

August

newsletter

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

Meet OLLC Interim Pastor---Pastor Mauricio Vieira

Pastor Mauricio Vieira will be serving as Interim Pastor for OLLC beginning August 1. Pastor Mauricio was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and became an American citizen after living sixteen years in the U.S. He is a former life scientist with a Ph.D. in Cell Biology and Parasitology. He considers himself "born" to the gospel at St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church in Urbana, IL, while working at the University of Illinois as a post-graduate research assistant.

He obtained his Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and has been serving as a pastor in our synod for the last 11 years. He is the former chair of the Synod's Global Mission Committee and the current convener of the Synod's Bridges to Belonging Working Group. Furthermore, Pastor Mauricio also serves as Dean of the Crossways's Confirmation Camp, which takes place yearly at Augustana College and hosts congregations from our Synod and nearby ELCA faith communities.

Pastor Mauricio now lives in Belleville, or Shiloh, depending on who you ask. Besides teaching and practicing the Good News of God's Word, Pastor Mauricio is addicted to coffee, enjoys cooking, Indian, Thai, and Mediterranean restaurants, a good barbecue, movies, Brazilian soccer, the University of Illinois Fighting Illini, the Chicago Bears, and is a very casual Cubs fan.

Plan to stay for fellowship following worship on Saturdays &/or Sundays and meet Pastor Vieira.

OLLC ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Applications Now Being Accepted!

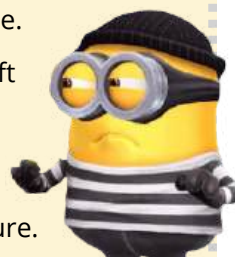
We are currently accepting applications for the Admin. Assist. position. A complete description of the position can be found on the credenza in the WC narthex. Feel free to distribute the description to family members and friends that may be interested in working for the church. Interested applicants should send cover letter and resume to:
love2haveu@ourlords.org

Questions, contact Karen Cummings-Larson.

THE DOOR BANDIT STRIKES AGAIN!

Please ensure the front door of the WC is properly locked and securely closed when leaving the building. Also, double-check that the refrigerator and freezer doors in the WC kitchen are fully closed after each use.

Both the front door and refrigerator were left open over the weekend of July 20-21. Fortunately, no damage occurred—but this could easily have led to serious issues. It's essential that everyone takes responsibility in helping to keep the building safe and secure.



OUR LORD'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ Coming Together ✠ Growing in Faith ✠
✠ Serving the Lord ✠

THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS

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www.ourlords.org

August 2 & 3

8th Sunday after Pentecost
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Luke 12:13-21

August 9 & 10

9th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 15:1-6
Luke 12:32-40

August 16 & 17

10th Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 23:23-29
Luke 12:49-56

August 23 & 24

11th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 58:9b-14
Luke 13:10-17

August 30 & 31

12th Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 25:6-7a
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Saturdays at 5 pm
Sundays at 9 am

Saturday and Sunday services
will be livestreamed.



Listen to services using your phone or tablet!
Scan the QR code or download AudioFetch on
Google Play or iTunes.



Amare, a nonprofit Recovery Community Organization (RCO), is dedicated to helping individuals and families affected by substance use disorders. Since inception, they have been committed to empowering those in recovery and fostering overall wellness and stability in our communities. At Amare, their mission is clear: to educate, empower, and provide compassionate recovery support services for those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction and their families. Through various programs and initiatives, they work to bridge the gap between recovery and sustainable wellness, striving to create an inclusive and supportive community.

Key Programs and Services

- **Recovery Coaching:** Certified Recovery Coaches offer one-on-one guidance to individuals navigating their recovery journey. Amare coaches are highly trained, many holding the Illinois Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) certification.
- **Family Support Programs:** The Family Connections and Support Program includes dedicated Family Recovery Coaches who provide education, guidance, and emotional support to families affected by substance use and co-occurring mental health challenges.
- **Transportation Assistance:** Understanding the critical role transportation plays in recovery, they provide access to a transport van, bus passes, and transportation in recovery coaches personal vehicles for essential travel to treatment facilities, court dates, medical appointments, food pantries, and job interviews. Amare will take participants nearly anywhere that will help to support them in their recovery journey.
- **Sober Living Support:** Amare assist individuals transitioning into sober living homes, such as Oxford Houses, by covering move-in fees and offering ongoing support to maintain stability.
- **Community Resources and Events:** Amare hosts recovery support groups, employment coaching sessions, and community events to foster connection and celebrate all pathways of recovery.

Impact and Vision

Amare's programs directly address barriers to recovery, such as lack of transportation, housing insecurity, and limited access to supportive networks. With nearly a decade of experience serving Madison and St. Clair Counties, they have cultivated strong partnerships and a reputation for delivering impactful services that empower individuals and families. While they had

been able to serve Christian and Jersey counties, they lost the funding that was needed to support services in those areas. Despite the funding shortfall they will still help to connect individuals in those areas to much needed recovery support services.

Amare is always looking to better serve our communities and would be extremely appreciative of any monetary donations we could make to their mission. Contributions can be made to OLLC for Amare via ACH bank transfer, by check (please note "Amare" in the memo line), or by using your smart phone and following the QR code which takes you to the OLLC giving page, select "Monthly Giving Emphasis" to make a donation that will be then forwarded to "Amare."




Efforts to gain additional support for Amare was undertaken by three of our sister congregations: Resurrection Church, Godfrey; St. Mark's Lutheran, Belleville; Faith, O'Fallon; and Our Lord's Lutheran. Collectively, we are making a greater impact on the lives of the individuals supported by Amare.

It is time to move on to the next step in the call process (see outline below)---a detailed explanation of the Call Process can be found on the Central/Southern Illinois Synod website <https://www.csis-elca.org/congregations/call-process/>. We are ready to begin the **Discover and Invite** step of the process. *Discover and Invite* is a tool for clarifying what kind of pastor our congregation needs. The ELCA uses a form called the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) in the call process. The MSP shares the story of Our Lord's.

Why Is the Ministry Site Profile Important?

This is an exciting time in the life of our congregation. The Holy Spirit is busy, working with us and with pastoral candidates on our behalf. Everyone is praying for a great match. This may not be the best metaphor, but the process is a bit like using a dating app. Our MSP is our dating profile. Pastors who want to be considered for new calls fill out a Rostered Ministers Profile (RMP). They will see our MSP, and we will see their RMP before we agree to meet each other. As in dating, the profile needs to be honest and compelling so a pastoral candidate can get a sense of Our Lord's and be excited to meet us! This isn't a race. It's more important to involve everyone and gather information than it is to get the process done quickly.

The following is a general outline of the call process for a pastor in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod.

- ✓ The pastor resigns from his/her current call from the congregation.
 - ✓ Congregational president contacts the synod office to determine interim ministry needs and to discuss the appointment of an interim pastor.
 - ✓ The congregational secretary certifies to the bishop the accuracy and completeness of the congregational membership records.
 - ✓ The bishop appoints an interim pastor with the consent of the Congregation Council.
 - ✓ After the resigning pastor's ministry with the congregation has ended, Pastor Amy Zietlow meets with the Congregation Council to introduce the call process, including participating in discussing pastoral priorities, congregational emphasis, and explaining specifically the Discover and Invite Curriculum and the Ministry Site Profile (MSP).
-  The Congregation Council completes the Discover and Invite Curriculum and the Ministry Site Profile (MSP).
- The Congregation Council emails electronic copies of additional congregational information to the synod office.
 - A Call Committee is elected or appointed according to the congregation's constitution.
 - Pastor Amy meets with the Call Committee to discuss committee responsibilities and to coach on effective interviewing.
 - The bishop nominates potential pastor(s) to be considered by the Call Committee.
 - The Call Committee interviews the nominee(s).
 - The recommended nominee's RMP and other information are shared with Congregation Council.
 - The Congregation Council arranges for the nominee to meet congregation members in an informal setting that may include devotional worship time led by the nominee.
 - The Congregation Council sets a date for a congregational meeting and calls the meeting according to the congregation's constitution.
 - The bishop or the bishop's representative attends the congregational vote meeting, if the congregation or the bishop requests this.
 - The congregation votes. A two-thirds majority of those present and voting is required to call a pastor.
 - The Congregation Council notifies the bishop and the nominee of the results of the congregational meeting the day of the congregational meeting.
 - Congregational leaders sign the "Letter of Call" and complete and sign the "Definition of Compensation, Benefits, and Responsibilities of the Pastor" form.
 - Within 30 days of the vote, the nominee accepts or declines the call.
 - The Call Committee disbands following the acceptance of a call.

The council is working to identify a team to lead the Discovery & Invite process. Once the team is organized, the D & I process will begin; we anticipate beginning in September.

Due to the closing of Well Care Center, OLLC has made a change to trash & recycling collection. We contracted with Republic Services for weekly collection pickup on Fridays; recycling will be collected every other week beginning Aug. 1. The garbage containers are located near the side entrance to the Life Center (south side of building). We will no longer be gathering recyclables in the WC utility room nor at the back door of the LC. Recycling containers are located near each trash can in both buildings. Leave only APPROVED recycling in the appropriate containers (review the list below). If you have a large amount of recycling (boxes, cans, etc) or trash please take the items to the garbage containers by the LC.

What does this mean for you? If you host fellowship, assist with cleanup following an event, or are involved with a project that creates substantial amount of trash or recycling, take the bags of garbage/recyclable material to the appropriate container outside the LC. **Do not leave the trash/recycling for the cleaning service to remove.**

*The curbside trash and recycling containers will be picked up on Fridays. The containers need to be rolled from the side door of the LC to near roadway (within the drive to the left of the mailbox) on Thursday afternoons/evenings and rolled back to the side of the building on Friday evening/Saturday morning. We are looking for individuals to assist with this task. **Please contact the office if you are willing to assist with 'taking out the cans' on Thursdays & returning the containers to the original location after pickup.***



Items ACCEPTED for recycling:

- **Paper:** Newspapers, magazines, office paper, cardboard (flattened). Recycle envelopes, office paper, junk mail, greeting cards and file folders. Shredded paper should be put in a paper bag.
- **Plastic:** Bottles and jugs (empty, clean, and dry). Recycle plastics #1, #2 and #5.
- **Metal:** Food and beverage cans (empty, clean, and dry).
- **Glass:** Bottles and jars (clear, green, or brown).

General Recycling Guidelines:

- **Empty, clean, and dry:** All items should be free of food and liquids.
- **No bagging:** Do not bag recyclables.
- **Flatten cardboard:** This helps maximize space in the recycling container.



Items NOT accepted for recycling:

- Batteries
- Bio-hazardous waste
- Cables
- Ceramics and dishware
- Clothes
- Connected or mixed materials
- Construction debris
- Diapers
- Dishes or mirrors
- Egg cartons
- Electronics
- Food or liquid waste
- Glass
- Greasy food containers
- Hardback books
- Hazardous waste
- Holiday decorations
- Hoses
- Ice cream cartons (wax-coated)
- **Items with food residue**
- Light bulbs
- Packing peanuts and bubble wrap
- Plastic bags
- Plastic wrap and plastic food wrappers
- Plastic straws
- Plastic without numbers
- Polystyrene foam
- Scrap metal
- Shoes
- Soiled or wet materials
- Styrofoam
- Tissue
- To-go lids
- Tools
- Toys
- Yard waste



**Are you enrolled in college classes this year?
Do you have a son or daughter enrolled in college classes?
If so, please notify the church office!**

College Connection Teams for OLLC members enrolled in a college or university study program are being formed in August. Please contact the office and provide the student's name and contact information (email, phone for text, and mailing address).

What is a College Connection Team: A dedicated team of church members that stay in touch with college students through emails, texts, or notes, offering encouragement and support. If you are interested in hosting a college student(s), please notify the office. OLLC ministry teams, families, groups of friends, or individuals may participate as a College Connection Team.

How do you begin: Identify a group of people to be a part of your team. Notify the office of your team members. Your team will be assigned 1 or more OLLC college students to host. Number of students assigned will depend on the number of teams that volunteer.

What does the Connection team do throughout the year: Provide encouragement and support such as send encouraging notes each month, sign and send holiday cards and birthday greetings, mail small care packages. Be creative, it is not necessary to spend large amounts of money. Simply offering words of encouragement, empathy, and prayer doesn't require any financial cost.

Your interactions will provide support and encouragement for students as they navigate their education.

SERVING OUR LORD'S

MIND THE GAP

Support the homeless thru MIND THE GAP. Special needs currently include:

Hand towels with washcloths; deodorant; wet wipes; insect repellent; men's underwear and socks; men's tee shirts; women's underwear, bras, and socks; women's tee shirts or tops; sunglasses-women and men; and baseball caps

Place donated items in the "Mind The Gap" bin located in the bookcase below the nametags. Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Questions? Carol Gocken 618-531-7824

FIRST RESPONDER'S APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

*Calling all First Responders within our congregation and surrounding communities!
You are invited to attend the 3rd Annual First Responder's Appreciation Breakfast.*

Saturday, September 13, 2025

8:00 am - 11:00 am

**Our Lord's Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall
150 Wilma Drive - Maryville, IL**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast prepared by our members.

This is our way to say THANK YOU for all you do to help keep our community safe.

Menu: scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, pancakes, sausage patties, donuts, assorted pastries, juice, and coffee.

Volunteers are needed to assist with food prep, set up, serving, delivery service, and cleanup. Contact Cindy Pugh at 618-334-1046 or sign-up on the list in the narthex. If you are unavailable to assist but would like to make a cash contribution, make check payable to OLLC and enter "First Responders' Breakfast" on the check memo line.



OLLC EDUCATION PLANNING BEGINS Volunteers Needed!

**OLLC Education Programming
Planning underway!**

Teachers for all age groups, substitute teachers, teacher assistants, and helpers are needed. If you would like to help with the education programming at OLLC, please contact Kathy Nehrt or the church office.



**The next OLLC serving date is
September 9th!**

Mark your calendars and volunteer to assist with SOS.

Assistance with preparation and serving the meal will be needed. Donations to support OLLC S.O.S. can be given via check, cash, or note "S.O.S." in the memo line. If you have any questions contact Gail Jorgenson or Julie Preston.

Worker Bees - Saturday, August 2

Breakfast 7:00 am, Red Apple Restaurant; Church 8:00 am
If you plan on attending, please confirm by email or text to Chuck Pugh.

Date	Riding Mowers	Trimmers
July 31-Aug 2	Chuck Pugh	Brian Hartke
August 7-9	Chuck Jorgenson	Tom Messina
August 14-16	Jim Spencer	Tom Steinman
August 21-23	Bill Homes	Steve Hoelscher
August 28-30	Chuck Pugh	Brian Hartke

A dedicated group of men from Our Lord's are responsible for all the landscaping and upkeep of the church grounds. Next time you see one of these men, please take time to thank them for their contribution to OLLC.



MUSIC AT OUR LORD'S

Chancel Choir & Handbell CHOIR

Chancel Choir & Handbell Choir on summer hiatus.
Choir practice will resume in September.

Contact Addie Mays for additional information at
love2haveu@ourlords.org

Praise BAND

REHEARSALS: Saturdays 3:30 pm
PERFORMANCES: Saturdays 5:00 pm

Contact Olivia Cross for additional information.
oecross@gmail.com



OLLC FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



OLLC BOOMERS Hawaiian Luau/pool party at Jorgensons, August 17, 3:00 pm.
Meat and soft drinks provided. There will be plenty of shade and things to do inside for those less interested in heat and pool time. Call Gail with questions.

OUR LORD'S CRAFTERS

OLLC Crafters is back following a few months off. Bring your latest project to share and let's get back to sewing! Crafters will meet **August 27, noon-3:00 pm.** Contact Kathy Nehrt with questions.

SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB

Next Book Club meeting will be **August 18 at 11:30 am.** We will be discussing "The Museum of Lost Quilts" by Jennifer Chiaverini.

Congregation Game Afternoon

Fellowship Hall

**3:00 PM-
5:00 PM**

**August 10
September 14
October 12
November 9
December 14**

*Bring your favorite
game, bring a
friend, and bring a
snack to share!*



HERDING ALPHAS

"Herding Alphas" will not meet in August.
A September activity is being planned, stay tuned!
Text Mo at 618-210-5151 with questions!

OLLC FAIR TRADE

There is so much to see and hopefully choose from. So many occasions from Anniversaries, Birthdays, Early Holiday Shopping or those JUST BECAUSE Purchases. Our Ministry has had a relatively quiet first six months. Help us start off the second half with a jump start. Take a look at the Catalog & Website as well as come in the Our Lord's Shop where you can pick up the NEW Catalog as well as find a lot of GREAT ideas to pick up on the spot. Remember Cash, Checks, as well as an easy step by step Charge Program. So easy!



So come on in or place your orders with me. Remember, Catalog & Website prices are Retail, Not the Discounted Price you will pay. Email or Text me your Item Numbers & I will get your prices right back to you. Orders usually arrive in 7-10 days. Thank you so much for your support.

Mike - vablu2@aol.com (618)772-9260

Despite the heat on Saturday morning, June 21, a few projects were started on the Life Center. The front posts, trim, and ceiling were painted, new exterior lights were installed beside the front doors, and the foundation walls on the west and south side received one coat of paint. There are still a few additional projects to do and the painting on the foundation walls may need another coat of paint but we have made progress. Thank you to everyone that assisted with the project.

Another work day will be scheduled in the fall to complete the work.



CENTRAL-SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD NEWS

Synod Receives \$491,000 Grant for Transformation

Our Central/Southern Illinois Synod received the very exciting news on June 1 that we have been selected as the recipient of a \$491,000 grant from Wartburg Theological Seminary as part of their inaugural CaSTLE Project grants to support small town and rural congregations.

Thanks to a most generous grant of \$7.4 million from the Lilly Endowment Inc. as part of its Thriving Congregations Initiative, Warburg's CaSTLE Project is a five-year initiative designed to renew and strengthen life in small town and rural communities through a renewed focus on baptismal identity and ministry.

Our Central/Southern Illinois Synod is one of 18 synods across the ELCA receiving CaSTLE Project grants and one of only four synods receiving the largest Grants for Transformation of up to \$500,000 each. Other Grants for Transformation recipients include the Nebraska Synod, the Northeastern Ohio Synod, and the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. Together with these other synods, we will part of a learning community that includes ongoing coaching, collaborative research, and participation in an annual conference at Wartburg in Dubuque, Iowa, beginning this coming August.

These Grants for Transformation are to be used specifically to call an additional full-time synod staff member for five years. The primary responsibility of this new Assistant to the Bishop for Transformational Communities will be to build capacity for long-term vitality in communities of disciples located in small towns and rural communities across our synod. The Synod Council has already begun the search and hopes to extend a call sometime this fall.

Special thanks to Pastor Amy Zietlow, Assistant to the Bishop for Transformational Leadership, for her work in stewarding the grant writing process and to the six Conference Deans, the Synod Executive Committee, and the Synod Council for their prayerful input, participation, and review.

As we continue to live into the new mission statement of our synod — **Nurturing communities of disciples, equipped for Christ's mission** — we give thanks for this Spirit-led opportunity to move us forward in mission and ministry together.

Summer Spiritual Practices – Listening to God

From Deacon Jason, Central-Southern Illinois Synod

In youth ministry I've often talked about how we approach prayer as a one-way street. We usually do all the talking and God does all the listening. I then ask youth if they have a friend who is always talking and never listening. How does that feel? It isn't really a conversation, is it? I wonder with them if God might also be waiting to talk and all we need to do is just simply sit down and listen.

During the month of August, I hope to encourage deep listening to God through the practice of Centering Prayer. I can speak personally to how it has transformed my life and the way I approach each day. Luke Edwards from The Listening Church offers this resource as one example of how to practice Centering Prayer.

You can also follow this method below:

- Choose a sacred word as the symbol that you can return to when your thoughts wander.
- Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly and silently into your sacred word.
- When your thoughts, feelings, or images pop up, return ever-so-gently to your sacred word.
- At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.
- Begin a timer for 15-30 minutes and close your eyes.
- End your time with a peaceful chime, bell, or a quiet "Amen."

Try not to get frustrated as your thoughts wander. Just remember God's loving embrace that keeps welcoming you back each time you stray. There is also an app called Centering Prayer by Contemplative Outreach that is helpful with setting up prayers, chimes, and timers for this practice. It is one of my favorite apps.

Centering Prayer is a silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

May your conversation with God be a joyous listening and not a one-way street.



CHRIST-CENTERED



GRACE-ROOTED



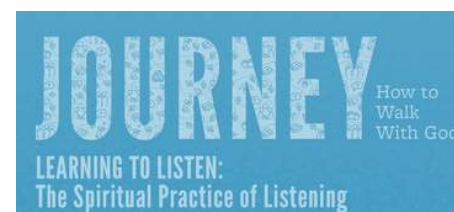
SPIRIT-LED



RELATIONALLY-ENRICHED



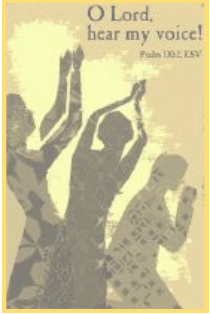
ACTIVATED TO SERVE



PRAYER CONCERNS

Everyone listed here is important to a person of the congregation. Please include them in your praying throughout the week so that they know and feel God's power and presence. We will usually keep names on this list for three to four weeks. Please let us know if an individual should be removed before then or if there is a change in their condition that requires ongoing prayer. Member names may be listed for much longer periods of time

CONGREGATION MEMBERS



Dan Homes	Joyce Tatjenhorst
Rod Orr	Brian Kassing
Don Klingsick	Mike Williams
Don Simonson Sr.	Emily Callahan
Nicole Williams	Dave Chaffee
Keith Jensen	JoAnn Hartke
Linda Spencer	Robin Wellener
Jeanette Goetter	Lisa White
Ruth Ann Blotvogel	

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Ken Bunetic	Tate Buckhaus
Tommy Banks	Joe
Shelley Bruntjen	Nicci Essington
Michael Echevarria	Kitty Jo Edgar
Phil Childers	Denise Burton
Bob Dunn	Marilyn & Paul
Bob Meyer	Bill Larson
Marilyn Wolfe	Janet Borowitz
Nancy Easton	Dan & Martha
Paul P.	Mary Barker & Jim
Elaine Kendall	Jean Walker
Sara & Samuel Jensen	Brie Jenkins
Judy Lott	Pearl
Doris Gocken	Ted F.
Todd Webb	Michelle Simms
Mary Thiesen	Linda
Jack Sykut	Jan Orr
Cindy Whitcomb	Chris Rurhen

PRAY FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIED & FAMILIES THAT ARE GRIEVING

Family & Friends of Dave Robicheau (father of Deb Perry)
Family & Friends of Rachel Lee (OLLC Member)

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Lance Cpl. Clayton Campbell	Staff Sgt. Skipper Smith	Erica Webb, US Private E-3	Amador Ochoa
Major James Carmichael	Sgt. Matthew Spencer (Ret.)	SrA Paul Kampwerth	Capt. Blake Crosby
Airborne Ranger Keegan Crosby	MSgt. Stephan Spencer	John Meyer	Josh Pace
Staff Sgt. Tyson Crosby	Zach Huff	Zachary Neubauer	Scott Prengel
SPC Bill Homes	Jake Randall		

CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

August Birthdays

Anthony DiBartolo	Madison Saul	Brad Homes
Kevin Giese	Stacey Cvijanovic	Jim Trucano
Della Crosby	Randy Kampwerth	Karen Cummings-Larson
Natalie Messina	Nona Echevarria	Michelle Mihalich
Chery Sides	Lori Messina	Bill Diggs
Cindy Klein-Webb	Adam Abrego Kirk	Joseph Cigliana
Robin Wellener	Kevin Schrader	Jeff Beauchamp
Mark Holshouser	Joanna Mae Beauchamp	Maxine Asbury
Anna Foppe	Scott Comrie	Morgan Sallee

August Anniversaries

Sean & Della Crosby
Deb & Terry Ackerman
Dave & Carol Gocken
Bob Schrader & Karen Tilashalski
Chuck & Gail Jorgenson
Dean & Shellie Lackey
Aaron & Heather Barnett
Scott & Rhonda Comrie
Paul & Ann Schwartzkopf
Ron & Ruth Ann Blotevogel
Dom & Nona Echevarria
Brian & JoAnn Hartke

Bob Rinkel & Alice Azure celebrated their 3rd Anniversary on July 30th.
Their names had been inadvertently omitted from the July list.
Happy Anniversary to Bob & Alice!

REMINDERS

PRAYER LIST

Please let the office know if you would like to add a new person, remove a current person, or change the status of anyone on our prayer list. OLLC practice includes removing individuals from the prayer lists **after 3-4 weeks** unless an update is received.

PRAYER VENTURES

Two pages of monthly prayer support for ELCA ministries are available at:
www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures

WHEN YOU HAVE CHANGES

Please let the church office know of changes to e-mail address, mail/resident addresses, telephone numbers, job, college, graduations etc.

OTHER INFORMATION

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America -- <http://www.elca.org/>
Central Southern Illinois Synod -- <http://www.csis-elca.org/>

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

- September 1-30 - OLLC Crafters Quilt Raffle
- September 1 - Labor Day - Church Office Closed
- September 7 - OLLC Education Programs begin
- September 7 - Rally Day
- September 13 - First Responders Breakfast

- October 18 - Walk to End Alzheimer's - SIUE
- October 26 - Reformation Sunday

- November 1 - All Saints Day
- November 11 - Veterans Day
- November 22/23 - OLLC Fall Bake Sale
- November 23 - Christ the King Day
- November 27 - Thanksgiving
- November 30 - Advent

September Giving Emphasis:
African Vision of Hope

October Giving Emphasis:
S. O. S. (Collinsville) - Fill M & M Tubes

November Giving Emphasis:
Water Well Project - Marion Medical Mission

OLLC MINISTRY TEAM

OLLC STAFF

Pastor Mauricio Vieira
Interim Pastor

Volunteer Staff
Administrative Assistant

Addie Mays
Director of Worship Music for
Sundays & Special Services

Olivia Cross
Leader of Non-Traditional
Worship Music

Dr. Rhonda Comrie
Organist

Benjamin Maynard
Worship Tech
Livestreaming Specialist
ProPresenter Slide Designer

CHURCH COUNCIL

Dr. Karen Cummings-Larson
President

Dr. Emily Truckenbrod
Vice President

Dr. Terry Ackerman
Secretary

Dr. Laura Schoenecker
Treasurer

Steve Perry
Member At-Large

Pastor Mauricio Vieira
Interim Pastor

MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

Kathy Nehrt: Education
Cindy Pugh: Fellowship
Ed Foppe: IT

Carol Orr: Service
Jan Vinson: Worship

Sunday School:
Lisa White

Fair Trade Store:
Mike Williams
vablu2@aol.com

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COUNCIL BRIEFS

Leaning into Faith Amid Uncertainty

When will we hire a new administrative assistant—and how will we manage until then? When will our next pastor arrive? How long will the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) process take? What if we make the wrong decisions along the way?

Lately, I find myself losing more sleep over church matters than anything else. My heart is heavy with more questions than answers. In the quiet of the night, my mind wanders, filled with worries about things I cannot control. I remind myself: God holds all outcomes in His hands. Yet when the needs feel urgent and the path unclear, doubt begins to creep in. I face a choice: either I trust that God manifests miracles, grants deliverance, and redeems with grace—right on time, precisely as He plans—or I surrender to anxiety and restless nights.

At our July council meeting, these emotions were palpable. We wrestled with the unknowns ahead: vacancies on the Giving Emphasis Team, upcoming openings on Council and the Ministry Support Team, and the challenge of assembling a team to lead the Discovery and Invite process and complete our MSP. We also appointed members to the nominating committee. Though the weight of our responsibilities was great, a sense of renewed hope emerged as we celebrated Pastor Mauricio as Interim Pastor. His presence in the church brings new energy and a sense of optimism for the months ahead.

Lord, the path before us feels uncertain. We worry about where it leads. But even when we cannot see the destination, we choose to walk it with You. Guide our steps in faith and keep us close to You. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Karen Cummings-Larson

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Summary taken from report provided by OLLC Treasurer Laura Schoenecker
If you have any questions, please contact Laura at lswanso@siue.edu.

General Benevolence Income

June 2025..... \$18,650

General Benevolence Expenses

Cash - Unrestricted \$54,823

Cash - Designated \$83,037

Total Cash \$137,860

During June:

- The balance of the Monthly Emphasis Fund at the end of May 2024 was \$1055,64 (\$90.64 for School Supplies & \$965 for Medical Debt Relief).
- General Benevolence Income in June was \$18,650.01. \$1,678 will be sent to CS/IS for Synod Benevolence for June. Based on April, May, & June General Benevolence Income of \$62,469.79, Local Benevolence for the Second Quarter, \$625, will be allocated during the July council meeting.

Thank you for sharing your financial resources with this congregation in support of the mission we share.

To give, simply scan this QR code with your smart phone. The QR code takes you directly to the OLLC giving page. On the giving page you have the opportunity to identify if your contribution is for Benevolence (church expenditures) or for one of the designated funds. Of course, cash or checks are always welcomed. No matter which method you choose when giving to OLLC, all donations received will help us sustain our ministries throughout the year.





AUGUST 2025 CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
 <p>August Giving Emphasis:</p> <p>Amare, a nonprofit Recovery Community Organization (RCO), is dedicated to helping individuals and families affected by substance use disorders.</p>					<p>1</p> <p>Pastor Mauricio begins ministry with OLLC!</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 AM Worker Bees breakfast 8:00 AM Worker Bees - OLLC 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality</p> <p> Blessing of Backpacks & School Supplies</p>
<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality</p> <p>Blessing of Backpacks & School Supplies</p> <p></p>	<p>4 Pastor's Day of Rest</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p>6</p> <p>3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Congregational Game Day - FH</p>	<p>11 Pastor's Day of Rest</p> <p>6:00 PM Girl Scouts - LC 6:30-7:30 PM - Ministry Support Team Meeting - ZOOM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p>13</p> <p>3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM Lakeview Garden Club Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 AM Morning Glories - FH</p>	<p>15 September Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 AM La Leche League - WC 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality 3:00 PM OLLC Boomers Hawaiian Luau/Pool Party</p>	<p>18 Pastor's Day of Rest</p> <p>11:30 AM Serendipity Book Club - LC Conference Room 6:30 PM Church Council - LC Conference Room</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p>20</p> <p>3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality</p>	<p>25 Pastor's Day of Rest</p> <p>6:00 PM Girl Scouts - LC</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:30 PM Newsletter Assembly- LC Conference Room</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:00 PM - 3:00 PM OLLC Crafters - FH 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 AM Morning Glories - FH</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality</p>			<p>11</p>			<p>Return to page 1</p>



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*Jeremiah 29:11***

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August 2025 Newsletter

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