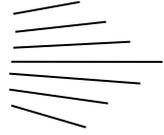




THE

VOICE



The monthly newsletter of Our Savior Lutheran Church
1103 N Broad St., Mankato, MN 56001 **JANUARY 2026**

Voters' Meeting **Sunday, January 18th** **11:45am in the Sanctuary**

All confirmed members, age 18 and older, are encouraged to attend the Annual Voters' Meeting. Our agenda items include annual reports from the Treasurer and the Boards. Come participate and lend your voice to the business of the church



Sunday, January 18th **Following the Voters' Meeting**

After the Voters' Meeting, join us in the Fellowship Hall for the Annual Chili Cookoff. Sample all the entries and vote for your favorite Traditional and Non-Traditional Chili

If you would like to submit a pot of your best chili, please bring to the kitchen during or after the 10:30 service. There will be prizes for the favorites in both categories

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

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.”

Proverbs 3:5–6

We should always be wary of turning Old Testament wisdom into mere moral advice. Proverbs 3:5–6 is not a technique for success, but a call to the fear of the Lord—the beginning of true wisdom. The Law here wounds us deeply: our hearts are not naturally inclined to trust God fully. Corrupted by original sin, we lean constantly on our own understanding, interpreting life’s events as proof of God’s favor or disfavor, chasing hidden divine blueprints instead of clinging to the revealed Gospel.

This self-reliance is the very opposite of faith. As Luther taught in the Small Catechism, to trust in God above all things is the heart of the First Commandment—yet we break it daily. The good news is that the trust demanded here is not our achievement, but Christ’s gift. The Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith through the external means: the preached Word that declares “your sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake,” the water of Baptism that unites us to Christ’s death and resurrection, the bread and wine that deliver His body and blood for the remission of sins.

Jesus Himself lived this proverb perfectly. He trusted the Father with an undivided heart and acknowledged Him in the way of deepest suffering. The path the Father straightened for Him led through the cross to the empty tomb—and that same path is now ours by faith.

To acknowledge the Lord in all our ways is to live as baptized children: repenting of our self-trust, receiving absolution, and walking in our vocations confidently, knowing that the Lord who justifies us freely will also guide us faithfully home.

Merciful Father, forgive our crooked leaning on ourselves. By Your Holy Spirit, draw us daily to Christ and His means of grace, that we may trust You wholly until we walk the perfectly straight path into Your presence. Amen.

Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy

Feed Thy children, God most holy; Comfort sinners poor and lowly. O Thou Bread of Life from heaven, bless the food Thou here has given! As these gifts the body nourish, may our souls in graces flourish till with saints in heavenly splendor at Thy feast due thanks we render. - LSB 774

The Psalmist declares: “The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing” (Psalm 145:15-16). Indeed our Lord gives us every needed thing, and often more than we could ever hope for. Take a moment and consider all of the many blessings God has provided you with in just the past month, let alone the past year. Even when God sends us sorrows, He sends us many (often overlooked) blessings along with them.

This hymn was written by Johann Heermann, a German Lutheran pastor and prolific hymn writer of the 17th century, and was first published a decade after his death under the title: *Little Table Prayer*. My family frequently sings this prayer as our table prayer at the request of the children. We sing this prayer in order to teach our hearts to recognize that all good gifts come from God, and that we must give thanks to Him for all that we have.

We are His little children, pleading with Him to feed us according to His good and gracious will. But notably, we pray not just for the blessing of food, but for comfort amidst our sins. So Jesus is the Bread of Life that comes down from heaven, and with His body and blood He nourishes our souls in graces until we depart this life and flourish in heavenly splendor with all the saints in glory. The food we eat at our dinner tables God uses to nourish our bodies, but that food points us beyond the merely physical benefits and brings us to realize the greater gift of heavenly food that we feast on from the Sacrament of the Altar.

This hymn has a long tradition of being sung at the dinner table, whether at home, in church, or in school. I would commend this prayer to you as a most lovely way to begin a meal, leading

you to give thanks to God for the food set before you, and to instill in you a hunger for the Bread of Life that our Lord Jesus feeds us from His own body. While our earthly food shall give us life for the day, the Bread of Life shall sustain us until we recline at the Lord's table and dine with Him at the heavenly banquet feast.

May this new year be filled with prayer and thanksgiving for all of God's good gifts. Happy New Year!
Pastor Koopman

Accessions & Losses

Accessions:

David Stavenau, Affirmation of Faith, December 8, 2025
Gideon Baldwin, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church,
San Antonio, TX; December 17, 2025; LCMS

In Memoriam

Denise Carol Painter

December 15, 1951 ~ November 27, 2025

LuAnn Marie Garcia

July 3, 1954 ~ December 17, 2025



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.

Council Meeting Minutes
Our Savior Lutheran Church
1103 North Broad St, Mankato, MN
December 9, 2025

Members present: Dan Gahler, Zak Tess, Pastor Koopman, Mark Wellner, Chris Anderson, Rob Hobbs, Gideon Baldwin, Terrin Baldwin, Joel Maunula, Eileen Heintz

Absent: Samantha Tess, Gary Fladland, Nancy Benson, Sharon Anderson, Judd Schultz

1. The meeting was called to order by President Dan Gahler at 6:30 pm.
2. Pastor Koopman opened with prayer.
3. Zak Tess led Bible study of Luke 23. Next month will be Luke 24.
4. Addition/Approval of Agenda
Motion made and seconded to approve agenda with the addition of a discussion of custodial compensation for funerals. Motion carried.
5. Approval of November 11, 2025 Council Minutes
Motion made and seconded to approve November 11, 2025 Council minutes. Motion carried.
6. Pastors' Reports
Pastor Koopman: Christmas services under way. Things are going well.
Pastor Matheny: Not present.
7. Treasurer's Report
Treasurer not present, so President Dan Gahler reviewed the November 30, 2025 report. Income is down for November. Letters were sent out to members recently about the deficit. December is historically a big month for giving. Most years we don't meet our budget, but our spending also doesn't reach the budget threshold. Motion made and seconded to approve the November 30, 2025 OSLC Treasurer's report. Motion carried.
8. Unfinished Business:
 - A) Congregational Notification

Postponed update on congregational notification ideas as no one present could report on it.

- B) Status regarding OSLC Constitution/Bylaws
Alliance Defending Freedom is currently looking at our constitution & bylaws, nothing further to report at this time.
- C) Record retention Policy
President Dan Gahler presented guidelines he put together based on guidelines from Synod, standardized years for keeping non-permanent records, and federal record-keeping requirements. Judd Schultz and Gary Fladland approved the latest draft via email to Dan Gahler. Motion made and seconded to adopt the policy as of 12/9/2025. Motion carried.

9. New Business:

- A) Resolution for 2026 Housing Allowances
Pastors are allowed to designate part of their current salary as a tax-free housing allowance. A resolution was presented to approve a Housing allowance of \$20,500 for Pastor Matheny and \$35,000 for Pastor Koopman as requested by the pastors for 2026. Motion made and seconded to accept the resolution presented. Motion carried.
- B) Date for Installation of Officers - Discussion
January 4, 2026 was selected.
- C) Date for January Voters Meeting - Discussion
January 18, 2026 was selected.
- D) Board Approval of New Member of Board of Trustees
Mark Senne has volunteered to be added to the Board of Trustees. Motion made and seconded to approve his addition to the OSLC Board of Trustees. Motion carried.
- E) Custodial Compensation for Funerals – Discussion
Custodian Doug Clausen spoke to Chris Anderson about his compensation for funerals, as they are extra work not covered by his regular pay. Recently, he was paid less for one funeral and nothing for another.

Since it is becoming more common for families not to use a funeral home, there are many expenses they may not know they need to cover such as organist, pastor, janitor, etc. OSLC has a handout of information for weddings, but nothing for funerals. President Dan Gahler volunteered to develop a

suggested fee handout for funerals that don't go through a funeral home and present it at the next council meeting.

To keep Doug informed of funerals, the ladies in charge of funerals for the month will reach out to him by phone or text as soon as they are informed by the church secretary. Rob Hobbs will pass this reminder on to Cindy Hobbs so all of the ladies in charge of funerals know to contact Doug right away.

10. Board sharing:

Trustees: Chris Anderson reported that the new refrigerator arrived damaged & was sent back to be replaced. The Narthex AC & heating is almost complete except for a malfunctioning valve - we're waiting on replacement. The heating will then run, but AC will be tested in the spring. Replacement doors for the sanctuary/courtyard entrance have been ordered. Custodian Doug will install the doors when they arrive, but the company who originally installed the stained glass will move that onto the new doors so they can repair any potential damage right away.

Deacons: Terrin Baldwin reported they are working on next year's card ministry, as well as preparing the Christmas service meal menu & setup.

Endowment: Rob Hobbs reported there has been one contribution since the last meeting.

Elders: Joel Maunula reported that some elders had attended a Security Guidelines training on December 8, 2025, so there will be a report on that training next council meeting.

11. Water Pipe Letter – Discussion

The City of Mankato sent a letter to OSLC about the service lines connecting to our building, which may lead to lead in the water. Chris Anderson said lead testing has been done for OSLC before by a company in Janesville. The City of Mankato has applied for a grant, and if approved will have funding available for replacing old lines in 2026. Trustees will look into this at their next meeting.

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

13. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

14. The next council meeting: January 13, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Heintz, Secretary, OSLC Council

Voters' Meeting

Our Savior Lutheran Church of Mankato

Sunday, November 23rd, 2025

12:45 pm

Attendance 41

1. The meeting was called to order by President Dan Gahler at 12:46 pm.
2. The opening Prayer lead by Pastor John Koopman.
3. Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented, Motion carried.
4. Motion made to approve the minutes of both the June 1, 2025 Special Voters Meeting and the minutes of September 28, 2025 Special Voters Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.
5. Pastor Matheny reported on the closed communion policy Bible class, any questions please talk with the pastors or elders. Music Conservatory information, new look to the bulletin coming next week. Pastor Koopman echoed the information.
6. Gary Fladland presented the Treasure's Report, Motion made and seconded to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.
7. There was no Unfinished Business.
8. New Business:
 - a. In Discussing the Synod June 6, 2026 Election, Motion was made to submit the Name of Pastor Benjamin T. Ball for Synod President. We will have to formalize at the January Voters meeting to be submitted by February 18th, 2026.
 - b. LCMS Presidential/VP's election – June 6, 2026
Motion made to appoint Pastor Matheny and Dan Gahler as Congregational pastoral voter (1), and a lay voter (1) to cast electronic votes. Motion carried.
 - c. After reviewing and adding to the official ballot for Officer and Board Member Elections, Motion made and seconded to approve by unanimous voice vote the following were elected: Dan Gahler, President; Judd Schultz, Vice president; Eileen Heintz, Secretary; Gideon Baldwin and Mark Wellner Council Member at large; Bev Annis, Darcy Chapman and Kristen Flathers, Board of

Education; Gaylen Lenz, Andrew Brittner, Joel Maunula, Mike Blomquist and Jordan Treanor, Board of Elders; Terrin Baldwin, Angelica Maunula, Deb Simpson and Sarah Farris, Board of Deacons; Chris Anderson and Steve Dumke, Board of Trustees; Garvin Eichorst, Judy Mensing, David Kroells and Doug Haeder, Board of Endowment.

- d. 2026 Annual Budget was presented, no discussion, Motion made and seconded to approve the presented budget Motion Carried.

- 1. A reminder of Concordia Academy \$20,000 pledge for 7-1-25 through 6-30-26 School year This pledge is not part of our budget, please as you see fit donate through the church for this cause.

- e. Discuss new Art project - Pastor Matheny presented a background on the painting in the sanctuary and some requested update, including more artwork, lighting and relocation. If interested in being on the committee, see Pastor Matheny. More will follow at the January 2026 Meeting. Motion made and seconded to move forward on these issues. Motion Carried

9. Information sharing

- a. Music Conservatory Information was shared by Suzie Gangi about the program and the fact that it will be up and running in a few days. Officially starting in January 2026.
- b. Boiler Fundraising status – Note new graphic in the Narthex. Fund raising has begun, we will need approximately \$190,000, Account has been set up for donations.

10. Closing Prayer was led by Pastor Matheny.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Mel Hendrickson

Fill in acting Secretary OSLC Council

Treasurer's Report Commentary Period Ending November 30, 2025

Income and Expense Summary

| | Current Month | Y-T-D |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$46,738.92 | \$563,227.00 |
| Operating Expenses | (\$55,901.86) | (\$586,705.28) |
| LCEF Mortgage Principal Payment | (\$803.22) | (\$8,664.39) |
| Net for Period[†] | (\$9,966.16) | \$32,142.67) |

[†]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 | \$19,062.09 | Daily checking account Pioneer Bank |
| Savings Account | \$198,141.36 | Interest Savings account Pioneer Bank |
| Joyful Response | \$16,693.06 | Joyful Response deposits and loan payments |
| Library Fund | \$20,107.12 | Certificate of Deposit |
| Accounts Receivable | <u>\$0.00</u> | |
| Total Cash Assets | \$254,003.63 | |
| Dedicated Accounts | (\$188,958.96) | Amount of our cash balance designated for specific activities |
| Other Liabilities | (\$2,145.40) | Accruals for HAS pmts, youth, etc. |
| Available Cash Balance | \$62,899.27 | |

Long Term Debt (LCEF Mortgage)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Current Balance | \$191,706.76 |
| 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



Articles for the February 2026 VOICE are due by Friday, January 16th at noon. You may drop-off

submissions in the office, or e-mail to:

contact@oscmankato.org.

GAME NIGHT

Game Night will not meet in January. Please come at 11:30am to help take down Christmas decorations and enjoy lunch together.

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.



Bible Study Circles

Come one, Come all in 2026

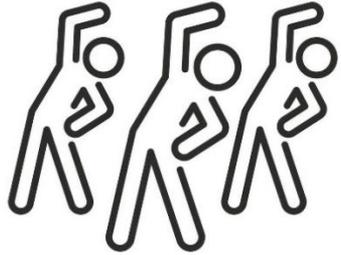
Bible Studies are theme-studies by the season. Winter theme is “Live in Peace with One Another”.

Ruth/Lydia Bible Study meets on the second Thursday this month. Note time and date: We will meet at 10:10am on Thursday, January 8th, our study time is from 10:25 – 11:30. Our Christmas Lunch will follow at 11:45 for staff and members. Lesson from the Fall *Quarterly*, “We Have Received Grace Upon Grace”, page 22 and Winter *Quarterly*, pages 16 & 17, “Not the World’s Peace”.

Mary Circle Bible Study does not meet in January or February. Stay safe in the winter weather.

Exercise Class

Are you looking to get in shape in the new year? Or maybe just work off some of those Christmas cookies? Do you know that you should exercise, but you're not sure what to do or don't want to do it alone? If so, then join us Saturday mornings at 10:30 in the fellowship hall! We'll begin with a prayer and then we will be joined by Bethany Zinniel, owner of Kato Athletic, who will lead us in some group exercise. All ages are welcome and encouraged to join. If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Matheny



The **VOICE** is available on our web site: www.oslcmankato.org. Click on the "Connect" menu item at the top, slide down and click on "The Voice Newsletter". You will then be able to select which issue you would like to view in PDF format. On the same page, you may opt out of receiving the printed version and be notified by e-mail when the latest issue is uploaded. *Want to review something from a previous issue?* The archives will also be available. *Can't wait to read the latest issue?* The Voice will be uploaded to the website before the printed version is in your mailbox. Check it out!



Our Savior Ladies

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

One prayer shawl was given out this month. A Big Thank You to all who knit or crocheted a shawl. Also a thank you to everyone who donated yarn. Happy Holidays. Marcella, 507-317-4127.





Music Notes



*Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol
him with music and song. Psalm 95:2*

Thank you to everyone who participated in special music during 2025! What a blessing it is to have special music for our worship.

Back to regular schedule for Wednesday Rehearsals

Intro Choir- 4:40-5:10 **New Time!

Intro Bells- 5:10-5:40 **New Time!

Brass- 5:25-5:45

Handbells 5:45-6:15

Choir- 7:00-7:30

Choirs-Anyone interested in joining any choir or instrumental groups, it's not too late! We would love to have you join us!

Special Music Opportunities- There are many opportunities for special music. Please reach out to Suzie Gangi if you are interested.

Music Conservatory - Do you know anyone interested in taking music lessons? Let them know about the new Our Savior Conservatory of Music! We are now enrolling students for music lessons. If you have any questions please let me know!

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



Join us for WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS each Wednesday at 6:00pm.

We enjoy good fellowship and a good meal. At 6:45pm the pastor leads a devotion.

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.



Our January youth event (grades 5-12) will be held at the MSU Rock Climbing Wall January 11th from 6-8pm. The suggested chip in amount for this event is \$15- youth funds are available to cover if needed.

Mission Service

Mission Service will meet on Wednesday, January 21st at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be putting together Healthcare kits for the local shelters and trimming stamps for Wycliffe Ministries. All are welcome to come and help with the projects.





Mites - Mission Grants

Give God the Glory

January 18th, 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 January is Grant #6, Christ Centered Hope for Cancer Patients – Phil’s Friends \$100,000. The core of Phil’s Friends mission is based on Matthew 25:36, I was sick and you visited me. The ministry supports anyone with cancer regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or income level. It costs \$100 to support a cancer patient for one year. Packages are hand decorated and contents are customized according to the age and gender of the recipient. They are filled with simple, practical comfort items that cancer patients can use during their treatments. This grant will purchase supplies to support 1,000 cancer patients for one year. Go to: <https://www.lwml.org/2025-2027-mission-grant-6> to see more.

Thank you for your generous gifts of mites.

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.



2026 MCCL MARCH FOR LIFE

**Thursday, January 22nd, Noon – 1pm
Capitol Building, St. Paul**

Calling South Minnesota Lutherans to join thousands of pro-life Minnesotans for an unforgettable remembrance of lives lost and a compelling call to rebuild a Minnesota where every human life is valued and loved.

A coach bus will be leaving Our Savior's back parking lot at 8am. We will join the 10am prayer service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Paul before going to the March for Life. The bus will return to Mankato approximately 3:15pm. There is no charge, but a free-will offering will be collected to help defray costs.

Deadline to sign up for the bus is January 7th. Please use the QR code or call 507-369-8705.



Visit www.mccl.org/march to learn more about the March For Life.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Remember, you have until the end of March to direct your Thrivent Choice monies to a charity of your choosing. We hope you consider directing your monies to Our Savior Lutheran Church.

For a 'how to' guide on directing Choice Dollars, go to: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/files/29100.pdf>
There's also instructions on applying for a Thrivent Action Team.

thrivent®

Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School 315 Martin Luther Drive, Northrop

7th – 12th graders, enroll for the 2026-2027 school year.
Early Bird Enrollment discounts in effect
January 25 – March 1, 2026
\$100

Enroll at: www.martinlutherhs.com



**Martin
Luther
Jr/Sr High School**

www.martinlutherhs.com

Honoring Christ...Welcoming All

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: January 2026 there will be NO mailed Sagacity. You may download your own or pick up a copy in the narthex.

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





“The One who gives us our new beginning in Baptism is the same God who fashioned us and gave us our first

beginning in the womb. It is God who brings forth life. It is God who created us, who ‘knit us together,’ so that we are ‘intricately and wonderfully made.’ Some say that the Bible never mentions abortion, and thus we should not speak against it. How far from the truth! The decisive moral truth of what Scripture teaches is this: Human beings are such from fertilization. And – it is a sin to shed innocent blood.”

Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans for Life of Michigan

~ *A 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
- LCMS Convention, July 18-23, 2026, Phoenix, AZ
- The Abolition of Man, La Crescent, MN, April 20-22

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

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

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true’ (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of “new” talk. Parties are held to ring in the “new” year. “New” year’s resolutions are made to set a “new” course of life in the “new” year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the “new” year on the dateline.

We use all this “new” talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the “new” resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That “new” person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The “new” habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The “new” person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need “new” talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of “new” is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This “new” comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer. This stewardship of “new” is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary’s cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the

Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ's body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God's creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2026**

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

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THANK YOU ALL CONTRIBUTORS

Marcella Eiders
Karen Fischer
Priscilla Fladland
Mel Hendrickson
Rhonda Rastedt
Susan Sembach
Vicky Senne

Address Service Requested

└

January 2026

JANUARY 2026

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | New Year's Day 1 Office Closed | 2 | 3 10:30 Fireplace Room Rental |
| 4 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 11:30 Take Down Christmas Decorations | 5 Annual Report Deadline | 6 9:00 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 | 7 4:40 Introductory Choir 5:10 Introductory Bell Choir 5:25 Brass 5:45 Handbell Choir 6:00 Meal 6:45 Devotion 7:00 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Vocal Choir | 8 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 10:10 Ruth/Lydia Circle Bible Study & Lunch | 9 | 10 10:30 Exercise Class |
| 11 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service Youth MSU Climbing Wall | 12 9:00 Quilting | 13 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study 6:30 Planning Council | 14 4:40 Introductory Choir 5:10 Introductory Bell Choir 5:25 Brass 5:45 Handbell Choir 6:00 Meal 6:45 Devotion 7:00 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Vocal Choir | 15 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Stephen Ministers | 16 12:00 The Voice Deadline | 17 10:30 Exercise Class |
| <i>Mite Sunday</i> 18 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 11:45 Voters' Meeting 12:30 Chili Cook-off | 19 | 20 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study | 21 1:30 Endowment Board 4:00 Mission Service 4:40 Introductory Choir 5:10 Introductory Bell Choir 5:25 Brass 5:45 Handbell Choir 6:00 Meal 6:45 Devotion 7:00 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Vocal Choir | 22 8:00 Bus leaves OSLC for March for Life in St. Paul 10:00 Bulletin Deadline | 23 4:00 Fellowship Hall Rental | 24 10:30 Exercise Class |
| 25 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 4:30 Book Club | 26 9:00 Quilting | 27 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study | 28 4:40 Introductory Choir 5:10 Introductory Bell Choir 5:25 Brass 5:45 Handbell Choir 6:00 Meal 6:45 Devotion 7:00 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Vocal Choir | 29 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline | 30 | 31 10:30 Exercise Class |

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 |
|--|---|---|---|--|

Congregational Officers and Elected Board Members

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| President Dan Gahler 507-995-3634 | Vice President Judd Schultz 507-317-9932 | Secretary Eileen Heintz 507-329-5195 | Treasurer Gary Fladland 507-469-2086 | Financial Secretary Vacant |
| Council Members at Large Nancy Benson 507-345-1015 Sharon Anderson 507-995-1727 Gideon Baldwin 307-941-0803 Mark Wellner 507-341-1393 | Board of Elders Randy Burmeister 507-720-6985 Tom Benson 507-345-1015 Mike Anderson 507-469-8619 Gaylen Lenz 507-317-4269 Gene Mensing-Vice Chair 507-387-4908 Andrew Bittner-Chair 507-779-9593 Joel Maunula-Secretary 320-296-0954 Mike Blomquist 507-351-5051 Jordan Treanor 507-317-6863 Vacant Vacant Vacant | Board of Trustees Kurt Anderson 507-381-9537 Steve Dumke 507-388-1297 Chris Anderson 507-382-9450 Kirk Yungerberg 507-327-5537 Bob Baker 507-327-2922 Mark Senne 507-995-7250 | Board of Education Samantha Tess - Chair 507-217-0354 Rhonda Prince 507-521-0690 Bev Annis 507-278-3093 Mary Bittner 507-469-8052 Darcy Chapman 507-382-5577 Kristen Flathers 563-212-9506 Board of Deacons Terrin Baldwin - Chair 952-412-1762 Lindsey Marso 507-382-6168 Vicky Senne 507-625-1147 Angelica Maunula 715-310-2988 Deb Simpson 507-382-6403 Sarah Farris 507-317-0174 | |
| Board of Endowment Fund Rob Hobbs-Chair 507-243-3232 Garvin Eichhorst - Treasurer 507-388-9227 Mel Hendrickson – Vice Chair 507-388-3557 Judy Mensing - Secretary 507-387-4908 Dave Kroells 507-345-4423 Thad Simpson 507-382-1683 Doug Haeder 952-374-9667 | | | | |