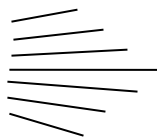




THE

VOICE



The monthly newsletter of Our Savior Lutheran Church
1103 N Broad St., Mankato, MN 56001 **NOVEMBER 2024**



Annual Voters' Meeting

Sunday, November 24th

12:30pm in the Sanctuary

Plan to attend the regularly scheduled annual Voters' Meeting.

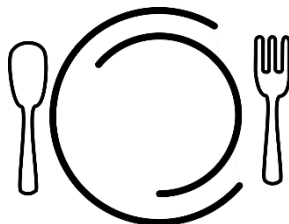
All Confirmed members, age 18 and older, are welcome to come and have your voice heard on the business of the church.

Agenda items include the 2025 budget, and election of officers and board members. See you there!



Annual Dinner

Before the meeting, you are invited to the annual dinner in the Fellowship Hall. The Youth will be serving a pork loin dinner immediately following the late morning service.



A free-will offering will be accepted. All proceeds benefit youth activities, including the 2025 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

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: 507-327-2922
Bob Baker rbaker@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 pastor is available at all hours and all days by calling his 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

“And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
-Colossians 3:17

Everything is a gift. And I mean everything. We do not always think of things that way though. We are often tempted and encouraged to think of having earned what we have, or of deserving what we have. And in many cases, fair enough. We have often contributed things to the world and so the repercussions for those contributions (whether good or bad) are in some sense our “reward”.

But ultimately at the end of the day we as Christians know full well that everything that we have really comes from the Lord. He is the one who created us, who gave us our bodies and souls our eyes and ears and all our members. He is the one who redeemed us, who gave His life for ours and forgives us our trespasses. He is the one who sanctifies us, who calls us and gathers us around His Word and cleanses and renews us with His sacraments.

Knowing that changes the way that we see everything else that we have. It enables us to be truly thankful for everything (whether good or bad) that comes our way. He gave me my body so why shouldn't I use that body to serve my neighbors in need? He sacrificed Himself to forgive me, so why can't I forgive those who sin against me? He pours Himself out to make me holy, so what prevents me from sharing that Word in the hope that He will do the same for someone close to me that is lost.

Thanksgiving for us Christians is not a feeling, a holiday, or a momentary sense: it is a way of life. Because we know who God is and what He has done we can clearly see that everything that we have really is a gift from Him.

Trust Not in Princes

“Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.” - Ps. 146:3-4

Those words of the Psalm are paraphrased in the hymn *Praise the Almighty* (LSB 797), stanza 2: *“Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal; Earthborn they are and soon decay. Vain are their counsels at life’s last portal, When the dark grave engulfs its prey. Since mortals can no help afford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!”* With election day this month, it’s an important reminder that we are not to trust in rulers. Our rulers make all sorts of promises, they tell us they have all of the answers to all of our troubles, and their plans will fix all of the problems we’re facing. It can be tempting to believe them, to think that if we vote the right way our problems will be solved.

Yet we sing so plainly: “trust not in rulers!” Indeed! They are mortal, and when they die their plans perish with them. Even the greatest of leaders is mortal, and even if he were to resolve many of our societal ills, he absolutely fails to help in time of our greatest need. There is only one Savior, one Messiah, one who shall redeem us from sin and the grave: Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords! All others make promises, and Jesus keeps them. Jesus alone is our one true joy and hope.

Dear Christians, regardless of the results of the elections, you have nothing to fear. Jesus is King of all creation, and He rules with perfect wisdom and mercy over all. He hears your prayers and pleas for mercy, and He promises to answer in time of need. Man promises an earthly “utopia,” but our Lord promises us a home in His heavenly kingdom. Earthly kings demand our service and taxes, but Jesus is among us as one who serves us. Jesus is already reigning over us as our dear King, and His reign shall endure unto the end of the ages. Regardless of how you feel about the results of the elections, trust not in rulers. “Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!”

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Koopman

Planning Council Meeting
Minutes of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Mankato
October 8, 2024

Members Present: Dan Gahler, Zak Tess, Doug Haeder, Valerie Elliott, Rob Hobbs, Chris Anderson, Denise Painter, Judy Hendley, Jeff Elliott and Pastors Adam Matheny and John Koopman.

Members Absent: Judd Schultz, Missy Schultz, Joel Maunula and Bev Clark.

1. President Dan Gahler called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Opening Prayer was lead by Pastor Koopman.
3. Public/congregational Presentation: None.
4. Bible Study: Luke 9 led by Zak Tess. Next month will be Luke 10.
5. Additions/Approval of the Agenda: Motion made and seconded to amend the agenda to add under New Business item D: Debt Drive, motion carried.
6. Council Minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve the September 10, 2024, Planning Council minutes as presented, motion carried.
7. Pastors' Report: Pastor Matheny noted working together with Pastor Koopman on tasks. Pastor Koopman expressed thank you for help with moving.
8. Treasurers Report: Doug Haeder presented the September report, noting the increase in giving. Motion made and seconded to approve the September Treasurer Report as presented, motion carried.
9. Unfinished Business
 - A. Thrivent meeting, October 7th for Hymnals: Rob Hobbs reported at the meeting, the members approved \$360 for the hymnals and hymnal accompaniment books that was not covered by the donation and \$1500 for Pastor Koopman's installation reception dinner.
 - B. Update on Concordia Classical Academy matching request: President Dan Gahler reported has meeting with Andrew Bittner in the coming week.
 - C. Update on Discussion upcoming 75th Anniversary of church: President Dan Gahler reported have received ideas and still working on forming a committee.

- D. Update on Congregational Notification ideas from the group: Pastor Matheny reported based on emails received from other churches in the circuit no one is using the software product from Concordia Technology Solutions. After discussion, it was determined to form a committee to review available products/solutions. Pastor Mathney and Valerie Elliott will be part of the committee.
10. New Business
- A. 2025 Board Budgets: President Dan Gahler noted Boards are to have their draft budgets to Doug Haeder by October 24th, then Planning Council will review in November and make recommendation to the congregation at the November Voters' Meeting.
 - B. 2025 Board nominations: President Gahler noted Board nominations are due to Sue/Dan by November 14th.
 - C. Pastor Koopman's Housing Allowance: Motion made and seconded to approve the housing allowance for Pastor Koopman as presented, motion carried.
 - D. Debt Drive: After discussion, planning council will revisit item after reviewing 2025 budget.
11. Board Sharing: Trustees: Working on boilers use for this year and replacing next year; upgrading sump pumps; and working on many projects. Endowment: Next meeting at end of October. Education: October 30th is Reformation Octoberfest and memory work challenge for Sunday school going well. Deacons: Sign ups going well for Sunday morning and Wednesday night.
12. Closing Prayer: Closed with the Lord's Prayer.
13. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm. Next meeting is November 12, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Elliott, Secretary
OSLC Planning Council



Articles for the December
2024 VOICE are due by
Friday, November 15th at

4pm. You may drop-off submissions in the office, or e-mail to: contact@oslcmandato.org.

Treasurer's Report Commentary Period Ending September 30, 2024

Income and Expense Summary

	Current Month	Y-T-D
Income	\$67,854.96	\$433,860.82
Operating Expenses	-\$57,833.71	-\$447,286.76
LCEF Mortgage Principal Payment	-\$876.49	-\$15,066.55
Net for Period[†]	\$9,144.76	-\$28,492.49

[†]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	\$8,441.68	Daily checking account Pioneer Bank
Savings Account	\$206,569.15	Interest Savings account Pioneer Bank
Joyful Response	\$12,426.52	Joyful Response deposits and loan payments
Library Fund	\$20,107.12	Certificate of Deposit
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	
Total Cash Assets	\$247,544.47	
Dedicated Accounts	-\$164,727.19	Amount of our cash balance designated for specific activities
Other Liabilities	-\$4,321.19	Accruals for HSA pmts, youth, etc.
Available Cash Balance	\$78,496.09	\$69,351.33 last month

Long Term Debt (LCEF Mortgage)

Current Balance	\$205,948.70
Monthly Payment	\$1,845.99
Interest Rate (Variable Annually)	5.625% (Aug. 2024-Jul 2025)
Pay-off Date (Pay-off Amount)	7/2036 (\$30,556.92)

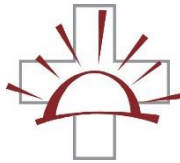
Additional Comments:

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Haeder, Treasurer



WEDDING

Hailey Elizabeth Wintheiser & Jacob Michael Winch
September 21, 2024



IN MEMORIAM

Louis Elmer Plueger
September 10, 1941 ~ September 30, 2024

Charles William Fitzloff
September 16, 1936 ~ October 6, 2024

W. Wayne Cornish
June 5, 1938 ~ October 16, 2024

Accessions & Losses

Accessions:

David & Lisa Buhr, Transfer, Hosanna Lutheran Church,
Mankato, LCMS; October 7, 2024

Ashley Buhr, Transfer, Hosanna Lutheran Church, Mankato;
LCMS; October 7, 2024

Cayley Buhr, Transfer, Hosanna Lutheran Church, Mankato;
LCMS; October 7, 2024

Bible Study Circles

“The Lord is Near” Psalm 34:17-18

Welcoming you to the Bible Study Circles. You (your name) are invited to study God’s truths. The studies are in the LWML Quarterly. Pick up a copy in the Narthex.

Ruth/Lydia Bible Study Circle meets (gather together) on November 7th, Thursday at 9:30. Fellowship with morning treat. Then 9:45am Bible Study: The lesson is *The Lord, My Helper, Keeps Me* on page 18 and 19 of the Fall Quarterly. Psalm 121 read and meditate. Other highlights are for us are Numbers 6:24-26 and LSB 877 “*God Who Made the Earth and Heaven.*”

Mary Circle Bible Study will meet Friday, November 22nd at 11am for lunch at Pizza Ranch. After lunch, we’ll head to Our Savior’s and begin our Bible Study at 1pm in the Fire Place Room. Our study will be “The Lord, My Helper, Keeps Me” on page 18 of the Fall *Quarterly*. Hostess: Sharon Anderson, phone 507-995-1727. Guests and visitors are welcome.



QUILTING

**Mondays,
November 11th & 25th**

Quilting meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month, September through May. Join us in the Quilting Room #124/126 from 9am to noon to sew tops, middles, and backs together and then tie. No experience is necessary. Come enjoy good fellowship while we work.

If you would like to donate cotton material or sheets, please bring them to the Mission Center. Contact Julie with any questions, 507-388-7533.



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

November Special Music Schedule:

November 10: Intro Choir and Intro Bells

November 24: Handbells

November 27: Vocal Choir

Advent and Christmas Special Music - Do you play an instrument or sing? We are looking for volunteers to fill our services with special music. There is so much good Holiday music to play! Please contact Suzie Gangi if interested.

Coming Soon- Kids Recital- We'll have our annual kid's recital before the Christmas program on Sunday December 22nd! Kids who are learning an instrument or would like to sing a song can participate. Please talk to Suzie Gangi if you're interested.

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



Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 3rd. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

YOUTH GROUP

Coming activities. 7th – 12th graders mark your calendar . . .

Sunday, November 17th, 6 – 8pm in the Fireplace room. We will put together care kits for the Reach Youth Shelter and then do a Christmas canvas step-by-step painting. Join us for this youth service opportunity and fun time seeing whose painting looks most like the example and whose looks most unusual!

Sunday, 24th, youth serve the annual dinner. Details to follow.

Sunday, January 12th from 6 – 8pm. January's event will be held at the MSU rock climbing wall. We need to know how many climbers we will have so please sign up by December 22nd in the Narthex. Cost for this event is \$15 (financial assistance available if needed). Waiver forms will need to be completed by parent in advance.



Thanksgiving Eve
Wednesday, November 27th
6:30pm

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 28th
9:00am



Ladies of Our Savior

Lutheran Women in Mission

www.mnslwml.org

~ Ready to Serve ~

Fall Quarterly – WOM, Women On a Mission are in the Narthex. District E-News from MN South is on-line at www.mnslwml.org.

Lutheran Women in Mission invites you to the **41st Biennial Convention**, Thursday, June 26 to Sunday, June 29, 2025, in Omaha, Nebraska. Convention Theme: Growing in God's Grace. Scripture Verse: But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (2 Peter 3:18) Convention Goal Statement: Through Word and Sacrament, I will grow in grace to serve our Lord and proclaim His glory. Convention Objectives: Each convention attendee will be:

- * Inspired to dig deeper in God's Word
- * Nurtured to share the Love of Christ with enthusiasm
- * Encouraged to support missions and our mission goal with joy.

October 1st, Sunday, was traditionally LWML Sunday. We now celebrate it any time of the year. The 2024 theme is: Ready to Serve. And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. Luke 1:38

Ladies and Men, the Lutherans for Life news is in Life Date for you, also available on www.lifenews.com. The March for Life will be in January in Washington, D.C.

Things you may find in the Mission Center: Coloring Contest Notes and pictures, monthly Pray for LWML, order blanks for convention shirt, November – December Prayer Calendar for Gloria Sauck, Orphan Grain Train news, MN South District eNews, Lutheran Bible Translators prayers, Bible Bowl information.

This Biennium the LWML has received 112 submissions for mission grant proposals.

You are invited to Our Savior's Advent Event!

WHO: Women of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

WHAT: Advent Event – Spiritual, Fellowship, Social

WHERE: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall

WHEN: Thursday, December 5, 2024 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Registration sheets will be found on the church bulletin board and in the narthex. Or, you may call Nancy Benson at 507/345-1015 to register. **WE ARE ASKING THAT YOU PLEASE REGISTER NO LATER THAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, SO THAT WE MAY PLAN ACCORDINGLY.**



Mission Service

Mission Service met on October 16 and put together 40 shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse. Thank you to everyone who helped with the project and for the donations received. You are still able to complete a shoebox by taking an empty box, filling it with the suggested items and returning it by November 10th. Every child who receives a shoebox also receives the Gospel in their language and an invitation to join a 12-week Bible Study. May God use these gifts to His Glory.

The next gathering for Mission Service will be Wednesday, November 20th at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come and help with the projects.

Thank you to Thrivent Choice Dollars for the gift to Mission Service.

We are still collecting **used stamps** for Wycliffe Associates. Please bring your stamps to the Mission Center.

Gospel Bracelets for Most Ministries are still being made and can be used as a home project.

Most Ministry: Ways to be involved – Praying and planning a special evening to learn about MOST Ministries. Teams going to do a VBS, Nursing and Eye Glasses to Belize and Honduras. In 2025 going to India, January 17-28 and Belize on February 13-22. Mission trips are encouraged.

Many volunteers are needed for **Disaster Relief**. There are training programs being planned.

Postage is always needed for many projects to be completed.

Ablelight – Developmental Disabilities (Bethesda)
www.ablelight.org

Orphan Grain Train – The needs after the storm are overwhelming. Read O.G.T. news posted in the Mission Center. Donations welcome. www.ogt.org

POBLO – People of the Book Lutheran Outreach Ministries. Remember them in prayer.

Please bring your old eyeglasses and cases to the Mission Center. Thank you.



There will be no meal Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 27th. Happy Thanksgiving!

During Advent, beginning December 4th, the meal will begin at 5:30pm. The Mid-week Advent Service will begin at 6:30pm. Join us for a good meal and good fellowship. A free-will donation is accepted. (Suggested donation of \$3 per person.)

Help is always needed, please check the sign-up sheets in the Fireplace room to see where you can help with the Wednesday meals or Sunday morning coffee. Please contact a Board of Deacons member if you have any questions.

Young at Heart / S.A.G.E.S.

Young at Heart is Our Savior older adult ministry and

Saints Alive Growing Ever Serving

(S.A.G.E.S.) is the District older adult ministry (50+)

LHM Lutheran Hour Ministries

LLL Lutheran Layman's League



S.A.G.E.S.



(S.A.G.E.S. = Saints Alive, Growing, Ever Serving)

Sagacity – S.A.G.E.S. quarterly newsletter, Sagacity is available at the district website: www.mnsdistrict.org

Still a Great Need! Volunteer from each congregation to be a contact for S.A.G.E.S. Is it I Lord? Also needed – a representative for several Circuit vacancies. Volunteer by contacting President James Vehling.

Monthly Lutheran Witness has a Mn South Supplement. It is available at the district website: www.mnsdistrict.org

State Bible Bowl 2025 – The Life of David, 1 Samuel 16 – 1 Kings 2 (ESV). April 5, 2025 at Concordia University, St. Paul. Contact Rev. Rudy Mauer (rudymaurer@aol.com) or for more information go to the MN State Bible Bowl website at www.mnbiblebowl.org

Rose Parade Petal Pushers- Building off the parade theme of *Best Day Ever!* The 2025 Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) float entry is titled “Behold! Jesus the Savior is Born” and marks the 74th time the ministry has been part of the parade. As the only Christian float in the Rose Parade, the LHM float carries on a mission of providing a Gospel witness to viewers everywhere, from along the parade route to televisions worldwide. The coloring pages for the coloring competition and the directions, will be in the Mission Center for our children. ****Entries MUST be postmarked by Nov. 1,**

2024. Be sure all the information lines on the bottom of the page are filled in. Entries become the property of Petal Pushers and cannot be returned.

One Voice for Public Policy: Get your copy at

www.mnsdistrict.org

Public Policy Advocates: Rev. Fred Hinz

(fred.hinz@mnsdistrict.org) and Rev. Scot Missling

(pastorstpaullcms@gmail.com)

Beautiful Feed Mission Conference, hosted by Concordia University, St. Paul, November 7 – 9.

Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs Workshop - Saturday, November 16th from 9am – 12:30pm. It will be held at Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, 4040 MN-101, Plymouth. Theme: *Nothing but Christ and Him Crucified*.

LHM Mobile App. Access Lutheran Hour Ministries' Daily Devotions and sermons from The Lutheran Hour, season-themed devotions during Advent and Lent. Inspirational Scripture-based messages at your fingertips every day. Available everywhere you download the app!

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



Watch Our Savior's Sunday Worship

Our Savior's Sunday 8am and 10:30am (summer at 9am) 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, view the Order of Service, and keep up with church activities in the Bulletin Announcements.



No prayer shawls were given out this month; but, if anyone would like to knit or crochet a prayer shawl, call Marcella at 507-317-4127.

Also, anyone needing a prayer shawl for comfort, please call.



Mites

Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML Mites for Missions

Oh Give Thanks to God for all your sharing to make Christ known. The October Focus Grants added \$200,000 for sharing Christ and expanding Gospel Outreach.

The November Focus Grant #19: Tanzania Children's Homes – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Africa, \$74,500.

Grant #25: Bringing God's Word to India – India Bible Translations Project - \$100,000.

Children and adults, new Mite box for you in the Narthex. Bring Mites from home and put in the big box at church on Mite Sunday, November 17th.

Each month we have a District Mission Gift Project. Thirteen District Mission Mite Grants for 2024-2025 for \$270,000.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

The Thrivent members who contribute their Choice Dollars to Our Savior Lutheran Church met on Monday, October 7th and approved the following requests:

- Hymnals - \$361.18 balance after a donor covered the cost of 100 new hymnals and two large-print editions
- Pastor Koopman's Installation meal - \$1500
- Landscape Design Consultation for front of church - \$100
- Mission Service Cards and Postage - \$500
- Shipping cost for Bibles - \$250
- Shut-in Cheer Cards - \$600
- Advent Event - \$215.00
- Piano Prelude Music - \$610.00

Thank you to all who contribute their Choice Dollars to Our Savior's for special projects. Between meetings, the Thrivent Group, consisting of Brian Johnson, Janet Timm, and Julie Schlichting can approve up to \$250 for projects of organizations within Our Savior's. Any amounts requested over \$250, will be held until the next meeting of the Choice Dollars contributors.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Johnson at 507-779-4264.

Dear Friends in Christ,

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the special greetings I received on my 85th birthday. I enjoyed the cards very much. The years are passing all too quickly, but I know God is always there loving and taking care of us all.



Your sister in Christ,
Vonnie Kelling

Open Gym / Game Night **Sunday, November 3rd**

We will have an open gym and game night the first Sunday of each month from 6 – 8pm. This is for all ages and will involve a short devotion.

Please bring games (board games/card games) to play. Use the back parking lot/door. Please note: this is not a drop off event, children 6th grade and younger must be accompanied by an adult.



Potluck Dinner and Bible Study will not meet in November since our scheduled meeting day falls on Thanksgiving. Happy turkey day, everyone!



Christmas Decorating

Join us Sunday, December 1st following the 10:30 service to decorate the church for Christmas.

Bring the family, all ages are welcome to help! We enjoy good fellowship while we're working.

Lunch will be served when the decorating is completed.



“In the fullness of time, our Lord was born for our sake. In the fullness of time, He will bring all the faithful into eternal fellowship with Him. In the fullness of time, He will dry every tear and fulfill His will for all mankind, as John the Evangelist witnessed in the Revelation God granted him.”

*Deaconess Bethany Stoever
Director-at-Large, LFL of Kansas*

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

SUNDAY MATINS

Perhaps you've heard our radio broadcast on Sundays at 9am. Each week the pastor records the Sunday sermon or another message for broadcast on KTOE, 1420 AM.

If you would like to sponsor this weekly broadcast for a week, or a month, or more, please contact the church office (507-385-2180, contact@oslcmandato.org) to reserve your Sunday. What a great way to remember a loved one who has passed or celebrate a special occasion – anniversary, birthday, birth of a child or grandchild, by sharing the Gospel with the community. The cost for each Sunday is \$14.



From the Stewardship Committee: *The consequences of shallow thankfulness*

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together!

This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, "Tell grandma thank you." This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: "Look at me! Aren't I special?" No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

For words that speak at variance with deeds ...

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to

the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

*Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways
unmindful of a broken brother's need ...*

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets.

Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel. When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel. Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!

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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 216

THANK YOU ALL CONTRIBUTORS

Marion Brunz
Marcella Eiders
Karen Fischer
Mel Hendrickson
Rhonda Rastedt
Julie Schlichting
Dianne Schmidt
Bernice Wilson

November 2024

Address Service Requested

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November 2024

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Mankato, Minnesota

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<p>Sunday Matins is aired at 9:00am each Sunday on KTOE 1420A View Our Savior's service on YouTube, channel oslcmankato, livestreamed or any time at your convenience.</p>						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p><i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i></p> <p>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</p>		<p>8:30 Circuit Pastors 5:15 Board of Education 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:00 Board of Elders 6:30 Board of Deacons</p>	<p>4:45 Introductory Choir 5:15 Introductory Bell Choir 5:30 Brass 5:45 Handbell Choir 6:00 Meal 6:45 Devotion 7:00 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Vocal Choir</p>	<p>9:00 Private Confession 9:30 Ruth/Lydia Circle 10:00 Bulletin Deadline</p>		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 4:30 Book Club</p>	<p>9:00 Quilting</p>	<p>10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study 6:30 Planning Council</p>	<p>4:45 Introductory Choir 5:15 Introductory Bell Choir 5:30 Brass 5:45 Handbell Choir 6:00 Meal 6:45 Devotion 7:00 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Vocal Choir</p>	<p>9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p>4:00 The Voice Deadline</p>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p><i>Mite Sunday</i></p> <p>8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 6:00 Youth Event</p>		<p>10:00 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>4:00 Mission Service 4:45 Introductory Choir 5:15 Introductory Bell Choir 5:30 Brass 5:45 Handbell Choir 6:00 Meal 6:45 Devotion 7:00 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Vocal Choir</p>	<p>9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p>11:00 Mary Circle @ Pizza Ranch 1:00 Mary Circle @ Church</p>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Bible Class 9:25 Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service 11:30 Annual Dinner 12:30 Voters' Meeting 4:30 Book Club</p>	<p>9:00 Quilting</p>	<p>10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study</p>	<p>10:00 Early Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Thanksgiving Eve Worship</p>	<p><i>Thanksgiving Day</i></p> <p>9:00 Thanksgiving Worship 10:30 Fireplace Room Rental</p>		

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 Bob Baker 507-327-2922
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Congregational Officers and Elected Board Members

President Dan Gahler 507-995-3634	Vice President Zak Tess 920-265-8436	Secretary Valerie Elliott 785-202-0166	Treasurer Doug Haeder 952-374-9667	Financial Secretary Bev Clark 507-380-9492			
Council Members at Large Judy Hendley 507-317-7060 Missy Schultz 507-514-2553 Joel Maunula 320-296-0954 Vacant		Board of Elders Judd Schultz-Chair 507-317-9932 Mike Holub 507-340-1222 Mike Blomquist 507-351-5051 Lon Whitehead 507-388-4891 Randy Burmeister 507-720-6985 Tom Benson 507-345-1015 Mike Anderson 507-401-1282 Gaylen Lenz 507-317-4269 Vacant Vacant Vacant Vacant		Board of Trustees Steve Annis 507-278-3093 Matt Williams 507-995-0350 Kurt Anderson 507-381-9537 Bruce Anderson 507-327-8559 Steve Dumke 507-388-1297 Chris Anderson 507-382-9450		Board of Education Samantha Tess - Chair 507-217-0354 Marie Griffin 507-625-7971 Rhonda Prince 507-521-0690 Jeff Elliott 785-202-1170 Kathy Krumwiede 507-236-6852 Bev Annis 507-278-3093	
Board of Endowment Fund Gretchen Zellmer 507-387-6939 Garvin Eichhorst - Treasurer 507-388-9227 Rob Hobbs-Chair 507-243-3232 Mel Hendrickson - Vice Chair 507-388-3557 Judy Mensing - Secretary 507-387-4908 Dave Kroells 507-345-4423 Thad Simpson 507-382-1683				Board of Deacons Carrie Anderson-Secretary 507-469-8619 Denise Painter - Chair 507-380-0507 Lindsey Marso 507-382-6168 Kathy Taylor 507-317-1555 Vicky Senne 507-625-1147 Terrin Boozikee 952-412-1762			