



# Steeple Talk

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

Volume 44; Issue 11

**DECEMBER 2024**



## **Matthew 2:1-12 - The Visit of the Magi**

*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage."*

The gift of the magi, the three kings, or the story of the wise men. No matter what you call it, it's a well-known story. Most every year during the Sunday school Christmas program, we dress up eager students as wise men or wise people to visit Jesus. We place the children in robes and supply them with gifts for baby Jesus. Like the shepherds and the sheep the vision of Jesus' birth would seem incomplete without the wise men. The story of the visit of the Magi is a staple of our Advent season. In fact, the three wise men bearing gifts is said to be the reason we all rush around from the day after Thanksgiving till Christmas searching for just the right gifts for our loved ones like the Magi brought gifts to Jesus (well actually, that might be a craze we put on ourselves, but that's a different subject all together). I think we can agree that the wise men following the star is a well-known story and yet we might miss its deeper meaning.

This Advent we will look at this story a bit closer and learn from it as well. We will learn about how the Magi followed the light of the star which led them to the true light of the world. We will learn about ways we can be led to Christ's light as well. The light that will bring us hope, peace, joy, and love. The light we wait for all Advent season.

May you follow the star to Christ this Advent and there, may you be greeted with the light of the world!

Pastor Amanda

# **PASTORAL ACTS:**

## **MARRIAGES:**

United in Marriage on November 16, 2024  
at OSLC, Hillsboro, ND

**Jace Stallman and Payton Kritzberger**

Witnessed by Brady Stallman and Madison Gohl

Officiated by Pastor Joe Johnson

United in Marriage on November 23, 2024  
at The Pines Weddings & Events, Davenport, ND

**Tayah Beck and Quinn Halstengard**

Witnessed by Tessa Beck, Lauren Pederson, and Skyler Bossert

Officiated by Pastor Joe Johnson



## **Tuesday, December 24, 2024:**



1:30 PM - Christmas Eve worship at HMC Care Center

3:30 PM - Candlelight Christmas Eve service at OSLC

5:30 PM - Candlelight Christmas Eve service at OSLC

## **Sunday, December 29, 2024**

9:30 AM - Worship Service (only one service)  
10:30 AM - Coffee/Fellowship



## **5:30pm Wednesday Meal Servers:**

December 4 - Kozojed Family, Peppas Family

December 11 - Torgerson Family, Job Family

December 18 - Thompson (Joel) Family, Beach Family

**NOTE:** NO Meal or Confirmation Classes on Dec. 25, 2024 or Jan. 1, 2025.

## **Sunday Acolytes in December:**

Dec. 1 - 8:30am: Jade H., Emmett H. 10:30am: Owen H., Ethan J.

Dec. 8 - 8:30am: Callie K., Lane N. 10:30am: Mason S., Eli T.

Dec. 15 - 8:30am: Brayden A., Keagan A. 10:30am: (none needed)

Dec. 22 and Dec. 29 - NO Acolytes



# OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Council Minutes

November 10, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.



**Members Present** – Barb Hultin, Daniel Nelson, Jason Lovas, Brad Ydstie, Eric Johnson, Vicki Buchholz, Dawn Paulsrud, Teresa Forseth, Mike Tweten, Pr. Amanda Johnson, and Pr. Joe Johnson.

1. **Call to Order** – Noting a quorum, President Barb Hultin called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.
2. **Devotions** – Pastor Joe Johnson led dwelling in the word on the feeding of the 5,000 from Luke 9.
3. **Confirmation of Agenda** – Dan Nelson moved to accept the agenda as presented. Brad Ydstie seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Old Business**
  - a. Staff update- Linda Hawn will be done with her duties at OSLC after Christmas. Karen Alfson will also be stepping aside from her duties at OSLC. Council will diligently work on solutions.
5. **New Business** –
  - a. Annual meeting date- Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 immediately after the 10:30 am service.
6. **Pastor Joe's Report** – In October, 19 of our 10th graders attended a confirmation retreat in Detroit Lakes, made their confirmation stoles, and wrote faith statements. They presented their faith statements on Wednesday, October 23. They were confirmed on Sunday, October 27. Our fall sermon series "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" is going well with a focus on the neighbor and neighborhood. The sermon series will conclude with the start of Advent. I will be on vacation November 25-28, December 8, 26-31.
7. **Pastor Amanda's Report** – October has been a busy month! Each Wednesday in October we held after school activities and classes for our 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students. Through these classes we focused on "Love of Neighbor" by teaching self-love, ways to welcome one another, how to be a host, and the love of God. Through this Wednesday ministry we saw the student attendance increase each Wednesday and when the month was over the children who had only previously attended Wednesdays began also attending Sunday school. We confirmed 19 sophomores in October, preparing them with a confirmation retreat, going over their faith statements, and meeting with each confirmand individually. Additionally, in October, I took part in my first call cohort meeting through the synod office. This is a place to find support and comradery during the first years of being newly ordained. Also, a small group of us were able to have technology training for our sound board and new computer set up. We had just the beginning of this technology information and plan to do additional training in November.
8. **Treasurer's Report** – Jason Lovas reported Year-to-date expenses are exceeding income by \$34,400. The balance of the media fund is \$4,225. Motion to approve treasurer's report made by Dan Nelson, seconded by Teresa Forseth, discussion, motion passed.
  - a. Auditors- Jason will ask Josh Opp and Les Hurt to perform the audit for 2024.
9. **Deacons' Report** – Deacons have ordered signage. Communion planning for December.
10. **Trustees' Report** – Mike Tweten will schedule a walk-through of the church properties. He will have the furnace in the property at 214 East Caledonia Avenue inspected.

## 11. Committee Reports

- a. New Member – On November 19, 2024 there will be a new member open house. New member Sunday will be held on November 24, 2024.

## 12. Secretary's Report – Minutes will be approved at the December meeting.

- a. **Next Meeting** – Sunday, December 8, 2024 @ 11:30 a.m.

## 13. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 1:24 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jason Lovas, Recorder

**(This is a DRAFT of the Nov. minutes and they will be approved at the Dec. meeting.)**

### OSLC SENIOR CHOIR

IT'S CHRISTMAS! The Community Christmas Concert "He Was Born For You" will be December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. There has been an amazing turnout of singers for the choir, the GosBELLS, instrumental and vocal solos featuring traditional carols and contemporary Christmas anthems, coming together for an evening of praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through music. We would love to have you join us to share the joy and love of Jesus through song!



*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*John 3:16KJV*

### GOSBELLS

IT'S CHRISTMAS! The Community Christmas Concert "He Was Born For You" will be December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The GosBELLS practice Monday evenings from 7:30 – 8:30 pm in the Sanctuary. We are excited for the concert and to share the joy of the season through music!

*O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.*

*Psalms 95:6 KJV*

Linda Hawn, Director



### OUR SAVIOR'S ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree is set-up in the Narthex at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

It is adorned with item and cash donation cards for the HMC Care Center residents. Choose a card off of the tree, purchase the item and bring the unwrapped item, or cash donation, back to Our Savior's Church Office **by Tuesday, December 10th.**

Gifts will be delivered to the residents before Christmas.



*I am happy to report that we now have a report on the Women and Girls Literacy project in the Central African Republic. It is included in this month's report. Also a note from Bethany Krepela, Development Director, LPGM. We supported this program over the past year. It is our plan to support it again at the end of this year.*

*We have also supported the shipping of medical supplies through Global Health Ministries. Medical Supplies have been sent to Emmanuel {Gallo} medical facility through Global Health Ministries. CAR being a land locked country makes it more difficult to get supplies delivered. They must be sent to Cameroon and then transported over land to CAR, We have the statistical report from GHM for 2023, as 2024 is still going on. We also have a note from Doug Cox, Executive Director of GHM. We hope to have sufficient money available to support this project as well.*

*Remember to keep the people and programs in CAR in your prayers and contribute to our Global Mission budget.*

*In His Service,*

*Sylvia Hansen  
Global Mission Committee*

*10-28-24*

*Dear Pastor Joe,*

*Greetings from LPGM! We are so grateful for your support of the new women and girls' literacy initiative in the CAR! In 2023, your gift of \$3,000 helped launch it, and your WELCA group's additional \$2,100 has helped sustain it.*

*We'd be honored to come and speak to your congregation as needed. In the meantime, see the update from the CAR inside this newsletter.*

*God's peace,*

*Bethany*

## **Literacy Program Improves Quality of Life of Women & Girls in the Central African Republic (CAR)**

During a pivotal meeting in 2018, women leaders from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic (ELC-CAR) emphasized that women's literacy was a top priority. They believed prioritizing literacy for women and girls would enhance their quality of life by creating income generating opportunities and by promoting dignity.

This discussion led to a literacy program pilot project for 80 women and girls in the cities of Bouar, Gallo, and Baboua.

The one-year pilot started this year, and our contact Jean Paul recently reported, "I am very impressed by the dynamism and motivation of the young girls and women." He also expressed that while participants mourn their missed opportunity to learn to read at a young age, they are determined to make up for lost time.

Pilot programs always come with great learning opportunities. Jean Paul let us know that many women couldn't attend sessions during busy agricultural periods, because women in CAR are deeply involved with farming and needed to prioritize planting and harvesting. The women and girls wanted to continue learning but also needed to provide for their families.

He has suggested lightening the future program schedule during busy farming periods, so that women aren't forced to choose between learning and supporting their families.



According to Jean Paul, the current participants wish to continue the program in 2025. In fact, many women and girls from other cities have reached out and requested similar programs closer to them.

Renewing the project and expanding to other cities will depend upon sustained financial support and prayers from partners like you.

“The women, through me, say thank you for this project that values them...Be blessed for the work you do for the valorization and dignity of women.”

## GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES IMPACT REPORT 2023

### 2023 HIGHLIGHTS SHIPPING MEDICAL SUPPLIES

The Fair Market Value of medical supplies and equipment shipped by GHM in 2023 was more than \$4,400,000, weighing more than 151 tons.

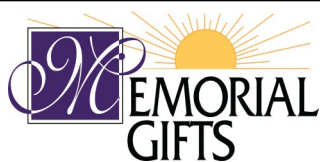
GHM released one 40' sea container every month in 2023, sending vital medical supplies and equipment to waiting partners overseas. 193 different medical facilities and nursing schools received items on these shipments.

A significant shipment of equipment for Peace Clinic, on the outskirts of Monrovia, Liberia, empowered an important upgrade. Items, both donated and purchased, included everything from a digital x-ray machine and patient monitors to IV poles and GHM Newborn Kits, used by staff to encourage women to visit the clinic for perinatal care. New laboratory equipment provided better diagnostic tools to lab techs like Olivier, further building the clinic's capacity to heal. Curran Lutheran Hospital in Lofa County also received a digital x-ray machine, transforming patient care at the hospital.

*Thank you from hundreds of thousands of people around the globe that your support strengthened last year! Enclosed is a booklet filled with photos, stories, and statistics of how your partnership has impacted the world through Global Health Ministries.*

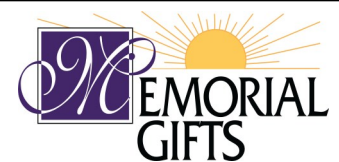
*Together in faith and service,*

*Pastor Doug Cox, Executive Director*



## OCTOBER 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, GosBELLS, OSLC Bands, Parish Nurse, WELCA / WELCA: Altar, Library or Kitchen, Scholarships (Bible Camps, etc.), OSLC Endowment Fund, and Blanchard Endowment Fund**

**GOSBELLS** – In memory of Muriel and Loren Wegge, given by M/M Jack Hansen

**GENERAL FUND** – In memory of Lorraine Tibert, Gladys Carlson, Sophie Fuhrman, Eldon Pinke and Gladys Smaby, given by Eunice Morlock; in memory of Loren and Muriel Wegge, given by M/M Lynn Foss

**MEDIA FUND** – In memory of Lorraine Tibert, Muriel and Loren Wegge, given by family and friends.



**NOTE:** WELCA has **Meal Delivery- December 23-27** (Dorcas Workgroup - NO Delivery on 12-25)

Our Savior's WELCA met **Thursday, November 7, 2024** with President Sylvia Hansen presiding.

Joy McSparron led the Bible Study on John 6:35 regarding our faith and food. At the time water wasn't safe to drink. We were reminded at a death we bring comfort and food to the family. WELCA serves food after a funeral. A time to share with friends and family. Food nourishes our body. The pastor nourishes our soul. It is a time when we show that someone else cares. Jesus is the bread of life and communion feed our body's some.

Coffee followed the Bible Study. The business meeting began with our purpose statement. The Secretary's minutes were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved.

### **BUSINESS:**

- 50 preprinted cardboard shoeboxes are available to use in the courtyard, with information in the boxes on what to include. They are due November 18th - filled and to church - ready to be picked up.
- ND State Hospital has use for gift items. The list is in the bulletin.
- Sylvia stated that (according to Hobart's in Fargo) there is nothing wrong with the dishwasher. People may be opening it before the cycle is complete and that may interrupt the cycle from stopping.
- The budget was reviewed with no changes. No check had been issued to SADD because there hadn't been any request.

Sylvia reported the following for December:

- Care Center coffee and Meal Delivery: Dorcas workgroup
- WELCA Meeting: Christmas Potluck
- Meal Delivery in Nov.: Hannah workgroup

Dorcas workgroup will help with the serving of OSLC Potluck and Sarah workgroup will serve the Community Christmas Concert.

The meeting closed with the Benediction The Lord's Prayer.

**The December WELCA meeting will be held on Thursday, December 5, with a business meeting and Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. and a potluck meal to follow. All women of the church and guests are invited to join us!**

### **Samaritan's Purse OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

THANK YOU to everyone who brought filled shoeboxes to the church this year!  
36 shoeboxes were collected and delivered! A SPECIAL THANKS to Connie Anderson for leading this WELCA project and delivering the shoeboxes.

# 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**

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT:  
OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENSES:**

2024 Income received through  
October 31: \$293,761.85

2024 Expenses through  
October 31: \$328,201.03

Income Less Expenses: **-\$34,439.18**

OSLC OFFERING STEWARDSHIP 2024 OFFERING RECEIVED		WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	
October 6	\$ 4,161.52	8:30am	57
		10:30am	102
October 13	\$ 2,372.00	8:30am	84
		10:30am	107
October 20	\$ 5,956.55	8:30am	65
		10:30am	75
October 27	\$ 4,597.46	8:30am	51
		10:30am	272
Oct. Direct Deposit	\$ 9,233.30		
<b>October Total:</b>	<b>\$ 26,320.83</b>		
<b>2024 Total</b>	<b>\$282,757.36</b>		

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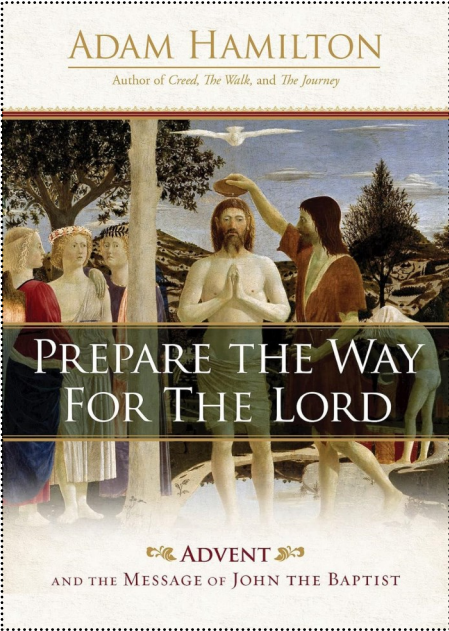
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or

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







**MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

**W.O.W. BIBLE STUDY** will stop the study of David for now and begin an Advent study on Monday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> entitled “Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist” by Adam Hamilton. This is a four-week study, so we should finish on Monday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. This study has a DVD. We meet Mondays at 9 AM at Our Savior’s Church in the 2nd floor lounge.

“No other figure in Scripture is more closely associated with this idea of preparation, of making people ready for the Coming of Christ, than John the Baptist.” ~Adam Hamilton

Welcome one and all! We will resume the study of David on January 6, 2025 at 9 AM. ~Senora Almquist, Leader



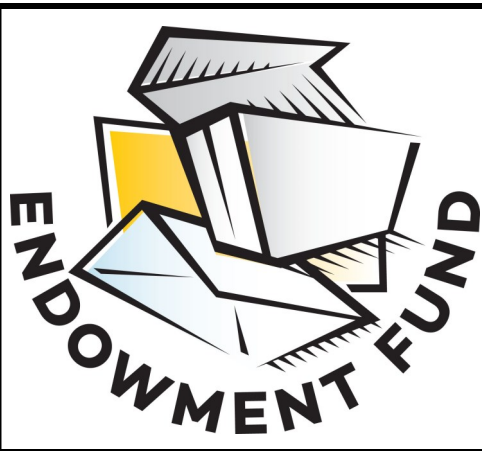
**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024**

**7:00 PM**

**Our Savior’s Lutheran Church  
204 E Caledonia Ave, Hillsboro, ND**

*Join us for an evening of musical worship with refreshments following the concert.*

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16*



Our Savior’s Lutheran Church has the following dollars available to be distributed in 2024:

**OSLC Endowment Fund - \$1,700.00**

**Blanchard Endowment Fund - \$675.00.**

Please email ([oslcelca@rrv.net](mailto:oslcelca@rrv.net)) or bring your written request - for where you would like to see these available funds distributed- to the Church Office **prior to Friday, December 13, 2024.**

They can be used for programs at OSLC, education and outreach into the community, EaND Synod missions, and ELCA worldwide missions. Contact the church office with questions - Thank you!

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

Address Service Requested



**2024**

**2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- |                        |                   |              |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>President:</b>      | Barb Hultin       | 430-0748     |
| <b>Vice-President:</b> | Daniel Nelson     | 430-3689     |
| <b>Secretary:</b>      | Beth Christianson | 430-2309     |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>      | Jason Lovas       | 371-1272     |
| <b>Deacons:</b>        | Krista Longthorne | 238-6624     |
|                        | Brad Ydstie       | 739-4171     |
|                        | Dawn Paulsrud     | 218-790-6621 |
|                        | Teresa Forseth    | 430-2037     |
| <b>Trustees:</b>       |                   |              |
|                        | 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:** oslca@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 8:30am on **KMAV**  
**105.5 FM and KMSR 1520 AM** and at 8:30am and  
 10:30am on **HTC Channel 34.**

