

# Our Savior Lutheran Church

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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## *Our Savior Lutheran Church*

*1105 W. Fern Ave.  
McAllen, TX 78501*

***Worship with us every Sunday.***

Worship on Sundays at 9:30am. We also invite everyone to worship with us online. You can watch Sunday's service on our Facebook page (Our Savior McAllen—ELCA), and on our YouTube page. (You can find us by searching for 'Our Savior Lutheran Church McAllen'). Please stay tuned for further updates.

### **Our Savior Lutheran Staff:**

Ministers	All People of OSLC
Pastor	Steve Herzberg
Office Manager	Vicki Drews
Office Admin	Vicki Drews
Music Director	Kenneth Rivens
Pianist	John McLeod
Youth Director	Dawn Everson
Bell Director	Connie Laumann

### **Council Members:**

President	Faith Meurrens
Vice President	Angelo Ranaudo
Treasurer	Paula Cheever
Secretary	Noelia Trevino
Fellowship	Blanca Olvera
Evangelism	Angelo Ranaudo
Learning & Youth	Lois Breckon
Property	David Bourbois
Stewardship	Zane Juncker
Worship & Music	Sally Askins
Social Concerns	Carmen Bourbois

## Pastor's Newsletter Article August

Greetings to all of you this unusually warm summer. May you stay healthy during this time – physically and spiritually. With all the happenings in the world, it is so important to be connected to Christ and His Body in this/your place. Our gospel readings these last weeks have been from St. Matthew, chapter 13. They have dealt with the importance of the Kingdom of Heaven and our participation in that budding realm of God's reign. May you stay close to God and all God has for your life. . . . July has been a slower month as expected. I have been surprised by the good worship attendance throughout this summer. It has been higher than past years. The biggest news this month has been the payoff of our mortgage on the LFC and the raising of funds for two defibrillators. We will have a mortgage burning sometime in the fall as we get more of you back in attendance. Thank all of you for your donations and work for God's Kingdom in this place. . . . On the personal front, I am about seven weeks out from my hip replacement. One is never completely happy with one's progress, but with God's grace, I go forward. . . . August will be a time of gearing up for the fall schedule with Sunday, the 27<sup>th</sup>, being our Rally Day and last joint service before going to two services and Sunday School on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We can use more help with teachers of our children. So please consider teaching the year, a semester, or at least one month. . . Also, remember to include

the transition team in your prayers as their work will intensify in the months ahead. . . . God's Reign is at hand! Pastor Steve

## CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 16th  
Fredericksburg Marktplatz



### Come to picturesque Fredericksburg to...

- Admire and bid on quilts at our Quilt Auction, or contribute one!
- Enjoy music as you visit the food booth and trucks!
- Visit the Craft Booths and choose your favorite items!
- Spin the wheel at the Gift Card Pull for your chance to win!
- Eat something tasty from one of our Food Trucks!
- Enjoy Kids Carnival Games for the whole family!
- Participate in the NEW Fall Festival Fun Run!

**Know that you are supporting a great cause!** Cross Trails holds a few fundraising events each year. The Fall Festival funds help keep camp affordable by being used toward capital improvements, such as the new dam at Chrysalis and the new entrance road at Ebert Ranch.

**This year we are continuing to raise funds for the Ebert Ranch Pond!**

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### SCRIP INFORMATION

Scrip orders will be placed on 8/20 for delivery on 8/27. You can stop by the office during the week to place your orders or contact Vicki Drews if you have any questions.

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY JUNE 2023

Income for June was \$18,531.94 and was less than planned for by -\$2,408.36. Expenses for June were \$24,255.99 and were more than the planned expenses by -\$1,848.81. June income of \$18,531.94 less June expenses of \$24,255.99 means we took in less money than we spent by -\$5,724.05. YTD Income for June is \$142,232.79. YTD Expenses for June is \$155,979.20. YTD Income of \$142,232.79 less YTD Expenses of \$155,979.20 means we took in less money than we spent by -\$13,746.41. Thank you all for mailing in or dropping off your donations.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



## **THISTLE FARMS – *Love Heals***

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to attend the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, NC and one of the keynote speakers was The *Rev. Becca Stevens*. The dynamic *Rev. Becca Stevens* is an author, speaker, Episcopal priest, social entrepreneur, founder and president of *Thistle Farms* in Nashville, Tennessee. She spoke for over two hours, and everyone was on the edge of their seats listening to every word she had to say. After experiencing the death of her father and subsequent child abuse when she was 5, Becca longed to open a sanctuary for survivors offering a loving community. *Love Heals!* She is notable for founding Magdalene in 1997, now called *Thistle Farms*, to heal, empower, and employ female survivors of human trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. Becca's hope for a global movement for women's freedom began with *Thistle Farms'* first residential home. In 1997, five women who had experienced trafficking, violence, and addiction were welcomed in this place to call 'home'. *Thistle Farms* houses up to 36 residents at a time in a therapeutic setting that offers healing and transformation through housing, healthcare, counseling, employment, and community building. Housing and clinical services are free of charge and provided without Federal assistance. *Love Heals!*

***Love Heals*** - We believe that love is more powerful than all the forces that drive women to the street, and a strong community will help them not only heal but thrive. Our homes operate on a holistic model. Residents do not have live-in staff, instead are guided by principles grounded in accountability, trust, and growth. We continue to recognize the immense need for our program as our waitlist - capped at 100 women - is consistently full. The work of love is to keep lighting the way for millions of women still searching for a way out. For 25 years, *Thistle Farms* has lit a pathway of healing and hope for women survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. *Love Heals!* Becca founded Magdalene in 1997, a two-year residential program for former prostitutes overcoming addiction and wanting to restart their lives. In 2001, she started *Thistle Farms*, which employs the same group of women to make home and body products sold in stores like Whole Foods and on *thistlefarms.org*. In 2013, *Thistle Farms* opened a café, employing survivors of prostitution, trafficking, and addiction. She has written several books. Her 2013 memoir, *Snake Oil: The Art of Healing and Truth-Telling*, "details her own sexual abuse and healing and how her ministry has led to the founding of *Thistle Farms*". There is a documentary entitled "*Practically Devine*" well worth watching. Her products have the thistle fragrance as that is what is grown on the farm. The women searching for their way, help to harvest and make the products i.e., candles, essential oils and more. *Love Heals!*

*Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2*  
*Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7 RSV*

Portions taken from internet.....Submitted by *Wanda Nebiolo*

The problem (and power) of money

*[Jesus told the rich man] “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ... [Jesus taught the disciples,] “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” –Mark 10:21b-22, 25*

At a Bible study, a man of means asked, “Why does Jesus hate money so much?” His family saw their money as a good thing, and he earnestly wanted to understand why Jesus seems to speak negatively of wealth again and again.

In fact, Jesus talks about money more than nearly anything else. Interestingly, for all his talk about money, he never asks for it. And he never condemns it. Instead, Jesus warns us about the corrupting influence of money.

Wealth poses spiritual risks. Jesus teaches that money has the power to turn us inward – away from loving God with all our heart and loving our neighbor as ourselves. It confuses our values and direction.

All of us want full lives brimming with security, relationship, joy, peace and love – but money can ensure us none of those things. They are the fruits of loving God with ALL our strength and of loving our neighbor as ourselves. Wealth can get in the way.

That was the issue with the rich man in Mark 10:17-27. Deeply religious, he nonetheless worries about eternal life. The “one thing” he lacks, Jesus tells him, can be satisfied by selling what he has and giving to the poor. Generous giving would break the bond that money has over him and help re-center him on loving God and loving neighbor.

Generosity is the spiritual prescription Jesus gives the rich man, and it’s the one for us, too.

The primary goal of our church’s financial stewardship should not be to fund the church, but rather to break the chains that money may have on our hearts and souls. But giving generously we can help the church, our neighbor *and* ourselves. We can learn what it is to be free to love God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright ©2018 Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission. Pastor Blezard works as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org) and serves as pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD.

Our Savior family,

Back in November, the church council decided to work on getting the mortgage for our church paid off early. The council is happy to inform y'all that we have reached the point that we are going to pay off our mortgage early and get our two defibrillators. This campaign would not have succeeded if it weren't for the help of so many people in our congregation: the children who created the thermometer to tell us our progress; the work of Mark and Vicki to keep our goal in front of us; our pastor to let us know our progress; and most of all, the people who contributed the money to attain our goal. There were too many people who contributed to this fund to name here, but we thank all of you for your support.

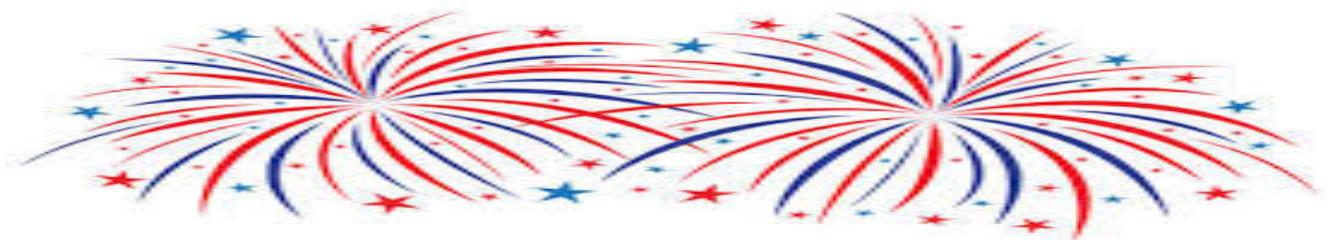
Thank You, Thank You!

We will plan a mortgage burning and celebration sometime in the late fall when we have more people in attendance. That should be a fun day!

There are people who still may want to contribute, and we will still accept donations marked for defibrillators and mortgage, but we will add that money to our capital outlay account. We will be needing new air conditioners for some of the rooms on our campus. Some of the AC units are 27 years old – way past their life expectancy. So, your money will be going to these and other needs of an aging campus and building.

May God bless all of you!

**As of July 20th our mortgage has been paid off in full! We will be researching and ordering the defibrillators soon. Our goal was to raise \$23,000. As of July 23rd we have raised a total of \$17,690.00!**



# July 2023

## Birthdays - Anniversaries

4	5	6	7	1	2	3
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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27	28	29	30	31		

**1**  
John & Teri Klein  
-ANIV

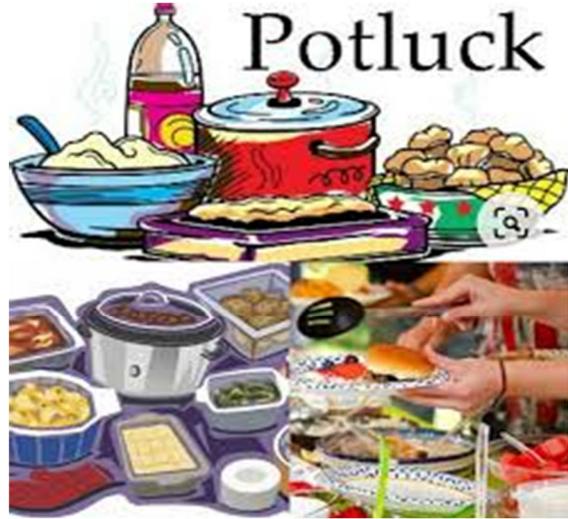
<b>2</b> Fred Bretzloff - BD Leland & Mardelle Crawford - ANIV	<b>3</b> Kurt & Pam Von Rosenberg - ANIV	<b>4</b> John Klein - BD		<b>6</b> Jean Leith - BD Richard & Wendy Fowler - ANIV	<b>7</b> Delia Sandoval - BD Gene & Suzann Nielsen - ANIV Jason Milligan - BD Wendy Fowler - BD	<b>8</b> Verles Emry - BD
<b>9</b> Karen Olson - BD	<b>10</b> Alexander VanHee - BD Delia Oberloh - BD	<b>11</b> Loren & Orta Maahs - ANIV	<b>12</b> Donalee Van Ramshorst - BD	<b>13</b> Bennie & Margaret Mueske - ANIV Janice Zezulka - BD Javier & Jeanne Fuentes - ANIV	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Ben Weitzel - BD Thomas McCann - BD	<b>17</b> Jim Bergeson - BD	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Dayle & Ruth Haaland - ANIV Dennis & Jean Schentzel - ANIV	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Sam & Michelle Milligan - ANIV	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Fred Varner - BD Ron Jensen - BD Steven French - B'day	<b>28</b> Suzann Nielsen - BD	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Shirley Johnson - BD					

## August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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# 3rd SUMMER POTLUCK

Join us **August 6<sup>th</sup>** for our final summer potluck right after the service. Bring something to share. But if you didn't, come anyway.



*Where God is seen,  
Love is felt,  
Lives are changed.*

This newsletter was taken to the Post Office On August 1, 2023

DATED MATERIAL



Phone: 956-631-6121  
email: oslca@aol.com  
www.oursaviormcallen.org

AUGUST 2023

Our Savior Lutheran Church  
1105 W. Fern Ave.  
McAllen, TX 78501

U.S. POSTAGE  
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ORGANIZATION  
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