



Steeple Talk

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

Volume 46; Issue 4

APRIL 2026

We have experienced the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ! When Mary Magdalene approached the tomb and found the stone rolled away, she was scared, she was confused, she was perplexed. And then, when she saw the resurrected Christ, she didn't recognize him and mistook him to be the gardener (John 20).

Mary is not the only one who didn't recognize the risen Christ. When the disciples were walking on the Road to Emmaus, Jesus walked with them and visited with them. Yet the disciples did not recognize Jesus (Luke 24).

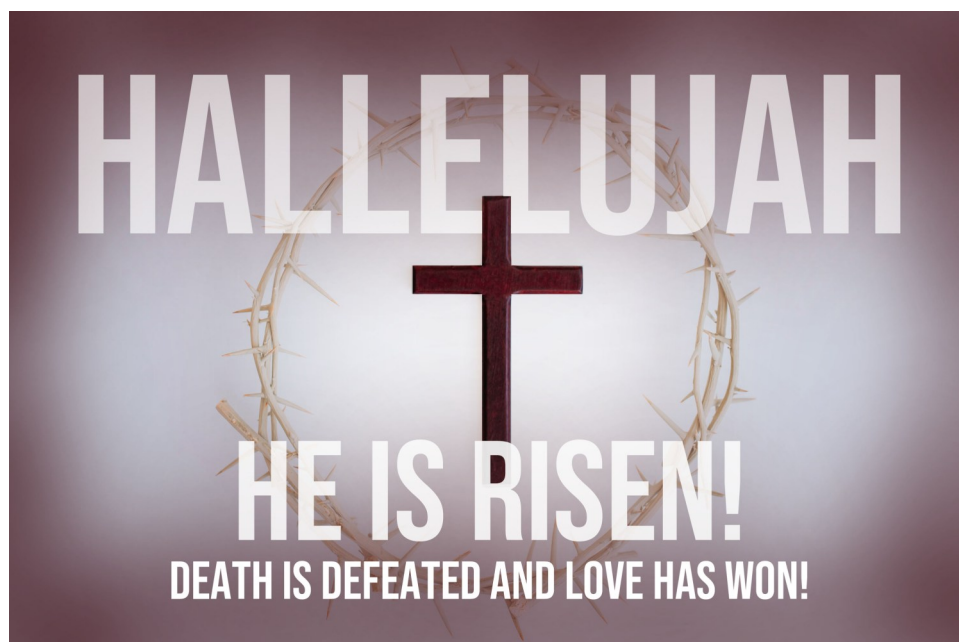
In the story of The Miraculous Catch (John 21), Jesus is standing on the shore and tells the fishermen to cast the net on the other side of the boat. The fishermen can see Jesus and yet they don't recognize him.

These stories speak to the reality of our life. God is with us. God is active in our world and community. Yet we often don't recognize it. I have come to understand that it is often our most difficult times when God seems distant, that God is the most active in our life. When we are in need, God is there!

We, like Mary and the disciples, are often confused and perplexed. That's ok. God gives clarity where there is confusion. God gives hope where there is despair. God gives life where there is death. In this season of Easter may we recognize the good works that God is doing!

Blessings,

Pastor Joe



PASTORAL ACTS:

DEATHS:

Gayle Nysveen

Born: November 21, 1972
Place of Birth: Hillsboro, ND
Died: March 6, 2026
Funeral: March 21, 2026 at OSLC
Pastor Amanda Johnson, Officiating
Interment: Norway Church Cemetery
Cummings, ND

Peggy Gilbertson

Born: October 21, 1934
Place of Birth: Fargo, ND
Died: March 21, 2026
Funeral: March 30, 2026 at OSLC
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating

BAPTISMS:

Beckett Robert Halstengard

Son of Quinn and Tayah Halstengard
Born: August 17, 2025
Place: Grand Forks, ND
Baptized: March 1, 2026 at OSLC
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating
Godparents: Anna Frey and Olin Halstengard

Reese Marie Grothmann

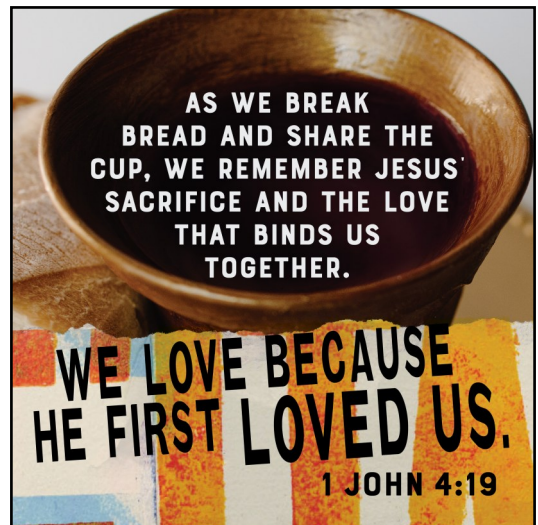
Daughter of Andrew and Ingrid Grothmann
Born: August 1, 2024
Place: Fargo, ND
Baptized: April 3, 2026 at OSLC
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating
Godparent: Zach Grothmann

TRANSFERRED IN:

Andrew and Ingrid Grothmann, Ivvy and Reese

Congratulations to the following 5th grade students on receiving First Communion during the Maundy Thursday service on April 2nd:

Leila Betner, Leila Carlson, Mac Edenborg, Fletcher Hamre, Lloyd Knecht, Blakely Lee, Lincoln Lee, Maxx Olson, Layla Redland, Lilly Stauss, Macy Theis, Roan Torgerson, and Aubrey Tweten



Sunday Acolytes in APRIL:

Apr. 5 - **Easter**
Apr. 12 - **8:30am:** Colbie H., Bridger L. **10:30am:** Cayden O., Mason O.
Apr. 19 - **8:30am:** Mason S., Eli T. **10:30am:** Andrew A., Bergen B.
Apr. 26 - **8:30am:** Logan B., Charleigh F. **10:30am:** Abigail H. Paxton H.

Wednesday Meals in APRIL:

Apr. 1 No Meal/Class
Apr. 8 FAMILY SERVING: Spokely
Apr. 15 FAMILY SERVING: Ambuehl (LAST ONE)



**Confirmation
NEWS**

**Health
Ministry**



The **Health Ministry Committee** is here to support the health and well-being of our church family. If you or a loved one need guidance, resources, prayer, or a listening ear, please know you're not alone. We are happy to help in any way we can. Please contact the church office for any requests or needs.

~Brenda Stallman, Krista Longthorne, Chrissy Torgerson, Maggie Wilson, and Katie Reese



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

March 1, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.



Members Present – Krista Longthorne, Teresa Forseth, Eric Johnson, Glen Hultin, Daniel Nelson, Mike Tweten, Pr. Amanda Johnson, Pr. Joe Johnson.

1. **Call to Order** - noting a quorum Daniel Nelson called the meeting to order @ 11:50am
2. **Devotions** -
3. **Confirmation of Agenda** - Teresa Forseth moved to accept the agenda, Krista Longthorne 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Old Business**
 - a.
5. **New Business**
 - a. Lounge Window Coverings - A quote was brought to exec on window coverings from Fargo Glass & Paint. We are gathering more info & we will revisit at the next council meeting.
6. **Pastor Joe's Report** - Despite a storm, Ash Wednesday worship service was well attended again this year. We continue with our worship theme through Lent "The Prayer Journey". We have Wednesday Lenten services at 6:30 p.m. with a meal available from 5:30-6:30 p.m. During these services we introduced a new method of prayer. Since our last council meeting OSLC hosted the Mayville conference pastor's meeting. We also hosted the Hillsboro Clergy Ministerium meeting. In the past month I had four funerals, pre-marriage counseling meetings, and two crisis care situations.
7. **Pastor Amanda's Report** - February held lots of extra activities. We had our "Teen Talk" class where we talk with our sixth-grade students about ways to navigate middle school and high school issues with God's help and vision. We also spent a lot of time planning for Lent and our focus of a "Prayer Journey". We did this with the help of the book "50 Ways to Pray". Throughout Lent we will be learning a new way to pray and incorporating these prayer practices into prayer stations throughout the church. In February we also took part in several pastor's meetings, first the conference pastors' meeting with Bishop Tessa in attendance, then a ministerial meeting with the Hillsboro clergy, and then a first call meeting for me in Fargo. Finally, we began Lent with Ash Wednesday meal and service, and continued Wednesday meals and evening services.
8. **Treasurer's Report** - Daniel reviewed the Treasurer's report, stating that income exceeded expenses by \$12,267 as of February YTD 2026. The balance of the media fund is \$2,446.89. Mike Tweten made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Glen Hultin. All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Deacons' Report** - Discussed communion frequency during summer worship schedule.
10. **Trustees' Report** - Mike Tweten did a building walkthrough after last council meeting. Per Jason Lovas, the main parsonage renter has left & the home was in good shape.
11. **Committee Reports**
12. **Secretary's Report** - Teresa Forseth moved to accept minutes from Feb meeting, Krista 2nd. All approved, motion carried. Mike Tweten will email out minutes for review & approval.
13. **Next Meeting – Sunday, April 12, 2026 @ 11:30 a.m.**
14. **Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 12:46pm

Respectfully Submitted
- Mike Tweten

The article following will give some indication how difficult it is for women with children to live in a country with instability, such as CAR. KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS AND DONATE TO GLOBAL MISSIONS.

There is still a great deal of concern about the German army and the private military WAGNER being in CAR. They are frequently accused of violent behavior and abuse of the civilian population. This has been a concern since they were invited to CAR to assist the national government. We shall see how that turns out.

In His Service,

*Sylvia Hansen
Global Missions Committee*



Central African Republic: Amid ongoing hostilities, Clotilde remains resilient **<https://www.icrc.org/en>**

Clotilde fled danger in her hometown of Mboki, Haut-Mbomou, with her four young children, walking day and night for two weeks to reach Zémio. The whole way, she was terrified, hungry, thirsty and in mortal danger. Despite the exhaustion, despite her struggles, Clotilde continued onward with one goal in sight: survival.

Clotilde illustrates well the courage and perseverance shown by her community. After her parents enrolled her in Mboki's primary school, she quickly stood out among her classmates, boys and girls alike. After she received her diploma, the nearest secondary school was in Zémio, many kilometers away. Nevertheless, Clotilde successfully graduated, a huge personal victory in the face of a number of challenges, including the birth of her first child during her final year of school.

Clotilde is emotional as she recalls the hardships she faced: "I was pregnant, and my boyfriend wanted me to drop out and marry him. I refused. I had to deal with the challenges of pregnancy, the mockery and the grief all the way through to my son's birth."

After she graduated, she was unable to afford higher education in Bangui. So, she completed teacher training and returned to Mboki to teach in a Catholic school. With her teaching income supplemented by farm work, Clotilde was able to keep her family afloat. She and her husband led a peaceful life until the crisis broke out in 2024, upending everything.

In 2023, armed tensions seized Haut-Mbomou. The following year, Mboki was engulfed in fighting, forcing the townspeople to run for their lives. Clotilde and her family were not spared. "When our town was attacked," recalls Clotilde with tears in her eyes, "we fled in a panic. Everyone went in different directions. I took my four young children with me. Their father tried to take some of our belongings with, but we couldn't bring everything. I joined up with a group of other women, and we started walking, with no provisions and the constant fear of crossing paths with armed men. We made our way along rough trails, forded rivers, slept in fields, ate wild fruit and drank marsh water to survive. The trip took almost two weeks."

When they arrived in Zémio, Clotilde and her children were exhausted, famished and dehydrated. "We arrived around 9am. Our feet were swollen and bruised. Some of the women were met by loved ones, but my family and I had nowhere to go. We set up under a tree, with no idea of what the future would hold," Clotilde recalls.

A stranger, moved by their plight, came to their rescue. "A man picked me out because he saw I was alone with my four children. He agreed to take us in. He saved us," says Clotilde.

After Clotilde had been in Zémio for several months, the situation in Mboki calmed somewhat, so she decided to return home, despite persisting danger in the surrounding towns. "I decided I would rather suffer in my own home than in Zémio," she says.

On her return, Clotilde found that her house had been destroyed, her fields burned, and her belongings pillaged. Even her cutlery and teaching papers were gone. She nevertheless set about rebuilding her life, with the aid of kind neighbours and her own determination.

As part of our work to help victims of armed conflict, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) launched a project to build a barrier to secure the health centre in Mboki. The project is employing members of the local community – Clotilde is helping to make bricks. Although the work is strenuous, it has enabled her to provide for her family. “I got involved in the project because I wanted to help keep the health centre secure. The work will help protect health workers and the members of our community who go there for treatment,” she says.

Every morning at 7:30am, Clotilde and other young men and women arrive at the work site where bricks are fired. They work until 12:30pm, using presses to turn out the bricks, which is physically demanding. Still, Clotilde is determined. Every day, she and her teammates aim to make between 700 and 1,000 bricks. The ICRC then buys the bricks as part of a cash-for-work programme. Thanks to this, Clotilde has been able to put some money aside and start earning an income of her own. “Since I returned to Mboki, I haven’t been able to teach, and the cost of living is high here. This job enables me to feed my children and give them a future,” she says.

Clotilde’s story is shared by countless women in the CAR and other areas convulsed by armed conflict. Despite the immense challenges they face, these women display remarkable bravery and resilience as they work to protect their families and rebuild their lives.

Their quiet determination is admirable, but it speaks to a pressing and widespread need – for protection, for support, for sustainable opportunities. We cannot forget: behind each statistic is a face, a story and a tenacious hope for a more secure future.



NOTE: WELCA has **Meal Delivery: April 27- May 1**

Our Savior’s WELCA met on **Thursday, March 5, 2026.**

Pastor Joe led the Bible Study based on John 14:6-17.

There was discussion on the replacing of the blinds in the lounge. We were shown a few samples from Fargo Glass & Paint and a quote. A woman from Floor to Ceiling came today to measure, etc. for curtains.

There was also discussion on replacing furniture and carpeting. Most thought they were still okay and that we should just do the curtains for now.

We have been asked to help with a service for Bonnie Ydstie - daughter of Orlin and Elizabeth Ydstie on March 14th at 11:00am. The family will provide the food and music. Hannah Group will help.

The Secretary’s Report was read. Judy Doeden moved to approve. Darlene second. Motion Approved. The Treasurer’s Report was read by Judy Doeden. Sandra Mustad moved to approve. Jackie Lovas second. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

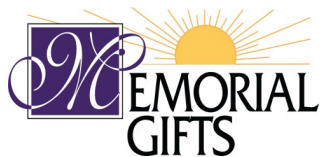
- The tablecloth in Lounge is done. Plastic covering donated by Elaine Laxdal.
- Dorcas workgroup needs another co-chair.
- Brittany Thompson cannot do the Spring Luncheon.

Judy Erdmann and Terry Lee served coffee at the Care Center in February. It was a success - doughnuts were served. They served about 2 dz. people. No decorations or cards are needed.

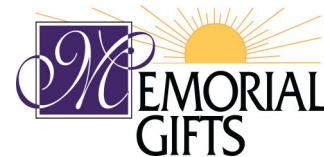
NEW BUSINESS:

- Dorcas workgroup will deliver meals in March (23-27).

The meeting was closed with The Lord’s Prayer.



MARCH 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 Cindy Klemetson, given by M/M Dave Nelson

MISSIONS – In memory of Peggy Gilbertson, given by M/M Glen Hultin

BELL FUND – In memory of Peggy Gilbertson, given by Janet Thompson

BACKPACK PROGRAM – In memory of Peggy Gilbertson, given by Jill Anderson

CHOIR – In memory of Ruth Siegert, Sandra Moen, Bonnie Anderson, Duane & Shirley Nysveen, Dale Skansgaard and Peggy Gilbertson, given by Blenda Gilbertson

GENERAL – In memory of Bud Skogen, given by M/M Dallas Boeddeker, Kenneth & Keith Henka; in memory of Cindy Klemetson and Sheila Lara, given by Eunice Morlock; in memory of Gayle Nysveen, given by Lorna Nysveen, M/M Dallas Boeddeker, M/M Gerald Boeddeker; in memory of Peggy Gilbertson, given by M/M Dale Sprunk, M/M Glenn Brustad, M/M Dudley Horne, M/M Rocky Nettum, M/M Lynn Foss and M/M Gerald Boeddeker; in honor of Clarice Satrom's 90th Birthday, given by Carolyn Gadberry

CHIMES – In memory of Peggy Gilbertson, given by M/M Doug Tate, M/M Mark Jenson and Family and Friends of Peggy Gilbertson

MEDIA FUND – In memory of Gayle Nysveen, given by Joel Thorsrud; in memory of Bud Skogen, given by Robert Tweten and M/M Roger Anderson; in memory of Peggy Gilbertson, given by Merrill Knodle, Vicky Grothmann and Friends and Family of Peggy Gilbertson

COMMUNITY MEAL

WAFFLE BAR!!

EGG BAKE
&
COFFEE

9:00-12:30

MAY 3RD
@ OUR SAVIOR'S HILLSBORO, ND

Proceeds go to the youth summer mission trip





QUILTING

*We are finished making quilts for this year! We are planning to organize the supplies in the storeroom and we will be having a **BLESSING OF THE QUILTS** on **Sunday, April 12th** at both services.*

THANK YOU to all who have attended the Monday work days and to those who have donated fabric and yarn. We were able to use the donations and only had to purchase the batting this year.

Be looking for information on future work days.

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 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



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 2026 OFFERING RECEIVED		WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	
February 1	\$ 4,764.00	8:30am	50
		10:30am	58
February 8	\$ 35,569.33	8:30am	38
		10:30am	87
February 15	\$ 2,350.00	8:30am	50
		10:30am	70
February 22	\$ 2,591.16	8:30am	46
		10:30am	163
Feb. Direct Deposit	\$ 7,457.64		
February Total:	\$ 52,732.13		
2026 Total	\$ 80,644.77		

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

INCOME AND EXPENSES:

2026 Income received through
February 28: \$80,716.90

2026 Expenses through
February 28: \$69,492.45

Income Less Expenses: \$11,224.45

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

WALKING IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS

WELCA'S 3rd
ANNUAL
SPRING
ROUND-UP



Saturday, April 18, 2026 • 9am-3pm

Bagg Bonanza Historical Farm

8025 169th Ave SE • Mooreton, ND

Featuring Speakers, Music, Vendors, Friendships

Lunch \$20 - ***pre-registration is required by March 28th***

Walk-ins welcome, but lunch is not guaranteed

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

Address Service Requested



2026 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
	Dawn Paulsrud	218-790-6621
	Teresa Forseth	430-2037
Trustees:		
	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 ND
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.

