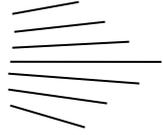




THE

VOICE



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



**Divine Service with Holy Communion
and the Imposition of Ashes**
Wednesday, February 18th
1:30pm and 6:30pm



Wednesdays
February 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th
1:30pm and 6:30pm

Contact Info:

Church Office: Phone: 507-385-2180
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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

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
-Psalm 95:1

Psalm 95:1 calls out with exuberant invitation: "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" In this verse, the psalmist summons God's people to worship, not with solemn silence, but with vibrant praise. This is more than mere enthusiasm—it's a response to the Gospel's freeing truth. Since our salvation is not earned by our works but given freely through Christ, the unshakeable Rock who bore our sins on the cross. As we well know, our worship flows from faith, not obligation, meaning that our worship is joyous and not done mere from some sense of requirement. The context of Psalm 95 is a liturgical call to assembly, blending praise with warning. Verses 1-7a urge joyful adoration, while the latter part recalls Israel's wilderness rebellion, reminding us of our own hardness of heart.

Yet this tension points to Law and Gospel: the Law exposes our sin, driving us to the Gospel's comfort in Christ, our salvation's Rock. We don't manufacture joy; it erupts from hearing God's Word, which alone creates faith. It is knowing that this Word, and that faith it creates in us is God's gift to us that produces this deep and abiding joy. In our confessional worship—rich with hymns, creeds, and sacraments—we make this "joyful noise" corporately, as the Body of Christ, not as isolated individuals. Today, amid life's uncertainties, Psalm 95:1 invites us to drown out despair with praise. Whether in church pews or daily routines, let us sing of the Savior who secures us eternally. We cling to Baptism's promise and the Lord's Supper's assurance, fueling our song even in the midst of life's sorrows.

*Lord Jesus, Rock of our salvation, stir our hearts to joyful praise.
Forgive our silence and fill us with Your Word's melody. Amen.*

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

*On my heart imprint Your image, Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work
erase; Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me, Is my
life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!*

Well, it is everyone's favorite time of the year again: Tax Season! Okay, maybe this is not our favorite part of the year. However, when thinking of taxes, we are often reminded of the question posed to Jesus: "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?" Jesus asked for a denarius and said: "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They replied, "Caesar's." Then He said: "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Mt. 22:15ff). Too often we assume He is just talking about paying taxes, but there is a lot more going on here.

Sure, pay your taxes. But, more importantly, render to God the things that have His image imprinted on them. Namely, render to God your body and soul, because He has marked you as His own and you belong to Him. "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Not with "silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18-19). In holy baptism you were sealed with the sign of the holy cross upon your forehead and your heart to "mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified" (LSB 268). In those blessed waters God's name was imprinted upon you as God declared: "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy Spirit."

In our hymn this month, Thomas Kingo, a Danish Lutheran pastor of the 17th century, brings to our lips a prayer that God would continue to imprint His image upon us. Most especially, we pray that Jesus' crucifixion for us would be imprinted upon our heart. Our sins, our frailties, our own crimes are atoned for by Jesus' sacrificial death in our place. This is the foundation of our lives! Instead of the riches, cares, and pleasures of life as seen in

the Parable of the Sower (Mt 13) choking out our faith, we pray that Christ's crucifixion would overshadow all these things and lead us into Christ's eternal glory.

When Satan accuses us, condemning us for our sins, or leads us to despair of God's mercy, or assaults us with various evils and temptations, we place our hope in Christ. The cross of Jesus and the Triune name has been imprinted upon us, and therefore we belong to Jesus, and He will guard us against all of Satan's devious attacks. When we Christians make the sign of the cross, we are reminding ourselves that God has imprinted His image of our crucified Lord upon us, and we flee to Christ for our hope and salvation.

Let us do as this hymn commends and as Luther admonishes in the Large Catechism: *"It is also useful that we form the habit of daily commending ourselves to God... Likewise, children should continue to cross themselves when anything monstrous or terrible is seen or heard. They can shout, "Lord God, protect us!" "Help, dear Lord Jesus!" and such. Also, if anyone meets with unexpected good fortune, however trivial, he says, "God be praised and thanked!" or "God has bestowed this on me!"*

Indeed, may the image of Jesus crucified for me be ever imprinted upon our hearts!

In the name of Jesus,
Pastor Koopman



Articles for the March 2026 VOICE are due by Friday, February 13th at noon. You may drop-off submissions in the office, or e-mail to: contact@oslcmandato.org.

Treasurer's Report Commentary Period Ending December 31, 2025

Income and Expense Summary

	Current Month	Y-T-D
Income	\$73,966.16	\$637,193.16
Operating Expenses	(\$65,648.92)	(\$652,354.20)
LCEF Mortgage Principal Payment	(\$807.58)	(\$9,471.97)
Net for Period[†]	\$7,509.66	(\$24,633.01)

[†]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	\$9,419.24	Daily checking account Pioneer Bank
Savings Account	\$198,646.21	Interest Savings account Pioneer Bank
Joyful Response	\$23,021.30	Joyful Response deposits and loan payments
Library Fund	\$20,107.12	Certificate of Deposit
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total Cash Assets	\$251,193.87	
Dedicated Accounts	(\$180,847.87)	Amount of our cash balance designated for specific activities
Other Liabilities	<u>\$62.93</u>	Accruals for HAS pmts, youth, etc.
Available Cash Balance	\$70,408.93	

Long Term Debt (LCEF Mortgage)

Current Balance	\$190,899.18
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

Accessions & Losses

Accessions:

Dylan Holicky, Affirmation of Faith, January 16, 2026

Losses:

Rev. Kristian & Monica Bjornstad; St. John Lutheran Church,
Good Thunder, MN; LCMS; January 5, 2026

Matthew & Brittany Amborn, Charlotte (age 13), Cora (age
10), Benjamin (age 7); Hosanna Lutheran Church,
Mankato; LCMS; January 14, 2026



In Memoriam

Edwin “Ed” Charles Farris

September 26, 1956 ~ December 30, 2025

Sharon Renee Anderson

February 22, 1952 ~ January 14, 2026

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.

Mission Service

Mission Service will meet on Wednesday,
February 18th at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. All
are welcome to come and help with the projects.



GAME NIGHT

Join us for Open Gym – Game Night on Sunday, February 1st from 6 – 8pm. Bring the family, friends, and your favorite board games. Note: this is a family event, not a drop off event. Kids 6th grade and younger must be accompanied by an adult.



Bible Study Circles

Come one, Come all in 2026!

Ruth/Lydia Bible Study meets on the first Thursday this month, February 5th at 10:25-11:30am. Come early for fellowship and treats from 10:10 – 10:25am. The lesson is from the *Winter Quarterly*, pages 18-19, “What’s Happening?” Have you screamed those same words to God when a change comes into your life? Check out Psalm 118:28-29. Mary Circle is invited to study with us.

Mary Circle Bible Study does not meet in February. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the Spring.



Kitchen Cleaning

Join the Board of Deacons on Saturday, February 7th at 9:30am to help clean and organize the kitchen. All help will be appreciated. Many hands make light work!

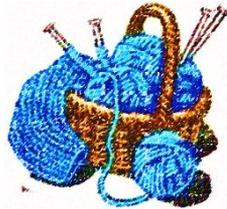
Our Savior Ladies

2026 - Coming District Convention in June

Greetings from your LWML Minnesota South District Convention Registrar. I am excited to share that convention registration for the 2026 District Convention will take place exclusively online. Packets will be received at the February 22nd Zone meeting in Henderson. For more information, pick up the WOM in the Narthex. Our Convention Registrar is: Michelle Prigge, 18776 County Road 25, Winona, MN 55987

Volunteer as a Young Women Representative from Our Savior. Much more information on the MN South District website. Delegate volunteers are also needed. This is funded through Our Savior LWML.

Pick up your *Winter Quarterly*, with the theme of “Live in Peace with one another”. Copies available, along with the WOM, in the Narthex.



PRAYER SHAWLS

No prayer shawls were given out this month. If you would find comfort in receiving a prayer shawl, call Marcella, 507-317-4127.



Upcoming Youth Events:

The youth will not have a February event, but mark your calendars for curling on March 15th, noon - 2:30pm (5th - 12th graders)! More details to come in the February bulletins.



Mites - Mission Grants

Give God the Glory

February 2026 focus will be in your bulletin. We will direct Mite attention to our MN SO District Mite goals, which ends in April 2026. Mite Sunday at Our Savior is February 15th, the third Sunday of the month. We have 13 Mission Grants for a total of \$270,000 goal. We have until April 25, 2026 to raise the remaining \$80,869.47. Some of the grants that still need funding are: Student Aid Scholarships, Generating a Jesus Generation, and Knowing Christ's Love Amid Visual Darkness – Lutheran Braille Workers.

Be sure to keep these in your prayers and seek ways that they can be funded. Thank you so much for all your generous gifts of mites.



Music Notes



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

***Feb 4th and 11th regular schedule for Wednesday
Rehearsals***

Intro Choir- 4:40-5:10

Intro Bells- 5:10-5:40

Brass- 5:25-5:45

Handbells 5:45-6:15

Choir- 7:00-7:30

Feb 18th and 25th Lent schedule

Intro Choir: 4:40-5:00

Intro Bells: 5:00-5:20

Bells: 5:25-5:50

Brass: 6:05

Vocal Choir: 7:20 after the advent service

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. More information can be found on the church website. If you have any questions please let me know!

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

Join us for WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS Wednesdays at 6:00pm February 4th & 11th, and at 5:30pm on February 18th & 25th, before the Midweek Lenten services.



We enjoy good fellowship and a good meal.

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 Savior Young at Heart/District S.A.G.E.S. LHM / LLL

Lutheran Hour Ministries
Lutheran Layman League

The SAGES Board is asking each congregation in the MN South District to have a church representative. There should be someone at Our Savior's, 55 or over and filled with ideas for their peer group to enjoy Christian fellowship. Each year SAGES has one gathering on the first Monday and Tuesday in May at the Town & Country Suites in Mankato. This year it is May 4th – 5th. The Gathering theme is "Living on Purpose with Jesus". Registration forms will be available in February. You can read the newsletter, Sagacity, available on-line or in the Narthex. Representatives for the Board are always needed for the Circuits and Churches.

LHM Ministries – be sure to listen to the Lutheran Hour on Sundays and read the Lutheran Layman magazine – for adults and children.



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

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.



thrivent® 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.



LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

“God loves you in your vulnerability so much that He subjected Himself to conform to a vulnerable human body. So today . . . remember that Jesus, in whom all things hold together, loves you, individually. He is fully present with you just as He was in His mother's arms. God's peace be with you this day, this night.”

Andrea Delwich

~ *A Life Quote from Lutherans for Life* ~

www.lutheransforlife.org

LCMS Stewardship

Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.

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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Priscilla Fladland
Mel Hendrickson
Rhonda Rastedt
Susan Sembach
Vicky Senne

February 2026

Address Service Requested

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FEBRUARY 2026

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 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	2	3 9:00 Circuit Pastors 1:00 Tuesday Bible Class 5:15 Board of Education 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:00 Board of Elders 6:30 Board of Deacons	4 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	5 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 10:10 Ruth/Lydia Circle	6	7 9:30 Kitchen Cleaning
8 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 4:30 Book Club	9 9:00 Quilting	10 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study 6:30 Planning Council	11 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	12 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline	13 4:00 The Voice Deadline	14
15 Mite Sunday 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service	16	17 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study	18 Ash Wednesday 1:30 Ash Wednesday Worship 4:00 Mission Service 4:40 Introductory Choir 5:00 Introductory Bell Choir 5:25 Handbell Choir 5:30 Meal 6:30 Ash Wednesday Worship 7:20 Vocal Choir NO Jr. Confirmation	19 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Stephen Ministers	20	21
22 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 4:00 Book Club	23 9:00 Quilting	24 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study	25 1:30 Midweek Lenten Service 4:40 Introductory Choir 5:00 Introductory Bell Choir 5:25 Handbell Choir 5:30 Meal 6:05 Brass 6:30 Midweek Lenten Service 7:20 Jr. Confirmation 7:20 Vocal Choir	26 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline	27	28

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 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	
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