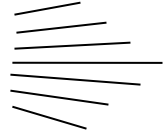




THE

VOICE



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

National Youth Gathering Fundraiser



When: February 17th 4:30pm – 8:00pm
Where: Pizza Ranch – 1551 Tullamore St.
Mankato

Join Our Savior's Youth for some pizza and fun! We are raising funds for the National Youth Gathering this summer. 10% of all sales and any donations will go directly to our youth.

This summer, from July 18th – July 23rd, eight Our Savior's youth and three chaperones will join with thousands of LCMS youth from around the country in New Orleans for Worship, Bible Study, inspirational speakers and performers who will challenge them in God's Word, servant events, and more. We appreciate all the support from the congregation.

If you have any questions, contact Rhonda Prince 507-521-0690.



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

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be
afraid?" -Psalm 27:1

This verse encapsulates the central message of the Christian faith: God alone is the source of our salvation and security. Psalm 27:1 resonates deeply with our understanding of justification by grace through faith. The psalmist acknowledges that God is both light and salvation, pointing to the illuminating and redemptive work of Christ.

In Scripture, light symbolizes truth, guidance, and God's presence. In Christ, the Light of the World, we see the fulfillment of this promise. His incarnation brings clarity to the mysteries of sin and redemption. Just as the psalmist proclaims freedom from fear because of God's protection, we too rest in the assurance that Christ has overcome the powers of sin, death, and the devil. This confidence does not arise from our works or merit but from God's unchanging promises in His Word.

The phrase "stronghold of my life" further reminds us of God's providence and protection in the midst of trials. We understand this refuge to be most tangibly present in the Means of Grace—Word and Sacrament. Through the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God's grace is continually poured out upon us.

Psalm 27:1 calls us to trust in God's deliverance, even amid life's uncertainties. This trust is not blind but firmly grounded in Christ's finished work on the cross. In Him, our fears are dispelled, and we are emboldened to live in the freedom of faith. Truly, with the Lord as our light and salvation, we can echo the psalmist's confident refrain: "*Whom shall I fear?*"

Let Thy Servant Depart in Peace

February 2nd is the feast of the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of our Lord in the temple. On this occasion the elderly priest Simeon beheld in his arms the infant Lord Jesus Christ. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ, so now when he came face to face with his Lord he declared: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace." Having met His Lord, having seen salvation, He was now prepared for death.

This song of Simeon, known as the *Nunc Dimittis* (Latin for: *now you dismiss*), is sung by us after we've eaten and drunk the Lord's Supper. Singing this song after the distribution is a particularly Lutheran addition to the liturgy in the 19th century, but it's stuck and has been part of our tradition now for nearly 200 years. Oftentimes liturgical changes are made with very little theological thought, but this one carries great weight.

This is a particularly powerful point in the Divine Service. Just as Simeon sang these words as he beheld the infant Christ in his arms, so now we sing these words after we have beheld the Lord's Christ in His body and blood. Only in faith could Simeon see that a little baby was truly Christ, and only in faith can we see that the bread and wine is truly Jesus' body and blood. In the Sacrament we touch the Lord and receive His peace in eating and drinking. In the sacrament we see the Lord's salvation in the person of Jesus Christ. Receiving the Lord's Salvation prompts Simeon to burst forth in song, and the same is true for us.

In receiving the Lord's body and blood Simeon was prepared for death. So, too, the Christian. In beholding the body and blood of Jesus in the sacrament, the Christian is prepared to die, since we have everlasting peace with God. When a Christian is possibly nearing death the pastor visits and the Christian hears the words of the *Nunc Dimittis*, and is ready to depart in peace. At the

end of the funeral service we again hear the words of the Nunc Dimittis, and are comforted to know that the deceased Christian has departed in peace. Indeed, death is difficult to face, and yet we Christians who behold the Lord's Christ are prepared for death, and every Sunday we receive the peace of the Lord so that with all the faithful we may depart this life in peace.

The Peace of Christ be with you always,
Rev. John Henry Koopman

IN MEMORIAM

Lyle Lynn Kettner

December 9, 1951 ~ December 30, 2024

Esther Louise Holle

June 3, 1927 ~ January 9, 2025

Accessions & Losses

Losses:

Russell & Pam Hock, River of Life Lutheran Church,
St. Peter, MN; LCMS; January 17, 2025



Articles for the March 2025 VOICE are due by Friday, February 14th at 4pm. You may drop-off submissions in the office, or e-mail to: contact@oslcmandato.org.

Treasurer's Report Commentary Period Ending December 31, 2024

Income and Expense Summary

	Current Month	Y-T-D
Income	\$122,022.78	\$624,348.03
Operating Expenses	-\$56,930.27	-\$615,650.57
LCEF Mortgage Principal Payment	-\$888.88	-\$17,720.77
Net for Period[†]	\$65,092.51	-\$9,023.31

[†]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	\$78,201.89	Daily checking account Pioneer Bank
Savings Account	\$152,838.69	Interest Savings account Pioneer Bank
Joyful Response	\$33,274.01	Joyful Response deposits and loan payments
Library Fund	\$20,107.12	Certificate of Deposit
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	
Total Cash Assets	\$284,421.71	
Dedicated Accounts	-\$183,090.04	Amount of our cash balance designated for specific activities
Other Liabilities	-\$3,366.40	Accruals for HSA pmts, youth, etc.
Available Cash Balance	\$97,218.42	\$33,761.64 last month

Long Term Debt (LCEF Mortgage)

Current Balance	\$203,294.48
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,
Gary Fladland, Treasurer



Open Gym / Game Night Sunday, February 2

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.

YOUTH news

February Youth Event will be at church February 23rd from 6-8pm. We will make soups for shut-ins and have an Armor of God Nerf battle.

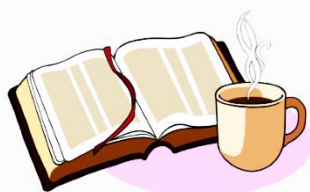
The youth will be collecting large (sturdy) cardboard and duct tape to create our Armor for our February youth event. Please bring any donations to the youth room. Thanks!

Save The Date! The Mankato Curling Club is reserved for our March Youth Event March 23rd from 12-3pm. We will have lunch and a curling lesson and then have some time to play.



After two years of exceptional service, our custodian, Bob Baker, will be retiring on March 31, 2025. Please take a moment to thank Bob for a job well done, and wish him well in his future adventures!

The Trustees are looking for another custodian to replace Bob after his retirement. If anyone in the congregation is interested in the position or knows someone who may be, please contact Chris Anderson or any other member of the Board of Trustees. Our contact information is found on the back of the monthly church calendar. Thank you.



Bible Study Circles

~ Epiphany ~

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

Ruth/Lydia Bible Study gathers Thursday, February 6th at 10:10 for fellowship with Bible Study at 10:25 (note time). Lesson from Winter *Quarterly*, pages 18 & 19 – “God Sees Our Story – Therefore Rejoice!” Hymn will be LSB 411, “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”. Come to learn in prayer: open our eyes to the value and blessing of knowing God’s all-seeing eye is that of love and protection. Prepare our hearts to learn from the Word what depth of grace and mercy is involved in all that You do for us. May your glory be revealed to us.

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



QUILTING

Mondays, February 10th and 24th

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 February we will complete Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. This classic work explores themes of ambition and hubris, unforeseen consequences, and the dangers of scientific discovery. At our February 9th meeting we will discuss Volume II of the book and on the 26th we will discuss Volume III.

If you have any questions or would like to get a copy of the book please speak with Pastor Matheny.



OSLC Kitchen Cleaning Saturday, February 15 9:30 a.m.

It's time to deep clean the church kitchen. The Board of Deacons would appreciate your help if you are able and available. Hope to see you in the kitchen. Please enter through the back parking lot. Thank you.



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

Wednesday Night Rehearsal Schedule

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

Special Music is needed for February! Contact Suzie Gangi if interested.

Our groups could use a few more singers and ringers. Please consider being in one or more of our groups!

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

ENDOWMENT BOARD NEWS

Our Endowment Fund has been participating in the “Adopt-A-Student” program with Concordia Seminary in St Louis, MO, in the amount of \$3500 per year. Sam Hoag, from the state of Washington, received our support the last 4 years and has received his first call to be an Associate Pastor in Richmond, Virginia. Our new student for the 24-25 school year is Benjamin Wagner from southern California. We are excited to support his education and correspond with him frequently as he prepares to become a Pastor. The Endowment Board wishes to thank all of you for your donations to the Endowment Fund here at Our Savior Lutheran Church.



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.

LWML 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* and listed in the January Voice. Regular registration beginning May 1st to April 30th. Late registration May 1st to June 1st. Read rules for cancellations and refund date.

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. She is up-to-date on details. 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.

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 includes The Gathering information

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

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

(pastorstpaulcms@gmail.com)

Reminder for 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!

Coming Soon: information on Continuing with the district's *Go First!* Initiatives.

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.

Mission Service

Mission Service will meet on Wednesday, February 19th at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come and help with the projects. Thank you to everyone who has donated supplies or used clothing for the Orphan Grain Train clothing drive. Many people will be blessed by your generosity.





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.

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

- Food for Seminary students at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne
- MN South District Student Aid Scholarship
- Support for Faith-based Transitional Housing for abused women and their children
- Generating a JESUS Generation – Martin Lutheran Jr. and Sr. High School, Northrop
- Mission Outreach for the Communities of Austin and Brownsdale
- Computers for Bible Translations (LBT)
- Cornerstone Lutheran Hmong Church Plant (St. Paul)
- Knowing Christ's Love Amid Visual Darkness (LBW)
- Ministry Scholarships for Shepherd's Canyon Retreats (Arizona)
- Bibles and Catechisms for Haitian Students
- Nigerian Seminary Tuition Assistance
- GenConnect: Second Generation Immigrant Outreach (St. Michael's, Bloomington, MN)
- Theological Training for Hmong Leaders in SE Asia

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!



Thank you for the cards, love, prayers and support extended to us over the past several months during our brother Ric's illness. Thank you Pastor Adam for the beautiful funeral. Thank you Bob, Dale, Sue Klute, Judy Mensing and

to all who helped in the kitchen.

Also, thanks for all the cards, prayers & love extended to us following Kurt's hunting accident. We feel so grateful and blessed to have our church family.

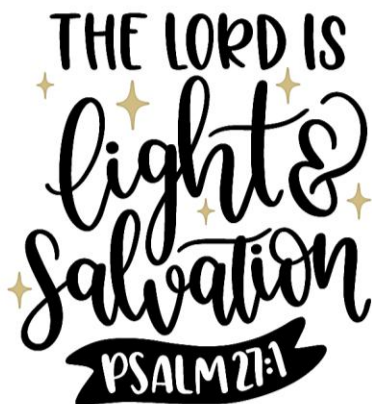
Kurt & Jeanne Anderson



"Handmade by the one true God and designed in His image, we are inherently valuable, not only for this life but for all eternity.

Michelle Bauman, Y4Life

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



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

Nonprofit Org.
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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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February 2025

Our Savior Lutheran Church , Mankato, Minnesota

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 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	3	4 8:30 Circuit Pastors 5:15 Board of Education 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:00 Board of Elders 6:30 Board of Deacons	5 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	6 9:00 Private Confession 10:10 Ruth/Lydia Circle 10:00 Bulletin Deadline	7	8
9 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 4:30 Book Club	10 9:00 Quilting	11 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study 6:30 Planning Council	12 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	13 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline	14 4:00 The Voice Deadline	15 9:30 Kitchen Cleaning
16 <i>Mite Sunday</i> 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service	17 4:30 – 8:00 Youth NYG Fundraiser @ Pizza Ranch	18 10:00 Staff Meeting	19 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	20 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline	21	22
23 8:00 Divine Service 9:00 Coffee Time 9:25 Sunday School 9:25 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service 4:30 Book Club 6:00 Youth Event	24 9:00 Quilting	25 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Class	26 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	27 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline	28	

Staff

Senior Pastor Rev. Adam M. Matheny Office: 507-385-2183 Cell: 812-449-6866	Associate Pastor Rev. John H. Koopman Office: 507-385-2185 Cell: 712-852-6095	Music Coordinator Suzie Gangi Home: 507-341-4173	Secretary Sue Hendrickson Office: 507-385-2180 Home: 507-388-3557	Custodian 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			