



Steeple Talk

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

Volume 45; Issue 3

MARCH 2025



Love. A Lenten Sermon Series

The word “love” appears over 500 times in the bible in its various forms (551 in the New International Version and 538 in the New Revised Standard Version). When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, he responded, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27)

Ash Wednesday is March 5th. This date marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and leads to Easter.

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and prayer. Lent is a time to reflect on God’s love and who God has called us to be.

This year’s Lenten theme is *Love*. Throughout Lent we will have Wednesday evening worship services focusing on ways we are called to love our neighbors. On these Wednesday evenings we will have a meal in the church dining room from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and the worship service will be in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.

As we enter the season of Lent, please plan to attend these Wednesday worship services and may we rediscover the experience of God’s love!

Blessings,
Pastor Joe



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT 6:30 PM
on MARCH 5, 2025 at OSLC**

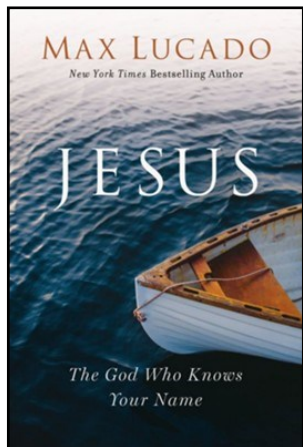
**LENTEN SERVICES AT 6:30 PM at OSLC
on MARCH 12th, 19th, 26th, and APRIL 2nd, 9th**

**A MEAL IS SERVED STARTING AT 5:30 PM
on Wednesday evenings:**

- March 5 - Baked Potato Soup**
- March 12 - Taco-in-a-Bag**
- March 19 - Pulled Pork**
- March 26 - Subs**
- April 2 - Mac-n-cheese**
- April 9 - Chicken Wild Rice Soup**

Giving Hearts Day: Thank You!

Thanks to your generosity, \$136,599 was raised on Giving Hearts Day! Your generosity further connects the people of God and helps this vital church flourish into the future. Thank you for joining us in our Mission, "United in Christ, we dare to invite, connect, and act."



MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

W.O.W. (Women of the Word) BIBLE STUDY began the study entitled "JESUS: The God Who Knows Your Name" by Max Lucado on February 17th. This study has 6 sessions, has a DVD, and a \$5 study guide, which you can purchase from Senora.

W.O.W. meets on Mondays at 9 AM in the 2nd floor lounge at Our Savior's.

ALL ARE WELCOME! And bring a friend!

~Senora Almquist, Leader

MONDAY QUILTING GROUP

There is Quilting on Mondays at Our Savior's and YOU are invited to come and check it out! Making Quilts and LWR Kits are some of our most needed and worthwhile projects. If you are available on any part of Mondays, January through March, from 9AM-4PM, consider joining in the fellowship! No experience necessary. Bring a friend. We hope to see you there!





OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

February 9, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.



Members Present – Jason Lovas, Carissa Olsen, Glen Hultin, Brad Ydstie, Vicki Buchholz, Dawn Paulsrud, Krista Longthorne, Pr. Joe Johnson, Pr. Amanda Johnson

1. **Call to Order** – Noting a quorum, Treasurer Jason Lovas called the meeting to order at 11:37 a.m.
2. **Devotions** – Pastor Joe Johnson led us in devotions from Hebrews 12.
3. **Confirmation of Agenda** – Dawn Paulsrud moved to accept the agenda as presented. Brad Ydstie seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Council Member Introductions**
5. **Council Job Descriptions, Expectations, Course of Conduct** - The counsel reviewed job descriptions, course of conduct, and council expectations handout.
6. **Old Business**
 - a. **Staff Updates**
 - i. Church Organist – Vicky Grothmann has committed to play some Sundays and we are still working on a solution to add additional organists to fill the role.
 - ii. Custodian – Cole Huckins is coming in a couple hours a week as a paid employee, many volunteers have been continuing to complete duties as needed. A long term solution to fulfill this position is still being worked out.
 - iii. Church and Bell Choir – plans for how these groups will move forward is being discussed.
 - b. **Parsonage/Property Update** – looking into possibly renting out the second parsonage and also the main parsonage when it is available.
7. **New Business**
 - a. **All Committee Meeting** – Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 11:30 am in the Dining Room
 - b. **Appointments** - Motion made by Krista Longthorne for a unanimous ballot for committee liaisons and appointments listed below, seconded by Brad Ydstie, discussion, motion passed.
 - i. Sunday School Superintendent – Amanda Johnson
 - ii. Financial Secretary – Dustin Nagel
 - iii. Memorial Secretary – Tammy Nelson
 - iv. Treasurer – Jason Lovas
 - v. Liaisons – See Below
 - vi. Head of Trustees – Mike Tweten
 - vii. Deacon Chair – Krista Longthorne
8. **Pastor Joe's Report** –

January was busy with visitations, worship, confirmation, youth group, bible studies, Sunday School music, Wednesday night youth worship, pre-marriage meetings, a funeral, a baptism. I attended a continuing education training at Luther Crest Bible Camp January 12-14. I will have vacation February 3-6, and March 10-13.
9. **Pastor Amanda's Report** –

January began with the return of Sunday school, confirmation, and youth group. With the Hillsboro café reopening we returned to our regular bible studies on Tuesday and Wednesdays and also had the addition of a special women's bible study event on Jan 26th. Additionally, we announced the youth summer missions' trip to Nashville and we began planning fundraisers for the youth.

I attended a conference pastors meeting where we met with Deacon Laura from the synod office and touched base about upcoming synod events. We have been working on coordinating interim organ and keyboard players, as well as people to work on the custodial tasks. Finally, the month ended with a spirit filled annual meeting where we were able to celebrate the good work and ministry that has been done at OSLC over the last year, as well as look forward to the coming year and all the promise that it holds for the work of God.

10. **Treasurer's Report** – Jason Lovas reviewed the Treasurer's report, stating that expenses exceeded income by \$3,050.97 as of January YTD 2025. The balance of the media fund is \$2,333. Brad Ydstie made a motion to approve treasurer's report, seconded by Dawn Paulsrud. Discussion. All in favor, motion carried.
11. **Deacons' Report** – finishing up updated signage for the interior of the church (ex. restrooms, sanctuary, chapel, office, etc.).
12. **Trustees' Report** – continuing to work on projects throughout the church building and parsonages.
13. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Board of Christian Ed** – Dawn Paulsrud
 - b. **Endowment Fund**- Dan Nelson
 - c. **Media** - Mike Tweten
 - d. **New Member** - Brad Ydstie
 - e. **Nominating** - Pastor Joe Johnson
 - f. **Parish Nurse** - Krista Longthorne
 - g. **Personnel** - Dan Nelson
 - h. **Property** - Mike Tweten
 - i. **Stewardship** - Jason Lovas
 - j. **World Missions** – Glen Hultin
 - k. **Worship** - Pastor Joe Johnson
 - l. **Youth and Family** - Vicki Buchholz
 - m. **WELCA** – Teresa Forseth
14. **Secretary's Report** - Dawn Paulsrud moved to accept the minutes as presented. Krista Longthorne seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
15. **Next Meeting** – **Sunday, March 2, 2025 @ 11:30 a.m.**
16. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carissa Olsen

EaND Synod + NWMN Synod

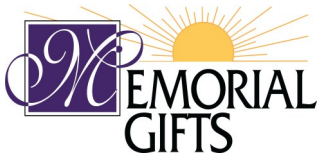
Joint Theological Day

The Story of Us: Our Story, God's Story

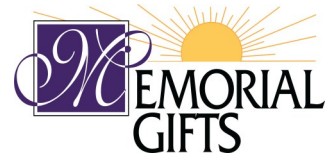
Bishop Leila Ortiz, Metro DC Synod

April 3, 2025 10:00am - 3:30pm
Our Savior's Lutheran, Hillsboro, ND





FEBRUARY 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, WELCA / WELCA: Altar, Library or Kitchen, Scholarships (Bible Camps, etc.), OSLC Endowment Fund, and Blanchard Endowment Fund

MEDIA FUND – In memory of Paul VanHorn and JP Waters, given by M/M James Knecht



Confirmation NEWS

5:30pm Wednesday Meal Servers:

March 5 - Hjelmstad Family and Buchholz Family
March 12 - Ferguson Family and Holte Family
March 19 - Habeck Family and (Ethan) Johnson Family
March 26 - Nelson Family and Stauss Family

Sunday Acolytes in March:

Mar. 2 - 8:30am: Owen H., Ethan J.	10:30am: Callie K., Lane N.
Mar. 9 - 8:30am: Mason S., Eli T.	10:30am: Brayden A., Keagan A.
Mar. 16 - 8:30am: Ryland C., Lillie D.	10:30am: James F., Gavin G.
Mar. 23 - 8:30am: Coy H., Ross H.	10:30am: Coby H., Alexis I.
Mar. 30 - 8:30am: Adam J., Keira K.	10:30am: Gabriel P., Chloe T.

JUNE 9-16
NASHVILLE
MISSIONS TRIP
GRADES 9-12
2024-25

Watch for upcoming fund-raising opportunities!



Watch for updates on practice times as a new director is found.





NOTE: WELCA has **Meal Delivery- March 24-28** (Dorcas Workgroup)

Our Savior's WELCA met **Thursday, February 6, 2025** with President Sylvia Hansen presiding. As no church staff was available to lead Bible Study, the group did the Bible Study together on Luke 7:1-10 with suggestions from Pastor Amanda. *Jesus Heals the Centurion's Slave.*

Coffee was served by Hannah Work Group.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was given by Judy Doeden and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Quilting project was discussed. It was noted that very few were attending and working on the project. A number of very useful donations have been made and Sharon Enger has made a grant request to Thrivent and has secured an Action Grant for the Quilting expenses of \$250. This is being spent on batting.
- The Lutheran World Relief kit project was discussed and it was noted that Jackie Lovas is arranging for the items needed and a Thrivent Action Grant was secured by Sylvia Hansen in the amount of \$250. It will be used to purchase items for the kits.

NEW BUSINESS

- LWR has declared Saturday, March 15th as National Quilting Day and suggests Congregations consider a special event be done near to that date. It was discussed we consider doing something special sometime in March and include blessing of the quilts. We may also request donations to LWR to help fund the delivery of the quilts and kits.
- It was announced that Valley Senior Services had delivered mugs as appreciation gifts for those who had delivered Senior Meals last year. They are now in the kitchen and can be picked up there.
- WELCA Spring Round-Up will be held April 26th at Stump Lake Village near Lakota from 9am-3pm. This replaces the eight Spring Cluster meetings and includes the EaND Synod. The theme is "Rooted in Hope". More information is to be coming out soon.
- Due to "Joint Theological Day" being held at Our Savior's on April 3rd, WELCA will meet in the 2nd floor lounge on that day.

Offering was taken and The Lord's Prayer was recited to close the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 10 AM

Meal Delivery:

- February (Hannah)
- March (Dorcas)

WELCA server and Care Center Coffee (the third Thurs.):

- February (Hannah workgroup)
- March (Dorcas workgroup)



From what I have been reading there are still lots of violence areas, especially away from Bangui. One of few groups willing to work there is Doctors Without Borders. I am printing a letter that I received from them, in which they talk about their work in CAR. Consider the difficulty of working under those conditions.

With USA'S freeze on foreign aide, many projects may be terminated or temporarily discontinued due to lack of funding.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

We have received many reports from LWR. It has been made clear that our quilts are one of the most appreciated items LWR provides in emergency situations. As I thought about our recent emphasis on "Who is our neighbor", we are reminded of what Jesus taught. Also, the kits are very helpful to have available. Was God working in the change made last fall to include USA in the area served? We who have a lot should be helping our neighbors in need. THANK YOU to all of you that helped in some way on these projects.

In His Service

*Sylvia Hansen
Global Mission Committee*



Dear Sylvia,

I remember the day clearly. Twenty patients were rushed into our emergency room at the same time - the result of ongoing violence near Bangui, Central African Republic. Some had stab wounds, others gunshot wounds. Six patients needed surgery, but we only had one operating room. Decisions had to be made. Quickly.

As an emergency physician and medical advisor for Doctors Without Borders, these are the kinds of high-pressure situations I train for. Amid war, deadly disease outbreaks, and natural disasters, our nearly 68,000 staff members deliver lifesaving medical care in over 70 countries worldwide. No matter how challenging the conditions, we find a way to reach people in need.

That night in Bangui, the emergency room was chaotic. I knew I had to prioritize the patients who most urgently needed attention. First, I examined a man with a stab wound to his chest. His blood oxygen was falling rapidly: from 90% to 80% and then 70%. With each breath, oxygen leaked from his lungs into his chest cavity. I had to release the pressure in his chest immediately, or he would die. I made a precise cut between his ribs, and the air escaped with a hiss. Within seconds, his condition transformed from near-death to stable.

This is the kind of rapid-response care we provide every single day. But we cannot do it without generous donors like you. Please make a gift today to help us deliver emergency medical care in conflict zones around the world. It was supporters just like you who made it possible for me and my team in Bangui to be there that night to save lives - including the man with the injured lung.

This is exactly why I became an emergency physician, and why I work for Doctors Without Borders. I wanted to make a difference in some of the most challenging and dangerous places on earth. Your support enables us to respond in moments of crisis - like when hospitals in Ukraine were preparing for war to arrive on their doorstep.

In March 2022, I helped provide mass casualty trainings to hospital staff in Lviv, Ukraine. I taught them the very same skills I used that night in the emergency room in Bangui. From the start, I could sense the strain in the room. We heard air raid sirens more and more frequently. We had to take shelter several times. We practiced assessing patients in situations where many wounded people needed medical attention at once, with the goal of saving as many lives as possible.

Just a week later, the bombing intensified, and the team in Lviv put into practice the systems we had taught them.

Crises don't wait. Whether it's Central African Republic, Yemen, or Gaza, we go wherever we're needed to save lives. Every dollar you donate now helps provide the tools we need - surgical instruments, oxygen monitors, medication, vaccines, and so much more.

Thank you for reading my letter. And thank you in advance for taking action by sending a gift today. Together, we can save so many lives.

Sincerely,

Dr. Edward Chu
Emergency Physician and Medical Advisor
Doctors Without Borders



Who Is My Neighbor?

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead."³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion.³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.'³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:29-37

An expert in the law asks Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus responds by telling the Good Samaritan parable. Interestingly, Jesus identifies the person helping, but doesn't specify the person that was injured, robbed and left on the side of the road to die.

Our neighbor is anyone and everyone in need, no matter what. Our neighbor is whoever needs mercy, compassion and support. We are called to help.

True, we can't help everyone, but Jesus isn't calling us to do that. God places the need on our hearts, in front of us, and calls us to respond with sacrificial love: our time, talents and resources. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we care deeply, go out of our way and act to help those we can.

All of you - wonderful Quilters and Kit Makers - embody this way of living and serving. For 80 years, you have put your faith in God into action by loving and serving our neighbors, no matter how near or far. For 80 years, you have shopped for supplies, scoured thrift stores, hunted for bargains, spent countless hours sewing school bags, baby jackets, receiving blankets, making and tying quilts, and assembling all the kits.

For 80 years, your love for others has been life-changing. Since 1945, your love has grown and expanded, reaching our neighbors whether they may be across the street or across the world. Thank you for sharing God's abundant love and compassion. Until your love reaches every neighbor.

Because of your abundant hearts for service, we are thrilled to share that we have expanded our reach to neighbors in need in the United States. This means that your love will now comfort families here in the U.S. - and abroad, as they always have. In fact, LWR Quilts and Kits are already comforting those affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, surrounding our neighbors with the tangible love you have been sharing for 80 years.

When you make quilts and kits for neighbors in need, you are Christ's hands and feet in our broken world. Your love surrounds those experiencing war, disaster and devastation with warmth and comfort. They serve as a reminder that even in their darkest moments, our neighbors are not alone. **In 2024, your love made it possible for a total of 689,814 quilts and kits to reach neighbors in 16 countries. That's 370,818 and 318,996 kits — more than one every minute!**

Thank you for your continued dedication to sharing the warmth of Christ's love, felt in every beautiful quilt or useful kit you create.

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:

Peanut Butter, Stove-top stuffing, Hamburger Helper, Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Canned vegetables, Pork Beans, Pasta Products, Spaghetti Sauce, Salad Dressing, Jello, Brownie Mix, Flour, Coffee & Tea, Ketchup, Mustard
Toothpaste, Body Wash, Deodorant, Shampoo/Conditioner, Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Feminine Hygiene Products, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Napkins

The Hillsboro Kiwanis Food Pantry is located at the Hillsboro Armory. Open the 1st and 3rd 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.



BIO Girls! is coming to Hillsboro!

BIO Girls is on a mission to improve the self-esteem in adolescent girls grades 2-6 through empowerment of self and service to others. BIO Girls will meet **Tuesdays from March 4th - May 20th** at the community center in Hillsboro from 6-7:30 p.m.

Register by texting Dera @ 701.793.5183 and she will send you the link.

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

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



OSLC OFFERING STEWARDSHIP 2025 OFFERING RECEIVED		WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	
January 5	\$ 2,232.43	8:30am 10:30am	38 67
January 12	\$ 6,854.44	8:30am 10:30am	30 61
January 19	\$ 2,962.11	8:30am 10:30am	42 63
January 26	\$ 2,578.09	8:30am 10:30am	58 75
Jan. Direct Deposit	\$ 8,367.64		
January Total:	\$ 22,994.71		
2025 Total	\$ 22,994.71		

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

INCOME AND EXPENSES:

2025 Income received through
January 31: \$31,903.31

2025 Expenses through
January 31: \$34,954.28

Income Less Expenses: **-\$3,050.97**



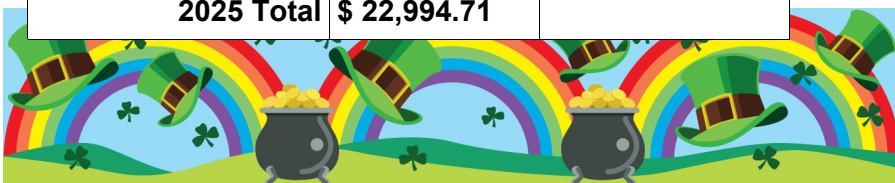
Vanco
Mobile Faith
Engagement



Scan here



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





Moorhead, MN
Sunday, March 16 at 4 p.m.
Memorial Auditorium
Concordia College

Free and open to the public

Concordia Choir Concert

Hear one of the nation's finest college choirs perform in Moorhead, MN on Sunday, March 16th at 4PM in Memorial Auditorium at Concordia College. Michael Culloton conducts the 70-voice a cappella choir in a varied concert ranging from Renaissance motets to contemporary choral works. "You MUST see them - it's an unforgettable experience!" says Eric Whitacre. You've seen their Emmy-winning Christmas concerts on television, now hear them live! Tickets are available online at ConcordiaTickets.com or at the door. Visit www.TheConcordiaChoir.org for complete information.

EASTER LILIES 2025



Easter is a wonderful time to remember and celebrate loved ones with a lily adorning our church on Easter morning.

The cost is \$20.00

- A mixture of lilies and plants will be purchased.
- All gifts will be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday (4-20-25) bulletin.

Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office, along with your cash or check (made payable to Our Savior's Lutheran Church), no later than **Monday, April 7**. Thank you!

Please Print.

In memory of _____

or

In celebration of _____

or

In honor of _____

Given by _____

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

Address Service Requested



Daniel Nelson 430-3689
 Michael Bare 218-790-8222
 Carissa Olsen 430-9588
 Jason Lovas 371-1272
 Krista Longthorne 238-6624
 Brad Ydstie 739-4171
 Dawn Paulsrud 218-790-6621
 Teresa Forseth 430-2037
 Glen Hultin 430-0491
 Eric Johnson 701-799-6518
 Belinda Bye 712-389-2152
 Mike Tweten 701-238-2073
 Vicki Buchholz 701-799-9469

President:
Vice-President:
Secretary:
Treasurer:
Deacons:
Trustees:

2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS

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.**

