



Steeple Talk

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

Volume 46; Issue 9
SEPTEMBER 2026



Fall is almost here, which means rally Sunday is fast approaching. Rally Sunday is the first day back to Sunday school after our long summer break. Other churches might call this "Kickoff" Sunday, but no matter what you call it, in my opinion, Our Savior's in Hillsboro does rally Sunday right!

At Our Savior's, rally Sunday starts with worship. On rally day, the sanctuary usually has a low hum of soft whispers, babbling babies, and not-so-quiet children taking part in worship. As pastors this is exciting for us. This hum lasts for the duration of the worship service, giving the feeling that the entire congregation could take off into a roar at any moment! The bands are back and lead worship with joy and vigor. During the service, the kids are called forward to take part in the children's message. And what joy!? Crowding in to the overflowing altar steps. Sunday school is similar. With so many kids in attendance and so much excitement for what's to come, Sunday school doesn't focus on learning the bible on rally day. Instead, we learn about each other, which seems perfect for our first Sunday back.

Then, after the 10:30 service, the Sunday school students, lake people, and others who have taken a summer hiatus are welcomed back with a fan fair! We block off the street and set up picnic tables. There we find good food, games, and bouncy houses for the kids! People you haven't seen in months are there, happy to see you. We sweat a little in the last of the summer sun and laugh easy with big smiles, while we watch the kids run with delight.

This is my idea of utopia. Of a heaven on earth. God's people gathering together. Welcoming one another. Calling the whole thing a "Neighborhood Block Party" in the hopes of welcoming others.

This is what church should be. A great celebration of God's love, our love for each other, and the chance to do it all again the following week.

You know you're invited, right? Silly me, I might have forgotten to mention....We want YOU there. YOU are what we are celebrating. YOU are who we are welcoming back. YOU are the children of God we are gathering together. Don't miss it. The food and games should be enticing enough, but the real reason to come is the reality of community, welcome, and the sense of belonging you will find there.

Let's rally!

Pastor Amanda

PASTORAL ACTS:

MARRIAGES:

United in Marriage on June 12, 2026
at Woodland Park, Hillsboro, ND.

Tom Ganje and Sarah Hall

Witnessed by Bridgette Readell and Shawn Hanson
Officiated by Pastor Amanda Johnson

United in Marriage on July 18, 2026
at Headwaters Golf Club, Park Rapids, MN

Jake Preston and Kaitlin Feist

Witnessed by Nick Preston and Megan Lenertz
Officiated by Pastor Joe Johnson

DEATH:

Eugene Olson

Born: August 19, 1940

Place of Birth: Warren, MN

Died: August 2, 2026

Funeral: August 12, 2026 at OSLC, Hillsboro, ND

Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating



Our Savior's
Lutheran Church

PARENT MEETING

Wednesday, Sept. 2nd
Our Savior's Dining Room

- 6:00 PM: Sunday School Adults (for 3yr-6th students)
- 6:30 PM: Confirmation Adults *and* Participants (7th-10th)

Confirmation students
please attend!



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!!



Our Savior's
Lutheran Church

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



K, 3rd Grade, 7th grade
Bibles

Bibles will be given at the 10:30am worship service.
Sept. 20 7th Grade
Sept. 27 Kindergarten & 3rd grade



Our Savior's
Lutheran Church



Whatever you do, work at it with
ALL YOUR HEART,
as working for the Lord.

— Colossians 3:23, NIV —



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

August 12, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.



Members Present – Dawn Paulsrud, Glen Hultin, Teresa Forseth, Krista Longthorne, Brad Ydstie, Eric Johnson, 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 5:33 p.m.
2. **Devotions** – Pastor Joe Johnson led us in devotions from Galatians 6.
3. **Confirmation of Agenda** - Jason Lovas moved to accept the agenda as presented. Brad Ydstie seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Blinds in the lounge** – reviewed plans for lounge remodel – including blinds, flooring, furniture, and décor. Blinds will be ordered and installed. All other plans are still being reviewed.
5. **New Business**
 - a. **Rally Sunday & Block Party** – Sunday, September 13th will be Rally Sunday and the annual block party following the 10:30 am worship service.
 - i. **Food Ordering/Desserts** – Amanda Johnson (Hillsboro Café)
 - ii. **Picnic Tables** – Michael Bare
 - iii. **Inflatables** – Jason Lovas
 - iv. **Inflatables Workers** – Mike Tweten
 - v. **Set Up/Servers** – Dawn Paulsrud, Daniel Nelson
 - vi. **Tear Down/Clean Up** – Eric Johnson, Belinda Bye, Krista Longthorne, Dawn Paulsrud, Daniel Nelson
 - b. **Eastern North Dakota Synod Updates** – Pastor Joe and Pastor Amanda reported on Eastern ND Synod staff changes.
 - c. **Organ Repairs** – looking into repairs and maintenance.
6. **Pastor Joe's Report** – We have had a wonderfully busy summer! Our summer sermon series theme has been *Hello My Name is... Child of God*. The summer sermon series will continue through Sunday, August 30. This has been a busy summer with worship, baptisms, funerals and 5 weddings. We had a great senior high summer trip to Denver with 58 participants. Thank you to the congregation and community for the support. It was an amazing experience! We had about 75 children attend VBS. Thank you to all the volunteers including our youth counselors. Since our last council meeting, I have attended meetings for the Eastern ND Candidacy Committee and Mayville Conference Pastor's Meetings. We will begin our fall programming on Sunday mornings September 13 with Rally Sunday and the annual block party. Wednesday evening programming will begin September 16 with confirmation and youth group.
7. **Pastor Amanda's Report** – June and July were very busy months. Free Pizza Mondays continued with about 5-8 pizzas given out each Monday in addition to 5-10 backpack bags given out each Monday as well. I am so grateful to all who have served, baked, packed, and assembled the pizzas. Additionally, we held our vacation bible school in June. We had over 75 students in attendance at VBS from three-year-olds through going into seventh grade. The theme was "Team Jesus", and we spent our time together learning about ways to live a life on God's team. We have also been busy doing end of life care, pastoral visits, funerals, and burials. Finally, I have used this summer to plan for the fall with an entire year's plan for our Sunday school classes all laid out as well as seventh through tenth grade class lesson plans.

8. **Treasurer's Report** – Jason Lovas reviewed the Treasurer's report, stating that expenses exceeded income by \$16,725 as of July YTD 2026. The balance of the media fund is \$1,624. Dawn Paulsrud made a motion to approve treasurer's report, seconded by Krista Longthorne. 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. Brad Ydstie seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
13. **Next Meeting** – Wednesday, September 9th @ 5:30 p.m.
14. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carissa Olsen





NOTE: WELCA has **Meal Delivery: September 28 - October 2** (Dorcas workgroup)

Our Savior's WELCA met on **Thursday, August 6, 2026** with President Sylvia Hansen presiding.

Pastor Amanda led the Bible Study on the book of James, Chapters 1 & 2: "Hearing and Doing the Word."

The Table Prayer was said and lunch was served by the Hannah workgroup.

The Purpose Statement was read. Everyone signed a Get Well card for Senora Almquist.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted as read. The Treasurer's report was read by Judy Doeden and accepted as read. Judy will send \$200 to Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

OLD BUSINESS:

- Dorcas workgroup still doesn't have leaders.
- Appreciation gifts are still available for those who deliver meals.
- Sylvia is waiting for more information from the Care Center about serving monthly birthday parties.
- Looking for volunteers to be on the Library committee.
- No information on the new blinds in the upstairs lounge.

NEW BUSINESS:

- It costs \$4 to send each LWR Kit. Judy D. sent \$563 to LWR in May 2026. 18 quilts were sent. Jackie Lovas has 30 Kits - Health & Baby.
- Sylvia suggested another fundraiser this fall.
- Hannah workgroup has Meal Delivery in August. Dorcas workgroup has Meal Delivery in September.
- Jackie L. received \$250 from Thrivent for LWR school bags and more Baby Kits. There is a need as there have been a lot of natural disasters. Also, more Thrivent t-shirts are available.

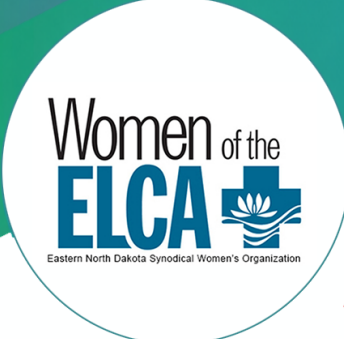
The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: September 3, 2026 at 10:00am at Our Savior's in the dining hall.

All women Welcome!

September 26, 2026 • Kulm, North Dakota

WELCA SWO CONVENTION



Joy

"... Joy of the Lord is Your Strength"
Neemiah 8:10b

Hello everyone.

Mark your calendars and spread the word to your congregations. September 26th is the date of the 2026 SWO convention in Kulm, ND (Just west of Edgely). We will have news from the triennial elections that must be filled, and updates that need input from all of you. Please join us to participate share your voice.

This year includes important elections and topics where we need broad input from every congregation. Your attendance and participation are essential to filling leadership roles and shaping our work going forward.

- REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH
- Register with Jeanne Wobbema - mrs wob@gmail.com - 701-230-8745
- Meal: \$15, paid at the door
- Please register by the deadline so hosts can plan food quantities

In-kind offerings

Kedish House

who are at this time gathering supplies to put in schools for teenage girls. They have 13 schools they will be supplying

Personal Care Items

(for high-school girls): body wash, shampoo, conditioner, deoderant, toothbrush & paste, tampons & pads ,chapstick

Jamestown Correctional Center

Offerings for the prison are always welcome in the need for yarn and fiberfill. They also have a need for crochet plastic hooks, and we do have the size for you. They are to be 5.5mm or size I. (suggested by someone to use amazon)

Again, please mark your calendars, inform your congregations, put them in your bulletins, shout it from the roof tops.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

We will be collecting filled shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child again this year. Now is a great time to be looking for school supplies items! **National Collection Week is Nov. 16-23, 2026**, so we will need filled shoeboxes returned to Our Savior's Church by Nov. 11th.

For children around the world, a shoebox is often their very first gift. Given together with the Good News of Jesus Christ, it communicates God's love to a boy or girl in need. So, it is important to make sure your gift is ...

FUN—includes a "wow" item and other quality toys

FULL—packed to the brim with additional school supplies and personal care items

PERSONALIZED—prayed over and contains a note and photo, which are often the child's favorite items!

How to pack a shoebox:

1. **FIND A SHOEBOX:** Use an empty shoebox (standard size, please) or a plastic container. Pre-made boxes will be available at Our Savior's Church.
2. **GET YOUR LABEL:** Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Mark the correct age category on the appropriate boy/girl label and affix the label to the top of your box. Labels can be found at the church or online at www.samaritanspurse.org
3. **FILL WITH GIFTS:** Select a quality "Wow" toy such as a soccer ball with pump or stuffed animal, then fill the box full with other fun toys, personal care items, and school supplies, may include a personal note/picture. (As an optional resource, Operation Christmas Child now also has an Amazon storefront with additional lists of quality items that are recommended for shoeboxes.)
4. **PRAY**
5. **Donate \$10 per shoebox**
6. **DROP OFF:** Bring the filled shoebox to Our Savior's Church **by Nov. 11, 2026.**

SUGGESTED GIFTS:

"WOW" ITEM AND TOYS: Soccer ball with pump, Dolls and stuffed animals, small backpack or purse, Jewelry making or hobby kit, puzzles, musical instruments, stickers, small ball, LEGO or building blocks sets, plastic animals, finger puppets, chalkboard & chalk, coloring books or pads

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: pens, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, pencil container, crayons, markers, colored pencils, notebooks, calculator, scissors, glue stick, index cards, ruler

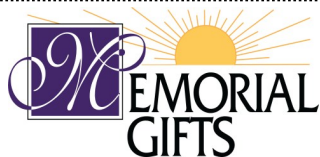
PERSONAL CARE ITEMS: toothbrush, washcloth, comb and brush, nail clipper and file, water bottle, flashlight

CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES: flip-flops or shoes, sunglasses, hat, wristwatch, costume jewelry, hair accessories, clothing, winter cap, scarf, mittens

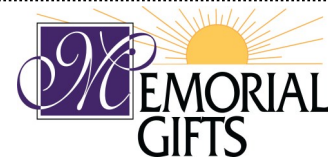


Do NOT include the following:

SOAP (no longer allowed)
Food, Candy, Gum
Toothpaste
Used or damaged items
Scary or War-related items, camouflage
Chocolate; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid)
Liquids or Lotions
Medications or Vitamins
Breakable items or glass containers
Aerosol cans



AUGUST 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 M/M Darin Oanes, Kari Jo Hanson, M/M Craig Boeddeker, M/M Gerald Radebaugh, M/M Court Hanson, Kevn Kuehl, M/M Dale Boeddeker, Janet Bjornstad, M/M Brian Kuehl, M/M Terry Elkins, Marilyn Ydstie, Keith Henka, Kenneth Henka

MEDIA FUND – In memory of Mary Ann Boeddeker, given by M/M Tom Tweten; in memory of Eugene Olson, given by Joel Thorsrud

YOUTH GROUP – In memory of Mary Ann Boeddeker, given by M/M Tom Olsen

WELCA – In memory of Mary Ann Boeddeker, given by Lorna Nysveen

OSLC FOUNDATION - In memory of Eugene Olson, given by M/M Jack Hansen

GLOBAL MISSIONS - In memory of Peggy Gilbertson and Mary Ann Boeddeker, given by M/M Jack Hansen

OSLC BANDS – In memory of Mary Ann Boeddeker, given by M/M Dave Nelson

THERE IS MUCH NEWS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THIS TIME AND I WILL ATTEMPT TO SUMMARIZE IT AS BEST I CAN.

There has been a goldmine collapse in CAR leaving 100 buried and many more missing or unaccounted for. Little information beyond the mine being closed down is available.

There are numerous news articles indicating that the CAR Government has made deals with the US Government to accept people being sent to other countries by the US Immigration Department. There have been at least two groups of people who had been immigrants in the US and considered safe there, who were arrested by ICE Agents and imprisoned. They were suddenly chained and put on planes and delivered to other countries. Some who were delivered to CAR have been able to communicate with news sources. CAR, which has limited services to meet the needs of it's own citizens, has placed at least some of the people in apartments with little comforts. The ones who reported are from Honduras and speak Spanish, so are unable to communicate with the people of CAR, including the guards. They would like to return to their part of the world but have no way to even communicate that. They have just arrived in CAR, so are unsure of what will happen to them. It was stated that our Government had paid the CAR Government large sums of money to take these people out of their hands. News releases gave information on numerous countries who had accepted immigrants from the US and were sending them back to their countries of origin into very unsafe places. It is sad that CAR is being used by the US by getting involved with actions that are being declared against the law by the US and World Courts. It would appear that the people of CAR are unaware of this situation.

Remember to keep the People of CAR in your prayers. Continue to support Global Missions. We are planning to continue our support of the Women and Girls Literacy program. There was an update of this project in last month's newsletter.

In His Service,

*Sylvia Hansen
Global Missions Committee*



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



EaND Synod

FALL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

September 13-16, 2026

Fair Hills Resort, Detroit Lakes, MN

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.

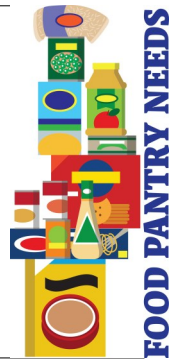
Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity through neighborhood book-sharing boxes. These books are always for lending – never for sale. Charter #103570



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



Open House Bridal Shower

An Open House Bridal Shower for Saige Forseth, bride-to-be of Gaven Nelson, will be held on **Sunday, September 20, 2026 from 1:00-3:30 p.m.** at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Hillsboro. The couple is registered at Amazon. *Please bring a favorite recipe to share with the bride-to-be (recipe cards provided).*



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, Joy McSparron, and Katie Reese

The Offering

Scan here

VANCO Mobile Faith Engagement

Text \$ amount to: **833-460-2876**

OSLC OFFERING STEWARDSHIP 2026 OFFERING RECEIVED		WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	
July 5	\$ 1,365.00	9:30am	38
July 12	\$ 10,332.00	9:30am	52
July 19	\$ 1,819.00	9:30am	56
July 26	\$ 5,753.00	9:30am	52
July Direct Deposit	\$ 7,670.00		
July Total:	\$ 26,939.00		
2026 Total:	\$220,125.75		

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

INCOME AND EXPENSES:

2026 Income received through
July 31: \$223,541.15

2026 Expenses through
July 31: \$231,738.43

Income Less Expenses: -\$8,197.28



Our Savior's Choir and Bell Choir (GosBELLS) practices will be starting up again soon!

Please look/listen for the exact day to be announced in the bulletins or during worship announcements!

All are Welcome!

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@oschlillsboro.com
Pastor Joe Johnson: cell—701-430-3787; pastorjoe@oschlillsboro.com
Education Pastor: Fr. Amanda Johnson- 218-556-8895
Visitation Minister: Joy McSparrow
Custodian: Steve Aanderud
OSLC Kitchen: 701-636-5705
OSLC Website: www.oschlillsboro.com
Facebook: oschlillsboro
X: OSLCHillsboro; **Instagram:** oschlillsboro ND
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