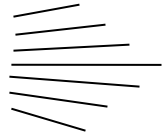




THE

VOICE



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

Annual Voters' Meeting **Sunday, January 19th** **11:45am**

All Confirmed members, age 18 and older, are invited to participate in our regular Voters' Meeting. We will hear annual reports by the boards and treasurer. Come, and have your voice heard on the business of the church.



Chili Cook-off **Following the Voters' Meeting**

Do you enjoy making and/or eating chili? The Board of Deacons invite you to the **Annual OSLC Chili Cook-off**

following the Voters meeting on Sunday, January 19

You may make and enter a chili creation in the traditional or non-traditional category

All are invited for a tasting of the varieties, then vote for your favorite. A prize will be awarded to a winner in each of the 2 categories

Also, join us for Bible Trivia. It's fun and great fellowship and you may learn something too!

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

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

The start of a new year often inspires us to reflect on the past and set goals for the future. We might resolve to break bad habits, nurture relationships, or pursue healthier living. While these resolutions can bring positive change, they pale in comparison to the profound transformation that occurs when we are in Christ.

In January’s memory verse, Paul reminds us that being “in Christ” means more than simply believing in Him—it means living in a union with Him, where His life becomes our life. Through faith, we are not merely improved versions of our old selves; we are entirely new creations. This newness is not achieved by our efforts or resolutions but through the power of God’s grace working within us.

The “old” that has passed away includes our sinful nature, guilt, and separation from God. In Christ, we are forgiven and set free. The “new” that has come is a life marked by righteousness, reconciliation with God, and a renewed purpose. This new identity transforms how we see ourselves and how we live in the world.

As you step into the new year, remember that your worth and identity are not defined by your past mistakes or your ability to keep resolutions. They are grounded in Christ’s finished work on the cross. Let this truth inspire you to live boldly, embracing the opportunities God places before you to reflect His love and grace.

Pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance to leave behind what is old and walk confidently in the newness of life that Christ offers. Trust that He who began this good work in you will bring it to completion in His perfect time.

The Journey Home

*“Then, gracious God, in years to come,
We pray Your hand may guide us,
And onward through our journey home,
Your mercy walk beside us
Until at last our ransomed life
Is safe from peril, toil, and strife
When heaven itself shall hide us.”*
- LSB 899:5

One of the most popular themes in fictional literature is the story of the journey home. Odysseus saw the wonders of the world, but wanted nothing more than to return to Ithaca. Samwise Gamgee helped rescue all of Middle Earth, could've retired in luxury wherever he wanted, yet returned home to the Shire. “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” For the Lord Jesus was on a journey, too. He is King of all and could've reigned anywhere as King, yet, His journey took Him to Golgotha and the tomb, after which He ascended to heaven and is seated upon His throne.

Like our King Jesus, we are on an epic odyssey through this wilderness, and are longing for the true Fatherland of paradise, the home which shall be received as our inheritance from the Father in heaven. Each of our days may appear less exciting and more mundane than what the heroes of the great epics faced, but those stories of adventure are meant to illustrate the import of each of our days. Your simple life, with its ordinary events, is the narrative of your journey through this perilous desert which you traverse in order to reach your everlasting home.

This year look at your life as a journey, and you as a pilgrim, walking home through a fearsome battlefield. Your decisions regarding how to spend your time, talents, and treasures, may determine your homecoming. Your behaviors and attitudes towards others may result in allies or enemies. Pleasures and temptations may so distract you from the goal that you never reach

it. The enemy's strategy is shrouded in darkness; can you see his assaults against you in your day to day life?

Through this journey home the Lord Jesus shall take you by the hand, carry you on His shoulder, and walk beside you in His mercy. The Hero of this tale does not leave you unattended, because in His mercy He has already spared your life through sacrifice. He has raised you to your feet, dear Christian, and when you reach that promised home He shall crown your head with life.

**Planning Council
Minutes of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Mankato
November 12, 2024**

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

Members Absent: 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 Matheny.
3. Public/congregational Presentation: None.
4. Bible Study: Luke 10 led by Zak Tess. Next month will be Luke 11.
5. Additions/Approval of the Agenda: Motion made and seconded to amended the agenda to add under New Business item C: Electrical Panel replacement and item D: Recommendation of Endowment Fund to support Concordia Classical Academy, motion carried.
6. Council Minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve the October 8, 2024, Planning Council minutes as presented, motion carried.
7. Pastors' Report: Pastor Matheny and Pastor Koopman did not have anything to report.
8. Treasurers Report: Doug Haeder presented the October report, noting a minor discrepancy of \$41.60. Motion made and seconded to approve the October Treasurer Report with

caveat continue to review minor discrepancy that is noted, motion carried.

9. Unfinished Business

- A. Feedback on Concordia Classical Academy (CCA) presentation: President Dan Gahler noted presentation went well. After discussion, motion made and seconded to recommend at Voters' Meeting of creation of dedicated fund for individual donations to CCA and if necessary up to \$10,000 to supplement from Endowment Fund and undesignated memorial funds for a total donation of \$20,000 to CCA, motion carried.
- B. Update on Discussion upcoming 75th Anniversary of church: President Dan Gahler reported continue to receive ideas and still working on building a committee.
- C. Update on Congregational Notification ideas from the group: Pastor Matheny reported receiving additional. Information about another software package. We will continue to research and gather information notification systems.
- D. 2025 Board nominations: The Council reviewed the open slate, including the open positions of Financial Secretary and two (2) at large members for the Planning Council and two (2) Trustees.

10. New Business

- A. Review 2025 Board Budgets: Discussion of budget, including adjustments to trustees' budget based on updated information. Overall, the 2025 proposed budget is less than 2024 budget. Motion made and seconded to recommend at Voters' Meeting adjusted budgeted subject to review of trustee budget for possible increase up to \$5000, motion carried.
- B. Update Church Constitution: After discussion, it was determined to table the topic until after the first of the year.
- C. Electrical Panels replacement: Replacement costs are part of Trustees' budget for the coming year, no action taken.
- D. Recommendation of Endowment Fund to support Concordia Classical Academy: See item 9a for action.

11. Board Sharing: Trustees: Working on electrical panel replacement. Endowment: Will wait and see on missionary

support and investments are doing well. Education: discussing incorporation classical catechesis into Sunday school and adult classes; working on Women's Retreat; Oktoberfest Reformation Wednesday event went well; and continue to need second adults in Sunday School. Deaconess: Need volunteers to sign up for Sunday morning coffee/donuts and Wednesday night meal and will be reception after Children's Program in December. Elders: Lisa Brand received a call which will start at the end of her severance package.

12. Closing Prayer: Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

13. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm. Next meeting is December 10, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Elliott, Secretary, OSLC Planning Council

Council Meeting Minutes of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Mankato December 10, 2024

Members Present: Dan Gahler, Zak Tess, Doug Haeder, Valerie Elliott, Rob Hobbs, Steve Annis, Denise Painter, Randy Burneister, Jeff Elliott, Gary Fladland, and Pastors Adam Matheny and John Koopman.

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

1. President Dan Gahler called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Opening Prayer was lead by Pastor Matheny.
3. Public/congregational Presentation: None.
4. Bible Study: Luke 11 led by Zak Tess. Next month will be Luke 12.
5. Additions/Approval of the Agenda: Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried.
6. Council Minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve the November 12, 2024, Council minutes as presented, motion carried.
7. Pastors' Report: Pastor Matheny and Pastor Koopman reported Advent series has started and preparing for Christmas.

8. Treasurers Report: Doug Haeder presented the November report, noting a minor discrepancy is resolved. Motion made and seconded to approve the November Treasurer Report as presented, motion carried.
9. Unfinished Business
 - A. Update on Discussion upcoming 75th Anniversary of church: President Dan Gahler reported continues to receive ideas and plan on meeting after the first of the year.
 - B. Update on Congregational Notification ideas from the group: Pastor Matheny reported setting up a meeting to review software used by a sister congregation.
10. New Business
 - A. Resolution for 2025 Housing Allowance:
 - B. Date for January Voters' Meeting: January Voters' Meeting will be on January 19, 2025, followed by chili cookoff.
 - C. Date for Installation of Officers: Date for installation of officers will be January 5, 2025.
 - D. Update Church Constitution: After discussion, we will wait until the January Council meeting to assign. The By-Laws will also need to be reviewed and updated.
11. Board Sharing: Trustees: Working on electrical panel replacement and working through transition when Bob's retires. Endowment: Will not be advertising donations to endowment fund, as to encourage giving to general fund and designated CCA fund. Education: Memory work challenge going well; December 22nd will be Children's Christmas service followed by reception; working on Women's Retreat; and starting planning for Wisdom Workshop. Deaconess: Blood drive May 19th, appreciative of volunteers for Wednesday night meals and Sunday morning coffee and donuts; reception after service on December 22nd; and chili cookoff after January Voters' Meeting. Elders: grateful for new members of the Board of Elders and starting membership committee.
12. Closing Prayer: Closed with the Lord's Prayer.
13. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. Next meeting is January 14, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Elliott, Secretary, OSLC Council

Voters' Meeting
Our Savior Lutheran Church of Mankato
1103 North Broad St, Mankato, MN 56001
November 24, 2024 Attendance: 55

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by President Dan Gahler.
2. Opening Prayer: Lead by Pastor Adam Matheny.
3. Approval of Agenda: Motion made, seconded to approve agenda as presented, motion carried.
4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion made, seconded to approve May 19, 2024 Voters' Meeting minutes, June 30, 2024 Special Voters' Meeting minutes, July 21, 2024 Special Voters' Meeting minutes and August 4, 202 Special Voters' Meeting minutes as presented, motion carried.
5. Pastors' Reports: Pastor Koopman noted congregation great love for Christ and His Word and shown to him and his family. Pastor Matheny reported being grateful for Associate Pastor Koopman and still sorting through their work.
6. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Doug Haeder reviewed report noting discrepancy of \$41.60, still working on source of discrepancy. Additionally, he noted difference between giving and expenses is greater this year. Motion made and seconded to approve as presented noting discrepancy of \$41.60, motion carried.
7. Unfinished Business
 - A. Sanctuary Art Project Committee: Karee Bless provided an update on the project, noting on December 4th after Advent service at 2:00pm to 4:00 pm and 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, artist will have an open house. Additionally, paintings anticipated to be done by end of the year.
8. New Business:
 - A. Circuit Forum Representatives: Motion made, seconded to approve Pastor Koopman and Andrew Bittner as Circuit Forum Representatives, motion carried. Date for Circuit Forum to be determined, but estimated to be around January 31, 2025.
 - B. District Convention delegates: Motion made, seconded to approve Pastor Mathney, Mel Hendrickson and Judd Schultz (alternate) as delegates to the District Convention. The District Convention will be June 12-14, 2025.

- C. Officer and Board Member Elections: President Gahler reviewed the slate and cited unfilled positions. Nancy Benson was added as Council at Large member from the floor. Motion made and seconded to approve unanimously ballot as amended, motion carried.
 - D. 2025 Annual Budget: President Dan Gahler presented the Planning Council's recommendation to support Concordia Classical Academy (CCA) with designated donations. Question from congregation if support will be part of general budget, President Gahler clarified support would not be from the general budget, but from individuals making designated donation for CCA. Motion made and seconded to approve the 2025 budget as presented, motion carried.
9. Closing Prayer: We closed with the Lord's Prayer.
10. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Elliott, Secretary
OSLC Planning Council

Accessions & Losses

Losses:

Matthew, Lisa, & Joel Brand; Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Bay City, MI; LCMS; November 22, 2024
Jeff & Kathy Krumwiede; Released, no transfer;
December 4, 2024



Articles for the February 2025 VOICE are due by Friday, January 17th at 4pm. You may drop-off submissions in the office, or e-mail to: contact@oslcmandato.org.

Treasurer's Report Commentary Period Ending November 30, 2024

Income and Expense Summary

| | Current Month | Y-T-D |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$38,504.78 | \$502,325.25 |
| Operating Expenses | -\$53,788.38 | -\$588,720.30 |
| LCEF Mortgage Principal Payment | -\$884.74 | -\$16,831.89 |
| Net for Period[†] | -\$16,168.34 | -\$73,226.94 |

[†]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 | \$15,299.69 | Daily checking account Pioneer Bank |
| Savings Account | \$152,450.26 | Interest Savings account Pioneer Bank |
| Joyful Response | \$26,844.41 | Joyful Response deposits and loan payments |
| Library Fund | \$20,107.12 | Certificate of Deposit |
| Accounts Receivable | \$0.00 | |
| Total Cash Assets | \$214,701.48 | |
| Dedicated Accounts | -\$175,265.10 | Amount of our cash balance designated for specific activities |
| Other Liabilities | -\$5,674.74 | Accruals for HSA pmts, youth, etc. |
| Available Cash Balance | \$33,761.64 | \$49,929.98 last month |

Long Term Debt (LCEF Mortgage)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Current Balance | \$204,183.36 |
| 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



Christmas Un-decorating January 5

On Sunday, January 5th, right after the 10:30 service, we will be putting away the Christmas decorations for another year. Please join us to help. We will enjoy lunch together when the decorations have been put away.



Open Gym / Game Night Sunday, January 5th

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.



Bible Study Circles

~ Epiphany ~

Our Bible Studies are theme studies from the *Quarterly*. A *Quarterly* is furnished for your study. Your copy is in the narthex. The theme for the winter quarter 2025 is “Tell Your Story”. The editor ask you to share your story at editor@lwml.org.

Welcoming participants

Ruth/Lydia Bible Study gathers Thursday, January 2nd at 10:10 for fellowship, with Bible Study at 10:25. (*Note later time.*) Begin with review of 2nd article from the Fall *Quarterly*. Lesson from Winter *Quarterly*, page 17 – The Third Article, “Steadfast in Christ”.

Mary Circle Bible Study does not meet in January. Watch for details for February.

Installation of Officers Sunday, January 5th

All newly elected and currently serving officers and board members of the congregation will be installed on Sunday, January 5th. The Rite of Installation will take place at both morning services so you may attend the service you prefer.



QUILTING

Mondays, January 13th & 27th

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.



BOOK CLUB

The Our Savior's book club meets from 4:30-6 in the fireplace room on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. We read good books and then discuss them together from our shared Lutheran perspective. In January we will begin a new book, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. This classic work explores themes of ambition and hubris, unforeseen consequences, and the dangers of scientific discovery. In January we will meet only on Sunday the 26th and we will read Volume I of the book. If you have any questions or would like to get a copy of the book please speak with Pastor Matheny.



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 the Advent and Christmas Services. What a blessing it is to have special music for our worship.

Back to regular schedule for Wednesday Rehearsals

Intro Choir- 4:45-5:15

Intro Bells- 5:15-5:45

Brass- 5:25-5:45

Handbells 5:45-6:15

Choir- 7:00-7:30

Choirs-Anyone interested in joining any of our choirs or instrumental groups, it's not too late! Please stop in any time during rehearsals and give it a try. 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.

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





Ladies of Our Savior

Lutheran Women in Mission

www.mnslwml.org

~ Ready to Serve ~

Stay connected with LWML Winter Quarterly and WOM E-News from both National and District. www.mnslwml.org and www.lwml.org.

The last months we learned about the 41st Biennial Convention “Growing in God’s Grace” in Omaha, NE, June 26-29. **Time to register and prepare.** We now have the details in the *Winter Quarterly*:

- Registration opens March 1st
- Schedule
- Cost
- Convention personalities
- Mite Action speakers
- Additional presenters
- Mission impact luncheons
- Receptions
- Gifts from the Heart
- Hotel information
- Bi-State bridge walk
- Golf 4 Tee up Mites
- Servant activities
- Blood Drive

Charter Bus information: Bus leaves Minnesota on Wednesday, June 25 and returns after the convention on June 29. Make reservation before January 31. Deb Vinkemeier, Transportation Coordinator:

dmvink7@gmail.com. More bus information in Mission Center.
See you in the Heartland!

Winter Quarterly for you is in the Narthex. The Winter theme is “Tell Your Story”. Come and hear, all you who fear God: let me tell you what He has done for me. Psalm 66:16.

An Opportunity Awaits: Young Woman
Representatives(ages 22-40) wanted to go to the Omaha LWML Convention. This is an opportunity of a lifetime. Application at www.mnslwml.org. Call Trudy Wiechmann for details as soon as possible.

Thanks be to God for the fellowship at the Advent Event.
Love and Laughter and great food!

District: www.mnsdistrict.org **Church:**
www.oslcmankato.org, www.facebook.com/oslcmankato,
www.youtube.com **LWML:** www.lwml.org, www.mnslwml.org

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.
January – March issue comes mid-January.

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: www.mnbiblebowl.org

Rose Bowl Parade January 1, 2025

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)

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

Keep up with "The Lutheran Layman"



Save the Date. . . S.A.G.E.S. Gathering

(noon) May 5 and 6, 2025 (afternoon)
In Mankato

Great Speaker and Workshops

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. You can also view the Order of Service, and keep up with church activities in the Bulletin Announcements from our website.



One prayer shawl was given out this past month. Thank you to everyone who has made a shawl. Anyone interested in making one, or if you'd like a prayer shawl for comfort, contact Marcella at 507-317-4127.



Sunday, January 12th from 6 – 8pm.

For those who signed up, January's event will be held at the MSU rock climbing wall.

Cost for this event is \$15 (financial assistance available if needed). Waiver forms will need to be completed by parent in advance.

Mission Service



Mission Service would like to thank everyone who came to help with the projects in 2024, and to those who donated items for us to use and distribute. Projects included:

- Socks and Healthcare Kits delivered to The Reach, Connections Shelter, the Crisis Center, and the House of Hope
- 4 boxes of clothing and baby products to Options Pregnancy Center
- 10 blankets to Cada House
- 20 boxes of clothing, Bibles, study books, blankets, and medical supplies to Orphan Grain Train
- A carload of baby and medical items to Global Health
- 71 shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse
- 17 boxes of Bibles, devotionals, and Portals of Prayer to Eagles Next Ministries
- Cancelled stamps to Wycliffe
- Gospel bracelets to MOST Ministries
- Eye glasses to the Lions

Thank you!



Mites

Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML Mites for Missions

Small Mite Boxes for children and adults are available in the narthex to save change used for mission projects. Each 3rd Sunday, this change can be added to others change in the Big Mite Box in the narthex.

Mission Grants are voted on at the National and District Conventions. Imagine! Two million dollars in two years for Mission Projects.

National Mite Grants focus for January are #23: A Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children - \$100,000; and #28: Growing Our Place Care for Special Needs Students - \$20,000.

Our 13 Minnesota South District Mite Grants for the 2024-2026 biennium total \$270,000.

See Grant stories each month on the board in the Narthex or on the LWML website. 2025 – Thank you for your thoughtfulness, prayers, and change for making Christ known!



“Let the peace of Christ change how you live – clothing yourself with godly virtues reflecting a thankful

heart. Carry this peace that the angels proclaimed and Simeon saw. It sets the tone for the coming year, another year you get to live as God’s child in the peace of Jesus.”

Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota

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

2025 March for Life

Wednesday, January 22

The Minnesota South District and Concordia University, St. Paul will host a Life Chapel Service at 10:30am at Graebner Memorial Chapel, 1259 Carroll Ave, St. Paul. After the service, worshipers are encouraged to travel to the steps outside the Minnesota State Capital for the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) March For Life which begins at 12 noon south of the Capitol building.

Marches for Life are joyful and hopeful. Come to the party and be an advocate for life!

From the Stewardship Committee: *Repenting of “Feasts that Know No Fast”*

Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air into the lives of the people we know and love. This is not a meteorological statement either. While it is true that January is one of the colder months for those in North America, the cold front blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December’s celebration, it really puts a damper on things.

Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunkered down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by

William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense.

“Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast ...” This hits us hard, doesn’t it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ.

“For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul ...” In “The Parable of the Sower,” we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure and do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that starve the soul.

But it also happens in our congregations. When corporate stewardship is not managed in a responsible way, it can and does destroy individual stewardship. Is it good individual stewardship to support a ministry that doesn’t take its corporate responsibility seriously?

“For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast and blur our vision of the Kingdom goal.” This is the ultimate end of the idolatry of failed stewardship. We build walls between believers within the church and hamper those who are outside from coming to the Light of Life that is Jesus. The wars we fight over money and its impact on ministry do the same. It eventually blurs our vision of what we are here to do: share the Good News of Jesus. When the wintry blast of January hits us in this fashion, we are called to repent.

When the Holy Spirit uses the cold front of the call to repentance, we meet the God who forgives and restores. That is what He does for individual and corporate stewards. When the bills hit, they call us back to Jesus. He is the One who indeed forgives us our shallow thankfulness and leads us into the bounty of His mercy yet again.

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

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P A I D
Mankato, MN
Permit No. 216**

THANK YOU ALL CONTRIBUTORS

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

Address Service Requested

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January 2025

**Our Savior Lutheran Church
Mankato, Minnesota**

January 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------------|---|--|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | New Year's Day 1 <i>Office Closed</i> | 2 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 10:10 Ruth/Lydia Circle | 3 | 4 |
| Installation of Officers 5 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 & Lunch 6:00 Open Gym/Game Night | 6 | 7 8:30 Circuit Pastors 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:00 Board of Elders 6:30 Board of Deacons | 8 4:45 Introductory Choir 5:15 Introductory Bell Choir 5:25 Brass 5:45 Handbell Choir 6:00 Meal 6:45 Devotion 7:00 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Vocal Choir | 9 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline | 10 | 11 11:00 Anderson Funeral |
| 12 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 1:00 Circuit Forum 6:00 Youth-MSU Rock Climbing | 13 9:00 Quilting | 14 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study 6:30 Planning Council | 15 4:00 Mission Service 4:45 Introductory Choir 5:15 Introductory Bell Choir 5:25 Brass 5:45 Handbell Choir 6:00 Meal 6:45 Devotion 7:00 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Vocal Choir | 16 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline | 17 4:00 The Voice Deadline | 18 |
| Mite Sunday 19 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 11:45 Annual Voters' Meeting 12:45 Chili Cook-off | 20 | 21 10:00 Staff Meeting | 22 10:30 Life Chapel Svc-CSP 12:00 March for Life 1:30 Endowment Board 4:45 Introductory Choir 5:15 Introductory Bell Choir 5:25 Brass 5:45 Handbell Choir 6:00 Meal 6:45 Devotion 7:00 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Vocal Choir | 23 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline | 24 | 25 |
| 26 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 4:30 Book Club | 27 9:00 Quilting | 28 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study | 29 4:45 Introductory Choir 5:15 Introductory Bell Choir 5:25 Brass 5:45 Handbell Choir 6:00 Meal 6:45 Devotion 7:00 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Vocal Choir | 30 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline | 31 | |

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 Gary Fladland 507-469-2086 | Financial Secretary Vacant | | | |
| Council Members at Large Judy Hendley 507-317-7060 Joel Maunula 320-296-0954 Nancy Benson 507-345-1015 Vacant | | Board of Elders Judd Schultz-Chair 507-317-9932 Mike Holub 507-340-1222 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 Gene Mensing 507-387-4908 Matt Rottermond 507-317-8337 Andrew Bittner 507-779-9593 Vacant Vacant | | Board of Trustees Kurt Anderson 507-381-9537 Bruce Anderson 507-327-8559 Steve Dumke 507-388-1297 Chris Anderson 507-382-9450 Vacant Vacant | | Board of Education Samantha Tess - Chair 507-217-0354 Marie Griffin 507-625-7971 Rhonda Prince 507-521-0690 Bev Annis 507-278-3093 Mary Bittner 507-469-8052 Darcy Chapman 507-382-5577 | |
| 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 | | | |