aol.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

8/1 Sa	12:00 p.m.	Grace Holtz Memorial, SML
8/2 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S
8/3 M	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Dance, PH
8/4 Tu		Mary's Table
	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Cheer, PH
8/5 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation, L
8/6 Th	10:00 a.m.	Rebecca Quilt Group, PH
8/9 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	12:00 p.m.	Church Council, IMCR
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S/PH
8/10 M	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Dance, PH
8/11 Tu	5:00 p.m.	Worship & Music Committee, Z
	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Cheer, PH
8/12 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation, L
8/13 Th	10:00 a.m.	Mary Bible Study Group, L
8/16 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S/PH
8/17 M	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Dance, PH
8/18 Tu	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Cheer, PH

8/19 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation, L
8/20 Th	10:00 a.m.	Rebecca Quilt Group, PH
8/22 Sa	7:00 a.m.	Cursillo, Campus Wide
8/23 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S/PH
8/24 M	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Dance, PH
8/25 Tu		Mary's Table
	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Cheer, PH
8/26 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
8/27 Th	10:00 a.m.	Light of the World, L
8/30 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S
8/31 M	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Dance, PH

IMCR: Irma Miller Conference Room

L: Library

PH: Parish Hall

S: Sanctuary

SML: San Marcos Lutheran 3419 Grand Ave, San Marcos

YT: YouTube

Z: Zoom

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