



# Steeple Talk

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

Volume 45; Issue 8

**AUGUST 2025**



Throughout this summer we have been using the theme of “Growing” to help us focus on growth in our church community. Subjects like growing a garden and growing crops have been topics of sermons and worship services. We have also looked at ways to grow old, grow a family, and grow our faith. I can only speak for myself here, but I have learned a lot over this summer’s theme. I have learned about the literal growth of our crops, in this farming community, but I have also learned about the figurative growth that happens over faith filled time, with a little bit of patience sprinkled in. The kind of growth that looks something like wisdom and is always dependent on the gift of the Holy Spirit. You see, as I looked to find ways to grow, I have been pushed repeatedly, into the reality that I am not in control. We are not in control. Instead, we are confronted with the fact that God has the reigns. Or better yet, if we are using the growth analogy, God is our soil keeping us grounded and fed, God is a summer rain reviving us, filling us, and keeping us sustained. God is the sun helping us to grow but also to thrive. God is the nightfall offering us rest and refuge with a chance to live once more in the brightness of a new dawn.

We still have all of August to continue on this journey of growth, and it may seem like I have given away the ending. Spoiler alert: I did. But knowing the ending doesn’t make it any less spectacular. Knowing that God is at the center of everything doesn’t keep us from forgetting to turn toward God. So let us remind ourselves each Sunday. Let us keep growing in God. Let us finish out the summer with a renewed energy toward growth that only God can give.

Pastor Amanda

# **PASTORAL ACTS:**

## **DEATHS:**

### **Marlene Oie**

Born: June 28, 1934  
Place of Birth: Hillsboro, ND  
Died: July 6, 2025  
Funeral: July 17, 2025 at OSLC  
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating  
Interment: St. Olaf Lutheran Church Cemetery  
Rural Hillsboro, ND

### **Karen Paulson**

Born: July 9, 1946  
Place of Birth: Portland, ND  
Died: June 16, 2025  
Celebration of Life: July 26, 2025  
Perry Church, Portland, ND

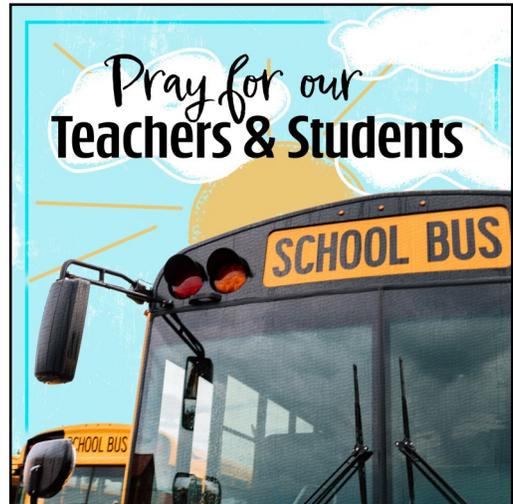
### **Daryll Stigen**

Born: May 15, 1941  
Place of Birth: Caledonia, ND  
Died: July 16, 2025  
Memorial Service: July 29, 2025  
Wildeman Boulger Funeral Home  
Hillsboro, ND  
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating

## **BAPTISM:**

### **Ivy Anne Miller**

Daughter of Colton and Ali Miller  
Born: February 3, 2025  
Place: Fargo, ND  
Baptized: June 22, 2025 at OSLC  
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating  
Godparents: Gannon and Mariah Miller  
Dylan and Shaina Goplen



## **SUMMARY OF THE 2025 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

On June 7-8, 2025, the Eastern North Dakota Synod, ELCA gathered together at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND for the thirty-eighth annual Synod Assembly under the theme of "Grace upon Grace." There were a total of 263 people in attendance (177 Lay Voting Members; 70 Rostered Minister Voting Members; 16 Visitors). The business items included hearing reports from officers, adopting the Synod Mission Plan (budget), elections for Synod Secretary, Synod Treasurer, Synod Council and Synod Committees, and adopting the 2026 Compensation and Benefit Guidelines. Participants also heard a State of the Synod from Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth and State of the ELCA from our churchwide representative, Rev. Tim Brown. Two keynote presentations were shared by Rev. Tim Brown, ELCA Director of Congregational Stewardship. There were nine workshops offered for participants on a variety of topics. Rostered Ministers and Congregations celebrating significant anniversaries were acknowledged. The 2026 Synod Assembly will be held on June 5-7, 2026.

**Offering** - Thank you to generous congregations and individuals for contributing to this year's offering at Synod Assembly. Over \$10,600 has been raised to support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic's education initiatives. The ELC-CAR is our Global Companion Synod.





# OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Council Minutes

June 4, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.



**Members Present** – Jason Lovas, Carissa Olsen, Glen Hultin, Vicki Buchholz, Michael Bare, Eric Johnson, Daniel Nelson, Teresa Forseth, Belinda Bye, Pr. Joe Johnson, Pr. Amanda Johnson.

1. **Call to Order** – Noting a quorum, President Daniel Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
2. **Devotions** – Pastor Joe Johnson led us in devotions from Colossians 1:9-12.
3. **Confirmation of Agenda** – Jason Lovas moved to accept the agenda as presented. Vicki Buchholz seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Old Business**
5. **New Business**
  - a. **Custodial Contract** – Executive Council moved to offer Steve Aanderud the position of custodian. All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **Rental Lease** – Daniel Nelson moved to rent the second parsonage to Jason Lovas for a farm employee beginning July 1, 2025. Details are available in the church office. Michael Bare seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Jason Lovas abstained from vote.
  - c. **Children's Space** – Pastor Amanda presented information on the idea of possibly adding a children's space in the sanctuary area during worship times.
6. **Pastor Joe's Report** – OSLC has been busy in the past month. We have wrapped up the school program year. Sunday School, Confirmation, and Youth Group had a great year. We have celebrated our high school seniors with Senior Night at youth group, Baccalaureate worship service, and Senior Recognition Sunday. We have 47 youth attending our Sr. High Missions trip to Nashville June 9-16 including 15 seniors. Our summer sermon series is called Growing with an emphasis on growing faith, family, church, crops, food, and garden. The Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly is scheduled for June 7-8. Six of us from OSLC will be attending as voting delegates. I will have vacation from July 21-24.
7. **Pastor Amanda's Report** – The month of May was full of transitions. We held our last day of Sunday school and celebrated with our first ever Milestone event! The Milestone event consisted of the 3-year-olds through 6th grade students leading the majority of the 10:30 worship service. During the worship service there was time for recognition of all they have learned over the school year. It was a huge success! We had our last day of confirmation in May and held our final youth group event with a trip to Northern Air. We also managed several fundraisers for the upcoming mission trip, such as a cookie sale, silent auction, and a community meal/sale. We also used the month of May to ready ourselves for the upcoming summer events such as VBS, and free Pizza Monday's. This is in addition to planning the summer worship series and rolling out the theme of "Growing" together.
8. **Treasurer's Report** – Jason Lovas reviewed the Treasurer's report, stating that income exceeded expenses by \$13,978 as of May YTD 2025. The balance of the media fund is \$2,535. Michael Bare made a motion to approve treasurer's report, seconded by Teresa Forseth. All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Deacons' Report** – Teresa reported all the new signage labeling spaces in the building will be hung by the end of the month.

10. Trustees' Report –

11. Committee Reports

12. **Secretary's Report** – Jason Lovas moved to accept the minutes as presented. Belinda Bye seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Next Meeting – Sunday, August 3, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.**

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carissa Olsen



**JUNE/JULY 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 Dale Skansgard, given by M/M Ray Foss; in memory of Marlene Oie and Karen Paulson, given by M/M Dallas Boeddeker; in memory of Mildred Lura, Duane McRitchie, Esther Bohnsack, Deloris Fregien, and Alpha Quam, given by Eunice Morlock

**OSLC BANDS** – In memory of Bill Bohnsack, given by M/M Dave Nelson

**WELCA** – In memory of Marlene Oie, given by M/M Lynn Foss, Lorna Nysveen and M/M Tom Olsen; in memory of Sonja Diehl and Esther Bohnsack, given by M/M Glen Hultin

**YOUTH MISSION TRIPS** – In memory of Marlene Oie, given by M/M Steve Doeden; in memory of Mel Erdmann, given by M/M Court Hanson

**MEDIA FUND** – In memory of Karen Paulson, given by M/M Mike Kress; in memory of Mel Erdmann, given by M/M Ed Laxdal and M/M James Knecht; in memory of Marlene Oie, given by M/M Allen Mustad, Lois Smith, Mavis Hettervig, and Joel Thorsrud



This year's Vacation Bible School was a huge success! Over 75 students from age 3 years through 7th grade attended the event. The camp had a focus on God's creation and love for us all. Throughout the three day event children sang songs, attended bible study, made crafts & played games. Most of all, the students had fun while growing closer to God.

THANK YOU to all who helped make Vacation Bible School possible. You are appreciated!



**NOTE:** WELCA has **Meal Delivery: August 25-29** (Hannah Workgroup)

Our Savior's WELCA met on **Thursday, June 6, 2025** with President Sylvia Hansen presiding. Pastor Joe Johnson led the Bible Study on "Growing in Faith", Colossians 1:9-12. He talked about the upcoming youth trip to Nashville and what the kids would be involved with. Steve Aanderud will be starting July 1st as the Custodian and starting in July the Holmberg house will be rented out. Also, at the next Council meeting they will be discussing the nursery.

The Purpose Statement was read, the Secretary's report was approved, and the Treasurer's report from Judy was also approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Still working on arranging a funeral information class and that Pastor Joe should also be involved. It was decided to wait until September to schedule.
- Hannah workgroup served WELCA, coffee at the HMC, and delivered meals in May.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Dorcas workgroup will be responsible for Meal Delivery, and coffee at the HMC, in June.
- There will be NO WELCA meeting in July.
- The fall meeting in Devils Lake will be discussed next time.
- Quilters can order a t-shirt for \$21.75 if they are interested. Sylvia Hansen has the information.
- Sylvia H. also talked about working/volunteering at the Food Pantry and how much of a need there is in our community.
- 15 quilts were sent to LWR and some were donated to Social Services. There were also 10 personal care kits, and 6 baby kits made.
- Jackie Lovas is sewing school bags for the school kits in the fall.

The offering was taken and the meeting closed with the recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Thursday, August 7, 2025**  
**at 10 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted.

2025-2026



## BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Trail County  
Community  
Giving Project

Helping kids in need of success by a simple act of providing school supplies

MONETARY  
DONATIONS  
PREFERRED

MAKE PAYABLE TO:  
TCCGP



ITEMS NEEDED:

17-20-INCH BACK PACKS, TICONDEROGA PENCILS, HIGHLIGHTERS, FINE SHARPIE PENS, NOTEBOOKS, FOLDERS, SCIENTIFIC CALCULATORS, ELMERS GLUE, DRY ERASE MARKERS, CRAYOLA CRAYONS, FINE AND REGULAR MARKERS, PENS, RULERS, ETC.



Target Registry

MAIL MONETARY DONATIONS OR USE QR CODE

MAIL DONATIONS TO:  
TCCGP ATTN: BETH MORROW  
PO BOX 190  
HILLSBORO, ND 58045

DROP OFF LOCATIONS



Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone  
212 West Caledonia, Hillsboro



Mayville State CDP/Headstart  
330 3rd St NE, Mayville

Supply donations due by Friday, Aug 8th  
Monetary donations anytime!

BACK PACK  
PICK UP DATE

Aug 12th from 4-5:30 PM

@ Mayville Lutheran Church

24-3rd Ave NE, Mayville, ND






For Information: Contact Beth 701-636-4489



GROWING A FEAST!!

# POTLUCK EVENT



BRING A FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE OR  
SOMETHING FROM YOUR GARDEN!

AUG 10 | 10:30 AM BRUNCH | OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
204 CALEDONIA AVE.  
HILLSBORO, ND 58045



**POTLUCK EVENT – “Growing A Feast!!”**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025**

**10:30 AM BRUNCH**

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

*Bring a favorite dish to share or something  
from your garden!*

**NOTE: August 18th is the last day of  
Free Pizza Mondays!**

## Free Pizza Mondays!!



June 2nd-August 18th

**EACH MONDAY!!!**

**11:30AM - 12:30PM**

**OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH HILLSBORO**  
**DINE-IN & TO-GO**



701-636-5701  
204 Caledonia Ave  
Hillsboro, ND 58045



**GET A WEEKLY  
BACKPACK PROGRAM BAG  
AT THIS LOCATION  
EACH MONDAY!**



**Parent Meetings at Our Savior's:**  
**Wednesday, August 27, 2025 in the OSLC Dining Hall**

**6:00 PM—Sunday school parents meet (3 yrs.-6th gr.)**

**6:30 PM—Confirmation parents (and students) meet (Grades 7-10)**

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

Address Service Requested



**2025**

**2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS**

<b>President:</b>	Daniel Nelson	430-3689
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Michael Bare	218-790-8222
<b>Secretary:</b>	Carissa Olsen	430-9588
<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>	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:** oslcelca@rrv.net  
 or cindy@oschlillsboro.com  
**Pastor Joe Johnson:** cell—701-430-3787;  
 pastorfjo@oschlillsboro.com  
**Education Pastor:** Pr. Amanda Johnson-218-556-8895  
**OSLC Kitchen:** 701-636-5705  
**OSLC Website:** www.oschlillsboro.com  
**Facebook:** oschlillsboro  
**X:** OSLCHillsboro; **Instagram:** oschlillsboro  
**YouTube:** Our Savior's Lutheran Church Hillsboro ND  
 Broadcast live on Sunday mornings at 9:30am on **KMAV**  
 105.5 FM and **KMSR 1520 AM** and at 9:30am on **HTC**  
 Channel 34.

