



Steeple Talk

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

Volume 45; Issue 4

APRIL 2025

Significant Days of Easter

What is significant about PALM SUNDAY? (April 13)

On Palm Sunday we remember and commemorate Jesus and his disciples arriving in Jerusalem. This is also called the Triumphal Entry. As Jesus approached Jerusalem, the crowds of people took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (John). Jesus and his disciples came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The festival of the Passover is celebrated to remember the emancipation of Moses and the Israelites from slavery out of Egypt. It is called the Passover because when Pharaoh refused to free the slaves, God sent the plagues and God's people were told to mark their doors so the plague would PASSOVER their house and keep them safe. God delivered and saved his people.

What is significant about MAUNDY THURSDAY? (April 17)

Maundy Thursday remembers the final night that Jesus spent with his disciples before the arrest and crucifixion. On this night, Jesus shared with his disciples the Last Supper (Matthew, Mark, Luke), he washed their feet (John), and gave them this new commandment to love one another (John). This is the namesake of Maundy Thursday. The word "Maundy" means mandate, or commandment. So, Maundy Thursday is characterized by these three things; The Last Supper, the washing of the disciples feet, and the commandment to love one another. On this night, Jesus gathers his disciples together to celebrate the Passover meal. After the meal, Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. The sun sets and the day turns from Thursday to Friday.

What is significant about GOOD FRIDAY? (April 18)

Good Friday marks the commemoration of Jesus' arrest, trial, suffering, crucifixion, death, and burial. Based on the Jewish custom of a day being marked from sundown to sundown, the arrest of Jesus, though shortly after the Thursday meal, was already considered to be Friday, hence, the arrest being on the same day as the trial and crucifixion. Good Friday remembers, recognizes, and commemorates the darkest, saddest day in the history of the world. So why is it good? Although there are numerous possibilities and theories as to the origin of this name, ultimately the reason we call this day good is because Jesus dies for our sins. It is good because God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. After the crucifixion and death, Jesus is laid in the tomb hewn in the rock sealed with a great stone.

What is significant about EASTER? (April 20)

As the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb and the stone was rolled away. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! What is significant about Easter? Resurrection! God has overcome death! He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Blessings,
Pastor Joe

PASTORAL ACTS:

DEATHS:

John C. Pederson

Born: October 8, 1928
Place of Birth: Hillsboro, ND
Died: February 24, 2025
Funeral: March 16, 2025 at OSLC
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating
Interment: Riverside Cemetery
Hillsboro, ND

Sonja Diehl

Born: March 18, 1934
Place of Birth: Fargo, ND
Died: February 28, 2025
Funeral: March 25, 2025 at OSLC
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating
Interment: Riverside Cemetery
Hillsboro, ND

Non-Member:

Thomas E Pederson

Born: September 17, 1960
Place of Birth: Georgetown, MN
Died: February 15, 2025
Memorial Service: February 28, 2025 at OSLC
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating

BAPTISMS:

Colten James Reyes

Son of Shane and Serrina Reyes
Born: December 29, 2024
Place: Fargo, ND
Baptized: March 2, 2025 at OSLC
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating
Godparents: Wesley and Terra Jordan

Willow Ruth Kern

Daughter of Nolan and Nadia Robb-Kern
Born: December 5, 2024
Place: St. Louis Park, MN
Baptized: March 9, 2025 at OSLC
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating
Godparents: Logan and Sarah Kern



5th Grade COMMUNION CLASSES will be held on Wednesdays after school (3:15-5:00pm) on March 26th, April 2nd and April 9th at Our Savior's. On April 17 – Maundy Thurs. – all 5th graders, along with their families, are invited to communion during the 6:30pm service at OSLC.

LENTEN SERVICES at OSLC at 6:30 p.m. on APRIL 2nd and 9th

Wednesday, April 2 Theme: Love the sick
Wednesday, April 9 Theme: Love the imprisoned

A MEAL is served from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

April 2 - Mac-n-cheese
April 9 - Chicken Wild Rice Soup
April 16—No Meal

Thursday, April 17—Maundy Thursday and First Communion
Worship at 6:30 p.m. at Our Savior's

Friday, April 18—Good Friday
Worship at 6:30 p.m. at Our Savior's

Sunday, April 20—Easter Sunday
Worship at 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at Our Savior's





OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

March 2, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.



Members Present – Jason Lovas, Carissa Olsen, Teresa Forseth, Mike Tweten, Daniel Nelson, Michael Bare, Krista Longthorne, Glen Hultin, Pr. Joe Johnson, Pr. Amanda Johnson.

1. **Call to Order** – Noting a quorum, President Daniel Nelson called the meeting to order at 11:43 a.m.
2. **Devotions** – Pastor Joe Johnson led us in devotions from various verses from Genesis shared at a recent funeral.
3. **Confirmation of Agenda** – Jason Lovas moved to accept the agenda as amended. Mike Tweten seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Staff Updates**
 - i. Custodian – Cole Huckins and others continue to complete janitorial duties. A long term solution to fulfill this position is still being worked out.
 - ii. Church Organist – Vicky Grothmann is playing some Sundays, still looking for an additional organist.
 - b. **All Committee Meeting**
 - i. Continuing to work on gaining involvement from all committees and members.
 - c. **Council Job Descriptions, Expectations, Course of Conduct**
 - i. Briefly reviewed items discussed at last meeting on duties, expectations and course of conduct.
5. **New Business**
 - a. **Cleaning Plan Protocol**
 - i. Staff using calendar to keep track of all church events so cleaning can be completed before and after.
 - ii. Contact Pastor Joe with any activities to get on the church calendar so it is accurate and complete.
 - b. **Cleaning Date – Thursday, March 6 from 5:00-7:00 pm**
 - i. Deep cleaning
 - ii. Church Walk Through – list of needs for extended maintenance and/or projects.
 - c. **Choir Music Meeting – Sunday, March 9 at 11:30 am**
 - i. Planning meeting for how to continue choir, bell choir, and Community Concert.
 - d. **Joint Theological Day – Thursday, April 3**
 - i. Host NW Minnesota and Eastern ND Synod for an annual meeting.
6. **Pastor Joe's Report –**

Ash Wednesday is March 5. We will have Wednesday Lenten services at 6:30 p.m. with a meal available from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Our Lenten theme is "Love." The theme uses Matthew 25 with an emphasis on loving all of our neighbors. We have 47 youth signed up for the summer mission trip to Nashville, TN. Our theme is Boundless Love: Love of God, Love of Neighbor, Love of Self. We had a fundraising meeting with parents and participants to inform, empower and equip. Since our last council meeting I have attended the Mayville conference pastor's meeting, an ordination, and had two baptisms. Amanda and I will be on vacation March 10-14.
7. **Pastor Amanda's Report –**

Both pastor Joe and I were honored to serve families during end of life situations as well as preside over two funerals this past month. In addition to our regular confirmation and youth group activities, we also held weekly "teen talk" classes on Wednesdays with about 10 students in attendance.

These classes are for 6th grade students in our community and focus on middle school issues and the ways that their faith can help navigate these issues. Additionally we held a parent meeting to help plan for the summer mission trip and help parents fundraise for their youth. Lastly we spent time planning and discerning our Lent focus as well as planning for future synod events such as the joint theological day and fall theological conference.

8. **Treasurer's Report** – Jason Lovas reviewed the Treasurer's report, stating that expenses exceeded income by \$10,425 as of February YTD 2025. The balance of the media fund is \$2,046. Michael Bare made a motion to approve treasurer's report, seconded by Teresa Forseth. All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Deacons' Report** – Teresa Forseth gave an updated on the signage project, designs have been approved and just waiting for delivery. Deacons will have a workday to hang signs once received.
10. **Trustees' Report** – Mike Tweten reported he completed a walk through to start a list of areas to address fixing, updating, cleaning, etc.
11. **Committee Reports** – The Media Committee met about how to continue to make sure broadcasting is reliable and user friendly.
12. **Secretary's Report** – Michael Bare moved to accept the minutes as presented. Krista Longthorne seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
13. **Next Meeting** – **Sunday, April 6 2025 @ 12:00 p.m.**
14. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carissa Olsen

Sunday school
PALM SUNDAY
PROGRAM

April 13th 2025
10:30 Service

What to expect:

- 9:30 am Kids arrive
- 10:30 am Palm Sunday Program
- Kids stay with their teachers after Sunday school until they perform
- All children ages 3 years-6th grade will be in the program.

Living Lutheran

An Ancient Creed is Relevant

March 21, 2025

During spring and summer of the year 325, bishops from across the church gathered in Nicaea for the church's first ecumenical council. At 325 years, the church was still relatively young and fluid. There were many schools of thought about the nature of the Trinity and the three persons of the Trinity. Some taught that the God of the Old Testament is a different god than the God of the New Testament (Marcionism), that Jesus only appeared to be human (Docetism), that Jesus didn't have a human mind or soul but only a human body (Apollinarianism), that there are three modes of God (Modalism), that Jesus is not fully divine but is a created being (Arianism), and a whole host of others. Confusing.



Constantine had recently become the sole ruler of the Roman Empire. He wanted to unify the church and solidify the relationship between church and state. The competing theories about the nature of God, particularly Arianism, was frustrating Constantine's vision of a united church and a united empire. So he summoned the bishops to sort it out. The Trinity is a complex idea to start with, but putting 300 bishops with strongly held beliefs in a room was bound to cause conflict. One (apocryphal) story was that St. Nicholas punched out Arius, the author of Arianism. Our congregational meetings, synod assemblies and churchwide assemblies seem tame by comparison.

The hoped-for outcome was to have a unified understanding of the faith. The result was the **Nicene Creed**, used by churches around the world and across the centuries. This elegant statement of belief gives a clear exposition of who God is and how God chooses to be God for the sake of the world.

The Nicene Creed also places each one of us in a global—in fact, cosmic—context. “We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.” Sometimes it helps to look beyond ourselves and the here and now and get caught up in God's breathtaking vastness. We aren't alone. We are part of a great company of the faithful—past, present and future.

Many of Emperor Constantine's goals for the Council of Nicaea were met, but not all of them. Perhaps human language is too small or human intellect too limited to comprehend the mystery of the Trinity or to put it into words. Soon a dispute arose about the nature of the Spirit. Originally the creed stated: “We believe in the Holy Spirit ... who proceeds from the Father.” Only later was the clause “who proceeds from the Father and the Son” added. The Latin word for this is *filioque*. The Western church insisted on it. The Eastern church rejected it. This led to the split between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches in 1054.

This year we mark the 1,700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea. For 40 years Lutherans and Orthodox have been in dialogue about the Nicene Creed. The “Joint Statement on the Filioque” was approved by the Joint Commission on Theological Dialogue in May 2024. This controversy was found to be no longer church-dividing.

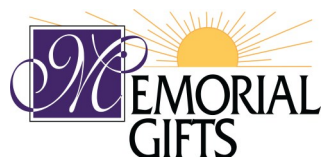
So what? What relevance does an ancient argument between academics have to do with the real world? Here's what. If an over 1,000-year-old argument that bitterly divided the church can be resolved, then there is hope that the most complex issues that split the church can be engaged and overcome through careful listening and dialogue. We don't have to be divided. Division is a human invention, not divine.

There was another issue that the council didn't resolve—establishing a uniform date for Easter. It so happens every once in a while that Easter falls on the same date for the West and for the East. This Easter during the 1,700th year anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea, the whole church, West and East, will celebrate the Resurrection on the same day. God is smiling.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



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

GENERAL FUND – In memory of Arlen Oanes, given by M/M Dallas Boeddeker, Kenneth and Keith Henka; in memory of Sonja Diehl, Tom Pederson and Betty Kolanczyk given by M/M Dallas Boeddeker

YOUTH – In memory of Edward Ebbighausen, given by M/M Gary Leraas

MEDIA FUND – In memory of John Pederson, given by Paula Tronson, Sharon Enger, Lois Smith and Joel Thorsrud; in memory of Betty Kolanczyk, given by M/M Gerald Boeddeker, Lois Smith and Paula Tronson; in memory of Sonja Diehl, Edward Ebbighausen, Arlen Oanes and Tom Pederson, given by M/M Gerald Boeddeker



NOTE: WELCA has **Meal Delivery: April 28-May 2** (Sarah Workgroup)

Our Savior's WELCA met **Thursday, March 6, 2025** with President Sylvia Hansen presiding. Pastor Joe led the bible study on Luke 10:25-42 "The Parable of the Good Samaritan" and "Jesus Visits Martha and Mary".

The previous minutes were read and approved. Judy Doeden was not present, but the Treasurer's report was also approved. We had a discussion concerning donations to WELCA on how they are reported in the annual report. Half of the donations for our offering are sent to the EaND Synod and half of the Thankoffering is sent to the national office. Special donations stay here. Judy may be able to clarify some of the confusion at our next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- We have not received any more info concerning the Spring Round-Up in Lakota at this time.
- Sylvia read a Thank You from the Tom Pederson family.
- The exhaust fans in the kitchen are not working, along with other things that need fixing.

NEW BUSINESS

- Need to schedule a blessing of the quilts and discuss receiving donations for the cost of mailing them.
- Sarah Workgroup has the John Pederson funeral. Hannah Workgroup has the Sonja Diehl funeral. Dorcas Workgroup has the Betty Kolanczyk funeral. In April, Sarah Workgroup serves the WELCA Meeting, and Coffee at the Assisted Living.

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

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 10 AM in the 2nd floor lounge

Fresh Baked Cinnamon Rolls!

**April 13th
Palm Sunday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

at Our Saviors in Hillsboro



 Our Savior's
Lutheran Church

Free-will offering
Support the youth and get a
sweet treat for the family!

WELCA SPRING ROUNDUP

EaND Synodical Women's Organization

Saturday, April 26, 2025

9:00am-3:30pm

Come for the full day or part of the day
Stump Lake Village Main Street Building
Located 12 Miles South of Lakota, ND

ROOTED IN HOPE

No registration fee
Cost of meal and refreshments \$20
Register on our website
<https://eandwelca.net>
or call Jeanne Wobbema
701-230-8745
mrs wob@gmail.com

Join us for an
exciting event
featuring music,
engaging speakers,
delicious food,
entertainment, and
various vendors.
Attendees can win
door prizes and
experience historical
Stump Lake Village.

At least there is hope for a tree:
if it is cut down it will sprout again, and its new
shoots will not fail. Job 14:7



• Speakers • Presenters

Rebecca Kjelland Synod
Authorized Minister, serving
High Plains Ministry

Michelle Ihry will share her
experience with undiagnosed
Lyme Disease

Vicar Penny Millsbaugh,
Spiritual Companion, serving
Sundahl-Ottawa Lutheran
Churches

Sonya Syverson, Certified
Revelation Wellness Fitness
Instructor and RevWild Outdoor
Trainer

• Dance Performance

Sheyenne Dance Co. directed
by Ashley Reinhart will present
ballet and tap performances
themed "Characters"

• Catered Meal

A delightful meal will be
prepared and served by **Dee
Lillehaugen**

• Music

Guest Musicians
Marcie Grohs, Lawton
Bonnie Deegan, Sheyenne



As you may have noticed, we are making quilts and kits for Lutheran World Relief. I am enclosing two articles from their Spring Newsletter. One is a letter from the CEO and the other a story about a recipient of a quilt. These activities are one way of showing LOVE to our neighbors.

I also have a news article about an African student trying to evacuate from Ukraine after Russia began bombing there. I did not know that so many African students were enrolled in college in the Ukraine. What tangled webs we weave. It shows how an action in one place causes reactions in many places in our interconnected world.

CAR remains having violent attacks especially in rural areas. Now the Russian troops (Wagner) invited to CAR to protect the residents and to train their military, are reportedly attacking along with the numerous groups of local origin. This does not surprise me but is so sad. Refugee camps are being overrun with CAR residents who had sought refuge in other countries and are now returning to CAR. This is due to violence in other countries.

Monkey Pox continues to be a concern. More health problems are expected to increase due to funding sources being discontinued. Many of these were just getting going.

Continue to pray for the people of the CAR and support our Global Mission projects there. Lenten Service offerings are dedicated to Global Mission. Donations can be made at any time. Just put your donation in an envelope marked Global Mission in the regular offering plate or take it to the church office.

In His Service

*Sylvia Hansen
Global Mission Committee*



A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL

In 1945, our Lutheran forebearers had a vision—to join together and shine Christ’s light upon the world. They led with their compassionate hearts to boldly respond to the needs of our neighbors in Europe after WW II.

Today, 80 years later, we have learned from those generous souls who came before us, and our organization has grown. Together, we go to the hardest to reach locations—the front lines of war...into the rubble after natural disasters...to places where cars can’t even go! And, we remain, for as long as we’re needed, to stand alongside families as they recover and rebuild.

Thank you for growing with us and continuing the legacy of love that began 80 years ago and continues to grow—until your love reaches every neighbor—near or far!

God bless you, Ambassador Daniel Speckhard, President and CEO

SHELTERING YOUR NEIGHBORS WHO SERVED

Edward Lynch served our nation in the Persian Gulf as a United States Marine. As he worked to rebuild his life, he moved into the Veterans Restoration Quarters, which provides relief services for veterans who do not have homes. When Hurricane Helene struck, the entire shelter was flooded—causing all 165 residents to find themselves searching for home...again.

Thankfully, your compassion reached these service members with comforting quilts—wrapping them in love when they needed it most. “When I lost everything, this is one of the first and nicest things I got,” Edward says of his LWR Mission Quilt. “And it gave me something to hold onto in the midst of a crisis.”

In Tampa, your fast-acting generosity helped those who were suffering from homelessness prior to the storm. This vulnerable population found the tents they were living in and all their possessions completely washed away when Hurricane Milton struck.

Your compassionate heart helped deliver new tents as well as nourishing food, transportation, employment assistance and medical and dental services for your fragile neighbors.

Thank you for acting quickly and caring so deeply for your neighbors right here at home who needed help. God bless you.

Africa: Caught Between Two Worlds - an African Student's Experience of the Ukrainian War

allAfrica

African Arguments Dec. 11, 2024 Analysis by Edward Okyere-Darko

Ternopil city is eerily silent from 10:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. due to a law that enforces silence during these hours. Even the booming music from nightclubs is muffled by soundproofing. So, when I heard chaos--mainly the wail of air raid sirens--between 4:25 and 4:30 a.m. on February 24, 2022, I was extremely confused and startled. I had no idea that an attack on the country had begun. Then, the realization became morbid--a chilling awareness of the danger we were in--when my neighbors, whom I rarely see because our schedules never align, banged urgently on my door, shouting for me to get to the bomb shelter in our apartment. That night marked the first of many trips to the shelter, trips that would continue until my departure from Ukraine on March 25, 2022.

My name is Edward Okyere-Darko, and I am currently a master's student at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. I am a Ghanaian who was studying in Ukraine when the war broke out on February 24, 2022. This story is not just about my personal experience of survival and displacement--it is a call to action. While other regions prioritize the safety of their citizens, African governments have often failed to offer the same level of support to their people abroad. During the war, there was no access to official channels whether government representatives or multilateral bodies such as the African Union to reach out to for aid or advice. Instead, we had to rely on the kindness of strangers, foreign governments, and international organizations for refuge. In the heat of things, Premium Times Nigeria reported a directive issued by the Nigerian Medical and Dental Council (MDCN) that "medical and dental degrees issued by medical schools from Ukraine from 2022 will not be honoured by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria". This decision by the Nigeria Federal Government shattered the little remaining hopes of these young helpless war victims. African students and migrants, in times of crisis, are left to navigate these challenges alone. This is a troubling reality we Africans, must confront, one that demands solidarity, understanding, and change.

As a 19-year-old, my arrival in Ukraine was oppressive. I came from a widely English-speaking country with a tropical climate to a widely non-English speaking country with bone-chilling cold, howling wind, and zero processes for integrating international students. But those initial struggles faded as I found a second home, surrounded by friends from across the continent and the world. I soon became an executive assistant to the Head of International Students in the Ternopil region, who was responsible for all international students--from recruitment to graduation. My key roles included arranging domestic travel plans, integrating freshmen into their new environment, and helping with school registration. These responsibilities helped me build relationships with all including taxi and bus drivers over the years. Academically, I thrived with the extraordinary support of my professors, who handpicked me to represent the school in quizzes, symposiums, projects, and research. Ukraine had truly become a hub for foreign students.

My experiences and contacts came to bear when the war became apparent after I emerged from the shelter at around 7 a.m. on February 24, 2022. The second explosions were distant, almost surreal, but the immediate panic was undeniable. My phone buzzed with frantic messages from friends and family around the globe. Should I stay? Should I flee? Each decision carried unimaginable risks. Admittedly, I could have left immediately, but there were thousands of fellow students in need of help due to language barriers and their lack of connections to local systems. This is where my involvement in evacuations began. I became the man in the shadows, often executing tasks behind the scenes to ensure others could escape. I worked closely with the Head of International Students in the Ternopil region, Dr. Shahzad Nadjam, to assist with evacuations, including over 500 African students. Together, we collaborated directly with the consulates of India and Pakistan to facilitate the safe evacuation of their citizens nationwide. Most of my write-ups, prepared for student groups--mainly Indian students--were given to Dr. Shahzad, who then passed them on to the respective embassies.

Amid the fears and worries, the scariest moment came on the eve of March 14, 2022, when the attacks began targeting residential buildings, killing scores of civilians. I lived on the ninth floor of an apartment on a main Broadway--an obvious target. It was cold and completely dark night (since March 2, lights had to be out from 4pm as a safety measure), and I had sought refuge in the shelter over 75 times in just 19 days. At the shelter, chairs and wall supports were reserved for the elderly and children, leaving me to stand for hours without back support, often resorting to squats. These hardships persisted until March 25, 2022, when, with the help of my professors, landlord, and neighbors, I finally secured a bus to Poland.

My arrival at the Polish border was the first real piece of joy in my journey since the war broke out. However, I was met with obstacles starting from when the first officer refused to stamp my passport, claiming the time for non-Ukrainians to cross had expired and I needed to return. Unfortunately for him, he was met with immediate backlash from everyone in the bus, mostly women and children, questioning how he expected me to go back. He was quickly rescued by his supervisor, who expressed his disapproval just as strongly. Ultimately, I was allowed to cross, and in the waiting room, I was offered sandwiches--my first real meal in more than a day.

I owe a great deal to the University of Colorado Denver 2022/2023 Admissions Committee, who granted me admission within 24 hours, and to the professors who remained in constant contact with me during that difficult time. I am especially grateful to Master Clay Harmon (currently Executive Director of Association of International Enrolment Management) who, at the time, was the International Students Coordinator and went above and beyond his duties by connecting me with a compassionate Polish man who picked me up from Lublin. He accommodated and fed me until my first F1 visa interview on April 15, 2022 in Warsaw, though I got denied. These individuals were the true heroes in my story, providing me with hope when I needed it most.

I proceeded to Berlin, Germany, for my second F1 visa interview on April 29, 2022, but was similarly refused. I cried. With no clear path, I relied on an Airbnb housing voucher and moved in with my friend who had been blinded as a direct consequence of the war where we sought treatment from both Helio's Hospital Erfurt and Jena University Hospital. The experience humbled me, as I witnessed firsthand the permanent scars of conflict. I later relocated to the Netherlands due to the difficulties in extending refugee registration, securing admission to the University of Erfurt's public policy program, and overcoming the language barrier, all while recovering from food poisoning after being discharged from the hospital a few days prior.

My paranoia didn't ease until I received registration documents in the Netherlands and started working at Super-Micro Computers. Over the subsequent months, I added two additional jobs--Netherlands Post and a bakery--with the focus of saving towards graduate school. When I received my admission from the Fletcher School, I froze in disbelief. I immediately canceled my shifts for the two weeks ahead and began preparing for yet another F1 visa interview. On December 13, 2023, my visa was approved. The consular officer's words "I will not be the reason why you cannot attend such a prestigious school." They brought tears to my eyes. I left The Netherlands on December 21, 2023, and my new chapter began when the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer cleared me for entry into the United States at the Boston Logan Airport.

My journey from Ukraine to the United States was not just a test of survival but a lesson in my own resilience and the kindness of others in the face of systemic failure. While I am deeply grateful for the kindness of strangers and the unwavering support of individuals who stepped in when systems failed, this experience highlighted a troubling truth: African governments and the African Union must reassess their priorities and place the safety and welfare of their citizens--especially those abroad--at the forefront. Many of my colleagues remain stranded in Europe, and those who returned home face an uncertain future, with many still unable to resume their education. I hope this reflection sheds light on the urgency of their plight and inspires action to address the challenges they continue to endure.



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 _____

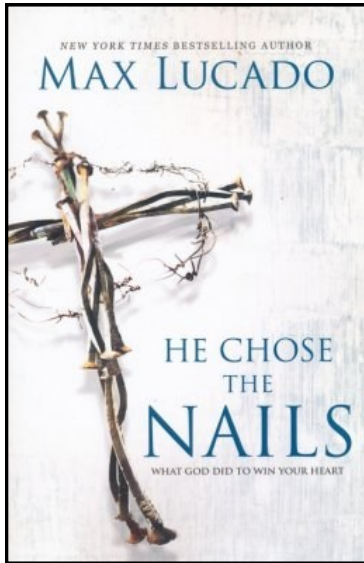
or

In celebration of _____

or

In honor of _____

Given by _____



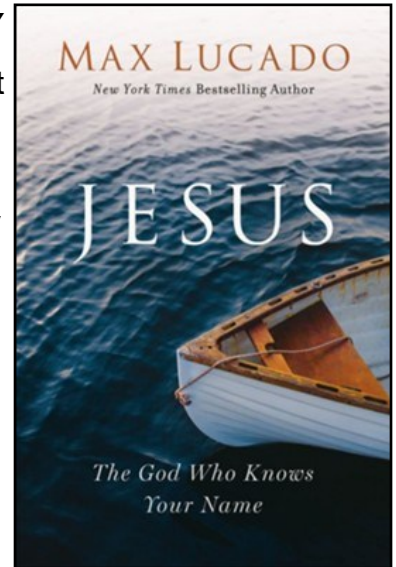
W.O.W. (Women of the Word) BIBLE STUDY

Our current study is “He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart” by Max Lucado. When we finish with this Lenten study, we will resume the three sessions we have left on “JESUS: The God Who Knows Your Name” by Max Lucado.

We should be done by April 28 and then plan to reconvene in the fall.

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!
~Senora Almquist, Leader



**Confirmation
NEWS**

5:30pm Wednesday Meal Servers:

- April 2 - Abentroth Family and Edenborg Family
- April 9 - Nelson Family and Spokely Family
- April 16 - NO Meal / NO Confirmation classes
- April 23 - Stauss Family

Sunday Acolytes in April:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Apr. 6 - 8:30am: Joel T., Easton B. | 10:30am: Noelle B., Tenley D. |
| Apr. 13 - 8:30am: Logan F., Colbie H. | 10:30am: NO Acolytes |
| Apr. 20 - 7:30am: NO Acolytes | 9:30am: NO Acolytes |
| Apr. 27 - 8:30am: Ava H., Bridger L. | 10:30am: Cayden O., Brynn S. |

OSLC GosBELLS and Choir:

"If you feel the Joy of the Resurrected Lord and want to share that Joy in song, there is a place for you in the OSLC music ministry! Come join in the fellowship shared by musicians of all skill levels as we prepare to share at the Easter morning services.

Rehearsals are **Monday evenings: March 31, April 7, and April 14.**

If you are interested in joining the bell choir, give Ruth a call at 701-430-0451. We will meet at **7:30 p.m.** on Monday evenings.

Want to sing? Just show up at **6:30 p.m.** Monday--we would love to make a joyful noise with you.

To God be the Glory."

Ruth Olson, Director



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.



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**

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

INCOME AND EXPENSES:

2025 Income received through
February 28: \$58,502.65

2025 Expenses through
February 28: \$68,570.56

Income Less Expenses: -\$10,067.91

OSLC OFFERING STEWARDSHIP 2025 OFFERING RECEIVED		WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	
February 2	\$ 5,132.00	8:30am 10:30am	45 51
February 9	\$ 2,260.89	8:30am 10:30am	30 68
February 16	\$ 8,943.58	8:30am 10:30am	51 71
February 23	\$ 1,587.55	8:30am 10:30am	45 80
Feb. Direct Deposit	\$ 8,157.64		
February Total:	\$ 26,081.66		
2025 Total	\$ 49,076.37		

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

Address Service Requested



2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS

- President:** Daniel Nelson 430-3689
- Vice-President:** Michael Bare 218-790-8222
- Secretary:** Carissa Olsen 430-9588
- Treasurer:** Jason Lovas 371-1272
- Deacons:** Krista Longthorne 238-6624
 Brad Ydstie 739-4171
- Trustees:** 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

Church Office Manager: Cindy Doeden
Church Office: 701-636-5701
Hours: M-F 9am-3pm
Church Office email address: oslceca@rvv.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.

