

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday September 5th, 2026,
Sunday, September 6th, 2026,

4:30 pm
9:00 am



Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

300 Logan St.
Merrill, WI 54452
Pastor Justin Smoot

715-536-5813
www.oslcelca.org

Welcome to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
We are a worship-centered, joyful community,
serving where Christ leads.



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

At OSLC, we have a tradition of participating in worship, because it is our gathering to practice prayer and fellowship.

- Bold Print indicates responses spoken by all.
- You are encouraged to listen to your body and stand if you are comfortable doing so.
- Children are welcome in worship. If they want to help out with any portion of the service they can do so, just ask the pastor. There is also a place for them to color and play on the north side of the worship space. Sitting up front is also an effective way to help them see what is going on.
- On Sunday morning, the ushers will pass the offering plates, but we also have a QR code that will take you to our Vanco (online giving) site.
- All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at Our Saviour's. Please come forward as indicated. Please fill out a communion card so that we can have a record of who communion. You can also use the communion cards or visitor cards to reach out to the pastor.
- We have large print bulletins if you need them as well as hearing devices with headphones



GATHERING

*For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them. (Matthew 18:20)*

Altar flowers are given by.....Christa Lahti

Sing for Joy is sponsored by.....Our Saviour's Church to the Glory of God

**Confession and Forgiveness*

We gather today in the name of the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The eternal God who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Christ, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Beloved of God! Let us draw near to God, confess our sins, seeking forgiveness in the name of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ with the confidence that God justifies us by grace through faith.

Our help is in the Lord our God, who created the heavens and the earth.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us

**to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief.

You are forgiven your sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone.

In Christ we are a new creation, everything old has passed away. Amen.

**Greeting*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

**Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray,

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Announcements

WORD

*So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty. (Isaiah 55:10-11)*

EXODUS 12:1-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 149

¹ Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord | a new song, God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

² Let Israel rejoice in their maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.

³ Let them praise their maker's name with dancing; let them sing praise with tambourine and harp.

⁴ For the Lord takes pleasure in the people and adorns the poor with victory.

Sing the Lord's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

⁵ Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them sing for joy on their bed

⁶ Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand,

⁷ to wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,

⁸ to bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron,

⁹ to inflict on them the judgment decreed; this is glory for all God's faithful ones. Hallelujah!

Sing the Lord's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

****Gospel Acclamation***

We welcome the Gospel reading as we would welcome Christ.

Alleluia!

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia!

In Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's own self.

This is the Gospel message we receive and share.

Alleluia!

Amen.

****MATTHEW 18:15-20***

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pr. Justin H. Smoot

As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;
There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,



teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.
may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

**Apostles Creed*

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe and are marked with the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, let us profess our faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession*

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Each petition ends with the following response.

...Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

**Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

Offering

Saturday: Please place your offering in the plates in back.

Sunday: The ushers will collect the offering, if you wish to give electronically, please visit our website: oslcelca.org or scan the QR code.



**Offertory Visual Liturgy*

Worship Can Wait

**Offertory Litany*

Create in me a clean ^l heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

God of creation...

...you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen

**Dialogue*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Eucharistic Prayer*

**Lord's Prayer*

Gathered around our Lord's Table, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**Invitation to Communion*

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Distribution

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE

We have gluten-free hosts available. The lighter colored drink is non-alcoholic. Please fill out a communion card or a visitor card and hand it to the ushers who will direct you down the center aisle.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

grant us peace.

**Post Communion Blessing*

SENDING

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus . . . May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. (Romans 15:5, 13)

**Benediction*

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances

through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW 837

Many and Great, O God

1 Man - y and great, O God, are your works, mak - er of
2 Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with you, O Star - a -

earth and sky. Your hands have set the heav'ns with stars;
bid - ing One. Come un - to us and dwell with us;

your fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at your
with you are found the gifts of . . . life. Bless us with

word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey your voice.
life that has no . . . end, e - ter - nal life with you.

*Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
300 Logan St. Merrill, WI 54452
Monday – Friday 9:00am – 1:00pm
oslcelca.org office@oslcelca.org 715-536-5813
Pastor@oslcelca.org

Sing For Joy

Sunday morning at 10:00 am, we broadcast the St. Olaf Collage's Sing for Joy radio program. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in honor of, or in memory of, anyone, or just because you love religious music, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway. You can also contact the church office as well.



Prayer List



Lois Ullman, Adam Norman, Cash Beyer, Carri Leyk, Laurie Sprague, Earleen Fox, Katie Hahn, John Hahn, Andy Semling, Chad Semling, Gene Bebel, Gilman Smoot, Richard Ollmann, Elayne Ollman, Megan (Latzig) Tugnoli, Sarah Willman, Jane Eshleman, Jerrald Laak, Lee Ann and Lindy Lindquist, Larry Lebal, Barbara Kampstra (Bea Lebal's Sister), Scott Buttke Halena Anderson, and Jerry Wick.

Lutheran World Relief...

Is in urgent need of Personal Care kits. It is our goal to create 100 of these this year. You can help by purchasing dark colored bath towels (Walmart has appropriate ones for \$2.97), and bath size bars of soap. If you prefer not to shop, we will do it for you. Make donations out to **WELCA**. The last day to turn

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Hope of Mercy. Worship Can Wait, Recue Me – © The Work of the People. Used with Permission.

in supplies is 9/20/2026. Disasters continue and these kits are a first need in these areas. Thank you very much.

Peace, Kathi P

This Week's Events September 6th - September 12th

SEPTEMBER 6 TH	9:00 am Worship Service
SEPTEMBER 7 TH	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
SEPTEMBER 8 TH	3:00-5:00 pm Diaper Closet 5:00 pm Property & Maintenance
SEPTEMBER 9 TH	10:30 am Faithful Followers Resumes
SEPTEMBER 10 TH	8:30 am Mission Sewing 11:00 am Worship Service – Bell Tower 1:00 pm Ruth Circle
SEPTEMBER 12 TH	4:30 pm Worship Service



Birthdays This Week – September 6th – September 12th



September 6 th	Carol Allen
September 7 th	Adalyn Blake Wesley Olson
September 8 th	Mary Brown Leah Burbach Shirley Engel
September 9 th	Darlene Mathis
September 10 th	Linda Blake
September 11 th	Kaylynn Allen Liam Bailey
September 12 th	Dave Jannusch Aimee Viljevac

If you know of additions or corrections to the Birthday list, please let the office know so that we can update our records.

A SWEET CELEBRATION

HALENA ANDERSON

IS TURNING 90 — LET'S CELEBRATE!



OPEN HOUSE & BIRTHDAY CAKE

Noon – 4 pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

N1209 BRIARWOOD LANE - MERRILL

Your presence is the sweetest gift — please no gifts!

Sunday Fellowship

Pr. Justin will usually make a pot of regular coffee; all we need is some sweet treats from you. Sign up in the lounge or surprise us!



September 13th Robbie & Trina Johnson

September 20th Aimee Viljevac

Looking For A Few Volunteers

We are looking for some volunteers to cover the office phones while Laurie is on vacation. If you have any time to help from **September 9th – September 16th**, and the 21st & 22nd **We have coverage on the 9th, 10th, 14th and 15th**. Please reach out if you can help. Thank you!

God's Work, Our – Bees?



Did you know that one out of every three bites of food depend on pollinators like bees? These tiny creatures are doing big work in God's world. Honeybees support farmers by pollinating fruits, vegetables, and nuts – helping crops to grow, markets to thrive and families to put food on the table.

To celebrate God's Work Our Hands this year we have invited Beekeeper Cody Bergman to come tell us about the importance of bees and what goes into building and maintaining a healthy beehive. Cody will speak at the 4:30 service on Saturday, September 12, and a tape of his talk will be played on Sunday at the 9:00 service. A collection will be taken at each service and sent to ELCA Good Gifts to purchase beehives, protective equipment and training for families to produce food and generate income. ELCA states that beehives are an accessible, environmentally friendly way to build resilience-especially for women and small-scale farmers. Each beehive costs \$20 through the Good Gifts catalog. Any size donation is greatly

appreciated. Donations may also be dropped off or mailed in to the church office.

Learn a little about bees (do they really have knees?!) on September 12-13. Cody will bring along some of his delicious home-grown honey for purchase as well!

Your OS Outreach Team

God's Work, Our Hands – Your Hands Needed!

The Diaper Closet has been in operation for three years now and has seen a steady increase in usage. We are so grateful for the generosity of our church and community in helping us to keep the shelves stocked so we are able to keep up with the growing demand.

What the Diaper Closet needs now is volunteers to help our operation run smoothly. Due to health issues of several faithful volunteers, we are looking for a few people to help staff the Diaper Closet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3-5 p.m. or the 4th Saturday of each month, 9-11 a.m. We need to have two people there for each shift. Linda Blake covers nearly every shift and we are so grateful for her dedication. If you can help every month or two, or are willing to be on a substitute list, please contact Dona at (715) 539-3259, or Brenda at (715) 536-1701. We thank everyone who has helped to bring this mission to the Merrill community!

Your OS Outreach Team

| Walking by Faith, Constantly Tripping

Our Synod Women's Organization is organizing a Fall Retreat for Saturday, November 7, 2026 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Mount Morris Conference Center in Wautoma. Our theme is "Walking by Faith, Constantly Tripping" and our keynote speaker is songwriter and speaker Franki Moscato. We will also have crafts, fellowship, and relaxing workshops, including sessions on the labyrinth and tai chi.



Please register by Monday, September 7th!

There is a flyer on the bulletin board with more information.

New Synod Mailing Address & Staff Office Updates

NEW Mailing Address for the Synod Office:

East Central Synod of Wisconsin - ELCA
PO Box 10385
Green Bay, WI 54307

We are grateful to the congregations and ministries that have welcomed our synod offices with warm hospitality in recent years, especially First English Lutheran Church in Appleton and Imago Dei Village in Clintonville.

As staff resets ministry for Bishop Anne's second term, we're pleased to share updated office locations. **Please only use the new mailing address above for all staff mail.** In-person meetings are by appointment only, as staff schedules vary.

- **Bishop Anne Edison-Albright:** Christus Lutheran Church, Greenville
- **Pastor Dara Clifford:** All Saints Lutheran Church, Oshkosh
- **Pastor Nate Gauerke:** Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Neenah
- **Pastor Jenn Pockat:** TULP Office | Peace Lutheran Church, Tilleda
- **Jeanne Jerks:** Works from home

Summer Was Full of Life, Now We're Looking Ahead!



A Summer Worth Celebrating

Behind every unforgettable summer at Crossways is a remarkable team.

Our summer staff created the kind of holy chaos that makes camp camp. We are so grateful for the energy, creativity, patience, and joy they poured into this summer, and for the countless small moments campers will carry with them long after they went home.

Thank you, Crossways Summer Team of 2026!

| Social Statement Synod Study Offered this Fall: Faith and Civic Life

The ELCA Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life sets forth the ELCA's teaching about how disciples and this church may faithfully speak and act in civic life. While existing ELCA social statements and messages address specialized elements of social life, this statement addresses the broad responsibility for seeking the good of all through civic participation. It sketches a vision of a just and robust civic life dedicated to the well-being of all while giving extended attention to the relationship of faith and political authority.

Synod Implementation & Resources

The East Central Synod of Wisconsin leadership, including Bishop Anne Edison-Albright and Vice President Nancy Schanke, will host a six-session study series to help congregations explore and discuss the social statement.

Session Dates (choose either the morning or evening session each week)

- **Session 1 — November 3, 2026:** 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- **Session 2 —November 10, 2026:** 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- **Session 3 —November 17, 2026:** 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- **Session 4 —November 24, 2026:** 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- **Session 5 —December 1, 2026:** 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- **Session 6 —December 8, 2026:** 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Please save the dates! Registration information will be available soon.