



Steeple Talk

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

Volume 46; Issue 8

AUGUST 2026



This summer at Our Savior's, we have had the sermon series "Hello My Name Is, Child of God", where we learn a little more about each other, and we also learn about characters of the Bible. We have looked at the life of Ruth and Naomi, Esther, Stephen, Barnabas, as well as Paul and Silas. There is a side effect of this learning that I did not anticipate. As we have studied about these characters throughout the week, we have also started to look for the attributes of these characters in the people we meet. Looking for encouragers like Barnabas, loyal friends like Ruth, or clever advocates like Esther. Not surprisingly, we have found these qualities in all of you. You, who are faithfully living your lives for your families, laying down your own needs and picking up the needs of others.

A few weeks ago, I preached on Lydia. A character that is not well known but certainly someone with wonderful attributes. Lydia listens to Paul and becomes a leader in the church. Lydia was strong, smart, brave, and most of all faithful. Once more, I looked for those who remind me of Lydia, and I found her in you. Why would this be? Learning about these characters this summer has opened the possibility to be more aware of the beauty in us all. Because of this, it has become easier to see what God sees in us. Seeing all the goodness in you. The ways that you are deserving. The ways that you are unmistakably made in the image of God. God sees your unshakable goodness, and this summer I have been privileged to see a glimpse of that as well.

My prayer is that your heart would be opened, and like Lydia, you would listen eagerly and learn of your own goodness. That you would know of God's love for you and start to see yourself and others as God does.

You are good. You are made in God's image. You are children of God.

"Goodness is our starting point. Realizing it, not becoming it, is the task."

- Father Greg Boyle

Pastor Amanda Johnson

PASTORAL ACTS:

MARRIAGE:

United in Marriage on July 10, 2026 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Hillsboro.

Chase Fossum and Jensyn Zink

Witnessed by Brooklyn Aberle and Skylar Moger
Officiated by Pastor Joe Johnson

DEATH:

Mary Ann Boeddeker

Born: November 4, 1936
Place of Birth: New Rockford, ND
Died: July 1, 2026
Funeral: July 20, 2026 at OSLC, Hillsboro
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating
Interment: St. Rose of Lima Catholic Cemetery
Hillsboro, ND

BAPTISMS:

Grace June Brunken

Daughter of Ashley and Nate Brunken
Born: March 31, 2026
Place: Detroit Lakes, MN
Baptized: July 28, 2026 at OSLC, Hillsboro
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating
Godparents: Teresa Kollasch, Lilly Kollasch
Carter Kollasch

Penelope Eren Solseng

Daughter of Theoren and Summer Solseng
Born: May 11, 2026
Place: Grand Forks, ND
Baptized: August 2, 2026 at OSLC, Hillsboro
Pastor Amanda Johnson, Officiating
Godparents: Cecilia and Jonathan Hoffmann

Lenna Louise Paulsrud

Daughter of Derek and Taylor Paulsrud
Born: August 24, 2025
Place: Fargo, ND
Baptized: August 2, 2026 at OSLC, Hillsboro
Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating
Godparents: Tucker and Taylor Fylling
Kianna Paulsrud



YOU'RE INVITED TO A
RALLY DAY

Neighborhood Block Party!

SEPTEMBER 13

8:30 am & 10:30 am worship
9:30 am Sunday school
11:30 am block party, free meal, and bouncy houses!!

(701)636-5701
oslchillsboro.com
204 Caledonia Ave
Hillsboro, ND 58045



PARENT MEETINGS:

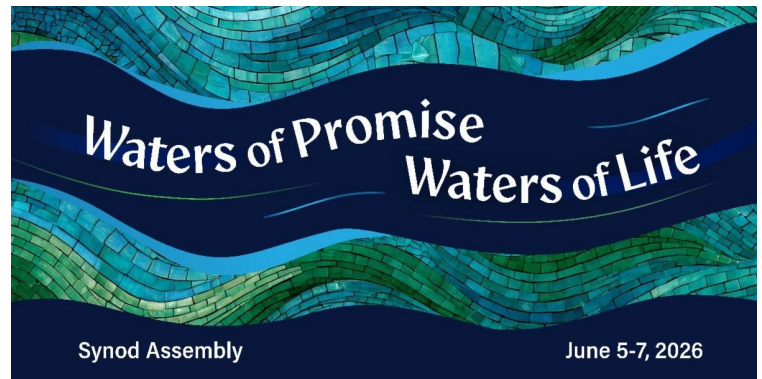
Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

- Sunday school parents meet at 6:00pm at OSLC.
- Confirmation parents and students meet at 6:30pm at OSLC.

The first day of Sunday school this year is Sunday, September 13 at 9:30am.

Confirmation classes begin on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00pm.

Summary of the 2026 Synod Assembly



On June 5-7, 2026, the Eastern North Dakota Synod, ELCA gathered together at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, North Dakota for the thirty-ninth annual Synod Assembly under the theme “Waters of Promise, Waters of Life.” There were a total of 325 people in attendance (206 Lay Voting Members; 78 Rostered Minister Voting Members; 41 visitors). The business items included hearing reports from synod officers, adopting the Synod Mission Plan (budget) for Fiscal-Year-End 1-31-2028, elections for Synod Council and Committee on Discipline, adopting the 2027 Compensation and Benefit Guidelines, adopting updates to the Synod Constitution and Bylaws, releasing Skjeberg Lutheran Church as a congregation of the synod, and held an election for Bishop. The Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth was re-elected to a second six-year term as bishop of the Eastern North Dakota Synod, ELCA. The bishop was re-elected on the fifth ballot, with 137 votes. The Rev. Joe Johnson, pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, had 117 votes. In addition to the business, participants had the opportunity to worship together, attend workshops on a variety of topics, and celebrate significant anniversaries of rostered ministers and congregations. Bishop Regina Hassanally, Southeastern Minnesota Synod, led two Bible studies on baptism. Imran Siddiqui, ELCA Vice President, chaired the bishop election and reported on the work of the ELCA. Offerings were collected for the Holy Innovation Endowment Fund and totaled \$7,961. The 2027 Synod Assembly will be held on June 5-6, 2027.

You can check out **[videos from Synod Assembly](#)** (Worship, Bible Study, State of the ELCA) on our website!

**EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNOD
CASTAWAY RETREAT!!**

WHO:

- GRADES 7TH - 10TH (2026-2027)

WHAT:

- FALL RETREAT W/ EASTERN ND SYNOD

WHERE:

- CASTAWAY CLUB: LOCATED 13 MILES SOUTH OF DETROIT LAKES.

WHEN:
SEPTEMBER 25-27

- SEPT 25: LEAVE FROM OSLC AT 3:45 PM
- SEPT 27: RETURN TO OSLC AT APPROX 2:30 PM

COST:

- \$191 (NON-REFUNDABLE) REGISTRATION FEE
- PLUS MONEY FOR 1 MEAL ON THE ROAD (SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE)

SIGN UP:

- IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY SEPT 2







OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

June 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.



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

1. **Call to Order** – Noting a quorum, President Daniel Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. **Devotions** – Pastor Amanda Johnson led us in devotions from John 1:1-12.
3. **Confirmation of Agenda** - Jason Lovas moved to accept the agenda as presented. Krista Longthorne seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. Blinds in the lounge – Jason Lovas moved to replace the curtains with blinds in the lounge. Deacons will work with WELCA on details. Teresa Forseth seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
5. **New Business**
 - a. Congratulations Nadia Robb-Kern on graduating from Luther Seminary!!
 - b. Parsonage Use – Michael Bare moved to approve a main parsonage tenant on a month-to-month basis. Jason Lovas seconded. All in favor, motion carries.
6. **Pastor Joe's Report** – OSLC has had a lot to celebrate! In the past month we have celebrated; Nadia Robb-Kern's graduation from Luther Seminary, Hillsboro Baccalaureate, Senior Recognition Sunday, and a young adult ministry gathering. The Sr. High Youth Trip to Denver was a great experience. We had 43 youth and 5 adult leaders. We volunteered with A Precious Child, Senior Support Services, Metro-Caring, SAME Café, Sun Valley Kitchen, and Earth-Links. Six of us from Our Savior's attended the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly June 5-7. I had previously been nominated for bishop of Eastern North Dakota Synod and declined the nomination. At the assembly I received 40 write-in votes for bishop. This was completely unexpected and unsolicited. The bishop election went a fifth ballot, and I ended up finishing second in the voting. Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth will continue to serve as bishop.
7. **Pastor Amanda's Report** – In addition to regular bible studies, visits, and scheduled worship, May marked the end of the school year while planning for the youth trip and summer. May 3rd we ended the Sunday school year with a "Milestone" event. This event consisted of the Sunday school students leading worship while showing us their milestone learnings and achievements. Each grade had an opportunity to lead a prayer, read scripture, tell us their favorite part of the bible, or lead the congregation in song. It was a fun and energetic way to end the year! Also, on May 3rd we held a community meal fundraiser for our youth mission trip. Additionally, we had caramel rolls sales, basketball clinics, and babysitting opportunities to raise money for the youth trip. May 18th we held a "young adult hang out" to welcome our 20-40 year olds and give them an opportunity to know one another. Finally, on May 29th we left on the youth mission trip to Denver, CO. There we volunteered, made good memories, and built our faith through word and deed.
8. **Treasurer's Report** – Jason Lovas reviewed the Treasurer's report, stating that income exceeded expenses by \$5,600 as of May YTD 2026. The balance of the media fund is \$2,281. Daniel Nelson made a motion to approve treasurer's report, seconded by Teresa Forseth. All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Deacons' Report** –
10. **Trustees' Report** –
11. **Committee Reports**
12. **Secretary's Report** – Jason Lovas moved to accept the minutes as presented. Michael Bare seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
13. **Next Meeting** – Wednesday, August 12, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.
14. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carissa Olsen

The article from the American Bible Society newsletter is about counseling programs for children who have experienced trauma. Almost all of the ones receiving services have experienced trauma. Although this article is about one in Ukraine, the programs used by many charitable agencies are similar. This gives a view of what is happening in group counseling to help children heal from their experiences. Consider how it might be to be a child, or a parent of a child, involved in this programming. Keep them and the staff in your prayers.



Remember to contribute to our Global Mission program at coffee time during the summer or by placing money in the collections labeled for Global Missions.

In His Service,

Sylvia Hansen
Global Missions Committee

HEALING YOUNG HEARTS IN THE MIDST OF WAR

Children in Ukraine are finding comfort in God's Word, thanks to you

For millions of children in Ukraine, war has stolen what should have been a normal childhood.

At Bible-based trauma healing camps and weekly gatherings, trained facilitators guide children through art, storytelling, play, and conversation, helping them talk about their feelings and express the pain they may not have the words for.

Faith is part of every step of the journey. As children share, they are reminded that God is a refuge. And at the end of many sessions, children receive a Children's Bible. They are taught how to use it, where to turn when fear overwhelms them, and how God's Word can comfort their hearts.

One young girl named Nadia expressed her pain in a drawing of an elephant with wounds across its body to represent "pain everywhere." While whispering prayers, the other children gathered around her drawing and placed colorful bandages on the elephant to bring healing.

Pavlo, a teenage boy, used to arrive quietly each week, rarely speaking. Always beside him was a small yellow duck. When someone finally asked him about it, he said, "It helps me feel safe." Over time, he found the courage to share the grief he had been carrying.

Thank you for bringing the light of God's Word to children who have endured so much. Your generosity is a blessing!

June News from LPGM (Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry)

June 16, 2026

News from the Central African Republic

Women's Literacy Program Update #5: Literacy Program Expands to Five Learning Centers

March-April 2026

Since beginning the literacy program in 2024, our partner, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in C.A.R., has tried to organize two sessions per year, but timing is dependent on available resources and local factors. The third session of the program began in early March with student recruitment, instructor training, and supply preparation.



The instructors recruited students for the existing centers, as well as for two new literacy centers in Baboua. One of the two new literacy centers is located at a theological school, so the instructors recruited the wives of male theological students, as well as other women and girls in the area who expressed interest.

Empowering instructors is as important as empowering new student learners, as four of the five instructors of the current session are women.

After recruiting new students, the instructors printed reading and math manuals written in Sango, the official national language of CAR. They also purchased classroom supplies like notebooks, small chalkboards, chalk, pens, and pencils. Finally, participated in a five-day refresher training course.

After a full month of preparation, classes began at all five literacy centers in early April and will continue for the next six months. The two new centers started classes with fewer students, but numbers increased after about two weeks. As of June, there are 143 women and girls registered across the five centers.

Students attending classes at one of the three original centers are learning at level two, which is for learners who have spent two years in the program and are able to read and write at a basic level.

Students attending classes at one of the two new centers are starting at level one, which caters to beginners. Instructors measure students' progress at all centers through a midterm and final exam during each six-month session.

The program's curriculum has 11 lessons, and some centers are currently on lesson eight, while others have made great progress and are already on the eleventh lesson.



Challenges

Some students from earlier sessions have left the program for a variety of reasons. The most common reasons are:

- Their husbands prevent them from continuing to participate.
- They need to devote their time to income-generating work to support their families (e.g., small businesses or mining work).
- They are frustrated that the literacy program doesn't have an income-generating component (e.g., sewing or soap-making).

Program progress also sometimes stalls due to pregnancy-related illnesses, extreme weather during the rainy season, and labor needs during the March farming season.

However, instructors continue to recruit and motivate women and girls to join the program, and they also work to convince men to let their wives participate. They explain to these husbands that their wives' new skills will help them better provide for their families, both in and out of the home.

Successes

Many students are now able to read the Bible and sing along with the hymn books. They are also starting to share their newfound knowledge and skills with other women in their congregations. Some students have even requested Bibles and hymn books to lead worship and preach the gospel in their communities. Several students who previously didn't recognize numbers, or know how to count, are now making phone calls by dialing numbers.

Students have shared that the literacy program has positively impacted their lives and has been transforming their long-held dreams into reality.





NOTE: WELCA has **Meal Delivery: August 24-28**

Our Savior's WELCA met on **Thursday, June 4, 2026** with President Sylvia Hansen presiding.

Devotions were given by Sylvia H. The Mission Statement was read. The Secretary's report was read by Judy Doeden. Motion to accept by Jackie Lovas, second by Elaine Laxdal. Motion carried. The Treasurer's report was read by Judy D. Motion to accept by Sharon Enger, second by Sandra Mustad. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Paula Tronson had requested some quilts be shown at Kelleher Manor, but another group had brought quilts in to be displayed.
- \$250 had been received from Thrivent Action Team for projects. There are shirts available from Thrivent.
- There are still appreciation gifts available for those delivering meals.
- The Fall Meeting for the annual convention is in Kulm, ND on Sept. 26. This is mostly a business meeting.
- Jackie L. delivered 18 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. Elaine L. has corduroy for making school bags.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Lutheran World Relief is requesting funds. Jackie L. moved to send \$200 now instead of in the fall. Elaine L. second. Motion carried.
- Dorcas workgroup has meal delivery in June and Birthday treats at Care Center.
- Sarah workgroup has meal delivery in July (July 27-31) and Birthday treats at Care Center (July 21 at 1:30pm).
- Hannah workgroup has meal delivery in August (Aug. 24-28) and Birthday treats at Care Center.

The Bible study was led by Sylvia H. and Judy D. based on Ruth 1. The offering was taken. The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: August 6 at 10:00am at Our Savior's in the dining hall. All women Welcome!

OSLC LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

They are located on the west side of Our Savior's Church. Take a book. Share a book.

The Little Library offers a way to **share** good things to read! All of us can help by keeping the library boxes stocked with good (and in good shape) reading material. Anyone can use it! If you see something you would like to read, take it. You don't have to give a book at the same time as you take one. After you've read it, share it: by placing it in *any* Little Free Library book sharing box, by bringing it back to Our Savior's, or by passing it on to a friend.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity through neighborhood book-sharing boxes. These books are always for lending – never for sale. Charter #103570





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 – In memory of Mary Ann Boeddeker, given by Jan Leidholm's Detroit Lakes Book Club, and Tech Honorarium – Joel Thorsrud

MEDIA FUND – In memory of Mary Ann Boeddeker, given by Sharon Enger, Darlene Swanson, M/M Allen Mustad, Mavis Hettervig, M/M Raymond Foss

YOUTH GROUP – In memory of Norma Schultz, given by Paula Tronson

BACKPACK PROGRAM – In memory of Mary Ann Boeddeker, given by Chris Garrett and Jill Anderson

WELCA – In memory of Mary Ann Boeddeker, given by M/M Mark Forseth; in memory of Betty Pinkerton, given by M/M Jim Baukol, M/M Tom Eblen

BELL RESTORATION – In memory of Mark Madsen, Galen and Isabelle Jeffers, Barry Jeffers, and Bette and Elmer Madsen, given by Vicki Madsen



RED WILLOW MINISTRIES
1926-2026 *Light the Fire, Celebrating 100 Years*

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE!
SAT, AUGUST 8TH

1:00 PM Check-in & Ice Cream Social
3:00-5:00 PM Time to Explore Camp
5:00 PM Celebration Banquet
6:30 PM Celebration Program
8:00 PM Campfire
9:00 PM Walk to Cross Hill
REGISTRATION REQUIRED - \$50 PER PERSON

SUNDAY @ 10:00 AM | WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL WITH BISHOP TESSA MOON-LEISETH

Register by using the QR Code or heading to redwillowministries.com/100-year-celebration

Free Pizza Mondays!!

August 3, 10, 17
EACH MONDAY!!!
11:30AM - 12:30PM
OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH HILLSBORO
DINE-IN & TO-GO



 Our Savior's Lutheran Church
701-636-5701
204 Caledonia Ave
Hillsboro, ND 58045

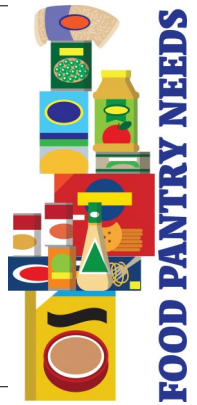


GET A WEEKLY BACKPACK PROGRAM BAG AT THIS LOCATION EACH MONDAY!

INFORMATION

HILLSBORO KIWANIS FOOD PANTRY, at the Hillsboro Armory, is open the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 4-6pm. You can place item donations in the wood crate located inside and to the west of the front door at OSLC. Contact Dan C. at 701-430-1595 with any questions.

Item donations needed include: Chicken Noodle Soup, Tomato Soup, Tuna, Pineapple Chunks, Canned Peaches, Corn, Hamburger Helper, Mac-n-Cheese, Cereal, Ramen Noodles, Peanut Butter, Flour, Sugar, Ketchup, Coffee, Jelly, Spaghetti, Ramen Noodles, Orange Juice, Laundry Soap, Hand Soap, Paper Products, Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Dish Soap





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, Joy McSparron, and Katie Reese





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or

Text \$ amount to:
833-460-2876

OSLC OFFERING STEWARDSHIP 2026 OFFERING RECEIVED		WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	
May 3	\$ 5,450.00	8:30am 57 10:30am 184	
May 10	\$ 955.25	8:30am 41 10:30am 70	
May 17	\$ 5,000.00	8:30am 38 10:30am 157	
May 24	\$ 1,372.00	9:30am 90	
May 31	\$ 1,096.00	9:30am 54	
May Direct Deposit	\$ 7,465.00		
May Total:	\$ 21,338.25		
June 7	\$ 3,353.00	9:30am 78	
June 14	\$ 2,665.00	9:30am 71	
June 28	\$ 1,227.00	9:30am 51	
June Direct Deposit	\$ 8,235.00		
June Total:	\$ 15,480.00		
2026 Total:	\$193,186.75		

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

INCOME AND EXPENSES:

2026 Income received through
June 30: \$197,102.15

2026 Expenses through
June 30: \$210,442.81

Income Less Expenses: -\$13,340.66

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



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 9:30am on KMAV
105.5 FM and KMSR 1520 AM and at 9:30am on HTC
Channel 34.

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

2026 COUNCIL MEMBERS