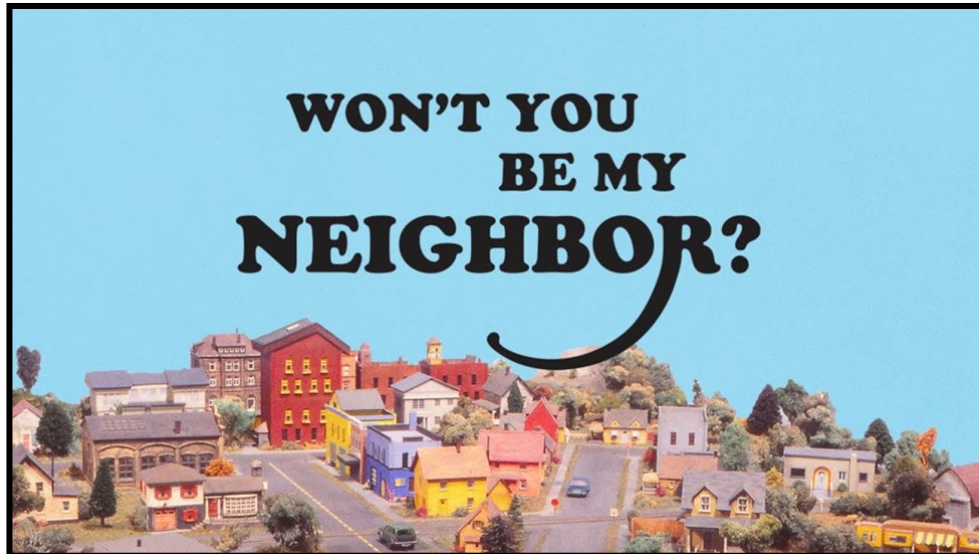




# Steeple Talk

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
204 East Caledonia Ave  
Hillsboro, ND 58045

Volume 44; Issue 8  
**SEPTEMBER 2024**



## **RALLY SUNDAY & NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY**

**Sunday, September 8**

Our fall worship theme is WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

This theme will focus on; loving the neighbor, serving the neighbor, being a good neighbor, and exploring how God is at work in our neighborhood!

The theme will launch Sunday, September 8 with Rally Day and the Neighborhood Block Party! The Neighborhood Block Party will include a meal, games, and inflatable bouncy houses!

Please invite friends and neighbors!

Schedule for Rally Day:

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 11:30-1:00 Neighborhood Block Party

# PASTORAL ACTS:

## BAPTISMS:

### **Beckett Blaine Harstad**

Son of Cody and Liberty Harstad  
Born: February 7, 2024  
Place: Fargo, ND  
Baptized: August 4, 2024 at OSLC  
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating  
Godparents: Shaun and Julianna Carlson

### **Adeline Lucille Brunken**

Daughter of Nathan and Ashley Brunken  
Born: May 2, 2024  
Place: Detroit Lakes, MN  
Baptized: August 25, 2024 at OSLC  
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating  
Godparents: Shay Hartvickson  
Karin Josephson



Sign-up to bring a dessert to the  
**Neighborhood  
Block Party!**  
**Sept 8th**

call the church office  
or  
stop by church



## **OSLC Senior Choir**

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer enjoying the sunshine and outdoor activities! OSLC Choir will have practices every Monday, **starting September 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 7:15 pm** downstairs just off the dining room. We would love to have you join us to share the love of Jesus through song!

*Wilt Thou not revive us again; that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?*



*Psalms 85:6*

## **GOSBELLS**

The GosBELLS will have practices **starting Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 8:30 pm** in the Sanctuary. We are excited to start making music together again and look forward to sharing with the Congregation in October!

I am hoping to purchase uniform dress shirts and new gloves for the GosBELLS this fall and am asking that if anyone would be able to help with a donation and prayers for these items, we would be very grateful and thankful for your generosity.

*And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.*

*Colossians 3:23*

Linda Hawn, Director



# OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Council Minutes

August 11, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.



**Members Present** – Barb Hultin, Beth Christianson, Daniel Nelson, Brad Ydstie, Michael Bare, Mike Tweten, Teresa Forseth, Pastor Joe Johnson, and Pastor Amanda Johnson.

1. **Call to Order** – Noting a quorum, President Barb Hultin called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.
2. **Devotions** – Pastor Joe Johnson led devotions from James 1.
3. **Confirmation of Agenda** – Brad Ydstie moved to accept the agenda as presented. Mike Tweten seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Old Business**
  - a. Pastor Joe Johnson gave an update on the house at 214 E Caledonia Ave. We will close by the end of 2024.
  - b. Neighborhood Block Party. Plans have started for the Neighborhood Block Party on September 8, 2024 following the 10:30 a.m. service. Mike Tweten will contact Cruzin Café about bringing their food truck to serve. If that does not work, we will serve a picnic menu.
    - i. Food Ordering– Pastor Amanda Johnson
    - ii. Grills/Grillers/Food Truck – Mike Tweten
    - iii. Dessert Volunteers – Pastor Amanda Johnson
    - iv. Picnic Tables – Michael Bare
    - v. Inflatables – Jason Lovas
    - vi. Inflatable Workers – Barb Hultin
    - vii. Set Up/Servers – Brad Ydstie, Teresa Forseth, Daniel Nelson, Beth Christianson
    - viii. Tear Down – Eric Johnson, Belinda Bye, Dawn Paulsrud, Krista Longthorne
5. **New Business** –
  - a. Fall Worship Theme. The Fall Worship Theme will be “Won’t You Be My Neighbor” focusing on how important it is to be a neighbor to all and helping our neighbors. There will be a sermon series, Christian outreach, extending invitations to worship. Daniel Nelson moved that we follow Pastor Joe and Pastor Amanda’s recommendation of “Won’t You Be My Neighbor”. Beth Christianson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
6. **Pastor Joe’s Report** – We have had a wonderfully busy summer! Our summer sermon series theme has been *Blessings of Everyday Life*. The summer sermon series will continue through Labor Day Weekend. This has been a busy summer with worship, baptisms, funerals and preparing for 6 weddings this fall. We had a great senior high summer trip to New Orleans to attend the ELCA youth gathering. We joined 16,000 other youth from around the world to worship, sing, serve, learn, and have fun. We have 40 youth participate with 5 adult leaders. Thank you to the congregation and community for the support. It was an amazing experience! The football season has now started, and I am finding a good balance with church and coaching. We will begin our fall programming on Sunday mornings September 8 with Rally Sunday and the annual block party. Wednesday evening programming will begin September 11 with confirmation and youth group.
7. **Pastor Amanda’s Report** - Vacation bible school was a success. We had 55 elementary age children attend the three-day camp and 30 pre-K and K children attend two days of camp. 10 senior high youth helped lead the camp including 7 seniors. The theme of this year’s VBS was “You are God’s masterpiece” Ephesians 2:10. This theme highlighted the beauty of each individual person and God’s love for us all.

Over the summer I have had time to really step into my pastoral role here at OSLC. I have had several counseling meetings, marriage counseling, hospital visits, care center church services, weekly daycare chapels, as well as our normal Sunday worship.

Finally, I am planning and preparing for “rally day” and the Sunday school and confirmation season by procuring teachers, making lesson plans, and communicating plans and meetings with all involved.

8. **Treasurer’s Report** – A written treasurer’s report was presented and reviewed. Giving in July was down. Year to date, expenses exceed income by \$14,462. Media fund is at \$3,660. Daniel Nelson moved to approve the treasurer’s report as presented. Brad Ydstie seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Deacons’ Report**- Deacons continue to work with The Idea Shop on signage. Courtyard signage will be completed by Rally Sunday. Deacons will now make the breaking bread for communion.
10. **Trustees’ Report**- Mike Tweten presented the list of projects the Trustees are currently involved in. The Council reviewed it. Lots of projects have been completed around the church. Thanks to all who have helped make those things happen.
11. **Committee Reports**
  - a. Media Committee – looking to simplify and volunteers
  - b. Personnel Committee – Derek Ehnert, our custodian, is off to a great start!
  - c. New Member – looking for a Sunday for this
  - d. Endowment Fund – meeting this quarter
12. **Secretary’s Report** –
  - a. **Minutes for August 11, 2024** – Teresa Forseth moved to approve the minutes as presented. Michael Bare seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 4, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Christianson



## AUGUST MEMORIAL REPORT

*Thank You to all who gave memorials.  
Tammy Nelson, Memorial Secretary*



**Dedicated Memorial Accounts:** General Account, Media Ministry (radio broadcast, etc.), Global Missions, Building and Grounds, Capital Improvements, Youth Activities, National Youth Gathering/Mission Trips, Christian Education (Sunday School, etc.), OSLC Choir, OSLC Bell Choir, OSLC Bands, Parish Nurse, WELCA / WELCA: Altar, Library or Kitchen, Scholarships (Bible Camps, etc.), OSLC Endowment Fund, and Blanchard Endowment Fund

**MEDIA FUND** - In memory of Vonie Manthey, given by Sharon Enger, Duane Haugerud, and Bev Dullum Family and Friends; in memory of Devonne Wright, Robert Hertwig, Larry Engel, Elissa Riemer, Loren Hamre and Ron Gadberry, given by M/M Gerald Boeddeker

**GENERAL FUND** – In memory of Vonie Manthey, given by M/M Allen Mustad



**NOTE:** WELCA has **Meal Delivery- September 23-27** (Dorcas Workgroup)

Our Savior's WELCA met **Thursday, August 1, 2024** with President Sylvia Hansen presiding.

Pastor Amanda Johnson led the Bible Study on Matthew 5 and 18. We talked about fighting and disagreements with others - neighbors and spouse. There are rules on how to conduct ourselves. If you have an issue with someone, bring it to *that* person - sometimes it is hard to do. We need to nip the problem in the bud before it gets worse. We were asked when it is right to confront a person -or to just let it go. We were reminded that relationships are important. There are so many mental health issues these days. Seek peace with those nearest to you - apologize to them. You need to speak up about what you want. They can't read your mind.

The WELCA meeting was opened with a prayer and the Purpose Statement.

**BUSINESS:**

- Sylvia shared a letter regarding Heather's House - a free standing facility with Hospice in Fargo. It was decided to wait until the end of the year to see about our funds after the budgeted items have been paid.
- Red Willow Quilt Auction tickets are available for \$5 each.
- Jackie is shopping for the Lutheran World Relief school bags. Several ladies noted that they had Thrivent Dollars available to use. There were Thrivent Dollars available for our Quilting projects.

Hannah Workgroup will have the August Meal Delivery (Aug. 19-23). They will also have the Nursing Home Coffee. Hannah Workgroup served the WELCA meeting today.

Offering was collected. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer and a closing prayer regarding "As You Go on Your Way."

**The next WELCA Meeting is September 5th, 2024 at 10 AM.**

**WELCA's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Convention** is scheduled for **Saturday, September 28, 2024** at Sharon Lutheran Church, 17<sup>th</sup> Ave and 20<sup>th</sup> St, Grand Forks. "I Was a Stranger...Matt. 25:43" Keynote Speaker: Cynthia Shabb, Global Friends Coalition. Speakers: Deacon Jamie Travers, Presiding, and Gwen Edwards, Churchwide Rep. Check-In and Coffee Hour begin at 8 a.m.; Sessions begin at 9 a.m.

We usually send a group to this event. Please **contact Paulette Bowersox** at 636-5271 **by September 5<sup>th</sup>** (the next WELCA Meeting), if you are interested in going. Group Transportation will be arranged.

**SERVICE PROJECTS** for the SWO Fall Convention include collecting **YARN** for the James River Correctional Facility and assembling **BLESSING BAGS** for the Community Violence Intervention Center of Grand Forks. **There is a container in the OSLC Courtyard to collect items for these projects.**

**ITEMS NEEDED for the Blessing Bags** include Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Dental Floss, Wide tooth combs, hair brushes, hair bands, Adult Coloring Books and pre-sharpened Color Pencils.



*As we investigated possible charities to share our Global Mission funds with, we selected Global Health Ministries for a \$2,000 CAR General Funds donation. This is to be used for health services in CAR. I'm printing a copy of their thank you letter and a section of the summer newsletter, which tells of the head nurse at Bohong Health Center, Félicité. As you can see, though few in number, the staff is dedicated to providing medical services under difficult circumstances.*

*Keep them and the residents of CAR in your prayers and continue donations to our Global Missions. Summer coffee hour donations go there. Give generously.*

*In His Service,*

*Sylvia Hansen  
Global Missions Committee*

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*(July 12, 2024) Dear Friends,*

*On behalf of Global Health Ministries, we thank you for your personal investment in our mission to help the hands that heal throughout the world. Each day, our medical partners are able to provide life-saving medical procedures and vital health and wellness initiatives because of your generous giving. We trust God to provide everything we need, gifts large and small, to reach the most vulnerable around the globe with God's healing presence.*

*Gifts in support of partners like the Antsirabe Eye Clinic in Madagascar. GHM rarely receives requests for optical items, but recently an inquiry came in from Antsirabe for two different ophthalmology instrument sets. Without these instruments, local physicians were unable to provide critically important eye surgeries for their patients. Our Director of Operations, Scott Lien, quickly realized that every one of the individual instruments for these sets had been donated and were in the warehouse. A local physician volunteered to put together complete instrument trays for each set, all in time for me to hand carry them to Madagascar on a recent trip. Dr. Raberosoa and his team were elated by this delivery! He shared, "Because of GHM, this donation will help us greatly improve our patients' surgical outcomes. Our thanks to you is sincere."*

*GHM responds to urgent needs like this one at faith-based Lutheran hospitals, clinics, and health promotion efforts in 13 different countries. Together, each year we partner to serve over 1,000,000 of our most vulnerable neighbors. What our Great Physician, Jesus, began is continued by thousands of our partners around the globe who bring healing and wholeness to a weary world. Thank you for being a part of this miraculous work.*

*Together in service and prayer,*

*Pastor Doug Cox*

## **MEET FÉLICITÉ**

Healthcare and outreach continue with courageous and committed staff in Bohong, Central African Republic (CAR), despite extremely limited resources and the constant threat of terror attacks. As recently as April 16, men were murdered in a village near Bohong, leaving wives and children destitute. Yet a handful of nurses, midwives, and support staff continue, led by Félicité, the head nurse at Bohong Health Center, a local Lutheran health outpost. From health education to perinatal care and vaccinations, they are bringing life and hope to their neighbors every day. A recent 3-day visit by their sister clinic, Emmanuel Health Center in Gallo, brought out a flood of people in need. Staff saw 114 patients, performed 37 ultrasound exams and 13 surgeries in just three days. With GHM support, they hope to make visits like this a monthly routine, and to offer staff a revitalizing rotation between this challenging rural post and the larger urban center in Gallo.

# Living Lutheran

## From “*Shall*” to “*Will*”

August 9, 2024

Recently the Louisiana Legislature passed a law mandating that all state-funded schools and universities prominently display the Ten Commandments in classrooms and cafeterias. Alabama, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah are considering similar legislation. This initially seems benign, even beneficial. After all, in our baptismal liturgy we ask parents and sponsors to promise that they will teach the newly baptized the “Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 228). Martin Luther even placed the Ten Commandments first in his Small and Large Catechisms.



From the Presiding  
Bishop Eaton

Clearly the Ten Commandments are an important part of our corporate and personal life.

Let’s take a closer look at a Lutheran understanding of the Ten Commandments. The first use of the law is to compel civility through legal restraint and the threat of punishment. In short, it restrains the basic urge to look out for oneself at the expense of others. Without this, life would be violent and chaotic. The second use of the law is theological. The law accuses those who disobey it and makes offenders aware of their sin and the need for forgiveness. In this sense the law exposes our absolute inability to save ourselves and our complete dependence on God’s free gift of grace. With this, sinners are put to death and believers are raised to new life.

There is a third use of the law spoken little about by Luther that sees the commandments as a guide for justified sinners. The reformers did not want the commandments turned into a vehicle for “works righteousness”—or worse, self-righteousness. The Lutheran understanding is that keeping the Ten Commandments doesn’t make a person holy or justified—the death and resurrection of our Lord does.

One must ask to what end the Ten Commandments are being posted. The argument being made is that the Ten Commandments are a historical document. Others might argue that posting the commandments is for the moral and ethical edification of students. For Lutherans, the Ten Commandments are not a mere historical document but a holy text. The first three commandments are explicitly about God. Arguments by those who claim that the commandments serve as a foundation of law in this country, and therefore posting them doesn’t counter the First Amendment of the Constitution, ignore the inherently religious content and context of these words from God.

Lutherans have a long tradition of catechetical training. Luther wrote the Small Catechism because of the woeful ignorance he found among pastors and people during his Saxon Visitation. The Small Catechism was originally intended for parents to instruct their children. Nowadays, pastors, deacons or trained lay leaders carry out this instruction for youth and adults in congregations and faith communities. The point is not a rote memorization or the posting of an ancient text to be displayed along with other historical documents, but a theological and spiritual encounter that draws us closer to God.

Besides, Lutherans (and Roman Catholics) don’t number the Ten Commandments the same way that other Christian traditions do. Heaven forbid we come up with Ten Commandments merch. There would be mugs and T-shirts for the majority and a separate section for us.

The promise fulfilled by the death and resurrection of Christ—that we are a new creation—turns the Ten Commandments into promises: from something we *shall* do to something God *is* certainly going to do and that *will* be true for us.

In the fullness of time, when God is all in all, through the justifying grace of Jesus, we will have no other gods. We will not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord our God. We will remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. We will honor our father and mother. We will not murder. We will not commit adultery. We will not steal. We will not bear false witness against our neighbor. We will not covet our neighbor’s house. We will not covet anything that belongs to our neighbor. This is the Lord’s doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.



### Holy Innovations Grant Recipients

We are thrilled to announce this year's recipients of the Holy Innovations grants! The Holy Innovations Endowment encourages ministry vitality and inspires congregations and ministries to think boldly and innovatively about being the church in the world today. Grants from this endowment support innovation and experimentation in congregations and ministries. Grant recipients and their proposed projects are listed below.

- **St. John Lutheran Church, Fargo:** Food Truck Night
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fargo:** Neighborhood Block Party
- **Washington/Northwood Parish:** Harvest Blessings/Meal Delivery
- **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Thompson:** Dinner Church
- **Red Willow Bible Camp:** Twice Blessed Thrift Store



### Fall Youth Retreat

The Eastern North Dakota Fall Youth retreat will be September 20-22 at the Castaway Club. This retreat is geared for students in grades 6-10.

Rev. Kim Adams, EaND Youth Retreat Coordinator.



### 2024 Eand Synod Fall Gatherings

Mark your calendars for Fall Gatherings 2024! Locations are TBD.

Fall Gatherings are an opportunity to spend time in fellowship and mutual learning with other members of your conference and synod staff. Share ideas, hear updates from around the synod and your conference, and spend time in conversation with area faith leaders and ELCA members. We hope you'll join us!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Prairie Rose Conference: November 2, 9am-11am;  | Spirit Lake Conference: November 2, 1pm-3pm |
| Grafton Conference: November 2, 4:30pm-6:30pm;  | Grand Forks Conference: November 3, 1pm-3pm |
| Mayville Conference: November 3, 4:30pm-6:30pm; | Fargo Conference: November 7, 6:30pm-8:30pm |
| Wahpeton Conference: November 9, 10am-12pm;     | Jamestown Conference: November 9, 2pm-4pm   |



at  
**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**  
**Hillsboro, ND**



# INFORMATION

**HILLSBORO KIWANIS FOOD PANTRY:** On the first Sunday of the month, it is an Our Savior's tradition to bring donations for the food pantry. Place your items in the wood crate located inside and to the west of the front door of the church.

**Items needed include:** Green Beans, Juice (orange, grape, apple, cranberry), Flour, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Jelly (strawberry, grape), Ketchup, Mustard, Cooking oil, Cooking Spray, Dry Mashed Potatoes, Crunchy Peanut Butter, Paper Towels, Coffee, Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Crackers.

The Hillsboro Kiwanis Food Pantry is located at the Hillsboro Armory. Open the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month from 4-6 pm. THANK YOU for your generous donations for those in need. If you have any questions please contact Rich G. at 701-436-5777 or Dan C. at 701-430-1595.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Watch OSLC worship services and get notified about events on:

**Facebook** at oslchillsboro  
**Twitter** @ OSLCHillsboro  
**Instagram** @ oslchillsboro  
**YouTube** - Our Savior's Lutheran Church Hillsboro ND  
**HTC CHANNEL 34** and our **website: oslchillsboro.com**



**Open House Bridal Shower**  
 for Tayah Beck (Quinn Halstengard)  
**Sunday, September 22, 2024**  
 from 2-4pm  
 Plummer House Museum, Hillsboro



**AN OPEN HOUSE BABY SHOWER**  
 for Nadia Robb-Kern  
**Saturday, September 14, 2024**  
 from 2-4pm

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Hillsboro  
 Requesting a children's book instead of a card –  
 signed with your personal note.



Vanco  
 Mobile Faith  
 Engagement



Scan here



or

**Text \$ amount to:**  
**833-460-2876**

OSLC OFFERING STEWARDSHIP 2024 OFFERING RECEIVED		WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	
July 7	\$ 3,730.00	9:30am	66
July 14	\$ 1,321.00	9:30am	36
July 21	\$ 1,170.00	9:30am	33
July 28	\$ 826.00	9:30am	85
July Direct Deposit	\$ 8,658.30		
<b>July Total:</b>	<b>\$ 15,705.30</b>		
<b>2024 Total</b>	<b>\$204,556.19</b>		

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT:  
 OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INCOME AND EXPENSES:**

2024 Income received through  
 July 31: \$212,324.39

2024 Expenses through  
 July 31: \$226,786.19

Income Less Expenses: -\$14,461.80

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**  
**204 E. Caledonia Ave**  
**Hillsboro, ND 58045**

Address Service Requested



**2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**President:** Barb Hultin 430-0748  
**Vice-President:** Daniel Nelson 430-3689  
**Secretary:** Beth Christianson 430-2309  
**Treasurer:** Jason Lovas 371-1272  
**Deacons:** Krista Longthorne 238-6624  
Brad Ydstie 739-4171  
Dawn Paulsrud 218-790-6621  
Teresa Forseth 430-2037  
**Trustees:** Michael Bare 218-790-8222  
Eric Johnson 701-799-6518  
Belinda Bye 712-389-2152  
Mike Tweten 701-238-2073  
Vicki Buchholz 701-799-9469



**Church Office Manager:** Cindy Doeden  
**Church Office:** 701-636-5701  
**Hours:** M-F 9am-3pm

**Church Office email address:** oslcalca@rrv.net  
or cindy@oslchillsboro.com

**Pastor Joe Johnson:** cell—701-430-3787;  
pastorjoe@oslchillsboro.com

**Education Pastor:** Fr. Amanda Johnson-218-556-8895  
**OSLC Kitchen:** 701-636-5705

**OSLC Website:** www.oslchillsboro.com  
**Facebook:** oslchillsboro

**Twitter:** OSLCHillsboro; **Instagram:** oslchillsboro

**YouTube:** Our Savior's Lutheran Church Hillsboro ND  
Broadcast live on Sunday mornings at 9:30am on **KMSR**  
1520 AM and **HTC Channel 34.**