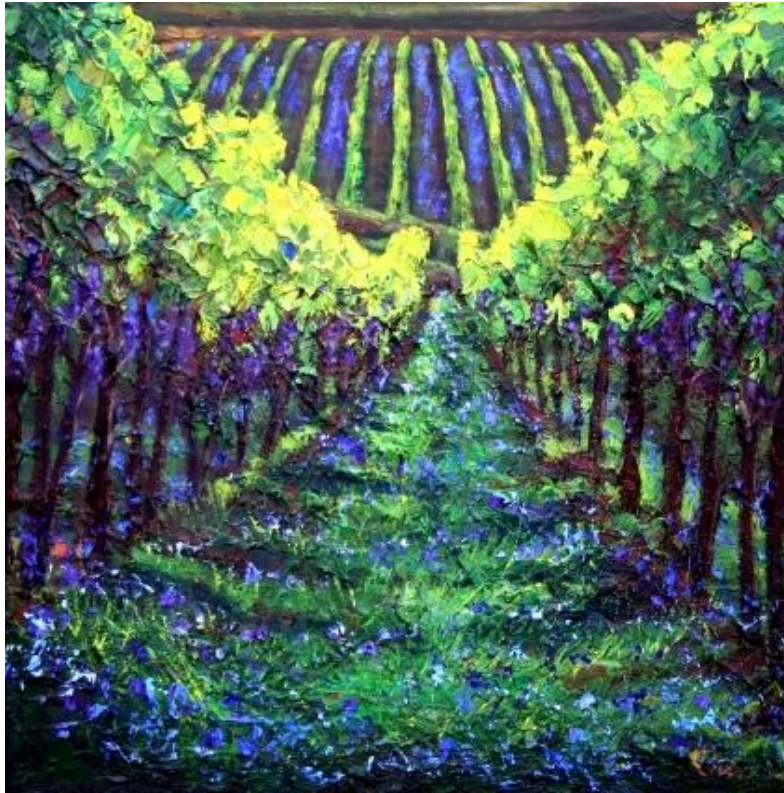


Gracious Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sunday, September 20, 2026

19484 James Couzens Fwy.
Detroit, MI 48235
313-342-4950

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Doshia Strong, Licensed Lay Minister

Mission Statement

By the grace of God, Gracious Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church being of one body in Christ Jesus, made up of many parts, and having many gifts; provides a place for all to worship, praise, and glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. We teach the Word of God and spread the Good News through our service to one another and community. We encourage all to come and share their various gifts and talents.

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Call to Worship

LOVE

Tan Hymnal #31 Order A

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

How beautiful you are, my love, how very beautiful!

Your eyes are doves behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats, moving down the slopes of Gilead.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;

For love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.

Opening Hymn

I'm So Glad

Tan #238

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading – Jonah 3:10-4:11

Marilyn Sanders

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. ⁴ But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³ Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” “It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.” ¹⁰ But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

Responsive Reading – Psalm 145:1-8

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
- ² **Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.**
- ³ Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
- ⁴ **One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.**
- ⁵ They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.
- ⁶ **They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.**
- ⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
- ⁸ **The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.**

Second Reading – Philippians 1:21-30

Marilyn Sanders

²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me. ²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Gospel Acclamation

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me, Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 20:1-16. Glory to you O Lord!

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. ³ “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴ He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵ So they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶ About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ ⁷ ““Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ ⁸ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ ⁹ “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹² ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ ¹³ “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵ Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Devotional Music

Lord, Be Glorified

Tan #182

Sermon.....Minister Doshia Strong

Hymn of the Day

God Is

Tan #134

The Apostle’s Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, he was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 the Community

Lay Assistant: Merciful God,

Congregation response: receive our prayer.

Announcements

Offertory Hymn

Offertory Prayer: God of goodness and growth, **all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Take the Name of Jesus with You

Tan #297

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good morning and welcome to Gracious Saviour. We are grateful that you have chosen to worship and honor the Lord's name with us. If you are new to this church, we would like to thank you for worshiping with us and we warmly welcome you into the Gracious Saviour family as our brothers and our sisters.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH!! God bless you and enjoy your day!!

Choir Rehearsal

United Voices of Praise will rehearse on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

Monthly Food Pantry

The Gracious Saviour Community Food Pantry is open the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 11am – 1pm. The next food pantry day is **Thursday, October 1, 2026**. People can call the food pantry line at 313-634-1311.

Celebrating the Life of

Sharon C. Dawkins

Friday, September 25, 2026

Family Time: 10:30 a.m. ~ Service: 11:00 a.m.

65th Church Anniversary

We will celebrate our 65th Church Anniversary on **Sunday, September 27th!** Our theme: **“Enduring Love, Eternal Foundation,”** Song of Solomon 8:7a. There will be a memory table set up in the Fellowship Hall with pictures of Gracious Saviour over the years. If you have pictures that you would like to include, please call Gayle. Rev. Dr. Tony Henderson will be our guest preacher. A fellowship dinner will follow Morning Worship.

Tithes and Offering

Ways to give –

- Cash App - \$GraciousSaviourLC
- PayPal – Gracious Saviour Lutheran Church
- <https://www.gracioussaviourlutheran.org/donate/>
- Mail to the church: 19484 James Couzens Hwy., Detroit, 48235