The Friend

June, 2026

Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church
137 Years in Ministry 1889-2026

4831 Grand Ave
Duluth, MN 55807
218-624-3648
www.oursaviorsduluth.org
The Reverend Liz Davis

Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Serving God, God's people, and our Community

Church Vision Statement

Our Savior's is living out the gospel by working to alleviate poverty.

Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church Welcome Statement

Diversity is a gift of God. God's grace is central to our life and practice. We celebrate and embrace each person as a unique creation, made in the image of God, and bearing God's Spirit.

Dear Beloved People of Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church,

In the summer of 2017, you extended a call to me to serve as your pastor. In these past nine years, you have been faithful colleagues in ministry. Over these years, God has led us into practices of deepening faith, relationship, and meaningful connection with our community. We engaged in a significant mission development process with neighborhood interviews and mapping which led us to affirm our mission statement and develop our vision statement. We learned alongside two deacon interns as both Colleen Bernu and Jennifer Thomas prepared for their ordained ministries. We faithfully navigated ongoing pivots through the COVID-19 pandemic, maintaining connection across distance through online and outdoor worship, a phone tree of members calling, and ongoing leadership discussions. We explored new partnerships, leading us towards a sharing with United Lutheran Church in Proctor. We engaged a bold new idea of hosting a housing project that serves our neighbors most deeply in need with the expert leadership of our nonprofit partners in Stepping On Up and Families Rise Together. We have worked through the Reconciling in Christ process, accepted a welcome statement, and now will fully lean into an identity as an intentionally welcoming community. Throughout these years, we have worshipped, prayed, learned, served, welcomed the newly baptized, and released our loved ones into God's care. It has been a privilege and a joy to serve as your pastor.

At this time, I have been extended a call to serve at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Duluth. I have decided to accept this call and am resigning from my call at Our Savior's. I hold grief at this ending, gratitude for our time together, and hope for the future. I know that God is at work among you and God's Spirit will sustain you through this transition and inspire you into a good future. You are in good hands with an excellent executive council and staff. Our NEMN Synod Staff will be accompanying you in this transition to ensure that you continue to be well cared for.

My final office day will be June 11 and my final Sunday in worship will be June 14. As we work to say goodbye, please feel free to stop in during my drop-in hours or call to schedule a time of connection. After June 14, I will no longer be available for pastoral care or pastoral acts such as baptisms or funerals. I will carry you all in my heart and will want to give space for you to prepare to welcome your next pastor. It will be necessary for me to step aside so that they can fully step into ministry with you. While we may see each other around town, I will no longer be your pastor. (continued on page 2)

SUNDAY WORSHIP
11:00 AM
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
Noon
Live Streamed on our YouTube channel:
Our Savior's Lutheran Church Duluth

Office
Telephone: 218-624-3648
Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9-2
secretary@oursaviorsduluth.org
Please submit news articles for the July *Friend* by June 21

Sexton
Hours: M, W, F 8-1

Pastor Liz Office Hours: Mondays, June 1 & 8, 9-11 am

Email: pastorliz@oursaviorsduluth.org Phone: 218-461-0933

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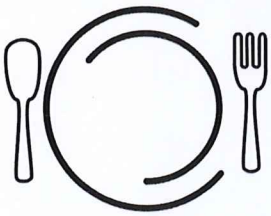
You all have been an inspiration to me as I seek to follow Christ in my daily life. You show a deep care for each other and folks in greatest need. Your decisions are guided by a calling to serve God, God's people, and our community. I treasure our time together and all that you have taught me.

God is with you!
In gratitude,
Pastor Liz Davis



Dinner Club, Tuesday, June 16
6:00 pm at Red Lobster
(301 S. Lake Ave, Duluth)

Call Karl to RSVP: 651-955-9299

Recognition of Pastor Liz

Pastor Liz's last Sunday at Our Savior's will be June 14. The communion worship service will be at 11 am followed by a potluck and recognition of Pastor's Liz's time with us.

If you are able, please bring a dish to share at the potluck. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Everyone is welcome!

Cards can be mailed to the church. They will be presented to Pastor Liz on June 14:

Pastor Liz Davis
c/o Our Savior's Lutheran Church
4831 Grand Ave.
Duluth, MN 55807

June Birthdays
1 Gary Erdahl
4 Charlene Johnson
4 Caryl Turcott
7 Tracy Sonterre-Rieger
8 Liz Olson
10 Joann Ahlgren
18 Laila Davis
20 Jenny Thornton
21 Noah Hobbs
26 John Jacobson
26 Pam Merrier
29 Bo Upton
30 Star Hanson

June Anniversaries
4 Glen & Pam Merrier
10 Mike & Jenn Conboy
15 Dave & Jan Thornton
(Did we miss anyone?)

~to Patrick and Olivia Merrier on the birth of their daughter, Murphie Danielle on April 29.
Grandparents: Glen & Pam Merrier

~to Jill Lofald on her retirement after 49 years of working in education, most recently completing her years as Speech and Debate coach.

June Friend sponsors:

Bill & Anita Fraundorf:
In Honor of these birthdays:
Erika Johnson June 17
Pam Merrier June 26
Star Hanson June 30

In Memory of Bill Alexander's June 30 birthday

Please consider sponsoring *The Friend* In Honor of or In Memory of a loved one or friend. Donation is $20.00

Free Breakfast
Saturday, June 27
9:00-10:30 am

We serve a consistent menu of gluten free egg bake, pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee and milk.

June

Mondays, June 1 & 8: Pastor Liz' office hours, 9-11 am
Tuesday, June 2: Women's Circle lunch, noon at Blackwoods in Proctor.
Wednesday, June 3: End of Semester Confirmation Class Party, 4:30 pm at United
Sunday, June 7: Celebration of Reconciling in Christ Status
Sunday, June 7: First YouthWorks group arrives, 4 pm
Tuesday, June 9: Walk of Wonder, 10 am on the Waabizheshikana Trail
Wednesday, June 10: Walk! Bike! Fun! Workshop, 9 am – 3 pm
Sunday, June 14: Pastor Liz's last Sunday, worship at 11 am, potluck and recognition at noon
Tuesday, June 16: Dinner Club, 6 pm at Red Lobster
Thursday-Sunday, June 25-28: Area 7 Handbell Festival in St. Cloud
Saturday, June 27: Free Community Breakfast, 9:00-10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Congratulations Graduates:

Lauren Pozniak, daughter of John & Amy Pozniak, is graduating from East High School on Wednesday, June 3. Best wishes, Lauren!

Grace (Thornton) Carlson: who graduated from St. Scholastica with a Masters in Science in Occupational Therapy. After completing her certification, Grace hopes to work in this area. Grace is supported by Ethan (spouse), Jonathan & Jenny Thornton (parents) and Dave and Jan Thornton (grandparents).

Welcome New Members:

Krystal Jacobs	Sponsored by Shirley Muscatello
Richard (Dick) Junget	Sponsored by Sherm Carlson
Kathryn (Kate) and Kris Kuhlmey	Sponsored by Roxanne Bijold
Sara Sha	Sponsored by Kris Benson
Cynthia Thompson	Sponsored by Lori Fride

April Attendance

Apr 5: 73
Apr 12: 43
Apr 19: 39
Apr 26: 32
(plus online)

April Deposits

Apr 6: $2427.00
Apr 13: $6985.13
Apr 20: $2161.25
Apr 27: $2041.00
Total: $13,614.38
Direct Deposit: $ 1,035.00
online: $ 100.00
Income: $14,749.38
Expenses $21,451.35

Year To Date:
Income: $61,070.15
Expenses: $76,003.23

June Calendar

Sun: Communion Worship, 11 am (sanctuary)
Coffee Fellowship, noon (Fellowship Hall)
June 7: Celebration of Reconciling in Christ, noon (FH)
June 7: first YouthWorks group arrives, 4 pm
June 14: Pastor Liz's last Sunday, potluck & recognition, noon
June 21: Father's Day

Mon: Food Shelf Distribution, 10 am (coffee, 9:30) (Not June 15)
Coffee and Chat, 10:30 am (library)
June 1 & 8: Pastor Liz's office hours, 9-11 am

Tue: Office Open 9-2 (9-11:30 on June 2)
Women's AA group, 10:00 am (library)
Evening AA group, 6:30 pm (library)
June 2: Women's Circle luncheon, noon, Blackwoods Proctor
June 16: Dinner Club, 6 pm at Red Lobster

Wed: Coffee and Chat, 10:30 (library)
June 3: Confirmation party, 4:30 pm at United
June 10: Walk, Bike, Fun, 9-3 (Fellowship Hall & parking lot)
June 10: Alzheimer's Support group, 1 pm (library)
June 10: DFL senior group, 3 pm (library)

Thu: Office Open, 9-2 (not June 11 or 25)
June 4 & 11: Bell rehearsal, 5 pm
June 25 Handbell Festival Conference begins

Fri: Coffee & Chat, 10:30 (library)
YouthWorks groups leave, 9 am

Sat: OA, 9:00 (library)
June 6: Support group, 4:30 (Fellowship Hall)
June 27: Free Breakfast, 9:00-10:30 (Fellowship Hall)

YouthWorks Staff

Max: I am from outside of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. I am studying Spanish and Biblical and Religious Studies at Messiah University in my hometown. This is my first year with YouthWorks and I am a Community Coordinator.

Cole: Howdy everyone! I'm from the great state of Arizona. I am currently in college for mortuary science at ASU. This is my third summer with YouthWorks and my second summer in Duluth.

Diego: I am from Baltimore, Maryland. I'm studying at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee. I love to work with music and everything that goes with it. I am excited to be here and I'm ready to get started!

Celebration of Reconciling in Christ Status: June 7

Our Savior's has committed to being an inclusive community and continually growing into that identity. We adopted a welcome statement at our May annual meeting that affirms our welcome of all people "inclusive of all personal qualities such as gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, family structure, ability, race, cultural background, age, citizenship status, or socio-economic status" and our commitment to anti-racism work. Join in a celebration worship at 11am that will center us in our God who rejoices in the diversity of God's beloved creation! Stay for a special celebration fellowship!

Prayer Requests

Members: Sandy Zapp (health concerns)
Ken Miller (health concerns)
Pat Nilsen (health concerns)
Mari Anne Isakson (heath concerns)
Joyce Norton (health concerns)
Gary Erdahl (health concerns)
Lori Fride (health concerns)

Friends & Family: Pam Massie (Shamra Benson's mother): health concerns
Teri Benson (Rick Benson's nephew's wife): health concerns
Karen Edevold (Kris Benson's sister): health concerns
Kevin Born (former member): health concerns
Krystal: health concerns
Kathy (Shirley Muscatello's sister); health concerns
Linda (Gordy Peterson's wife): health concerns
Riley Olcott (Linda Olcott's granddaughter): health concerns
Jack Berndt (staff): health concerns
Kim Houchins (former member): health concerns

Members in the Community: Gary & Dorothy Erdahl, Ken Miller, and Corrine Weiss (Edgewood Vista), Isabel Vatne (Interfaith Care Ctr), Thurley Ling (Augustana Ctr)

Walk! Bike! Fun! Zeitgeist is hosting a hands-on education opportunity at Our Savior's to help folks confidently teach pedestrian and bicycle safety and skills to youth. The training is open to educators and interested community members (parents, informal educators, volunteers). The day training is a mix of looking at curriculum, discussions, and doing some simulated practice. Breakfast/lunch is provided!

Walk of Wonder: Pastor Liz will lead a group on Tuesday, June 9, 10 am on the Waabizheshikana. Meet at the Munger State Trail parking lot on Pulaski Street, Duluth. The trail is Gravel and fairly level.

Chum Rhubarb Festival: Saturday, June 27, 9 am – 3 pm at Asbury United Methodist Church (6822 Grand Ave). This annual fundraising event celebrates rhubarb with all types of food. Enjoy live music, games, crafts, and some new activities for the entire family.

Bible Study: A Storytelling Series

In January, I attended a training with the Austin Story Project to explore how we might build a stronger connection to each other and to Jesus. Through this project, we have been sent out to implement and reflect on a specific model of gathering, listening, sharing, and reflecting. You are invited to join in! This experience will be a bit different from our traditional Bible study, but our goal is the same: to grow in faith and connection. You won't need to bring anything: just yourself, a willingness to listen, and an openness to sharing as you are comfortable doing so. It's best if you can commit to all six sessions. April 16, 23, 30 at 1 pm at United

Day Camp "Wear Love" July 13-16, 9-3pm at United. Staff from Camp Onomia will lead us in fun, games, Bible study, worship, and other activities. Kids completed grades K-5 are welcome. Free for everyone!
Please spread the word! Sign up here: https://forms.gle/7Aj5ACuXB19EaNLP7
We also welcome volunteers! Sign up here:
Adult volunteer sign up: https://forms.gle/G3dtzayLYWcuB2xk9
Youth volunteer sign up: https://forms.gle/MEUHrA6rbHmMPAs88

Updating the Membership List

WE NEED YOU TO SEND US CURRENT INFORMATION!

Our goal is to update the membership list and make it available to all members. This is especially vital because many of the phone numbers in the 2019 picture directory are no longer in service. Send the information to: secretary@oursaviorsduluth.org or by U.S. mail (Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 4831 Grand Ave, Duluth, MN 55807) or fill out the form available on the sanctuary entrance tables and put it in the offering plate.

We need this information from each person in the household:

Name
Street Address
City, State, Zip
Contact Telephone number(s)
Email address

Note: we would also like the birthday of each person and an anniversary date (if applicable) for inclusion in the monthly newsletters. Thank you!