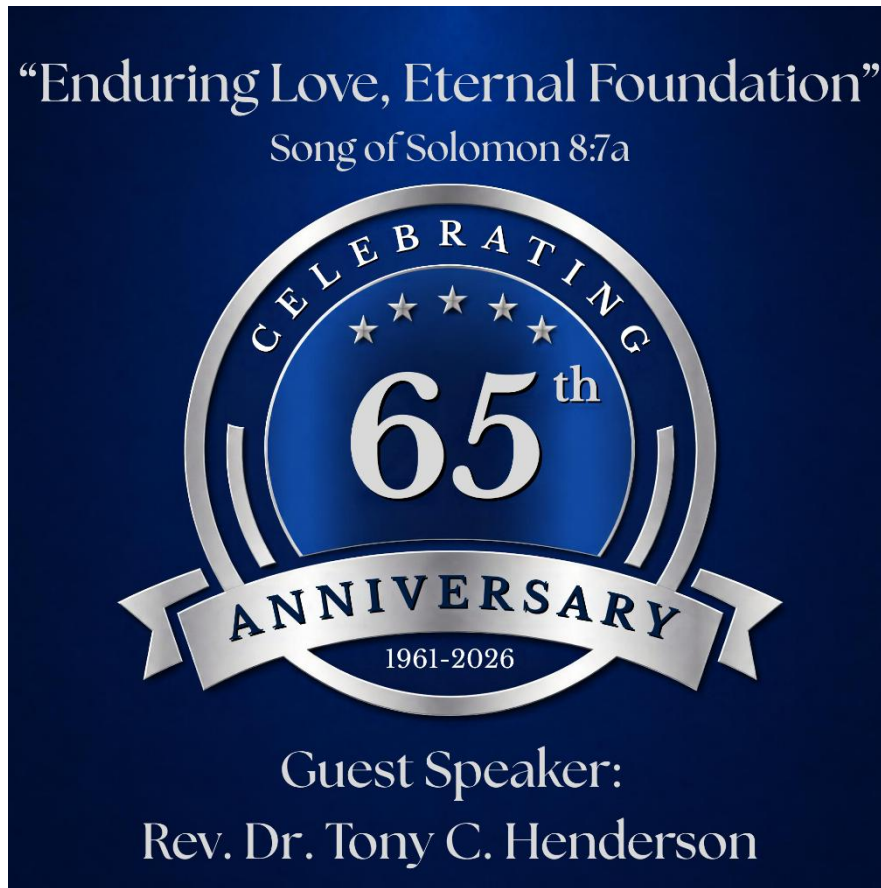


Gracious Saviour Lutheran Church



Sunday, September 27, 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.

Our 65th Church Anniversary

Handbell Choir

Call to Worship

Church Anniversary

Tan Hymnal #58

Be with us, O God, as we celebrate this day and the years of Christian fellowship that we have shared as a congregation.

For such a time as this, you have called the church to be at its best.

Quicken our memories of those whose wisdom and love established this church and whose faith and steadfastness glorified you through its life.

For those who laid the foundations of this household of faith, we give thanks.

Make vivid to us the glorious victories that have been won in your name and the continuing fellowship, which has revealed your Spirit through these years.

For this rich inheritance of the Church of Jesus Christ, we give thanks.

Crown our joy in this hour with a fresh awareness of the vast company of Christians who share our celebration and who urge us to yet greater achievements in Christ's name.

For those who make common cause with us, we give thanks.

May we be worthy of the faith of our ancestors and eager to win new victories for righteousness' sake.

For the "invisible institution" of black slaves we give you thanks. For the emergence of the Black Church, solidified by shared suffering and deliverance, we give thanks.

We remember with gratitude and awe their creative appropriation of the Bible, and their centuries-long struggle for freedom all alone.

For the Quakers who took a firm stand against slavery in 1688, we give thanks.

Fill us with an ever-increasing knowledge of truth, and with an ever-growing awareness of need. Give us a more generous spirit.

For the assurance of new opportunities to serve you better, we give thanks.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, renew our faith and increase our strength. May we be worthy recipients of past blessings and ready helpers in the tasks that lie ahead.

Come, Lord Jesus, empower and hold our church to your heart.

Unite us in common commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, that the world may see our dedication to follow your teachings and to fulfill your will for this church.

May your kingdom come and your will be done in splendid, perfect fellowship. Continue to guide us in the future, as you have in the past.

Opening Hymn

We've Come this Far by Faith

Tan #412

Prayer of the Day

Loving God, who guided our ancestors, we offer unto You a prayer of thanks and ask Your blessing on all those who have served and worked in this branch of Christ's Church. We thank You for every memory that our celebrations revive, and for the great number of witnesses who have made this 65th anniversary of our church an occasion for celebration. May we continue to see, by faith, the needs of those around us and the needs of those who shall come after us. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

First Reading – Song of Solomon 8:6-7a

⁶Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. ⁷Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away.

Responsive Reading – Psalm 25:1-9

¹ In you, LORD my God,
I put my trust.

² **I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.

⁴ **Show me your ways, LORD,
teach me your paths.**

⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

⁶ **Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.**

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, LORD, are good.

⁸ **Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.**

⁹ He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.

Second Reading – Philippians 2:1-13

¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should

bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

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.

Don Johnson - The Holy Gospel according to John 15:1-12. Glory to you O Lord!

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Introduction of Speaker

Don Johnson

Devotional Music

United Voices of Praise

Sermon.....Rev. Dr. Tony C. Henderson

Hymn of the Day

This is the Day

Tan #108

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 all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Joyce Stearns-Thompson

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

Call Him Up

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.

Women's Prayer Breakfast

The Women of Gracious Saviour are sponsoring a Family Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, October 3rd, 10am-12pm. Attendance is free; however, space is limited to 70 guests. The speaker is Rev. Dr. Charmaine Johnson. We encourage men to attend as well.

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