



# Steeple Talk

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

Volume 46; Issue 2

**FEBRUARY 2026**

*Let justice roll down like mighty waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24*

## What is justice?

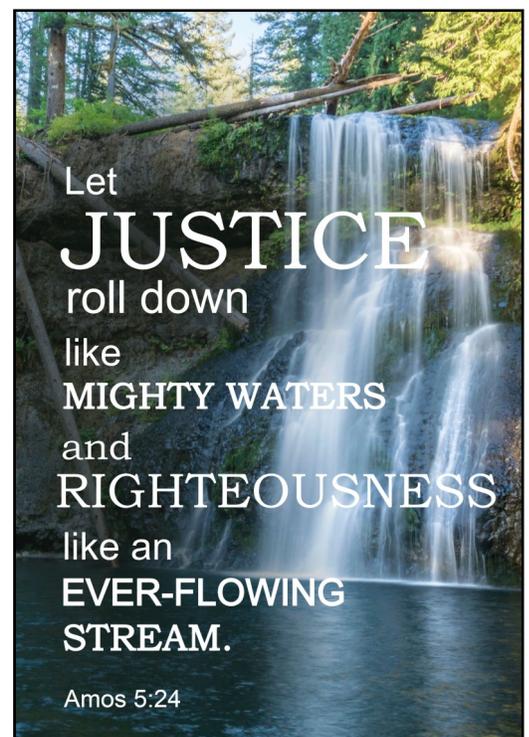
Merriam-Webster defines justice as the assignment of merited rewards or punishments and the quality of being just, impartial, or fair. In United States civil society we have an understanding of justice. This is a system of rewards and punishments, established (in theory) as being just, impartial, and fair. In civil law, we tend to want objectivity, fairness and *you get what you deserve* justice. In Christ, we do not get what we deserve, we get mercy. This is not “blind” justice. This is “eyes wide open” justice where everyone is seen and heard. It is important to point out that I have recognized blind justice in civil society only in theory. It's important to note the prejudices that exist in in our civil society and how these prejudices influence our perspective. The point here is recognizing the difference between human justice and God's justice.

The biblical definition of justice recognizes God as sinless and the human as sinful. Justice demands that all sinful people receive punishment because of their sin. But in Christ the requirements of divine justice are met. The judgment has been made. The price has be paid. The victory has been won. On the cross, Jesus takes our sin, takes our pain, and takes our death. In exchange, Jesus gives us mercy, gives us hope, and gives us life.

God has given his son. God has given hope. God has given life. We, upon receiving this gift, have a responsibility. We have a responsibility to each other, those who are oppressed, the hungry, and the poor. Jesus says, “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came and visited me.” THIS... is justice!

We are facing difficult things in this world. In difficult times we need to turn to God. Where human justice fails, God's justice prevails. Let justice roll down like mighty waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream!

Blessings,  
Pastor Joe



## PASTORAL ACTS:

### BAPTISM:

**Tegan Jean Stallman**

Daughter of Jace and Payton Stallman

Born: August 12, 2025

Place: Brainerd, MN

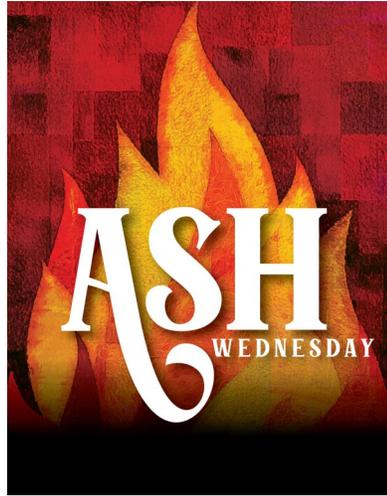
Baptized: January 17, 2026 at OSLC

Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating

Godparents: Ryley and Tyler Schummer

### TRANSFERRED OUT:

Greg and Jill Linnell



**February 18th**

**Worship service  
at 6:30 PM**

**Meal served  
starting at 5:30 PM**  
(Free will offering)

There is an **ALL COMMITTEE MEETING** at 9:30 AM on Sunday, February 8th.

If you are on a church committee or would like to join one, please attend, as we will be planning and setting goals for the year.



The OSLC Choir and GosBELLS resumed practices on Monday, Jan. 12th and will continue to meet each Monday up to Easter.

The Choir practices at 6:30pm at OSLC and the Bells practice at 7:30pm in the sanctuary at OSLC.

All are Welcome!

Ruth Olson, Director

Our Savior's held it's Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026. The following were elected:

President: Daniel Nelson

Vice President: Michael Bare

Trustee: Mike Tweten (3 year term)

Deacon: Dawn Paulsrud (3 year term)

Deacon: Teresa Forseth (3 year term)

Board of Christian Ed: Dera Johnson and Julie Rust (2 year term)

Female Synod Assembly Reps: Sarah Nelson, Barb Hultin

Male Synod Assembly Reps: Dan Nelson, Glen Hultin

Endowment Committee: Steph Olsen, Dustin Nagel (3 year term)

Nominating Committee: Barb Hultin, Carly Theis, Steph Hinkle



Congratulations and Thank You for your service!



# OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Council Minutes

January 11, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.



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

1. **Call to Order** – Noting a quorum, President Daniel Nelson called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.
2. **Devotions** – Pastor Joe Johnson led us in devotions from John 1.
3. **Confirmation of Agenda** – Jason Lovas moved to accept the agenda as presented. Glen Hultin seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Old Business**
  - a. **Budget 2026** – Jason Lovas presented the budget. Jason Lovas moved to recommend a 2026 Budget of \$449,467 to the congregation at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2026. Daniel Nelson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
5. **New Business**
  - a. **Assign Auditors** – Jason Lovas moved to work with Josh Opp and Les Hurt to audit the 2025 financials. Michael Bare Seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **All-Committee Meeting** – Committees will meet on **Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 9:30am.**
6. **Pastor Joe's Report** – It has been another good year at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The Advent theme *JOY* was well received. We had three Christmas Eve worship services including 1:30 p.m. at the Hillsboro Care Center, 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the church building. All three services were well attended. OSLC hosted the Community Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 14. Thank you to Ruth Olson for directing the choir and bell choir. The concert was great! We had the Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday, December 7 at the 10:30 worship service. Thank you to Pastor Amanda for directing the Sunday School Program. The program was great! I met with the Eastern North Dakota Candidacy committee and conducted interviews on December 12. I met with Bishop Tessa and the Eastern ND Synod Senior Pastors on January 6 to envision God's promised and preferred future in our synod.
7. **Pastor Amanda's Report** – December was filled with joy! We focused on joy all throughout the month of December. Joy through the advent calendars, joy in sorrow, sharing joy, and finding complete joy in Christ. We held advent themed youth groups including a joy filled ecumenical confirmation event with Saint Rose. The Sunday school Christmas program was held on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> with over 50 children participating in songs and scripture readings. Additionally, I attended a Wartburg colleague meeting, as well as colleague and first call meetings in Fargo.
8. **Treasurer's Report** – Jason Lovas reviewed the Treasurer's report, stating that income exceeded expenses by \$535.00 as of December YTD 2025. The balance of the media fund is \$3,056. Daniel Nelson made a motion to approve treasurer's report, seconded by Michael Bare. All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Deacons' Report** – Dawn Paulsrud reported they sent their first prayer bag to snowbird resident!
10. **Trustees' Report** –
11. **Committee Reports**

12. **Secretary's Report** – Daniel Nelson moved to accept the minutes as presented. Teresa Forseth seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

13. **Next Meeting** – Sunday, February 8, 2026 @ 11:30 a.m.

14. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carissa Olsen



## JANUARY 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

**BANDS** - In memory of Kathy Cuthbertson, Marilyn Hall and Russell Waters, given by M/M Dave Nelson

**MEDIA FUND** - In memory of Russell Waters, given by M/M Allen Mustad; in memory of Loren and Muriel Wegge, given by M/M Don Hanson



### QUILTING

- ◇ Quilting will continue on Mondays through February!
- ◇ We are always looking for new people to assist with this project.
- ◇ Making kits and quilts is one of our most needed projects. *Lutheran World Relief tells us how receiving a quilt or kit, when in dire need, is a reminder to the recipient that someone is thinking of them.*
- ◇ If you are available on any part of Mondays, Jan. through March, 9am-4pm, consider coming and joining in the fun! Come for all or any part of the day, bring a sack lunch or go out for lunch, bring snacks to share if you wish.
- ◇ No experience necessary.
- ◇ We hope to see you there!!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Summer Trip



## Denver, Colorado

**"Faith can move mountains" (Matthew 17:20)**

**May 29-June 5**

**Who:** Grades 9-12 (2025-2026)

**What:** Youth Mission Trip to Denver. We will participate in service projects such as painting and fixing houses, feeding the hungry, volunteering at homeless shelters, etc. We will have worship and daily devotions. We will also do some team-building and high adventure activities including white water rafting.

**Where:** Denver, Colorado

**When:** May 29-June 5

**Cost:** \$850 (Scholarship and fundraising available)

**How do I sign-up?** You can sign-up at the church office and pay \$100 deposit

**SIGN-UP DEADLINE: February 14, 2026.**

**Any Questions? Call or Text Pastor Joe  
(701) 430-3787**



**Confirmation  
NEWS**

### **Sunday Acolytes in FEBRUARY:**

Feb. 1 - <b>8:30am:</b> Logan B., Charleigh F.	<b>10:30am:</b> Abigail H., Paxton H.
Feb. 8 - <b>8:30am:</b> Brea H., Aislin M.	<b>10:30am:</b> Parker R., Lilah S.
Feb. 15 - <b>8:30am:</b> Trygg T., Lydia T.	<b>10:30am:</b> Tenley D., Logan F.
Feb. 22 - <b>8:30am:</b> Colbie H., Bridger L.	<b>10:30am:</b> Cayden O., Mason O.

### **Wednesday Meals in FEBRUARY:**

Feb. 4	FAMILY SERVING: Longthorne
Feb. 11	FAMILY SERVING: Olson
Feb. 18	FAMILY SERVING: Theis and Sandberg (Ash Wed.)
Feb. 25	FAMILY SERVING: Cote and Burger

- ⇒ **“Teen Talk” for all 6th graders**
  - ⇒ **Wednesdays in February**
  - ⇒ **After school from 3:15 - 5:00pm**
  - ⇒ **At Our Savior’s Church**  
204 E. Caledonia Ave  
Hillsboro, ND
- Questions:  
Contact Pastor Amanda at 218-556-8895

ALL ARE WELCOME!

# 6th Grade TEEN TALK

Feb 4, 11, 18, 25

Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church  
*Helping people experience  
the love of God*

Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church

## 5TH GRADE COMMUNION CLASS

**Wednesdays 3:15pm-5:00pm**  
**March 11,18,25**

- Classes will be held each Wednesday after school
- April 2nd at 6:30pm: All 5th graders, along with their adults, are invited to communion during our Maundy Thursday service.

JOIN US  
DURING THIS  
**LENTEN  
SEASON**

**Ash Wednesday - Feb.18 at 6:30 PM**

**Lenten Worship Services:  
Feb. 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25 at 6:30 PM**

**Maundy Thursday - Apr. 2 at 6:30 PM**

**Good Friday - Apr. 3 at 6:30 PM**

**Easter Worship Services - April 5th  
at 7:30 AM and 9:30 AM**

*This month we have a letter from our Missionary Willie. However, he has been in Montana with his wife and son since October and won't return to Africa until March. So we have no report on things in Africa, but do get his view on some things here.*

*Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry has some news and I will print a few quotes from their publication. Remember the people and church in CAR in your prayers and make contributions to Global Missions, if you are able.*



*In His Service,*

*Sylvia Hansen  
Global Missions Committee*

### **Christmas Greetings from your missionary in West and Central Africa**

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you. I pray that you are all in good health as we wait with hope for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I greet you this time from Montana, where I am spending time with my family. I have been here on a leave of absence since October and, God willing, I will return to Cameroon in March to continue serving as the ELCA Regional Representative for West and Central Africa.

During this season, I am enjoying precious time with family and friends. Micah has been very active in cross country, and it has been a joy for me to attend different meets and watch him run. Until last month, Anne and I were driving him to school, but now that he has earned his driver's license, he is driving us around instead—fun indeed!

So far, winter has been relatively mild here in Helena, Montana. I am trying to keep warm while waiting for the real winter to arrive. A few days ago, strong winds swept across the state, causing significant destruction and leaving many trees down. In some areas, power outages lasted several hours.

In Cameroon, we also experience strong winds—usually at the beginning and end of the rainy season. Every year, these winds leave behind difficult memories for many people, much like what we have seen here.

Being in the United States at this time of year has led me to reflect on the meaning of waiting and how it is experienced differently across the world. In Cameroon, we wait for seasons, and their arrival is marked by changes in nature. When I was growing up in my village, Laan (Lassin), we knew the dry season was near when dragonflies appeared. Soon after, ashes would fill the sky—a sign that people were burning fields and countryside so new grass could grow for cattle, or carrying out controlled burning around villages to protect homes and property.

Here in the U.S., I observe that while Christians wait for the coming of the Savior, the entire country also waits for weather—weather that comes and goes, sometimes leaving behind difficult memories, just as it does elsewhere in the world.

The coming of Christ was witnessed both by people in the East and by those in Bethlehem. The good news is that He came for everyone, bringing Good News for all, and He left us with that same Good News while promising to come again. That is why we wait in joyful hope for His return.

May His coming this time bring the most wonderful memories for you and your loved ones. (Pictured at right—You must cut a live tree from the forest to become a real Montanan!)

Merry Christmas,

Willie Langdji, ELCA Regional Representative, West and Central Africa



*"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."*

– African Proverb

## LPGM Merges with Friends of Mwangaza

Greetings!

The final few months of 2025 were brimming with activity for our U.S. team. We hosted a visit from Arcot Lutheran Church leaders, launched a successful year-end giving campaign, and moved our offices to Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Minneapolis Campus.

On behalf of our partners and the students served, we thank you for your support and prayers. You fuel our mission, and the positive momentum feels palpable.

With no plans to slow down in 2026, we're starting off the new year with a splash and big news to share.

On January 1, Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry (LPGM) officially merged with another nonprofit, Friends of Mwangaza (FOM), to support Mwangaza Education for Partnership (Mwangaza) in Tanzania.

### **WHY MERGE?**

For years, LPGM and FOM have collaborated informally through overlapping supporters and board members. Due to our related missions, supporters, and geographic focus, unifying our two organizations was a natural fit.

Now that our two organizations have now officially merged, the combined organization will operate under LPGM's name, while continuing to honor FOM's identity and history.

### **Will this impact other LPGM Partners?**

While this merger will help us provide stronger support for Mwangaza, we will continue giving ample attention to our other four partnerships: Eripoto for Girls & Women (Tanzania), the Arcot Lutheran Church (India), Community Cloud Forest Conservation (Guatemala), and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic.

At LPGM, each of our partnerships is valued, and our support - and funding - for our other four partners will not be impacted by this merger.

We have transparent relationships with each partner, and we have communicated with each partner about this merger.

At LPGM, we seek to create mutual, reciprocal relationships, and we are confident that the trust we've established will help us navigate this time of transition.

With deep gratitude and hope,



A blue ink handwritten signature of Dan Ruth.

Dan Ruth  
Executive Director, LPGM





**NOTE: WELCA has Meal Delivery: February 23-27**

Our Savior's WELCA met on **Thursday, January 8, 2026** with President Sylvia Hansen presiding.

Pastor Amanda led the Bible Study on John 2:1-11 "The Wedding at Cana".

The Purpose Statement was read.

The Secretary's Report was read by Judy Doeden. Sharon Enger moved to accept, Sandra Mustad second. Motion Approved.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Judy Doeden. Sharon Enger made a motion to accept, Sandra Mustad second. Motion approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Dorcas workgroup still needs a co-chairman.
- Brittany Thompson has volunteered to plan the Valentine's Brunch. Sylvia will get back to her.
- There were 4 people at quilting on Jan. 5th. Senora A. will do sewing on the quilts. She will also do W.O.W. Bible Study on Mondays.
- Tri-Annual WELCA is in Des Moines, IA on July 16-19.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Spring Round-Up will be at the Bagg Farm near Wahpeton on April 18th.
- New curtains are needed in the lounge. This has been approved by the Council. The Kitchen Committee is Joy M., Chris M., and Nancy Bedard-Olson.
- There was discussion on the table in the lounge—it's wobbly. After checking it—it had been repaired.
- The kitchen stoves were mentioned. It was suggested talking to an electrician about the wiring for the stoves.
- Our Savior's will host the EaND Synod on Thurs., Jan. 15th. A noon meal will be served to about 45 people. Pastor Amanda asked for volunteers to help serve. Sharon and Sylvia volunteered.

We closed with The Lord's Prayer.

*Dear Friends,*

*As we enter this busy time of year, I wanted to share an important update for your calendars. We are delighted to announce the date and details for the 3rd Annual Spring Round-Up:*

- **When: April 18th, 2026**
- **Where: Bagg Farm (just west of Wahpeton),  
8025 169th Ave SE, Mooreton, ND 58061**
- **Theme: "Living in Times of Chaos"**
- **Bible Verse: "Be Strong and Bold... Because it is the Lord Your God Who Goes with You."**

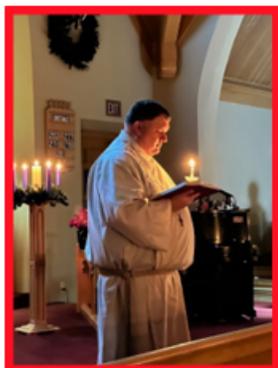
*We are excited to gather at Bagg Farm, a beautiful historical site with a fully renovated, spacious, and handicap-accessible facility. We are pleased to confirm that Bagg Farm is fully heated and comfortable for all attendees. The noon meal will be catered by Bagg Farm; this is the only cost for participants, making planning easier for everyone.*

*We have already secured several speakers, as well as entertainment and vendors to enrich the event. Thank you to those who recommended Bagg Farm as our venue—your input has been invaluable. This is all the information for now; I will share more details after the new year.*

*Jeanne Wobbema*



# Giving Hearts Day



*“The Synod equips us who are already in positions of leadership with the tools and resources to encourage and lift up people who maybe never considered ministry as vocation. I am proof of that.”*

**-Pr. Steve DeKrey**  
Northwood/Washington Parish

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*“Anyone considering giving should know that their support directly impacts real people and real ministries in our Synod. Even a small gift helps sustain programs that are vital to the church.”*

**-Clara Kjelland**  
EaND Synod Council Youth Representative

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Please consider making a gift to the Eastern North Dakota Synod on Giving Hearts Day - February 12, 2026!  
Early giving is open now!

**Give by check:**

EaND Synod, PO Box 2019, Fargo, ND 58109  
Put “Giving Hearts Day” in the memo line.

**Give online:** <https://app.givingheartsday.org>



Scan to Give.



Eastern North Dakota Synod

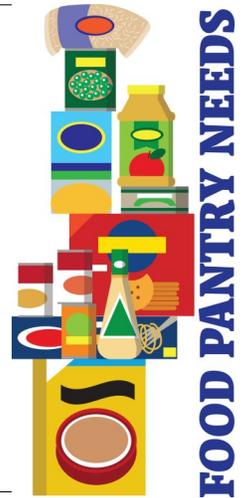
# INFORMATION

**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:**

Ramen Noodles, Stove-top stuffing, Hamburger Helper, Beef Stew, Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup, Canned Chicken, Canned Green Beans, Peaches & Pineapple Chunks, Pork/Baked Beans, Cereal, Cookies, Cake Mixes, Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Hand Soap, Body Wash, Deodorant, Shampoo/Conditioner, Feminine Hygiene Products, Cleaning Supplies

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



**Usher Scheduling for Sunday services:**

We are still looking for volunteers to help with USHERING at the 10:30am service. Mike Tweten has set up a 'Sign-Up Genius' link where you can see available dates and sign-up. If you have any questions or want to sign-up, please scan the QR code above.

We are also looking for one more person/family to be a Head Usher at the 8:30am service. Call the Church office at 636-5701 if you are interested. Thanks!

**The Offering**


 Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement
 


Scan here  or **Text \$ amount to: 833-460-2876**

OSLC OFFERING STEWARDSHIP 2025 OFFERING RECEIVED		WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	
December 7	\$ 5,086.01	8:30am 10:30am	40 195
December 14	\$ 2,867.00	8:30am 10:30am	37 66
December 21	\$ 3,040.00	8:30am 10:30am	55 81
<b>December 24</b>	<b>\$ 34,183.90</b>	<b>3:30pm 5:30pm</b>	<b>307 158</b>
December 28	\$ 911.00	9:30am	28
Dec. Direct Deposit	\$ 9,918.30		
<b>December Total:</b>	<b>\$ 56,006.21</b>		
<b>2025 Total</b>	<b>\$392,352.01</b>		

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

**INCOME AND EXPENSES:**

2025 Income received through  
December 31: \$426,071.26

2025 Expenses through  
December 31: \$425,663.29

Income Less Expenses: 407.97

**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

**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:** oslcelca@rrv.net  
 or cindy@oslchillsboro.com

**Pastor Joe Johnson:** cell—701-430-3787;  
 pastorjoe@oslchillsboro.com  
**Education Pastor:** Fr. Amanda Johnson-218-556-8895  
**Visitation Minister:** Joy McSparrow  
**Custodian:** Steve Aanderud  
**OSLC Kitchen:** 701-636-5705

**OSLC Website:** www.oslchillsboro.com  
**Facebook:** oslchillsboro  
**X:** 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 on **HTC**  
 Channel 34.

