



The Evangel

Vol. 38, Edition 9

September 2021

**Our Saviour
Lutheran Church**
is a congregation of the
Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America.

We welcome all
to share in life with Christ
as a community
of faith in mission.

OSLC's Vision & Mission

God calls us to be a community of
discipleship for all, making Christ's
love real in our daily lives.

Grow in faith and Christian calling
Love and serve God and neighbor
Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Worship

9:00 A.M. (Online and in-person)

11:30 A.M. (In-person only)

Join the Zoom Meeting or watch
live on OSLC's facebook page.

Email Sandra (sandra@osluth.org)
and she'll send you a bulletin
and a Zoom invite.



Randy Schroeder, Pastor
Candice Hinkle, Intern

God's Work. Our Hands.

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do everything for the glory of God.*

1 Corinthians 10:31

Here are some ways to use your hands to do God's Work,
right here at OSLC, in the community, and internationally:

Hunger Hike (pages 2 and 7) Here's an opportunity to use
your feet as well!

Thrivent Action Teams: (page 5) Use your imagination too,
to come up with group activities to benefit those in need.

Caregiver Companion: (page 6) Involve your heart also:
love your neighbor as yourself.

Lutheran World Relief Projects: (page 6) Our current pro-
ject is gathering school kits to eventually send overseas. Once
we have enough supplies, we'll have a group of folks put the
kits together—date T.B.A.

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS): (page
9)** You've undoubtedly heard about the thousands of refugees
from Afghanistan. Many arrive with very few belongings.
Check out the website for LIRS to see how you can help.

Food Finders Food Bank: (page 10) You can take action
against hunger right here in our community. See the list for
some things you can do immediately.

Ministry Teams at OSLC: (See the list on page 12) Many
hands make light work. Join a ministry team and work with
others to accomplish amazing things!

Worship Assistants: Now that a number of folks are meeting
in person on Sunday mornings, there are some "jobs" that
need to be filled, such as serving as Assisting Minister, Lec-
tor, Usher, Cantor or Musician. Email the office if you'd like
to help out! (sandra@osluth.org)

We are off and running... September is busy as students are back in town. PLM is beginning to offer events for students. We begin Faith Formation classes, including a joint confirmation class with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. And our Intern, Candice Hinkle was welcomed last Sunday as she begins her 11 months with OSLC and PLM. Yet, let us slow things down and think about walking...



September 12th is God's Work, Our Hands Sunday and we, The Evangel Team and I, urge you to Walk... and Pray...

First, set time aside to walk and pray. If you are not a walker... find a quiet place and meditate in God's presence. What do you notice? What are your concerns? For what are you longing? God is listening. Lift your observations to the lover of your soul. The one who knew you before you were born. The one who has promised to be there for you.

Second, plan to participate in the Hunger Hike. The Hunger Hike begins on September 19th. We know the dates are off by a week, but that is ok ☺. <https://youtu.be/2QRDSjBWslu> Check out this YouTube video to learn more... Maybe we should get a team together!!! As we participated last year, we had one of the best years ever!! Let's do it again.

Third, if you don't wish to register, consider donating and walk around your neighborhood and pray for your neighbors. Or walk around the neighborhood of OSLC and pray for those around our church.

If you chose to participate in the Hunger Hike, please contact me or someone from the Evangel Team; Scott or Sandra Vana, Reeve Lambert or Sandy Monroe for more information. You can also find information at <https://www.hungerhike.org/> Peace be with you as you walk and pray...

Pastor Randy ☺

The following brief description was taken from the ELCA website.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is Sunday, September 12, 2021. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. See more information at <https://www.elca.org/dayofservice>



- September 4
Purdue Home Football vs Oregon State,
- September 6
Labor Day (OSLC Office Closed)
- September 11
Patriot Day
- September 12
National Grandparents Day
- September 12
Sunday School Kickoff
- September 15-October 15
Hispanic Heritage Month
- September 19
Hunger Hike
- September 22
First day of autumn
- September 25
Purdue Home Football vs Illinois

News & Notes

Council Highlights August 11, 2021



Faith Formation: Kids' Sunday School will consist of one class of all ages. Curriculum has been selected. Barbora will serve in the nursery if needed. School Kit Bags have arrived. Planning for the Youth Gathering (next summer) has begun. Planning for football parking fundraising is also underway.

Fellowship Events: There will be a shower and welcome for Candice on August 29.

PLM: Some new members were added to the PLM board, including Marcia D & Russell H from OSLC. Reeve is President for now; Carlee is treasurer. They're planning new stuff and having good conversations.

Social Justice: Hunger Hike is Sept 19.

The Reopening Task Force will meet again and make recommendations.



The Lord hath done
great things
for us; whereof
we are glad.

~PSALM 126:3, KJV~

Stewardship Prayer

*Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you.
We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth
In thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.
Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others,
and especially of those in need.*

*Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless,
clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the
stranger,
care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people.*

*Bless those who go out from here to labor and pray.
Prosper the work of their hands.*

*Bless those who receive them and the fruits of their labor,
And may those who are sent receive blessing in return.*

May the gifts they use and share be signs of your love to all people.

*To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now
and forever. Amen.*

In September, the Ministry Teams (Property, Worship & Music, Faith Formation, Operations, Social Justice, Mutual Ministry, Altar, Fellowship Events, and Family Promise) are creating their budget requests for 2022. Later in September, the Finance Team will assemble a proposed budget and present it to the Council for their review.

On the last Sunday in September, the members of our church will receive a copy of the proposed budget and a request to prayerfully consider their financial contribution to support our mission in 2022.

Commitment Sunday, when we request that pledge cards be returned, will be Sunday, October 17.

You can return your pledge in person on October 17, if we're worshipping together then, or mail your pledge using the included envelope.

-- Steve Belter, seb@wintek.com

**Our
Saviour
Leading with
Compassion**

"If you want the peace that passes understanding, you're going to have to give up your right to understanding. It's called trust."
—Bill Johnson

SEPTEMBER UPDATES

Keep your ear to the ground for announcements about September Pints with a Pastor.

Wednesday Zoom with Kiddos: Every Wednesday at 4:30, elementary age kids Zoom with Dale. Family Promise kids will be joining on the first Wednesday of each month.

Sunday School for all ages will resume on Sunday, September 12, at 10:15 A.M. Our kiddos through age 12 will be meeting in-person using a wonderful Lutheran curriculum entitled “Whirl.”



Our **Adult Forum**, which includes teens, will continue to meet virtually over Zoom, BUT if you would like to be at the church we will have a “live-feed” of the Zoom set up on the big screen downstairs in the fellowship hall. We have an excellent line-up of speakers this semester. All safety precautions regarding COVID will be adhered to so as to make sure everyone who is present in the building for Sunday School is safe.

- * **September 12 - “Get to know the OSLC Intern”**
- * **September 19 - Rev. Heather Apel- “How Our ELCA Seminaries are Doing”**
- * **September 26 - Sandy Monroe- “Looking Back on a Career in Education”**

Other Resources

- **Facebook**-“Like” OSLC’s page for Sunday Worship streamed live, updates and upcoming events: <https://www.facebook.com/osluth/>
- **RightNow Media** (bible studies, devotions, video resources for individuals & families)-FREE OSLC membership:
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/account/invite/OurSaviour>



dale@osluth.org

Mark your calendars:

- ◆ **Wednesday Zoom with Kiddos:** Meets every Wednesday at 4:30 P.M.
- ◆ **Sunday Mornings, 10:15** Sunday School & Adult Forum
- ◆ **September Pints with a Pastor, 7:00 P.M.** Date & Location TBA.
- ◆ **Sunday, September 12, Faith Formation Team** meets after 11:30 service.
- ◆ **Thursday, September 16, 7:30 P.M.:** Social Justice Discussion continues via Zoom (Book: *Do Better*)

A cheerful what?

Guideposts editor Mary Ann O’Roark recalls hearing the phrase “cheerful liver” so often in church as a girl that she asked her grandmother what a liver is. “It’s a part inside you, like your stomach or your heart,” Grandma replied.

Rather confused, O’Roark tried to figure out how to be cheerful from the inside out. Then during Sunday school one week, a classmate explained that God loves a cheerful *giver*, not liver. Years later, however, O’Roark realized that her younger self wasn’t too far off the mark. After all, God does indeed love someone who *lives* cheerfully, spreading the hope and joy that he longs for all people to know!

After all, it was Jesus who said, “I came that [all] may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10, NRSV).



The Book Discussion Group will restart September 26! We’ll be discussing *The Midnight Library* (finally!) and determining other books we’d like to consider. We’ll be meeting on zoom. Look for an invitation closer to September 26. All are welcome!



Greetings,

We heard loud and clear through our recent survey that organizations want more information, resources and tools to leverage Thrivent’s generosity programs. In fact, many of you shared that you want to know the best way to grow—together.

Here are three best practices as shared by organizations like yours:

1 **Share Thrivent’s generosity programs.** Many of Thrivent’s generosity resources can be used by anyone. While some resources are exclusive, like directing Thrivent Choice Dollars®, anyone can donate through our online giving platform. Don’t forget, Thrivent covers all processing fees so 100% of the donation goes right to your mission.*

“I wasn’t aware we could promote Thrivent’s programs. I was under the impression these were exclusive opportunities and not for public promotion. I’m excited to share these opportunities.” (Partnering organization)

2 **Make the connection to your mission.** Share with your supporters how the dollars they donate and the volunteer hours they provide impact your mission—especially when there is a Thrivent matching opportunity or you have an important need.

“We share the Thrivent online giving platform by linking directly to our web pages—especially when matching opportunities from Thrivent are available. It’s such a boon for organizations, like ours, to connect our donors to Thrivent’s online giving platform because it helps us reduce our processing fee costs.” (Partnering organization)

3 **Leverage templates for easy sharing.** Organizations can access easy templates, request our logo and gain new information by visiting our partnership page.

“We are grateful to Thrivent clients and others who donated to our organization. Using Thrivent’s templates makes it easier for us to ask them to consider supporting our organization.” (Partnering organization)

You can find resources, information and Thrivent Action Team ideas at

https://www.livegenerously.com/tools/choice_org.html?utm_source=semial&utm_term=tc&utm_campaign=tc_org_08.13.21

How We're Different

At Thrivent, we believe money is a tool, not a goal. Driven by a higher purpose at our core, we are committed to providing financial advice, investments, insurance, banking, and generosity programs to help people make the most of all they’ve been given.

At our heart, we are a membership-owned fraternal organization, as well as a holistic financial services organization, dedicated to serving the unique needs of our clients. We focus on their goals and priorities, guiding them towards financial choices that will help them live the life they want today - and tomorrow.

Caregiver Companion

Come and make a meaningful difference in a senior's life!

Walk out your faith and love your neighbor as God calls us! Caregiver Companion simply needs you to visit or provide practical, non-medical help to often homebound neighbors who are in need of compassionate companionship. Often 1 hour per week is all that's needed to come alongside the aging widow(er) who feels alone in your community.

Some current volunteer opportunities:

- Visiting and helping a homebound widow with organizing once a week
- Visiting and running occasional errands for a neighbor who has cancer
- Grocery Shoppers for frail widows and other elderly community members
- Driving frail seniors to their local doctor's appointments
- Simple in-home repairs or yard work assistance



Our neighbors just need a little encouragement and companionship to know they are not alone as they age and become more isolated. You will be amazed at the blessings that come from being there for someone in their time of need! **Contact the office at (765) 423-1879 or caregiver95@gmail.com to schedule a volunteer interview.**

LWR School Kits

We're still building LWR School Kits!

We have more than enough pencils to fill 100 bags, but we are very low on notebooks, rulers, pens and sharpeners. Here are descriptions of the items we still need:

- **70-sheet notebooks** of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper
- **30-centimeter ruler**, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- **pencil sharpener**
- **pair of blunt scissors** (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- **black or blue ballpoint pens** (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- **box of 16 or 24 crayons**
- **2 ½" eraser**



You may also make a monetary donation to cover the cost of shipping and the cost of the bags. (Just designate your offering for "School Kits.")

Look for the box in the narthex for dropping off supplies.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

LUM's Hunger Hike is just around the corner!

Hunger Hike 2021 is back in Riehle Plaza!

Last year's virtual Hunger Hike was an incredible success, raising more than \$120,000 for Lafayette Urban Ministry, Food Finders Food Bank, and the Haiti Mission at St. Thomas Aquinas. But even as the US economy begins to recover from the effects of the pandemic, millions of people are still out of work, facing eviction, and struggling to put food on the table.

Last year, Food Finders distributed 36% more meals and 66% more fresh fruits and vegetables than in 2019. LUM served 45% more households through its Protein Food Pantry, and distributed 120% more money through its Good Samaritan program. And even though they couldn't travel to Haiti, St. Tom's delivered more than 20,000 pounds of food, fielded two medical teams staffed by Haitian doctors, and provided 300 pounds of new seed stock to the Baudin Agricultural Committee.

The need is as great as ever, but YOU can be part of the solution. **Help fight hunger!**

Let's beat last year's record and raise \$125,000 for the hunger relief efforts of Lafayette Urban Ministry, Food Finders Food Bank, Inc. and the Haiti Ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas Center

- **September 12 to September 19** is Challenge Week. Set a personal challenge and share it with your supporters: walk 100 steps, bike 100 miles, fast for 2 days, go without meat for a week, or take the SNAP Challenge and try to feed your family on the average SNAP benefit of \$30 a person for the week. The possibilities are endless.
- **Sunday, September 19 at 1:00pm** join us in Riehle Plaza for our annual celebration and 3k walk. Enjoy:
 - o Live music from former LUM shelter director, Briton Wiese
 - o Clowns, face painting, balloon animals, massage, ZUMBA, a hotdog picnic
 - o And new this year: pose for photos with our three costumed princesses: the Glass Slipper Princess, Enchanted Rose Princess, and Apple Princess.

The tenor of this year's celebration is **fewer speeches, more fun!**

It's easy to sign up

- Go to hungerhike.org OR
- Text **HHIKE** to **71777**

Remember, raising money for Hunger Hike isn't just a great way to help the community – *it can also be a lot of fun!*

IMPORTANT - After you Sign Up, you'll get an email from Mobile Cause. **Keep that email!** At the bottom of it is a link that will let you edit your fundraising page. You'll need that every time you want to go make an edit to either your personal page or your team page.

Josh Prokopy

Hunger Hike Coordinator

420 N 4th Street

Lafayette, Indiana 47901-2213

hungerhike.org | 765.423.2691

info@hungerhike.org



The OSLC team for the Hunger Hike has a fundraising page. Here's the link: <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/HHIKE/team/OurSaviourLutheranChurch>

News from the INKY Via de Cristo Secretariat...

Indiana-Kentucky Via de Cristo (“VDC”) weekends are **BACK!**

Via de Cristo **IS**:

- Thought-provoking talks to give you a chance for self-reflection on your beliefs.
- Lots of singing. (Sing if you like – or just hum along - no pressure!)
- Great food. And lots of it!
- Prayer and Worship.
- An opportunity to establish new Christian friendships that will last years.
- A very laid-back weekend dedicated to you so you can “escape” - Relax, Reflect, and Rejuvenate.
- Did I mention the food?

Via de Cristo **is NOT**:

- About denominations. It’s an ecumenical, Christian experience. You’ll be joined by people of many different Christian denominations.
- It is NOT a place to debate controversial issues, whether religious, political, or social.
- You will NOT be told what to believe. It is a place to simply reflect on your own faith journey.
- You will NOT be placed on the spot to sing, lead prayers, or anything else. Participate in the manner you want, when you want.

Your registration **has already been pre-paid**. And travel is no obstacle; you will be transported to the camp on Thursday and brought home on Sunday night. Special food needs? No problem!

**NOW THAT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS FADING INTO THE PAST – IT’S TIME TO CELEBRATE!
CAST ASIDE THE STRESS OF THE PAST MONTHS WITH A WEEKEND DEVOTED TO YOU AND YOUR PERSONAL
FAITH JOURNEY. YOU DESERVE IT. YOU’VE EARNED IT.**

John 1:5 – The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

We have weekends for men only, for women only, and also coed weekends. Upcoming weekends include:

Coed #29	September 30 – October 3	Epworth Forest, North Webster, IN
Men’s Weekend #82	November 4 – 7	Camp Lakeview, Seymour, IN
Women’s Weekend #83	November 11-14	Camp Lakeview, Seymour, IN

For More Information: Check out the INKY VDC website at www.inkyvdc.org If you still have questions, feel free to email your questions to Outreach@VdC.org or call 502-836-0311. Alternatively, ask anyone you know who has gone through a weekend.

Michael Montgomery 502-836-0311 *Outreach Chair, INKY VDC Secretariat* Outreach@vdc.org

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Dear LIRS Supporter,

I wanted to give you a quick update on our work to help our Afghan Allies — the men and women who served alongside our troops and are now facing retaliation from the Taliban.

With support from people like you, we've already welcomed about 2,000 Afghan Allies who arrived here on evacuated flights, many with nothing but the clothes on their backs. We're providing them with food, housing, clothes, and other essential needs, along with connections to programs and services to help them settle into their new communities.

Now, we're preparing to welcome the next wave of nearly 50,000 evacuated Afghans. And unlike the refugees we typically serve, many of the evacuees will enter the U.S. under humanitarian parole, which is a status that limits public benefits or services funded by the federal government after 90 days.

Thankfully, the 'Long Welcome' is possible, a mosaic of support that will serve a refugee not just for 30 or 90 days, but for the long haul, making sure families have the resources to live in safety and freedom.

It's a genuinely sobering time, and we're thankful for people like you — people who stand for what's right and just in the face of horrific violence and pain. Together, we will do everything we can to help families who truly need it most.

With sincere gratitude,

Andrew G. Steele

Vice President for Development and Outreach



**Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service**

P.S. Please visit www.lirs.org/helpnow for updates and ways you can continue to help.

About LIRS...

LIRS HAS WELCOMED MORE THAN 500,000 REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

For over 80 years, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has been a champion for refugees and migrants from around the globe.

Our legacy of compassionate service has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who have found safety and hope in America's communities.

Our history reflects American Lutherans' deep immigrant roots and passionate commitment to welcoming newcomers, especially those who are most in need.

Through the Long Welcome, we help ensure that refugees and migrants are protected, embraced and empowered in a world of just and welcoming communities.



September is Hunger Action Month.®

Food Finders Food Bank wants to encourage everyone to take action to end hunger.

For millions of people in America, a daily meal is a choice between food and other critical needs—like medicine, housing, or transportation. No one should have to make those types of choices.

This month, Food Finders Food Bank is offering you the choice to end hunger. There are so many ways to take action. You can choose to donate or advocate, to volunteer, or raise awareness. Check out the website: <https://www.food-finders.org/hunger-action-month/> and find out how you can...

Learn

See stories of people facing hunger.
Learn about hunger in your community.

Commit

Host a food drive
Volunteer
Sign the pledge

Speak Up

Tell Congress: End Military Hunger
Tell Congress: End Child Hunger
Fill the Plate: Tell Congress Why Hunger Matters
Tell Congress: Fight Against SNAP Cuts
Share our posts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

If you love our work, then tell the world! Stories about us from people like you will help us make an even bigger impact in our community. GreatNonprofits – the #1 source of nonprofit stories and feedback – is honoring highly regarded nonprofits with their 2021 Top-Rated List. Won't you help us raise visibility for our work by posting a brief story of your experience with us? All content will be visible to potential donors and volunteers. It's easy and only takes 3 minutes!



Our help — past, present and future

This month, America marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which ended almost 3,000 lives and changed life forever for millions more. The nation was shaken to its very roots, with violence jolting out of us any assumption that “it can’t happen here.” September 11 banished any lingering notion that being on the side of “liberty and justice for all” served as insulation against mass tragedy. We now had more to fear than fear itself.

Psalm 46 reminds us that “though the earth should change” (v. 2) — as it did on 9/11 — God remains “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (v. 1). We are never alone or without hope, even on life-altering days.

How have God’s presence and power sustained you through life’s changes? How might sharing your story help someone else when their world or faith gets shaken?

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

Laboring for the Lord



For many people, the pandemic redefined work, with more employees logging hours from a home office — or kitchen table. Boundaries between job and personal life blurred, as did any sense of being “off duty.”

Most of us prefer clear divisions between our tasks and time. While such separations may help with scheduling, they are artificial human constructs. “*Whatever* your task,” says Colossians 3:23 (NRSV, emphasis added) — whether in public or private, family or job, spiritual or worldly activities — “put yourselves into it as done for the Lord.” Verse 17 tells us to “do everything” in Jesus’ name, “giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

That means even work and worship interlock. As Rick Warren writes, “Work becomes worship when you dedicate it to God and perform it with an awareness of his presence.”

God languishes with us

A headline from last spring teased, “There’s a Name for the Blah You’re Feeling.” The writer decided what he and others felt as the pandemic wore on wasn’t burnout or depression but *languishing* — decreasing vitality; feeling dispirited. People of ancient times experienced this too: “The land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine” (Genesis 47:13). “The wine dries up, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh” (Isaiah 24:7). But there’s more.

If you used to be “merry-hearted” but now sigh a lot, hear this: “The heavens languish together with the earth” (Isaiah 24:4). Isaiah uses “the heavens” to refer to God, who languishes with us. Like an empathizing friend, God sits *with* us in our struggle. Sure, we pray for rescue *now*: “I am languishing; O Lord, heal me” (Psalm 6:2). But when our timing isn’t God’s, we trust his promise of restoration: “[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes ... mourning and crying and pain will be no more” (Revelation 21:4).

With the psalmist we hold two truths at once: “My soul languishes for your salvation; I hope in your word” (119:81).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Learn from leaves

As you’re enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: “Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go.”

When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the home, a desire for control, commitments that no longer bring joy, personal expectations that cause added stress, a need to always be right and so on.

Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past as slaves in Egypt and Saul-turned-Paul had to abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let go of what weighs us down and gets in the way of God’s best for our lives. Embrace fall as a season of change and see just how beautiful it is to let things go!

—Janna Firestone

News items for the October *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 9/23/2021. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

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Mutual Ministry: Brian Wagner

Operations: Dick Rahdert

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Property: Matt Ohland

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Worship & Music: Mark Hermodson

The Evangel

SEPTEMBER

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
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