



The Shepherd Staff August 2025

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church • 326 Leroy St • Audubon, IA 50025 • 712-588-1113 • oslcauduboniowa.org

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN IS A BIBLE-BASED CHURCH

***"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To Him be the honor both now and on that eternal day." – 2 Peter 3:18 (NET)***

"Fire and Growth"

It was just a morning walk in the park—but God often speaks in simple moments.

As I moved through the stillness of the early light, I felt warmth on my face and noticed something peculiar: the air was alive. The scent of trees, flowers, and grass mingled into one sweet aroma. I slowed my steps to savor it, struck by the sensation of life surrounding me.

When I reached the statue of John James Audubon, the connection between the season, the Spirit, and our journey with Christ became clear. The color green, recently draped across our church altar, marks the season after Pentecost—a time the Church calls "Ordinary Time," though there's nothing ordinary about it. It is a season of growth, of being rooted and built up in Jesus.

Pentecost—the fire of the Spirit—is not the end; it is the beginning. Just like the giant sequoias in the Redwood Forest, which rely on fire to crack open their cones and release seeds, our spiritual lives often begin or are renewed through the fire of God's presence within us. That fire clears away what once held us back and prepares the soil of our hearts for new life.

But the fire isn't where it ends—it's where growth begins. After the blaze comes the season of stretching toward the Son.

***"Therefore, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him,
rooted and built up in Him and firm in your faith just as you were taught,
and overflowing with thankfulness." – Colossians 2:6–7 (NET)***

That morning in the park reminded me: we're not called to burn brightly and then burn out. We're called to grow. Slowly, steadily, through sunlight and storm, we become more like Christ. Like towering sequoias, we offer shade, shelter, and beauty—not by effort alone, but by the nourishing love of God.

Every step of our faith journey is part of a holy rhythm: fire, seed, growth, fruit. And through it all, God walks with us.

So today, take a breath. Smell the green. Let it remind you that you are still growing, still reaching upward. The Spirit has come—and now it is time for us to thrive, one forest, many trees, growing in grace, providing shade and shelter to those who walk among us.

We are growing together: by, in, and through the grace of God,

Shepherd Sean

Just a call away from our OSLC Homebound

This month, we encourage everyone to **CALL A FRIEND** from our homebound family. Help **break the boredom** and give OSLC homebound members something to look forward to this month **by sharing the love of Christ** and reconnecting over the phone.

Janice Christensen	(712) 304-2190	Audubon, IA 50025
Helen Lauritsen	(712) 563-3424	Audubon, IA 50025
Doug & Joyce Taggart	(712) 304-4939	Audubon, IA 50025
Larry & Lois Thygesen	(712) 563-4175	Audubon, IA 50025
Jennifer Jensen	(405) 681-6291	Atlantic, IA 50022
Dennis & Carol Larsen	(641) 755-2624	Panora, IA 50216
Joan Lauritsen	(Can you help us update this?)	Harlan, IA 51537

Meals Do Matter

Deliver a meal to a homebound member(s) as well!

What better way to share God's love than through a delicious meal!

Sign out meals in the basement freezer—plenty to hand out, so please be generous!

August Altar Flower Blessings

3rd: Given by Arch Andersen in memory of Violet

10th: Given by Sharri Bande in honor of Jack & Rhoda Jorgensen's birthdays

17th: Given by Mark & Karen Elmquist in memory of loved ones

24th: Given by

31st: Given by Jolene Burns & family in honor of loved ones

The cost per Sunday remains at \$22
Please designate your payment "flowers"

OSLC Vacation Bible School "True North" Program

August 4th-6th (5-8PM)

August 7th (4:45-7:30PM)

Supper will be provided for
VBS kids and all volunteers!

VBS 'True North' kids sing in service
on Sunday, Aug 10th



JULY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS *(unapproved)*

- Council shared their information electronically this month, providing updates to your leadership team.
- Our finances are stable, and Shannon continues to keep us informed so that OSLC can be a good steward.
- Plans for Confirmation and Sunday school have been firmed up. Additionally, our annual Vacation Bible School will have new partners from the community as members from Faith Christian join together to serve all our youth!
- Property has diligently handled many smaller issues while continuing to look at larger ones like leaks and other issues. Thank you to the entire team!
- Our Motorcycle Mercy team is planning a big event for September stay tuned for more info.
- There is so much more happening! Stay alert, ask questions, and be a part of all OSLC is doing!

Worship!

This August, as we enjoy the last days of summer, we hear God's Word on **REST!**

Aug 3rd – Communion

- A Release into Rest
- 1 Kings 19:1–9

Aug 10th

- Letting Go to Receive
- Luke 24:13-35

Aug 17th – Communion

- What is Rest?
- Mark 6:30-32

Aug 24 – 10am In the Park

- The Gift of Rest
- Luke 15:11–32

Aug 31st

- Resting in the Lord
- Matthew 11:28–30

We're Listening as we serve:

Got an idea of something you'd like to see in the Newsletter? Call the office and let Stephanie and Pastor know. If you share it, we can build up the body of Christ together!



Fellowship of Christian Wheelers is kicking off!

This year's leaders just gathered to pray, set plans in motion, and spark a flame that will spread like a wildfire!

They are planning a kickoff at the Audubon pool in August, where families and students can get a foretaste of the fun and excitement these youth share.

They have big plans, from bus-trips to camping, and every one of their activities keeps ***Christ at the center of it all!***

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church—July Recap

7/17 OSLC Touch-A-Truck event at Audubon County Fair

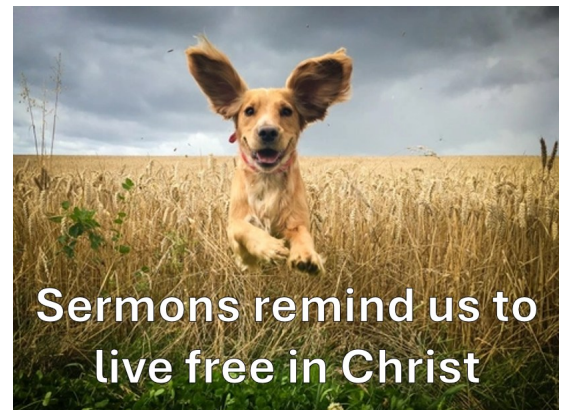
7/17 Replaced door & drawer handles in kitchenette

7/18 celebrated & honored the life of Marlys Borkowski

July's sermon series: Be a neighbor, build a neighborhood.

There are so many, many things that are repaired, improved, and accomplished at Our Saviour's on a weekly basis.


Thank-you to all those that serve faithfully and give generously!



**Sermons remind us to
live free in Christ**

August 2025

	Aug 3	Aug 10	Aug 17	Aug 24	Aug 31
Greeters	Cindy Vokt Barbi Elmquist	Delrene Greve Jodi Soll	Jason & Betsy Smith	Praise in the Park	Toby & Pam Steckler
Acolytes	Dalton Miller Dawson Miller	Irelyn Bladt Carly Ellingson	Mary Eldal Madison Obermeier	Scarlett Toft Taryn Stroeher	Kadi Burger USHERS
Readers	Barb Jacobsen	Janet Collins	Tammy Sauers	"Praise in the Park"	Norma Nielsen
Communion Assistants	Barb Jacobsen Diana Deist	N/A	Tammy Sauers Linda Keller	N/A	N/A
Altar Guild	Deanna Jacobsen Marsha Elmquist	Deanna Jacobsen Marsha Elmquist	Deanna Jacobsen Marsha Elmquist	Deanna Jacobsen Marsha Elmquist	Deanna Jacobsen Marsha Elmquist
Organist /Music Leadership	Barb Smith	Barb Smith	Diane Kleckner	Praise Band	Diane Kleckner
Coffee Servers	Phyllis Larsen Elayne Sinow (Food-Same as above)	Annie Elmquist Janet Collins (Food-Becky Lange & Laurie Gilbert)	Jeff & Fonda DeBower (Food-DeBowers & Amy Elmquist)	"Praise in the Park"	Elayne Sinow (Food-Alice Hemmingsen)
Sound	Traci Irlmeier	Traci Irlmeier	Traci Irlmeier	Traci Irlmeier	Jim Dick
Projection	Traci Irlmeier	Traci Irlmeier	Traci Irlmeier	Traci Irlmeier	Lori Applegate
Video/ Streaming	Chris Bylund	Chris Bylund	Chris Bylund	Chris Bylund	[see bulletin]
Ushers	Jason Smith (Captain) David Madsen Chris Bylund Jon Irlbeck Jim Dick Dave Albers Jeff Edwards Randy Blohm	Jason Smith (Captain) David Madsen Chris Bylund Jon Irlbeck Jim Dick Dave Albers Jeff Edwards Randy Blohm	Jason Smith (Captain) David Madsen Chris Bylund Jon Irlbeck Jim Dick Dave Albers Jeff Edwards Randy Blohm	Jason Smith (Captain) David Madsen Chris Bylund Jon Irlbeck Jim Dick Dave Albers Jeff Edwards Randy Blohm	Jason Smith (Captain) David Madsen Chris Bylund Jon Irlbeck Jim Dick Dave Albers Jeff Edwards Randy Blohm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9:00am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15am Coffee Fellowship	4 VBS 5-8pm	5 9:00am Women's Bible Study VBS 5-8pm	6 VBS 5-8pm	7 VBS 4:45-7:30pm	1 8	2 8:00am Be A Light Bible study 9 8:00am Be A Light Bible study
10 9:00am Worship with VBS program 10:15am Coffee Fellowship 10:15am Education Meeting	11	12 9:00am Women's Bible Study	13 10:00am Women of the Well Bible study	14 10:30am F. Home Communion Service	15	16 8:00am Be A Light Bible study
17 9:00am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15am Coffee Fellowship 10:15am BTC Practice	18 6:00pm Property & Building Meeting	19 9:00am Women's Bible Study	20 6:00pm Council Meeting	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23 8:00am Be A Light Bible study
24 10:00am Backpack Blessing & Praise in the Park with luncheon to follow 4:00pm Vespers Service @ Friendship Home	25 Public School starts	26 9:00am Women's Bible Study	27 10:00am Women of the Well Bible study	28	29	30 8:00am Be A Light Bible study
31 9:00am Worship 10:15am Coffee Fellowship	OSLC Office Hours: 9:00am-noon & 1:00pm-3:00pm Monday-Friday					



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
326 Leroy St
Audubon, IA 50025

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Looking Forward...

August 1st-3rd: 75th Operation T-Bone parade & celebration
Come see our float in the parade! (Saturday 1PM)

August 4th-7th– 5-8PM: Vacation Bible School—‘True North’

August 17th: Behind the Cross-Praise Band practice 10:15am

August 24th: Backpack Blessing during
Praise in the Park & luncheon to follow

August 25th: Public School begins (Audubon & Exira EHK
& IKM-Manning & Coon Rapids-Bayard)



Sean Dougherty, Lead Pastoroslcpastor@protonmail.com
Stephanie Zornes-Poldberg, Administrative Assistantaaoslaudubon@gmail.com
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Phone: 712-588-1113 Emergency contact: **717-829-7189 Pastor Sean** (cell / WhatsApp)

The Shepherd Staff is the monthly newsletter of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
and is published for the **members** and **friends** of Our Saviour's,
which has been bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Audubon and the surrounding communities since 1909!
OSLC strives to reach out and minister to our members, our community, and the world!