



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

MAY 2026



Confirmation Sunday

May 3, 2026

10:30am service

We give glory to God for our brothers and sister that will publicly proclaim their faith in their Baptism, their reliance on God's Word and the Small Catechism, and their intention to hear God's Word and receive His gifts faithfully. Please encourage them as they join us on this holy journey.

Endre Anderson

Laina Gangi

Levi Kitzmann

Caleb Rottermond

Wesley Whitmore

Please join us for a reception to honor the Confirmands between services
9:00 – 10:15am

Contact Info:

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

Senior Pastor Office phone: 507-385-2183
Rev. Adam Matheny: matheny@oslcmankato.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@oslcmankato.org

Custodian

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

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
By his wounds you have been healed.”

-1 Peter 2:

Beloved in Christ, here the apostle Peter sets before us the very heart of the Gospel. Our Lord Jesus Christ did not merely sympathize with our sin; He took it all upon Himself. On the cross He carried every transgression, every failure, every guilt that weighs upon your conscience. He bore them not as a martyr but as your Substitute. The holy, sinless Son of God became the sin-bearer so that you, the sinner, might be declared righteous before the Father. This is pure, unconditional grace. We believe that we are justified by faith alone, for Christ's sake alone. We bring nothing to the table except our sin; Christ brings everything—His perfect obedience, His bitter suffering, and His victorious death. By His wounds you have already been healed. The forgiveness won on Calvary is yours today, delivered in the waters of Holy Baptism, spoken in Holy Absolution, and given in the very body and blood of Christ in the Sacrament.

Yet Peter does not stop at forgiveness. Because Christ bore our sins, we now die to sin and live to righteousness. The old Adam in us is daily drowned through repentance. The new man in us rises to serve our neighbor in love. This is not our work to earn God's favor; it is the fruit of the favor already won for us. When guilt presses hard or temptation feels overwhelming, look again to the tree. The same wounds that paid for your sin now empower you to fight it. You are not striving for righteousness—you already have it in Christ. Live in it.

Lord Jesus, by Your wounds we are healed. Keep us steadfast in this Gospel, daily dying to sin and rising to new life in You. Amen.

Now Thank We All Our God

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us and keep us in His grace and guide us when perplexed and free us from all ills in this world and the next! - LSB 895:2

This hymn was written by pastor Martin Rinckart. Born in 1586 and died in 1649, he ended up spending the majority of his ministry in his hometown of Eilenburg from 1617 until his death in 1649. His ministry there perfectly coincided with the Thirty Years' War (1618-48). Since Eilenburg was a walled city it was heavily overwhelmed by refugees, which resulted in a devastating plague in 1637. During this plague over 8,000 residents died, including all but three of the city council, all of the other pastors, and Rinckart's wife, Christine. He presided over over 4,400 funerals in a single year. Following the plague the city faced severe famine, which as a result of all the other pastors and most of the civic leaders dying, Rinckart had to organize the aid. If that wasn't enough, in 1639 Swedish soldiers threatened the city and demanded payment to keep the city safe. Rinckart led the city in prayer and singing before the soldiers (they sang *When In the Hour of Deepest Need* LSB 615) which influenced the Swedes to greatly reduce the payment.

You would think that given all of the misery this man faced in his life, he would have been terribly depressed. Yet, in the midst of war, plague, and famine, he wrote the hymn *Now Thank We All Our God*. The hymn is based on a few verses (50:22-24) from the book of Ecclesiasticus (a book in the Apocrypha): "*And now bless the God of all, who in every way does great things; who exalts our days from birth, and deals with us according to his mercy. May he give us gladness of heart, and grant that peace may be in our days in Israel, as in the days of old. May he entrust to us his mercy! And let him deliver us in our days!*"

The Lord God almighty is He who has blessed us from our mothers' arms with countless gifts of love. He is always near to us, even and especially in our time of need. He will always keep us in

His grace and free us from all ills. We have nothing to fear nor worry about, for the Lord our God has shown us such mercy and kindness. I deserve nothing that He gives me, yet I have more blessings than I could ever count. So in time of trial and sorrow, in time of abundance and peace, let us learn to give thanks to God and delight in His unending gifts.

Praise the Lord!

Pastor Koopman



In Memoriam

LaVonne Verna Kueker

February 5, 1943 ~ March 29, 2026

Accessions & Losses

Accessions:

Jared Krebsbach, Affirmation of Faith, March 29, 2026

Gregory Pipal, Affirmation of Faith; Heritage Lutheran Church,
Eagan, MN; ELS; April 8, 2026

Losses:

Rev. Dennis & Janet O'Neill, Hosanna Lutheran Church,
Mankato; LCMS; March 24, 2026

Voters' Meeting

Sunday, May 17th

11:45am in the Sanctuary

All Confirmed members, age 18 and older, are invited and encouraged to attend the Voters' Meeting to discuss the business of our church. We will be voting on motions to accept a boiler bid, and our \$20,000 commitment to Concordia Classical Academy for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Treasurer's Report Commentary Period Ending March 31, 2026

Income and Expense Summary

	Current Month	Y-T-D
Income	\$49,326.25	\$165,017.72
Operating Expenses	(\$61,567.62)	(\$174,744.75)
LCEF Mortgage Principal Payment	(\$10,958.34)	\$14,906.62
Net for Period[†]	(\$23,199.71)	(\$24,633.65)

[†]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	\$34,698.29	Daily checking account Pioneer Bank
Savings Account	\$179,984.17	Interest Savings account Pioneer Bank
Joyful Response	\$36,024.22	Joyful Response deposits and loan payments
Library Fund	\$20,107.12	Certificate of Deposit
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total Cash Assets	\$270,813.80	
Dedicated Accounts	(\$224,143.43)	Amount of our cash balance designated for specific activities
Other Liabilities	<u>\$1,129.91</u>	Accruals for HSA pmts, youth, etc.
Available Cash Balance	\$47,800.28	

Long Term Debt (LCEF Mortgage)

Current Balance	\$175,992.56
Monthly Payment	\$1,845.99
Interest Rate (Variable Annually)	6.50% (Aug. 2025-Jul 2026)
Pay-off Date (Pay-off Amount)	July 2036 (\$20,510.78)

Submitted by,
Gary Fladland, Treasurer

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.

Our Savior's Outreach Missions

Outreach Missions (formerly Mission Service) will meet on Wednesday, May 20th at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.



Take home project (ex. Gospel bracelets – sample and directions in Mission Center) or work at church on the third Wednesday of the month at 4pm.



Join us for Open Gym/Game Night Sunday, May 3rd from 6 – 8pm. Bring your favorite board/card games and have a fun night with your church family. Bring the kids, your friends and family. Use the back parking lot entrance.



Sundaes on Sunday

We will conclude the 2025-2026 Sunday School year with "Sundaes on Sunday" May 17th at 10am in the Fireplace room. Parents, join your students for a special treat to end the year.

Our Savior Ladies

May, the season of Spring – Month of Joy and Celebration: May Day, Confirmation Day, Mother's Day, Ascension, Pentecost, Memorial Day, All Saints' Day!

The District Spring WOM (Women on a Mission) is here. June 18-20, 2026, the District Convention is in Mankato. The theme is "Peace of Christ". The WOM contains all the information about the convention, including the registration. You can register online at:

https://mnslwml.org/2026_district_convention. Our delegates are Vicky Senne (507-317-0948) and Kathy Taylor (507-317-1555). Our Savior is still in need of alternates! Contact Bev Annis (507-278-3093) or Trudy Wiechmann (507-345-2138).

Gifts from the Heart: The recipient for this convention is Pigs Eye Lake Encampment, which is the largest homeless camp in Saint Paul. We will also collect quilts for the prison ministry from our quilting groups. The number one requested item is: Visa/Mastercard gift cards to use for what they need, when they need it. Any amount is acceptable, just be sure to write the amount on the card so we can add it up. Other needs include: winter coats, sweatshirts, gloves, hats, and scarves.

Ballot: Be sure to complete your ballot for the 2026-2028 Mission grants and put in the box in the Narthex.

Convention Offering:

1. Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch
2. Lutherans for Life
3. LMWL MN South District Mission Grants
4. Orphan Grain Train

Volunteers from Our Savior are needed for/at the Convention. Thank you everyone, for what you are doing.



Bible Study Circles

–May –

Daytime Theme Bible Studies
Lessons from the *Quarterly*

Spring Theme from the *Quarterly* is Show One Another Compassion and Mercy. Share your story for winter 2026 theme “Gloria”. Submit by July 2026. Directions are in the *Quarterly!* Read the articles in Spring *Quarterly*, see the pictures, prayers, and all the rest.

Ruth/Lydia Bible Study meets on Thursday, May 7th at 10:25 – 11:35am. Come early for fellowship and treats from 10:10 – 10:25am. Our lesson is on page 18-19, “Who Is My Neighbor and What Does This Mean?”

Mary Circle Bible Study is meeting on Friday, May 15th at 1:30pm in the Fireplace Room. Our study is “Who Is My Neighbor and What Does This Mean?” from the Spring *Quarterly* (2nd lesson). Hostess: Wanda Schwanke, phone 507-340-6441. Guests and visitors are welcome!

SUNDAY MATINS

Radio broadcast on Sundays at 9am

Each week, our pastor records the Sunday sermon or another message for broadcast on KTOE, 1420 AM at 9am. If you would like to sponsor this broadcast for a week or a month or more, please contact the church office to reserve your Sunday. The cost for each Sunday is \$20.



Articles for the June 2026 VOICE are due by Friday, May 15th at noon. You may drop-off submissions in the office, or e-mail to: contact@oslcmankato.org.

FUNERAL SERVICE PLANNING

Have you made your funeral arrangements? Or have you thought that you should get that done but haven't yet? Let the church help! Pastor Matheny will be holding a class that will cover the details of planning your funeral. We'll talk about cremation and burial, scripture, hymns, and liturgy. You'll also have the opportunity to make some decisions that the church will keep on file for when the time comes to have your funeral. This class will be held on Wednesday May 27th at 10:00 am, again on Thursday May 28th at 6:00 pm, and finally on Friday May 29th at 2:00 pm. If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Matheny.



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

Special Music Schedule for May:

May 3: Vocal Choir

May 10: Intro Bells

May 14: Vocal Choir at Good Shepherd

May 17: Handbells

May 24: Vocal Choir

Thank You! A big thanks to everyone who participated in music this year! We had some wonderful additions to our worship services. Looking forward to more in the fall!

Summer Special Music- As our groups take a break for the summer, we're looking for volunteers to sing or play during the summer. If you have any interest in providing special music, please contact Suzie Gangi. suzie@oslcmandkato.org or 507-341-4173

Prayer Shawls

If you'd like a prayer shawl or want to knit or crochet one, call Marcella, 507-317-4127.



The May Youth Event will be held at the Mankato Christian Academy Gym (709 South Broad Street) on May 17th from 6 – 8pm. We will be playing volleyball and dodgeball!



Mites - Mission Grants

Mite Sunday, May 17, 2026

Mites for home and away.

1. This is the time to apply for new grants. Have a special mission project? Apply for grant!
2. District biennium 2024-2026 ended in April 2026. New 17 applications to be voted on at the June convention. See copy and pick your top three choices on paper and put in box for delegates. Thank you for all your coins for meeting the mite goal.
3. National Grant 2025-2027 goal to meet by June 20. Thirty-one grants listed monthly in the *Voice*, with some months focusing on two grants. (List is on bulletin board by Mission Center)
4. May Focus Grants will be listed in the bulletin.
 - a. April Grants were #9 and #14
5. Do you use a computer? Go to the LWML website for more details on these mission stories.

Give God the Glory as we spread His words both far and near.



Our final Wednesday Night Meal for the season will be May 6th. All are welcome to come enjoy good fellowship and a good meal. The meal

is served from 6pm – 6:45pm. Then the pastor leads us in a short devotion.

A special thank you to all who helped in any way with the meals and the Sunday coffee time, preparing the meal, shopping, serving, doing dishes, clean-up, providing desserts, etc. It takes many people to provide the meals for us each week and we are grateful to everyone who served in any way.

Look for the meals to resume in the fall.

We will continue Sunday morning coffee time throughout the summer. If you are able to pick up the rolls and make coffee, please sign up on the sheet in the Fireplace room.



**American
Red Cross**

Blood
Services

Our Savior's is hosting a blood drive for the American Red Cross on **Monday, May 18th** from noon – 5pm.

Appointments can be scheduled now at

www.redcrossblood.org (enter OSLCMankato) or on the blood donor app. Or call the church office to schedule your donation, 507-385-2180. Give blood, save a life! Sign up now!

Our Savior Young at Heart/District S.A.G.E.S.

LHM / LLL

Lutheran Hour Ministries
Lutheran Layman League

SAGES – Older Adult Ministry, Saints Alive Growing Ever Serving

The Gathering is on May 4th and 5th and the Theme is “Living on Purpose with Jesus” with Rev. Greg Finke.

LHM (Lutheran Hour Ministries): The magazine has information for children to adults. Pick up a copy of “The Lutheran Layman” in the narthex.



One Voice for Public Policy alerts to on public policy issues from Rev. Scot Missling. Read his blog at: <https://www.mnsdistrict.org/public-policy>

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.





“If we want to save more Trinitarian-valued lives, then we need to knock a Humpty Dumpty way of thinking about words off the wall. We need to speak of the reality behind the word ‘abortion’ and use such a time as this to speak of the reality of the Word made flesh to dwell among us and in us and for us. You have been called for such a time as this.”

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb
Former Executive Director of Lutherans for Life

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

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: *Follow Him in Generosity*

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has

blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

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

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THANK YOU ALL CONTRIBUTORS

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

Address Service Requested

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May 2026

MAY 2026

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Confirmation Reception 9:25 Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service – Confirmation 6:00 Open Gym/Game Night	4 S.A.G.E.S. Gathering	5 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	6 5:10 Introductory Bell Choir 5:45 Handbell Choir 6:00 Meal 6:45 Devotion 7:00 Vocal Choir	7 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 10:25 Ruth/Lydia Circle	8	9
10 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Study 10:30 Divine Service 4:30 Book Club	11 9:00 Quilting Minnesota State Pastor's Conference @ Maddens	12 6:30 Planning Council	13 5:45 Handbell Choir	14 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Ascension Service @ Good Shepherd	15 12:00 The Voice Deadline 1:30 Mary Circle Bible Study	16
17 Mite Sunday 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Study 10:00 Sundaes on Sunday 10:30 Divine Service 11:45 Voters' Meeting 6:00 Youth @ MCA Gym	18 12:00 – 5pm Red Cross Blood Drive	19 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study	20 4:00 Outreach Missions	21 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline	22	23
24 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study	27 10:00 Funeral Planning Class	28 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:00 Funeral Planning Class	29 2:00 Funeral Planning Class	30 12:00 Fireplace Room Rental
31 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine 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 Cell: 507-341-4173	Secretary Sue Hendrickson Office: 507-385-2180 Home: 507-388-3557	Temp. Custodian Bob Baker 507-327-2922 MWF, 6am-2pm
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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 Gideon Baldwin 307-941-0803 Mark Wellner 507-341-1393 Vacant	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 Endowment Fund Rob Hobbs-Chair 507-340-6313 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	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			