

# October

newsletter

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## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### *Silmul Justus et Peccator*

**Grace to you, beloved of God, and peace from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

I will never cease to sing the praises of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther, our Theological Father, ability to peel off the layers of our human condition when it comes to spiritual matters. Luther was himself a person who struggled mightily with his own sense of worthiness before God. He did not think of himself as deserving of God's redemption. He was often terrified of his perceived unrighteousness. Furthermore, his contentious nature and corrosive humor are well documented in the annals of the Protestant Reformation.

Therefore, I am fully aware that I may sound almost nonsensical by sharing how I have come to realize that the theology we inherit from Luther can be both instructive and comforting in the divisive times we live in America, particularly when it comes to issues of faith and society. I am also fully aware that many will not agree with this theology. We Lutherans can be pretty unique in some of the things we hold dear. I will, however, do my best to entertain your own curiosity by sharing some of these theological insights with you in the months to come. I also invite you to further conversations about them. This month, I would like to point out Luther's notion that at any time in our existence on this Earth, every believer, no exception, is simultaneously a sinner and a saint – in Latin, *Silmul Justus et Peccator*. Luther based this conclusion on two events that individual believers in any other time and place, had nothing to do with it but that have continuous influence in our spiritual lives. The first is that we all inherit the sin of Adam none are righteous- and the other is that every Christian believer is made a saint by faith in the death and resurrection of Christ, which is the Doctrine of Justification, but a subject for the next article, perhaps.

As I write this article, I must confess that I do not have the time to delve into Luther's writings on the matter. I have already blown two deadlines for this article. However, I suspect at least some of this theological Insight has to do with 1 John 1:8-9: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Remember that old "confession and forgiveness" rite that you thought came from the mind of your pastor?

That, beloved child of God, becomes the great theological equalizer to all of us. Those two verses have the power to dismantle any pretense that we might have to be holier than anyone else under God. They take the weight of self-righteousness off our shoulders and effectively save us from being judged and from judging others, freeing us to practice love for our neighbor regardless of who they are. The cherry on the cake comes with the assurance that our Lord will forgive all and any of our transgressions upon the confession of such a condition. How liberating could that be?

God's blessings to everyone! *Pastor Mauricio*



**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](http://www.ourlords.org)

## OCTOBER WORSHIP

### October 4 & 5 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Hab 1:1-4; 2:1-4  
Ps 37:1-9  
2Tim 1:1-14  
Luke 17:5-10

### October 11 & 12 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c  
Ps 111  
2 Tim 2:8-15  
Luke 17:11-19

### October 18 & 19 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 32:22-31  
Ps 121  
2 Tim 3:14-4:5  
Luke 18:1-8

### October 25 & 26 Reformation Sunday

Jer 14:7-10, 19-22  
Ps 84:1-7  
2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14



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

**Saturdays at 5 pm  
Sundays at 9 am**

**Saturday and Sunday services  
will be livestreamed.**

## OCTOBER GIVING EMPHASIS: COLLINSVILLE S.O.S.



The S.O.S. Soup Kitchen opened its doors on June 7, 2012. Ten local churches and several community organizations came together to form the Soup Kitchen Coalition and now serves over 200 patrons each week.

S.O.S. Soup Kitchen is a strictly feeding ministry, open to anyone in need of a warm meal and friendship. There are no qualifying factors or strings attached.

At the end of October we will take part in the SOS M&M Fundraiser. You will receive a filled container of M&Ms, you are asked to enjoy the treat, and then refill the container with coins and return to OLLC, the funds will be forwarded to SOS. Additional contributions can be made to S.O.S. via ACH bank transfer to OLLC, by check (please note "SOS" 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.



*Thank you for your generosity and support!*

## THE CALL PROCESS: DISCOVERY & INVITE

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.

We are ready to begin the **Discover and Invite** step of the call process. The Discover and Invite process is a tool for clarifying what kind of pastor your congregation needs and telling the story of our congregation. This is a systematic way of gaining input from the entire congregation.

During the next 2-3 months a team of congregation members will lead the congregation through the Discover and Invite process. Team members include: Deb Ackerman, Nate & Mo Johnson, Erick Larson, Jodie Nehrt, Karen Schneider, and Pastor Mauricio. As you think of questions about the Discovery and Invite process or you have additional comments you would like to share about OLLC, take time to meet with one of the Discover and Invite Team members. The team appreciates feedback and encourages input from congregation members as they compile the Ministry Site Profile.

**Go to <https://www.csis-elca.org/congregations/call-process/> for additional information regarding the call process.**

# MEET KATIE LUTHER

*Presentation and Reenactment by Barbara Kay*



Join us for a captivating presentation on Katie Luther, a remarkable figure in history! Former nun, 16th-century entrepreneur, and wife of Martin Luther, Katie played a crucial role in the Protestant Reformation. Barbara Kay, a Glen Carbon resident and former history teacher, will bring Katie Luther to life through a first-person costumed portrayal. This engaging event will allow you to discover the woman behind the reformation as she shares her story and answers questions directly from the perspective of Katie Luther herself. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn about the influential life of Katie Luther!

*Sunday, October 26, 3:00 - 4:00 pm*  
*Our Lord's Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall*  
150 Wilma Drive  
Maryville, IL 62062

For more details, please contact 618.345.5692 or [love2haveu@ourlords.org](mailto:love2haveu@ourlords.org)  
We look forward to seeing you there!



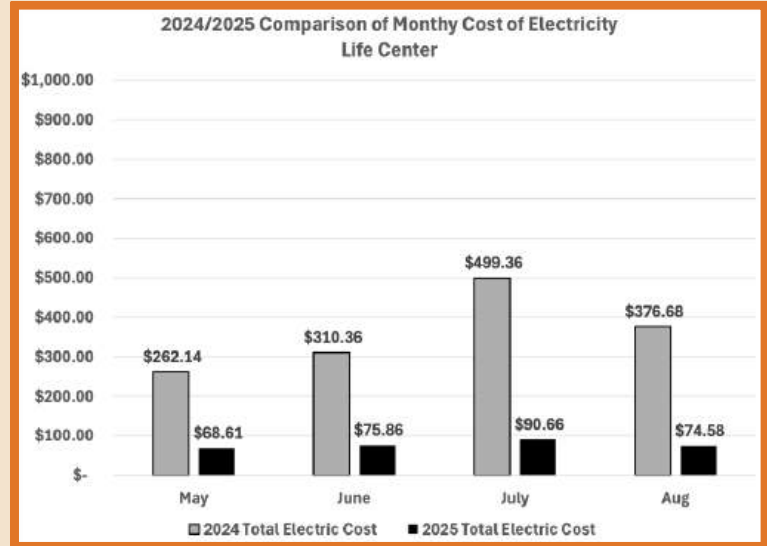
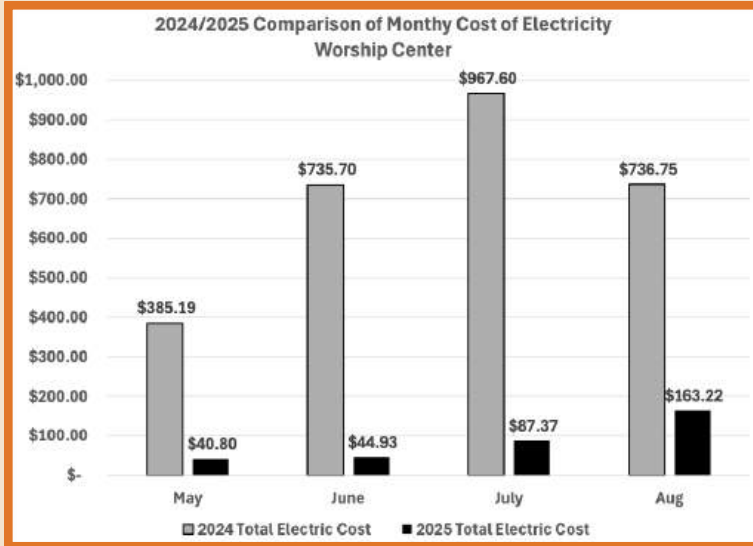
*Light refreshments will be served.*  
*Freewill offering will be taken. Offering will go to Collinsville S.O.S.*



## SOLAR PANEL UPDATE

Many people have wondered about the savings resulting from the solar panels. It took a while to get the panels and recording instruments calibrated, but there is now sufficient data to provide a brief report on solar panel performance. Each graph shown below compares the electricity costs for the months of May through August for 2024 and 2025 for the Worship Center and the Life Center. For the four months shown, the difference in cost between 2024 and 2025 was almost \$2,500 for the Worship Center and about \$1,100 for the Life Center. Taken together, that is a reduction of about \$900/month.

While this analysis does not consider temperature differences between the two years and reduced use of the Life Center during the months we were without a pastor this summer, it gives a pretty good approximation of the savings. If you are interested in more detailed data, please contact Laura Schoenecker.



With regards to the energy credits and refunds, all paperwork for the SRECs and Federal Tax Refunds has been submitted and the requests are going through the approval process – we were told it can take a year or longer to receive the funds. Please be patient!

## SUCCESS OF FIRST RESPONDERS BREAKFAST

Our Lord's Lutheran Church hosted the  
**3rd Annual First Responders Breakfast**  
on September 13, 2025.

A total of 92 breakfasts were served which included 32 first responders and volunteers enjoying food and fellowship in the worship center.

Another 60 meals were delivered to several area police and fire departments plus the staff at Anderson Hospital Emergency Room.

***Many thanks go out to all volunteers who assisted with preparations, serving, and deliveries.***

The following message was received from Mike at the Collinsville police department;

"Just wanted to pass on our thanks to you folks for putting together a super tasty breakfast."



*Looking forward to the  
4th Annual First Responders Appreciation  
Breakfast in 2026!*



## OLLC does not serve SOS this month. Next serving date will be December 30<sup>th</sup>.

Assistance with preparation and serving the meal will be needed in December. Signup sheets will be available in the narthex.

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, October 4

**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
October 2-4	Chuck Jorgenson	Tom Messina
October 9-11	Jim Spencer	Tom Steinman
October 16-18	Bill Homes	Steve Hoelscher
October 23-25	Chuck Pugh	Brian Hartke



## MUSIC AT OUR LORD'S

### Chancel Choir & Handbell CHOIR

**Chancel Choir, Thursdays, 5:00 pm**

Chancel Choir members needed!

**Handbell Choir, Thursday, 6:00 pm**

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

### Congregation Game Afternoon

Fellowship Hall

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

**October 12**  
**November 9**  
**December 14**

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

### OUR LORD'S CRAFTERS

Crafters will meet **October 22, noon-3:00 pm**. Contact Kathy Nehrt with questions.

### SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB

Next Book Club meeting will be **October 20 at 11:30 am** in the LC Conference Room. Please bring a biography of your choice. We will then take turns introducing our book selection. This is a very informal group that enjoys reading and discussion and having fun together. Would love to have you join us.

## SATURDAY & SUNDAY HOSPITALITY HOSTS NEEDED

There is just something about being together and talking.....taking part in fellowship. Whether it is snacks or a light meal, food brings people together. Additional hosts are needed for Saturday nights following the 5 pm service (usually light suppers serving between 15-20 people) and Sunday mornings following the 9 am service (breakfast pastries, fruit, & cookies serving between 10-20 people).

What are the responsibilities of Hospitality Hosts?

- prepare coffee/cold drinks
  - set out paper products (plates, napkins, plastic ware)
  - clean up consists of cleaning coffee pots and airpots
  - wash, dry, and return all items to proper location in kitchen/Fellowship Hall (do Not Leave any Dishes/Utensils air drying on counter or in the sink)
  - remove all trash, bags should be tied and carried to the trash tote located south of the LC (by the side door) or placed in large yellow container in Kitchen Area. Replace with new trash can liner.
  - wipe down all tables, counters, coffee/drink area, kitchen counters, stoves, etc. Spot clean chairs if needed.
  - sweep/vacuum floor if needed
  - dispose of all leftovers. Do Not place leftover food in refrigerator.
- Visit the table in the Narthex for Hospitality Hosts sign up sheet.



*There's a Place for You!*

Any questions, contact Kay Chaffee (618-210-9876) or Cindy Pugh (618-334-1046)

Our Lord's is seeking compassionate volunteers to help serve our homebound or ill parishioners. As a Homebound Servant, you'll offer personal connection through phone calls or visits, bring communion when possible, and remind each person that they are deeply valued and prayed for. Your presence can bring comfort, hope, and spiritual nourishment to someone who truly needs it.

Choose to connect with one or several individuals. Visit or call every few weeks or once a month—whatever fits your schedule and the needs of those you serve. Contact the office to learn more and become part of this heartfelt ministry.

## EDUCATION AT OLLC

- **Pre-School--Kindergarten Sunday School** - Sundays in the Life Center in Room 2 at 10:15 am!
- **Elementary Sunday School (grades 1-5)** - Sundays in the Life Center in Room 4 at 10:15 am!
- **Confirmation Class (grade 6-8)** - We welcome both returning and new students to our class this fall. We will have classes on every other Sunday and we will continue with the curriculum from Faith Inkubators. Each session we will cover two lessons and break for a meal between the lessons. We will meet in the Worship Center. Confirmation meets October 5 & 19.
- **High School Sunday School Class** - High school age youth meet in the Worship Center Youth Room - Harry's Hangout! Sundays at 10:15 am.
- **Our Lord's Youth Group** - Discussion of meeting times and events for OLY is underway. Stay tuned for updates.
- **Adult Bible Study** - Sundays at 10:15 am in the Worship Center Conference Room. Join us as we take a closer look at the Gospel of Luke.
- **Questions Bible Study** - Mondays at 10:00 am in the Life Center Conference Room. Questions Bible Study will be completing the series on *"The Dead Sea Scrolls"* this fall.
- **Weekly Scripture Study** - Day & time TBD - Gather to reflect on the lessons for the following weekend services. Participants will be invited to share their insights about the text and discussions will be grounded on the Lutheran lens. Each session will be available in-person and online midweek in the evening. Group will meet in the WC Conference Room. A Zoom link will be shared with all to participate online. Please look for a sign up sheet in the narthex for possible time slots. This will help Pastor Mauricio to pick a time that works best for most.
- **Feeding the Soul** - Wednesdays at 3:00 pm in the Worship Center Conference Room. The group is currently reading and discussing *"Hiding God' In Our Heart"* – an in-depth study of popular Bible passages including the Twenty-Third Psalm. Additional topics include The Lord's Prayer, The Roman's Road, The Whole Armor of God, and individual studies that relate to timely topics.
- **Morning Glories Bible Study** - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month at 10:00 am in the Worship Center Fellowship Hall. Morning Glories is currently studying the book of Acts. The book we are studying from is *"Life Lessons from Acts"* by Max Lucado. All ladies are welcome!

## LOOKING AHEAD

***Time, Talent & Financial Commitment Packets will be mailed out the end of October.  
Look for your packet in the mail early November.  
Commitments are to be returned to the church November 22/23.***

### NOVEMBER

- 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 1

#### **November Giving Emphasis:**

*Water Well Project - Marion Medical Mission*

### DECEMBER

- December 3 - Advent Holden Evening Prayer
- December 6 - Greening of the Church
- December 15 - Children's Christmas Program
- December 24 - Christmas Eve
- December 25 - Christmas Day

#### **December Giving Emphasis:**

TBD

### JANUARY

- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 3 - ungreening the church
- January 6 - Epiphany
- January 24/31 - Annual Meeting

**January Giving  
Emphasis:**  
TBD







***"Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance" (Luke 15:7).***

Jesus knows his "why." Throughout the gospel and, particularly throughout Luke's telling of it, Jesus knows his purpose, his mission, his reason for being. Jesus is sent into the world to save. "Do not be afraid," announces the angel to the shepherds, "for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

Jesus' "why" is well-illustrated in Luke 15. In response to the grumbling of the religious leaders of his day, Jesus tells three stories. In story one, Jesus explains his "why" as being like a shepherd who leaves behind the 99 to go searching for the one lost sheep. In story two, Jesus' "why" takes the form of a woman who has 10 coins and will not rest until she finds the one coin she has lost. In story three, Jesus' "why" is embodied in the arms of a father welcoming home his wayward son. Jesus' "why" is clear. Jesus' "why" is to save those who are lost and he does not abandon his "why" all the way to the cross.

Unlike Jesus, it is all too easy for us to lose sight of the "why" to which we have been called through the water and word of baptism. Unlike Jesus, it is all too easy for us in the church to become so focused on keeping the 99 comfortable and preserving the nine coins that we still have that we entirely neglect the ones who are lost. Unlike Jesus, it is all too easy for us in the church to spend so much time and energy trying to keep the elder son happy that we miss the party we could be throwing for all those who are yearning to be welcomed home again.

Let me put it as clearly as I can. If our "why" is not Jesus, we are failing to be the church God calls us to be. If the "why" behind every single sermon we preach is not to lead the lost to Jesus, we are failing. If the "why" behind every single worship service we plan and choir anthem we rehearse is not to lead the lost to Jesus, we are failing. If the "why" behind every single youth activity we plan or church potluck we hold is not to lead the lost to Jesus, we are failing. If the "why" behind every dollar we share, every quilt we make, every can of food we collect is not to lead the lost to Jesus, we are failing. If the "why" behind every social statement we pass, every advocacy effort we undertake, every bold act of inclusion and hospitality we make is not to lead the lost to Jesus, we are failing. If our "why" is not Jesus, then church, what are we doing?



Several years ago, I visited the St. Marien Church in Wittenberg, Germany, where Martin Luther regularly preached. The altar painting inside St. Marien bears powerful witness to the essential "why" of our existence as Christ's church. Created by Lucas Cranach the Elder and completed by his son, Lucas Cranach the Younger, around 1547, the bottom panel of the painting depicts Martin Luther in a pulpit on the right. On the left is gathered Luther's congregation in Wittenberg. Directly in the center of the painting, between Luther on the right and the congregation on the left, stands the image of the crucified Christ. From the pulpit, Luther's arm is outstretched, intentionally pointing his hearers toward the crucified Christ.

In the image of the crucified Christ to which Luther points, we see the fullness of Jesus' "why." Jesus comes to save the lost, including us — all of us. We are the lost ones who Jesus saves. As those who have been saved, we are now the ones who Jesus calls and sends, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to lead other lost ones to him. Who are the lost ones today in your congregation, in your community, in the world around you? How are you pointing them to Jesus? And if you are not, what's your why?

*Centered in Christ +  
Bishop Greg*

## COLLINSVILLE FAITH IN ACTION



The Collinsville Faith in Action monthly social and lunch takes place the first Wednesday of each month from 11A-1P. Join us for a delicious meal and the opportunity to meet other seniors from the community. Each month we enjoy an activity that's fun and engaging, and there is no charge! Please call to reserve your spot no later than the last Friday of the month. Limited seating, so don't delay! 618-344-8080.

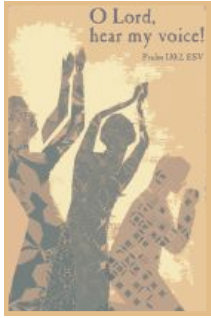
Are you ready for Medicare Open Enrollment? Collinsville Faith in Action offers free Medicare counseling from a certified Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to help you understand your choices. Justin can also help you find assistance to pay for monthly premiums and drug plans. Annual Open Enrollment begins in October and ends in December. Call Justin at 618-344-7788 to set up your appointment today.

Have questions about Medicare, Medicaid, or applying for a discounted license plate or free bus pass? Collinsville Faith in Action's Answers-on-Aging Specialist has answers! Justin makes monthly visits to offer his free services, so you can find him at the Caseyville Library on the second Thursday of each month (2-4P), the Granite City Senior Center on the fourth Tuesday (10A-12P), and Friedens UCC in Troy on the fourth Thursday (1-2P). He also works from his CFIA office located at 233 N. Seminary during standard business hours, so call Justin for your answers on aging! 618-344-7788.

## 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	Robin Wellener
Linda Spencer	Lisa White
Karen Missy	Jackie Schlonat
JoAnn Hartke	

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Ken Bunetic	Joe
Shelley Bruntjen	Janet Borowitz
Bob Dunn	Dan & Martha
Bob Meyer	Brie Jenkins
Marilyn Wolfe	Pearl
Nancy Easton	Ted F.
Elaine Kendall	Michelle Simms
Doris Gocken	Jan Orr
Mary Thiesen	Marguerite Tilashalski
Jack Sykut	Joanne Johnson
Joan Truckenbrod	Teri Peters
Debbie Corkery	Aaron Travis
Brenda Peterson	Ed Winkle, Jr.
Terri	Allen Dietz

### PRAY FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIED & FAMILIES THAT ARE GRIEVING

Family & Friends of Cindy Whitcomb (former member of Our Lord's)  
 Family & Friends of Jean Walker (friend of Peggy Pick & Eric Sutton)  
 Family & Friends of Michael Echevarria (son of Dom & Nona Echevarria)  
 Family & Friends of Charlie Byrd (family of Dom & Nona Echevarria)

### 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

**October**

*Birthdays*

**October**

*Anniversaries*

<b>Kraig Gunderson</b>	<b>David White</b>	<b>Heather Hill Barnett</b>	<b>Scott &amp; Norma Klingsick</b>
<b>Alivia Kirk</b>	<b>Jodie Nehrt</b>	<b>Hailey McGuire-Bardmass</b>	<b>Kraig &amp; Debby Gunderson</b>
<b>Leah Wyvell</b>	<b>Lisa White</b>	<b>Kathie Brady</b>	<b>Jeff &amp; Carol Helf</b>
<b>Debby Meadows</b>	<b>Andrew Nehrt</b>	<b>Jacob Callahan</b>	<b>Steve &amp; Kathy Hoelscher</b>
<b>Angela Lange</b>	<b>David Schroeder</b>	<b>Lori Fremder</b>	<b>Caleb &amp; Alison Hancock</b>
<b>Lili Micnheimer</b>	<b>Christopher Short</b>	<b>Jackie Schlonat</b>	<b>Dave &amp; Debbie Geiler</b>
<b>Emily Callahan Thompson</b>	<b>Garrett Short</b>	<b>Kyler Orr</b>	<b>Joe &amp; Georgeann Smithies</b>
<b>Linda Harriss</b>	<b>Karen Tilashalski</b>	<b>Isabella Redenius</b>	<b>David &amp; Ashley Hammonds</b>
<b>Piper Helms</b>	<b>Kylie Fremder</b>		<b>Alex &amp; Nicole Williams</b>
<b>Susan Homes</b>	<b>Laura Foppe</b>		<b>Dave &amp; Kay Chaffee</b>

### 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](http://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 -- <https://www.elca.org/>  
 Central Southern Illinois Synod -- <https://www.csis-elca.org/>



# PASTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

(abbreviated version of report presented to Council during 9/16 meeting)

- **Worship** - presided at worship, worked Sunday worship staff for hymn selection
- **Pastoral Care** - hospital visit, pastoral care phone call, lunch meeting with Meridian Village residents, conducted office visits, and homebound visit
- **Christian Education** - attended several adult bible study sessions and led confirmation
- **Ministry with congregation** - participated in Rally Day, SOS Soup Kitchen, and First Responders Breakfast
- **Leadership Ministry** - attend Council meeting, Giving Emphasis meeting, and Ministry Support Team meeting
- **Ministry with the Wider Church** - attended SCIS Western-Central Conference Rostered Leaders Meeting, Convened the CSIS Bridges to Belonging Working Group
- **Self-Care Ministry** - Personal Sabbath 8/18, 8/25, 9/5
- **Immediate Plans** - Visit homebound members, prepare for confirmation, attend lay-led adult faith formation studies, facilitate the Discover & Invite team, Gather Mutual ministry resources for council.

## 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

**Vacant**  
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

**Newsletter Editor:**  
K. Cummings-Larson

**Facebook:**  
Maureen "Mo" Johnson

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

I love Fall, a season of change! Like nature, we too go through all kinds of changes/seasons. Some are seasons of hard times, loneliness, loss, or financial hardships. We also have bright, beautiful, and rich seasons of life. Then there are seasons where God allows challenges to enter our lives so that we don't remain the same.

We must go through these seasons to continue learning to surrender control and desire to be more like Him, to trust Him, to let go and let Him show us what He can do.

Each month, I am amazed by the changes and accomplishments at Our Lord's. During monthly council meetings we reflect on the previous month's events, celebrating successes and learning from challenges. During the September meeting, we highlighted Rally Day, Bishop Busboom's visit, the successful First Responders' Breakfast, and OLLC Game Day. I shared that every time I asked a member to assist with a task or serve on a committee, they responded with enthusiasm and a desire to help. We ended the meeting by discussing upcoming events and ways to communicate more clearly with the congregation about the events at Our Lord's.

Change is inevitable; God did not create us to look the same in every season. The Bible is clear on that. Isaiah 41:10 says, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous hand."

Let go and let God! Remember, letting go is like the leaves falling in autumn—it is a sign of what is to come. Whatever you are still holding on to, surrender it and allow God to bring newness of life.

Yours in Christ,  
*Karen Cummings-Larson*

## 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

August 2025..... \$27,090

### General Benevolence Expenses

August 2025 ..... \$14,161

*Cash - Unrestricted* .....\$51,081

*Cash - Designated* .....\$94,933

**Total Cash** ..... **\$146,014**

### During August:

- The balance of the Monthly Emphasis Fund at the end of August 2025 was \$329.17 (\$49.17 - School Supplies & \$280.00 to Amare).
- A check for \$2438.00 will be sent to CS/IS for Synod Benevolence during August. Local Benevolence for the Third Quarter (July & August) is \$456.
- The Employee Retention Credit received totaled \$37,394.88 less \$5,953 (accounting fees) = \$31,441.88. A check for \$2830 (approximately 9% of \$31,441.88) will be sent to CS/IS. Also, an additional \$314 will be available for Local Benevolence (1% of \$31,441.88).

### Employee Retention Credit received from 2021 & 2022

A total of \$37,394.88 was received from the Employee Retention Credit. The ERC was a refundable tax credit for certain eligible businesses and tax-exempt organizations that had employees and were affected during the COVID-19 pandemic. From the amount received \$5,953 was paid to the church accountant for filing fees; \$2830 (approximately 9% for Synod Benevolence) to CS/IS, and an additional \$314 will be available for Local Benevolence (1% of \$31,441.88). Of the \$28,299 remaining balance, \$10,000 was transferred to Building & Grounds to pay for the resealing of the parking lots. The remaining \$18,260+ has not been allocated to any fund or project. Discussion on the best way to utilize these funds will occur at a later time.

*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.



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# OCTOBER 2025 CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
 <p><b>October Giving Emphasis:</b></p> <p><b>COLLINSVILLE S.O.S. SOUP KITCHEN</b></p>			<b>1</b>  <b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding the Soul - WC Conference Room	<b>2</b>  <b>5:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>6:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> <b>Pastor's Day of Rest</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Blessing of the Pets</b>  <b>7:00 AM</b> Worker Bees breakfast <b>8:00 AM</b> Worker Bees - OLLC <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality
<b>5</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality <b>10:15 AM</b> Adult Bible Study <b>10:15 AM</b> High School Class <b>10:15 AM</b> Pre-K, & Elementary <b>10:30 AM</b> Confirmation	<b>6</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study	<b>7</b> <b>Pastor Works from home</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement	<b>8</b>  <b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding the Soul - WC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> Lakeview Garden Club Meeting	<b>9</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Glories - FH <b>5:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>6:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> <b>Pastor's Day of Rest</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality
<b>12</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality <b>10:15 AM</b> Adult Bible Study <b>10:15 AM</b> High School Class <b>10:15 AM</b> Pre-K, & Elementary <b>3:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b> Congregational Game Day - FH	<b>13</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts - LC <b>6:30 PM</b> - Ministry Support Team Meeting - ZOOM	<b>14</b> <b>Pastor Works from home</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement	<b>15</b>  <b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding the Soul - WC Conference Room	<b>16</b>  <b>5:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>6:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> <b>November Newsletter Deadline</b>  <b>Pastor's Day of Rest</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> La Leche League - WC <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality
<b>19</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality <b>10:15 AM</b> Adult Bible Study <b>10:15 AM</b> High School Class <b>10:15 AM</b> Pre-K, & Elementary <b>10:30 AM</b> Confirmation	<b>20</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study <b>11:30 AM</b> Serendipity Book Club - LC <b>6:30 PM</b> Church Council - LC Conference Room	<b>21</b> <b>Pastor Works from home</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement	<b>22</b>  <b>12:00 PM</b> OLLC Crafters - FH <b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding the Soul - WC Conference Room	<b>23</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Glories - FH <b>5:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>6:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b> Giving Emphasis Team - in person & ZOOM	<b>24</b> <b>Pastor's Day of Rest</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality
<b>26</b> <b>Reformation Sunday</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality <b>10:15 AM</b> Adult Bible Study <b>10:15 AM</b> High School Class <b>10:15 AM</b> Pre-K, & Elementary <b>3:00 PM</b> MEET KATIE LUTHER	<b>27</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts - LC	<b>28</b> <b>Pastor Works from home</b>  <b>12:00 PM</b> Newsletter Assembly- LC <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement	<b>29</b>  <b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding the Soul - WC Conference Room	<b>30</b>  <b>5:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>6:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b> <b>Pastor's Day of Rest</b>	

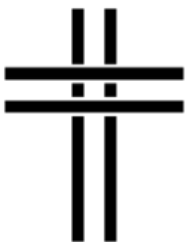


Our Lord's Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall  
Sunday, October 26, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

*Presentation and Reenactment by Barbara Kay*  
**MEET KATIE LUTHER**

**"The Spirit of Our Lord's News"**  
Our Lord's Lutheran Church  
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