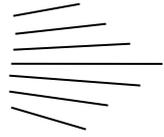




THE

VOICE



The monthly newsletter of Our Savior Lutheran Church
1103 N Broad St., Mankato, MN 56001 **DECEMBER 2025**

Holiday Worship Schedule

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th
1:30 & 6:30pm

Children's Christmas Service

followed by a Christmas Reception

Sunday, December 21st
9am

Christmas Eve ~ Service of Readings and Carols

Wednesday, December 24th
3:00 & 5:00pm

Christmas Day ~ Divine Service

Thursday, December 25th
9:00am

New Year's Eve ~ Divine Service

Wednesday, December 31st
6:30pm



Contact Info:

Church Office: Phone: 507-385-2180
Fax: 507-345-5113
contact@oslcmandato.org
www.oslcmandato.org
www.facebook.com/oslcmandato

Senior Pastor Office phone: 507-385-2183
Rev. Adam Matheny: matheny@oslcmandato.org
Emergency number: 812-449-6866

Associate Pastor Office phone: 507-385-2185
Rev. John Koopman: pastorjohnkoopman@gmail.com
Emergency number: 712-852-6095

Secretary Office phone: 507-385-2180
Sue Hendrickson: sue@oslcmandato.org

Custodian Cell phone: 507-594-8515
Doug Clausen doug@oslcmandato.org

Music Coordinator Home phone: 507-341-4173
Suzie Gangi suzie@oslcmandato.org

Office hours are Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 8:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Unless there is an activity or event taking place, please use the Broad Street entrance by the mailbox.

In case of emergency or urgent need, our pastors are available at all hours and all days by calling their cell phone. Please use the office phone for other business. Please also remember that Sunday morning and other worship times are not for bringing church business to other members or staff but for focusing upon the Word and gifts of God. "The seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work." - Exodus 20:10

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

-John 8:12

Dear Christian, you once walked in thick darkness. By nature you were born blind, dead in trespasses and sins, loving the shadows of pride, lust, and unbelief. The darkness felt like home; you even called it light. But the Law thundered, exposing your guilt, and the night grew blacker still.

Then Jesus spoke: "I am the Light of the world." Not a teacher pointing to the light, not a prophet carrying a torch; He Himself is the Light, eternal, uncreated, the same Light that shone in the beginning when God said, "Let there be light." This Light stepped into our midnight at Bethlehem, was lifted up on the cross to swallow the darkness of God's wrath, and burst forth from the tomb to shatter the power of death forever.

Now He says to you, "Whoever follows Me." Baptism joined you to Him; there the Light entered your heart. In Absolution He shines again, driving out the shadows of doubt and despair. In His Supper He feeds you with the Light of life Himself, His true body and blood. Following Him is not a frantic search for more light; it is simply staying where He has promised to be: in His Word and Sacraments. The world still loves darkness and rages against this Light. Your old Adam still gropes for the shadows. Yet the promise stands: whoever follows Jesus will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life, life that death cannot extinguish. *Lord Jesus, true Light, keep us steadfast in Your Word and faith until the Day dawns and the shadows flee away. Amen.*

When All the World Was Cursed

“O grant, dear Lord of love, that we receive, rejoicing, the word proclaimed by John, our true repentance voicing, that gladly we may walk upon our Savior’s way until we live with Him in His eternal day.” - LSB 346:4

“Cursed” is a weighty word. Indeed, such is the weight of God’s law upon us sinners. As St. Paul explains in Roman 3: *“Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.”* The law of God, as recorded by Moses, holds the whole world accountable to God, and since we are all conceived in sin and fall short of the glory of God, therefore the world is cursed beneath God’s good and holy law.

But while all were cursed beneath their sins, the Lord sent John the Baptist to call all to repentance and believe in the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This season of Advent is a time to heed John the Baptist’s call to repentance. It is a time to leave behind our life of sins, and cling in faith to Christ Jesus. God’s law is good and holy, and sets God’s will before our eyes, and the Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled the law on our behalf, taking away our sin through the atonement on the cross, so that we may have peace and joy.

Although during the Christmas season we focus particularly on the birth of Jesus, we do so on account of the fact that this world is cursed in sin, and the Christ-child came to redeem us from our sin. Thus, the joy of Christmas is much more than pretty decorations, family time, and gift-giving. Our joy flows forth from a clean heart through Jesus’ sacrifice, which leads us to live with Him in His eternal day. The Lord has looked upon our sinful state, our cursed world, and sent the prophet John the Baptist to point us to the Light of the World which no darkness can overcome. May the Christmas lights you enjoy this year remind you of Jesus who shines in the darkness so that You may gladly walk upon our Savior’s way.

A blessed Advent and a holy Christmas to you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

Council Meeting

MINUTES – Our Savior Lutheran Church
1103 North Broad St- Mankato, MN
November 11, 2025

Members Present: Dan Gahler, Judy Hendley, Sharon Anderson, Chris Anderson, Terrin Baldwin, Rob Hobbs, Gene Mensing, Gary Fladland, Joel Maunula, Nancy Benson, Pastor Koopman, Pastor Matheny

1. Meeting was called to order by President Dan Gahler at 6:30 p.m.
2. Pastor Koopman opened with prayer.
3. Public/Congregation Presentation
Music Conservatory Update - Susie Gangi reported: Name is to be “Our Savior Conservatory of Music.” Karee Bless is working on the logo. First teacher is Sue Klute (piano) with 8 students. Others who have ability with different instruments may be interested in teaching as the Conservatory develops.
4. Bible Study of Luke 22; led by Pastor Matheny. Next month Luke 23.
5. Addition/Approval of Agenda
MOTION made and SECONDED to approve the Council agenda with addition of New Business item, Kitchen Fridge/Sanctuary Courtyard Doors. MOTION CARRIED.
6. Approval of October 14, 2025 Council Minutes
MOTION made and SECONDED to approve the October 14, 2025 Council Minutes. MOTION CARRIED.
7. Pastors’ Reports
Pastors Koopman/Matheny: MCA teaching is going well; good with involvement of OSLC at the school. It’s a busy season with the End of the Church Year, Advent and Christmas seasons coming up.

8. Treasurer's Report – Gary Fladland reported.

MOTION made and SECONDED to approve the October 31, 2025 OSLC Treasurer's report. MOTION CARRIED.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. Congregational Notification Ideas: Work continues.
- b. Status regarding OSLC Constitution/Bylaws: No report
- c. Record Retention Policy: Tabled.
- d. Church Credit Card: Dan Gahler reported that it is set up and in place.

10. New Business:

- a. OSLC 2026 Board Nominations – Noted.

- b. MRCI Request – Discussion

MOTION made and SECONDED to grant Lisa Ikier/MRCI's request of use of the OSLC building on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sharon Anderson will oversee. MOTON CARRIED.

- c. OLSA Election Regarding Allocation of Mission Dollars between the District and Synod – Discussion; no action necessary.

- d. OSLC 2026 Budget Proposal – Discussion

MOTION made and SECONDED to present to the voters at the November OSLC Voters' Meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

- e. Kitchen Fridge/Sanctuary Courtyard Doors – Discussion

MOTION made and SECONDED to purchase Mankato Refrigeration solid doors refrigerator as recommended by the Trustees; the quote being \$7,338.08. Approximately half of the cost will be covered by the Kitchen Fund. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made and SECONDED to replace the sanctuary-to-courtyard doors (with proper handling of the stain glass windows assumed). Approximately half of the cost will be covered by the Building Fund. MOTION CARRIED.

11. Board Sharing

Elders: Gene Mensing reported the continued discussion of setting up proper security for the OSLC building. This is in coordination with BEC Public Safety.

Trustees: Chris Anderson reported heating is being updated; boilers, etc. Now kitchen refrigerator and doors will be done as well.

Endowment: Rob Hobbs reported. Continuing support of Concordia Seminary; thank you note received. CCA donation is a very acceptable use of funds.

Deacons: Terrin Baldwin reported. Card/Care ministry is being extended to college students. Now implementing kitchen “mentoring.” Will be handling the brunch after the December 21 Christmas Service.

12. The meeting was closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

13. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

14. The next Council Meeting: December 9, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Benson, Acting Secretary
OSLC Council

Watch Our Savior’s Sunday Worship

Our Savior’s Sunday 8am and 10:30am worship is livestreamed. Go to: www.oslcmankato.org and click on the “Livestreaming & Videos” menu item. From there you can go directly to YouTube to watch the service. Or you can watch anytime at your convenience. You can also view the Order of Service, and keep up with church activities in the Bulletin Announcements from our website.



Articles for the January 2026 VOICE are due by Friday, December 19th at 4pm. You may drop-off submissions in the office, or e-mail to: contact@oslcmankato.org.

Treasurer's Report Commentary Period Ending October 31, 2025

Income and Expense Summary

	Current Month	Y-T-D
Income	\$33,778.69	\$516,488.08
Operating Expenses	(\$42,465.96)	(\$530,733.74)
LCEF Mortgage Principal Payment	(\$798.60)	(\$7,861.17)
Net for Period[†]	(\$9,485.87)	(\$22,106.83)

[†]Positive net value indicates we received more than our expenses, a negative number indicates that we have spent more than we have received for that period (deficit).

Cash Summary

	Amount	Notes
Checking Account	\$10,220.07	Daily checking account Pioneer Bank
Savings Account	\$197,653.99	Interest Savings account Pioneer Bank
Joyful Response	\$26,089.31	Joyful Response deposits and loan payments
Library Fund	\$20,107.12	Certificate of Deposit
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total Cash Assets	\$254,070.49	
Dedicated Accounts	(\$184,811.84)	Amount of our cash balance designated for specific activities
Other Liabilities	(\$3,676.47)	Accruals for HAS pmts, youth, etc.
Available Cash Balance	\$65,582.18	

Long Term Debt (LCEF Mortgage)

Current Balance	\$192,509.99
Monthly Payment	\$1,845.99
Interest Rate (Variable Annually)	6.50% (Aug. 2025-Jul 2026)
Pay-off Date (Pay-off Amount)	7/2036 (\$44,721.09)

Submitted by,
Gary Fladland, Treasurer

Our Savior Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Treasurer's Report September 30, 2025

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Non-Scholar Fund</u>	<u>Scholar Fund</u>
Beginning Principal	\$10,893.79	\$100.00	\$10,793.79
1995 to 2024 Gifts Received	\$613,319.10	\$438,227.68	\$175,091.42
1995 to 2024 Int + Dividend Inc.	\$386,060.45	\$262,696.92	\$123,363.53
1995-2024 Change in Mkt Value	\$47,157.78	\$13,382.47	\$33,775.31
1995 to 2024 Disbursements	(<u>\$496,951.76</u>)	(<u>\$327,157.69</u>)	(<u>\$169,794.07</u>)
Fund Balances: 29 Year Totals	\$560,479.36	\$387,249.38	\$173,229.98
2025 OSLC Member Gifts	\$5,659.75	\$2,829.87	\$2,829.88
2025 Int. + Dividend Inc.	\$11,999.54	\$5,999.77	\$5,999.77
2025 Change in Mkt Value	\$43,799.74	\$21,899.87	\$21,899.87
2025 Lng/Shrt Term Cap.Gain	\$14,318.33	\$7,159.16	\$7,159.17
2025 Disbursements	(\$23,016.92)	(\$2,323.92)	(\$20,693.00)
Total Fund Balances: 2025	\$613,239.80	\$422,814.13	\$190,425.67
Wells Fargo checking	\$7,835.21		
LCMS Foundation	\$605,404.59		
Total balances: 2025	<u>\$613,239.80</u>		

2025 Disbursements:

Concordia Adopt a Student	\$ 3,500.00		
Concordia Classical Academy	\$ 14,193.00		
Together in Mission	\$ -		
Concordia Univ. Chicago	\$ -		
Concordia Univ. St. Paul	\$ 3,000.00		
LCMS Colloquy Program	\$ -		
Fees – LCMS	\$ 2,323.92		
Total 2025 Disbursements	<u>\$ 23,016.92</u>		

Accessions & Losses

Accessions:

Amanda Pingel, Ruxon Wall (age 7); St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aurelia, Iowa; LCMS; November 14, 2025

Losses:

DaMaris Amundson, Removed by request, no transfer; October 30, 2025

Dale & Karen Birr, Bobby Jo Murilla; Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake Crystal, MN; LCMS; 11/7/2025

In Memoriam

Larry Dean Dalluge

July 25, 1937 ~ November 5, 2025

Marlys Ellen Evenson

October 12, 1947 ~ November 8, 2025

Mary Evalyn Henry

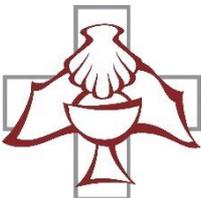
September 28, 1943 ~ November 16, 2025

Karen Emma Slipy

January 31, 1941 ~ November 19, 2025

Lorraine Mae Olson

January 9, 1935 ~ November 19, 2025



Holy Baptism

Ivan Scott Friedrichs

Born: October 1, 2025

Baptized: November 23, 2025

Parents: Brandon & Elliott Friedrichs

75 YEARS 1950-2025

1950-2025, celebrating three-quarters of a century. 2025 has been a wonderful year of looking back and being thankful for the four families, Marvin Heuer, Hilbert Hantelman, Al Meyer, and Karl Malwitz who worked so hard to establish Our Savior's Lutheran Church. And all the hard-working members who have helped for 75 years to make it grow from its humble beginnings, in the attic of the YMCA, into the beautiful church we have today.

We have had some special events to help us recognize a few of the many accomplishments in our church that are still present with us today. Rev. Steve Kosberg, one of the many sons of Our Savior's, was a guest pastor on May 25, 2025. August 17, we had a the 75th Anniversary Celebration. Another son of our congregation, Rev. Steven D. Wilson, was the guest preacher. And another son, Rev. Greg Heidorn, who was unable to join us sent a message congratulating us on our 75th. He mentioned his father, Rev. Norman Heidorn, as the longest serving pastor at Our Savior's and his influence on many. Our Savior's also supported Rev. Greg's daughter, Johanna, in her service of mission work for our synod. August 17th started with an 8:00 Matins followed by a 9:00 Divine Service that was well attended by our members Many members that have since moved away came back as well. After the morning service a lunch was held and an afternoon of fun activities. On September 7th a picnic lunch was held at Tourtelotte Park with polka music. What a memorable year!

Our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has also celebrated many notable anniversaries. The church was organized in 1847. Many groups within the synod have been formed throughout the years.

Lutheran Laymen's League was formed in 1917, The Lutheran Hour; 1930, Lutheran Women's Missionary League; 1943, just to name a few. The Lutheran Laymen's League began when 12 men decided to help pay off church debts and setup a pension fund for church workers. Then in 1930 they started the outreach of a radio broadcast, The Lutheran Hour, bringing Christ to the nations. And in 1950, 75 years ago, another outreach, The Lutheran Hour Ministries Float that can be viewed on TV during the Pasadena, CA, Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day, every January 1st. Be sure to watch for it. And what a wonderful anniversary for us to share.

For 75 years Our Savior's has endured, loved, been resilient, shown strength, perseverance, and a commitment to faith. Let's look forward to the future and remain strong in The Word.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.”

Psalm 46:1-3 (ESV)

GAME NIGHT

Join us Sunday evening, December 7th from 6 – 8pm. Bring your family, friends, and favorite board games. Use the back parking lot entrance. All ages welcome. (Note: This is not a drop off event, Kids 6th grade and younger must be accompanied by an adult.)

Children's Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21st, we will have ONE combined service at 9am as we listen to the children share the message of Jesus birth with the congregation during our Divine Service.





Bible Study Circles

Welcome all ladies!

Theme: Stir Up One Another in Love and Good Works.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. – Hebrews 10:24

The celebration of Christmas makes Hebrews 10:24 a wonderful time to stir up one another to love and good works.

The December Ruth/Lydia Bible Study gathers together on Thursday, December 11th at 10:10am for fellowship and a treat. Bible study begins at 10:25am, followed by Christmas Lunch! (**Note new day, 2nd Thursday, not the 1st Thursday.**) Our study will be from the Fall *Quarterly* "We have received Grace upon Grace." Amazing Grace!

Mary Circle Bible Study does not meet in December, January or February. Merry Christmas everyone.

Funeral Lunch Volunteers

More volunteers are needed to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ who are grieving. If you would be willing to help serve, clean up, provide a cake or bars, or be a leader, please contact:

Judy Mensing 507-420-8196

Mary Bittner 507-469-8052

Gretchen Zellmer 507-317-2904

Cindy Hobbs 507-995-9894

Deadline



Early Bulletin Deadline

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, the bulletin deadline for the December 28th bulletin is **Tuesday,**

December 23rd at 10am and for the January 4th bulletin, the deadline is **Wednesday, December 31st at 10am.** Please drop off any submissions in the church office or e-mail to:

contact@oslcmandato.org.



***Remember our
Shut-Ins and
Homebound***

Shut-in and Homebound Card Volunteers

Our 30 shut-ins and homebound members receive a greeting card every month from Our Saviors. Volunteers are needed for 2026 to send out these cards. You will be provided with cards, envelopes, stamps, and address labels. As a volunteer, please sign your name to the cards, assemble and drop the cards in the mail. Thank you!

Thank you to our 2025 volunteers. You are blessed to be a blessing!

Kris Asleson, Marion Brunz Sandy Burmeister, Chris Dumke, Marcella Eilders, Karen Fischer, Marilyn Lehnert, Theresa McLaughlin, Judy Mensing, Rhonda Rastedt, Mark Wellner. and Trudy Wiechmann



Christmas Reception

The Board of Deacons invites you to a **Christmas Reception** on Sunday, December 21st following the Children's Christmas Service (about 10:15) in the Fellowship Hall.

Brunch will be served: French Toast bake, sausage, fruit, and punch.

Our Savior Ladies

An Advent Event “Christ – The Light of the World” at Our Savior’s on December 4th at 4:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Looking forward to being together on Thursday for social fellowship, singing, and prayer as we begin a new church year.

2026 MN South District Convention

The Crow River Conference will host the convention on June 18-20, 2026 in Mankato. Convention chair, Nona Anderson, will be at the fall rally with information and requests for help. The convention theme is “Peace of Christ” (Colossians 3:15-16a), with donations for “Homeless Ministry” to be made (via on-line purchases and/or gift card) for new caps, jackets, mittens, etc. as well as quilts for prisons.

- Convention Offering ideas will be discussed.
- Mission Grant Proposals are due January 5, 2026 – form is on the LWML website.
- Young Women Representative (ages 22-40) applications are due February 1st, also on website. The Zone picks their YWR.
- Voting for District officers and Counselors will be done by Elections Buddy.
- Nominations for Officers (President, VP of Communications, VP of Gospel Outreach, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Nominating Committee) and Counselor are due January 15, 2026. The form is under “Resources” on the website.

The next Board Meeting is Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 2pm at Centennial Lutheran Church, Henderson.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Prayer Shawls are given to our members who are in need of comfort because of a loss or medical issue. If you’d like a prayer shawl or want to knit or crochet one, call Marcella, 507-317-4127.





Music Notes

“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High” Psalm 92:1

December Special Music Schedule:

December 3: Intro Choir

December 7: Handbells

December 21: Christmas Program

December 24: (3:00 and 5:00) Volunteers & Vocal Choir

Advent Rehearsal Schedule:

Intro Choir: 4:45-5:05

Intro Bells: 5:05-5:25

Bells: 5:25-5:50

Brass: 6:05

Vocal Choir: 7:20 after the advent service

Kids Christmas Recital- The Sunday School Christmas Program is December 21 at 9am. Before the service will feature Kids! Do you like to sing, play the piano or play another instrument? Choose a Church Christmas song, learn it, and play it for the recital. Please contact Suzie Gangi if you are interested.

Volunteers Needed- We need volunteers to sing or play instruments for pre-service music for the Christmas Eve Services 3:00 and 5:00. You can do one service or both. Anyone is encouraged to participate, young or old. Contact Suzie Gangi if you are interested.

Exciting News! Our Savior Lutheran Church is opening a music conservatory in January 2026! The mission of this music conservatory is to train the next generation of church musicians while sharing the Gospel of Christ. Through private music lessons, we will provide opportunities for students to worship God

through music, all while gaining valuable musical and life skills. Members of our congregation will offer lessons on a variety of instruments and voice. Do you know anyone interested in taking music lessons? Let them know about the new Our Savior Conservatory of Music!

Blessings,
Suzie Gangi
suzie@oslcmandato.org
507-341-4173

Join us for **WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS** each Wednesday at 5:30pm during Advent.



We enjoy good fellowship and a good meal before the evening mid-week Advent worship. (Please note; there will not be a meal on December 24th or December 31st.)

Everyone is invited to come. It is not just for people involved in the music groups or Confirmation. If you would like to help by preparing a meal, serving, bring a dessert, clean up, or do dishes, please sign up on the sheet in the Fireplace Room.



Christmas Lights Scavenger Hunt
& Pizza Party!
Sunday, December 14
6 – 8pm

Meet at church. Extra adult helpers are needed to drive. Contact Michelle Rottermond to volunteer.

Mission Service

There will be NO Mission Service in December. Thank you to everyone who helped with the projects in 2025!



Healthcare Kits to local shelters: Connections, The Reach, the Crisis Center, and Union Street Center in St. Peter. Eyeglasses to the Lions. Stamps to Wycliffe Associates. Bibles to Eagles Nest Ministries. Gospel Bracelets to MOST Ministries. Clothing, towels, and bedding to Orphan Grain Train. Shoebox gifts to Samaritans Purse.

“For we are His workmanship, created in CHRIST JESUS for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

Mission Service needs for future projects: Hand towels, deodorant, travel size bars of soap, shampoo, and body wash, and gallon size Ziploc bags.



Mites - Mission Grants

Give God the Glory

December 21st, the third Sunday of the month, is Mite Sunday here at Our Savior Lutheran Church. A Mite Box Prayer Guide is available in the Mission Center, along with the list of Grants for 2025-2027. Our focus for December will be in the December bulletins.

Your generosity is filling our Big Mite Box with coins, Purple 5's, and more, making it possible to complete goals of 2 million dollars and more to make Christ known is just two years! Many thanks!

Our Savior Young at Heart/District S.A.G.E.S./LHM/LLL
Lutheran Hour Ministries
Lutheran Layman League

Saints Alive Growing Ever Serving: Our District older adult ministry needs you.

- 1) We welcome a contact person or persons to communicate information between the congregation and SAGES
- 2) Circuit Representatives are needed (ex. A couple or single). Circuit Representatives are on the Board. SAGES has only one Gathering on the first Monday and Tuesday in May. Bi-monthly meeting in June, August, October, December, February, and April.

Gathering 2026 theme: Living on Purpose with Jesus, Ephesians 5:2, "Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us . . ."

Sagacity for October-December is available online and in the Narthex. Beginning January 2026, there will be NO mailed Sagacity. You may download your own or pick up a copy in the narthex.

More news from the board: Paul Pucket is the new treasurer. Money is now in one account in Waconia.

The following publications are available in the Narthex **for all ages** that cover Christian education, activities, places, mission trips, games, special events, etc:

Lutheran Witness with MNSO District News, Lutheran Layman, Portals of Prayer, Sagacity, and many other publications.

www.lhm.org ● www.mnsdistrict.org/sages





“As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us pray for all mothers who find themselves pregnant and afraid. Abortion

is never the answer. We pray daily that the Lord will strengthen all expectant mothers who find themselves alone and seemingly without hope and that He will help them choose life. Every human being’s life is a precious and beautiful miracle.

Judie Brown, American Life League

Life Quote from Lutherans for Life ~ www.lutheransforlife.org

Minnesota South District News

To keep up with the news and happenings around the Minnesota South District, subscribe to the e-News.

Read about and get registration information on:

- 2026 Bible Bowl, April 18, Concordia St. Paul
- LFL Essay Contest, Students in grades 6-8 & 9-12. Deadline March 15
- Created for Connection, January 10 & February 7, Watertown, MN
- Junior High Honor Choir, January 24, Winona
- LCMS Convention, July 18-23, 2026, Phoenix, AZ

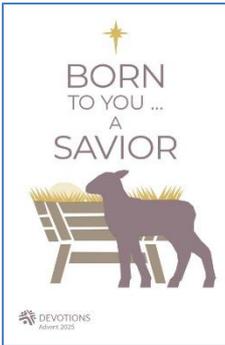
To subscribe and receive a weekly e-mail delivered to your inbox, go to:

<https://www.mnsdistrict.org/publications#weekly-eneus>

Outreach Committee

Free cab rides to services are made possible for our members through Our Savior’s Taxi Fund. To procure a ride, call WS Transportation at 507-420-4503 or 507-388-0708. Please call a half hour before you would like to leave. To call for a return ride, you may use the phone in the office or kitchen. Let WS Transportation know where you will be waiting—the front door on Broad Street or the back parking lot door.





Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent Devotions

Born to You a Savior

The Christ-Child in a manger is a familiar site at Christmas. But the meaning of this quaint scene often gets lost in the flurry of the holiday. God has come to us - to you and me - as a human, with the divine purpose of rescuing us from our sins. In

Born to You . . . a Savior, we treasure the Father's beloved Gift of love to each of us.

Pick up a copy of the devotional in the narthex, or go to: www.lhm.org/advent to read, print, or subscribe to a daily e-mail.

Installation of Rev. Kristian Bjornstad

The congregation of St. John Lutheran Church, Good Thunder, is pleased to announce the Installation of Rev. Kristian Bjornstad as pastor of St. John. All are invited to join us Sunday, December 7th at 2pm.

Rev. Rudolph Maurer will preach and Rev. Adam Finney will preside over the Installation. Holy Communion will be celebrated. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the worship.

Christmas Un-decorating

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 4th. Save the date to help us put away the decorations for another year. Lunch will be served when the work is done.



From the Stewardship Committee:

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don't know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas...dad doesn't really want another tie, and your kid's teacher doesn't need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life's resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

- Put them at the top of your prayer list. – Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.
- Make worship a priority – St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy Sacraments.
- Be receptive to his work – If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.

- Esteem him highly – Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.
- Be at peace – This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it also spoils our stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewardship at Christmas can be a challenge. Stewardship of your pastor during this time of the year is critical to our shared stewardship of the Gospel at a time of year when many are more open to hear and receive it.

LCMS Family Ministry

Blood may be thicker than water...as the saying goes about the strength of family ties. But what if that water is no ordinary water? What if that water is combined with the Word of God in Holy Baptism, whereby God's holy name is conferred upon a person, adopting them into the family of believers? Baptismal water — not bloodline — gives strength to all family ties. That is why "Family Ministry" is a ministry to all peoples within the church; because we are all members of the same family through one Lord, one faith and one baptism. Family Ministry includes widows, singles, the elderly, barren couples and households filled with children — biological or adopted. "Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home" (Psalm 68:5–6). That home is the ark of the church and that family is the eternal assembly of believers — past, present and future.

Thanks be to God — we are family! Join in the mission of LCMS Family Ministry at [lcms.org/family](https://www.lcms.org/family).

The Voice
Our Savior Lutheran Church
1103 N Broad Street
Mankato, MN 56001

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THANK YOU ALL CONTRIBUTORS

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Address Service Requested

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December 2025

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Our Savior Lutheran Church, Mankato, Minnesota

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 8:30 Circuit Pastors 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study 5:15 Board of Education 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:00 Board of Elders 6:30 Board of Deacons	3 1:30 Midweek Advent Service 4:45 Introductory Choir 5:05 Introductory Bell Choir 5:25 Handbell Choir 5:30 Meal 6:05 Brass 6:30 Midweek Advent Service 7:20 Jr. Confirmation 7:20 Vocal Choir	4 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 4:30 Advent Event	5	6 10:00 Dalluge Visitation 11:00 Dalluge Memorial Service
7 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 6:00 Open Gym/Game Night	8 9:00 Quilting	9 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Class 6:30 Planning Council	10 1:30 Midweek Advent Service 4:45 Introductory Choir 5:05 Introductory Bell Choir 5:25 Handbell Choir 5:30 Meal 6:05 Brass 6:30 Midweek Advent Service 7:20 Jr. Confirmation 7:20 Vocal Choir	11 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 10:10 Ruth/Lydia Circle Bible Study followed by Christmas Lunch	12	13
14 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 4:30 Book Club 6:00 Youth Christmas Lights Scavenger Hunt	15 3:00 McGowan Memorial Service	16 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Class	17 1:30 Midweek Advent Service 4:45 Introductory Choir 5:05 Introductory Bell Choir 5:25 Handbell Choir 5:30 Meal 6:05 Brass 6:30 Midweek Advent Service 7:20 Jr. Confirmation 7:20 Vocal Choir	18 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline	19 4:00 The Voice Deadline	20
21 <i>Mite Sunday</i> 9:00 Children's Christmas Service 10:00 Christmas Reception	22 9:00 Quilting	23 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Early Bulletin Deadline 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study	24 3:00 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas 9:00 Christmas Day Divine Service 10:30 Fireplace Room Rental	26	27
28 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Services	29	30	31 10:00 Early Bulletin Deadline 6:30 New Year's Eve Service			

Staff

Senior Pastor Rev. Adam M. Matheny Office: 507-385-2183 Cell: 812-449-6866	Associate Pastor Rev. John H. Koopman Office: 507-385-2185 Cell: 712-852-6095	Music Coordinator Suzie Gangi Home: 507-341-4173	Secretary Sue Hendrickson Office: 507-385-2180 Home: 507-388-3557	Custodian Doug Clausen 507-594-8515
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Congregational Officers and Elected Board Members

President Dan Gahler 507-995-3634	Vice President Zak Tess 920-265-8436	Secretary Vacant	Treasurer Gary Fladland 507-469-2086	Financial Secretary Vacant			
Council Members at Large Judy Hendley 507-317-7060 Joel Maunula 320-296-0954 Nancy Benson 507-345-1015 Sharon Anderson 507-995-1727		Board of Elders Judd Schultz-Chair 507-317-9932 Mike Holub 507-340-1222 Randy Burmeister 507-720-6985 Tom Benson 507-345-1015 Mike Anderson 507-469-8619 Gaylen Lenz 507-317-4269 Gene Mensing 507-387-4908 Matt Rottermond 507-317-8337 Andrew Bittner 507-779-9593 Vacant Vacant Vacant		Board of Trustees Kurt Anderson 507-381-9537 Bruce Anderson 507-327-8559 Steve Dumke 507-388-1297 Chris Anderson 507-382-9450 Kirk Yungerberg 507-327-5537 Bob Baker 507-327-2922		Board of Education Samantha Tess - Chair 507-217-0354 Marie Griffin 507-625-7971 Rhonda Prince 507-521-0690 Bev Annis 507-278-3093 Mary Bittner 507-469-8052 Darcy Chapman 507-382-5577	
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