

# The Messenger

Newsletter of Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Hastings, Minnesota

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume XLIII - No. 1

February-April 2026



**SUNDAY**  
**9:00 am**  
Traditional Blended Worship  
**10:30 am**  
Modern Blended Worship



## REFRESH Wednesdays

- o Good News Gang Choir @ 5:15 pm
- o Meal served 5:30-6:45 pm
- o JAM @ 6 pm
- o God+Life @ 7 pm
- o REFRESH Worship Service @ 7 pm  
Led by the REFRESH Band

**An online service** will continue to be available on YouTube with the link provided on the church website and Facebook.

For those who do not have access to a computer or internet, please tune in to **KDWA 1460 AM** or **97.7 FM** radio at 6:30 pm on Sundays or 6:30 pm Wednesdays.



## February 18

4:30 pm – Ash Wednesday worship with the Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion

5:30-6:45 pm – Refresh Meal (Soup, Salad and assorted sandwiches.)

7:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Worship with the Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion



## H O L Y W E E K

### Palm Sunday, March 29th



8:30 – 11:45 am - Palm Sunday Breakfast  
*(Fundraiser by the youth, for Mission Trips and Camp Wapo.)*

9:00 am – Palm/Passion worship

10:00 am (between services) - Youth Egg Hunt

10:30 am – Palm/Passion worship  
(New Creation Band)

(NO CONNECT learning. Instead, come and eat breakfast and support the youth!)

### Wednesday, April 1

7:00pm - "Night Time Prayers: The Miracle We Never Talk About" Presentation by Ray Menard

### Maundy Thursday, April 2

7:00 pm – Worship service with Holy Communion



### Good Friday, April 3

7:00 pm – Tenebrae  
Service of Darkness

### Easter Sunday, April 5

8:00 am – Easter Worship

9:00 am – Easter Worship

10:00 am – Easter Worship

11:00 am – Easter Worship  
*with New Creation Band*

*Holy Communion at all Easter services*



### Easter Bake Sale!

8:30 am – while supplies last

# Pastor's Page

*From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples  
that he must go to Jerusalem. . . .*

Buckle your seatbelts. These weeks between Christmas and Easter can feel rather like a rollercoaster ride, with plenty of highs and lows and a number of twists and turns.

After all of the bright lights and colorful decorations that are part of the Advent and Christmas festivities, these early weeks in the new year can seem rather drab and dull. Often, the sky is gray and the snow looks dirty. At this time of the year when the nights are long and daylight so short, we remember and celebrate that Jesus is the Light of the World. Just as a bright, sunny day can lift our spirits, so, too, are we lifted by the Bible stories that we hear throughout this current season of Epiphany, the season of light. Imagine a cartoon lightbulb going off in one's head. That's what this season of Epiphany is all about – those Aha moments that enlighten us and help us to see more clearly who Jesus is and what he is all about.



By the end of the season of Epiphany on Transfiguration Sunday (Feb. 15), we will be climbing the mountain with Jesus and some of his disciples to experience a spectacular preview of coming attractions - a vision of Jesus in full glory. But hold on tight, because this rollercoaster that rises will also plummet down into the somberness of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent.

Jesus knows that he is headed toward Jerusalem. As we follow him on this journey to the cross, we will hear stories of Jesus' encounters with people in the midst of life's challenges, experiencing their own highs and lows and yearning for a hopeful future. These encounters will include Nicodemus, the woman at the well, and Mary and Martha who grieve for their brother, Lazarus, whom Jesus will raise from the tomb.

By the time we approach Holy Week the end of March into April, the pace of our journey will slow, and our focus will narrow and sharpen to zero in on those final days of Jesus' life on this earth – all that he says, all that he does, all of the love that he conveys in order to lead us all into the hopeful assurance that God always finds a way and that absolutely nothing is strong enough to defeat the all-powerful love of God.

It's a journey we make with Jesus every year. It's a journey filled with twists and turns, highs and lows, and yet we know how this story ends. Love wins. Life prevails. Hope abounds. Thanks be to God!

Blessings throughout this journey,

*Pastor Karen*

Matthew 16:21

## Ash Wednesday Youth Fundraiser – February 18



Come and attend an Ash Wednesday service at 4:30 pm or 7 pm, and enjoy a meal served in-between. Our Saviour's Youth will be hosting on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm. All proceeds will support youth attending Camp Wapo or a Mission Trip this summer. Thank you for your support!

## Palm Sunday - March 29th



Enjoy a morning of deliciousness and fun on Palm Sunday!

Breakfast by Chef Johnny served by our youth from 8:30 am – 12 Noon



For those ages 0 – 4<sup>th</sup> grade, we invite you to join in the Gathering space at 10 am

for an Egg Hunt. Children will have the opportunity to create a bag and gather eggs. All are welcome, bring the whole family!



Pick up a plate or two of goodies for your Easter celebration on Sunday, **April 5th** starting at 8:30a until supplies last!



**Faith and Civic Life Study Group**  
**February 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:30-11:30am**  
**Conference Room**

In the Lord's Prayer, we regularly pray "thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." What does that look like? And how can we work together for the common good?

Are you interested in wrestling with these questions? Pastor Karen will be leading a group study on the ELCA Social Statement Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All. Meeting once or twice per month on Tuesdays based on participants' schedules in the Conference Room in the church office. Click [Here](#) to read this thorough social statement. Look for the version of this document with the numbers along the left-hand side of the page. Contact [Pastor Karen](#) with any questions or if you need a copy printed for you.



**Wednesday REFRESH Meals with Chef Johnny**

Meals are served from 5:30 to 6:45 pm  
 Everyone is welcome. Freewill donation.  
 Chef Johnny is planning the following menus, subject to change if cost and/or availability is a factor.

- Feb. 4 - Swedish Meatballs
- Feb.11 - Tamale Pie
- Feb. 18 - Soup & Sandwiches
- \*Ash Wednesday - Youth Fundraiser
- Feb. 25 - Pizza Hut Pizza Night

**Wednesday Desserts and Serving**

Do you enjoy eating and/or making cookies, bars, desserts? Sign up to provide 2-3 dozen treats for our Wednesday meals. Bring to the church anytime on Tuesday or by 3 pm on Wednesday.  
*Important note!* If your dessert contains peanuts, nuts or other allergens, label them or let Chef Johnny know!

Join the kitchen crew in setup, serving and cleanup.

Many hands make light work.

Sign up [Here](#) or call the church office today!



Join us at our Wednesday REFRESH worship service where from now until Easter, we will be discussing the book of Matthew.



**Sundays**  
**10:00-10:30 am**  
**in the Fellowship Hall**

Grab a cup of coffee and join us!

Check out the slides in the Gathering Space, Weekly emails or the "This Week" for upcoming topics.

 <p><b>Our Saviour's</b>  <b>LUTHERAN CHURCH</b>  <b>God's Love Grows Community.</b></p> <p><b>Our vision:</b> <i>Rooted in God's grace, always made new.</i></p> <p><b>Our mission:</b> <i>Living as the hands, feet and heart of Christ.</i></p> <p><b>Our promise:</b> <i>Rejoicing together in God's grace, hope and love.</i></p>	<p>Our Ministers:          All members of Our Saviour's</p> <p>Pastoral Staff:          Karen Behling, Interim Senior Pastor          Joel Rova-Hegener, Associate Pastor</p> <p>Our Website: <a href="http://www.OSEL.org">www.OSEL.org</a>          Church email: <a href="mailto:OSEL@OSEL.org">OSEL@OSEL.org</a></p> 
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# Children, Youth & Family Ministry



## First Communion Workshop

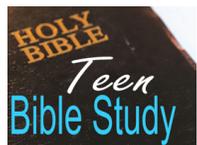
**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm**

All those in 5th grade or older (including those in JAM, God+Life, new to programming, etc.) who have not yet had a First Communion, are invited to attend the First Communion Workshop on Sunday, February 22 at 6pm. Students will learn more about Holy Communion and make their own Communion cups to use during their First Communion Service. Parents are invited to join the last 15 minutes of the workshop (7 – 7:15pm) in the Worship Center. Registration is required to help plan the materials. REGISTER NOW at [osel.org](http://osel.org).

## First Communion Service

**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am**

Bring your friends and family to celebrate this special milestone! Those who attended the First Communion Workshop will be using their hand-made cups and receiving the Holy Sacrament of Communion during the 10:30 am service.



Sundays  
9:30am  
Youth Center

Each month will have a different theme, so come to all or stop in when you can. Bibles are provided or you can bring your own. No need to register, just come as you are. **We'd love to see you there!**

**February - "Forgiveness"**

**March - "Understanding"**

Amy Hanson  
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry  
651-437-9052, ext. 30; [cyf@osel.org](mailto:cyf@osel.org)



Invite a friend and join us for an evening of fun and games! Each Youth Night is tailored to a specific age group and includes various activities, games, and a snack. Register by calling the church office at 651-437-9052 or clicking the link associated with the youth night you wish to attend.

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade** - Register [Here](#)  
Friday, Feb. 27, 6:30–8pm

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade** - Register [Here](#)  
Friday, Mar. 27, 6:30–8pm

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade** - Register [Here](#)  
Friday, April 17, 6:30–8pm



High Schoolers, come and start your day with a short devo, prayer, and your choice of beverage or donut at Froth & Cork. Arrive between 7 – 7:05am and join the group upstairs. New dates have been added for the Winter and Spring! Please sign up for only one date per month and don't forget to put in your beverage or donut order in the Comment Line. Click [Here](#) to sign up or online at [www.osel.org](http://www.osel.org).



## High School Youth Adventures

**Escape Room - Sunday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>**

Test your ability to piece together clues to escape! Grab a friend and join in the fun at "The Escape Room" at the Mall of America. We will meet at 12:30pm in the church parking lot at Our Saviour's. If you'd like to meet us at the Mall, please let us know and be there by 1:15pm. We will play our games from 1:30 – 2:30pm and return to the church parking lot by 3:15pm. (Plenty of time before the Super Bowl!)

[SIGN UP TODAY!](#)

## Top Golf (Woodbury)

**Sunday, Mar. 29**

Bring your friends and tee off before the actual golf courses open! This is perfect for those who love golf AND those who have never swung a club. We will meet in the lobby at Top Golf in Woodbury (560 Bielenberg Dr, Woodbury, MN 55125) at 1:15pm. If you need a ride, please contact Amy Hanson at [cyf@osel.org](mailto:cyf@osel.org). We will golf and enjoy snacks and beverages from 1:30 – 3:30pm.

Anyone in High School can attend so invite your friends!

[SIGN UP TODAY!](#)



## Camp Wapo & Ox Lake – Registration is OPEN!

We are thrilled to partner once again with Wapogasset Bible Camp in Amery, WI to provide summer camp experiences for our youth. Please sign up [Here](#) for our church-specific link to register your child. If our spots are full for the camp you are looking at, we encourage you to join the waitlist. Open spots DO occur, and they will clear the waitlist as spots open. Our Saviour’s currently has limited spots reserved for the following 2026 dates:

- Wapo Seeds (Completed 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) – July 24 - 25
- Wapo Youth (Completed 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade) – July 26-31
- Ox Lake Roots (Completed 10<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade) – July 26-31

If you have questions regarding a camp experience for your child, please feel free to reach out to Camp Wapo directly or Amy Hanson ([cyf@osel.org](mailto:cyf@osel.org)).



## High School Mission Trip to Milwaukee, WI Open to Grades 9-12

There are still spots open for the 2026 summer Mission Trip! This summer we travel to Milwaukee July 19 to July 25. We need to get our final numbers by **February 22nd**, so please invite a friend to be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ with you and answer God’s call to serve others! This trip is the perfect “first” mission trip! Find Registration Forms at the Information Desk. Contact Amy Hanson ([cyf@osel.org](mailto:cyf@osel.org)) or Pastor Joel ([joel.rh@osel.org](mailto:joel.rh@osel.org)) for more details.

### The Details

- Depart Sunday, July 19 (mid-morning)
- Serve July 20 - 23
- Free Day Activities July 24
- Return July 25 in the afternoon
- Cost: \$825/student

## \$100 for NEW Students!

Those who are NEW to attending a Mission Trip or Camp Wapo this year can receive \$100 toward their camp costs! **To receive the credit, you must contact Joyce Nelson ([joyce.nelson@osel.org](mailto:joyce.nelson@osel.org)) and let her know you are a new camper or mission trip participant.**

**Worried about the cost of camp?** Don’t be! Our Saviour’s offers a variety of fundraisers to participate in, and there are scholarship dollars available from Camp Wapo and Our Saviour’s. Please contact Joyce Nelson for a scholarship application.

Participate in one of the many fundraising opportunities offered by Our Saviour’s to offset the cost of camp or the mission trip. (Please note, students cannot receive both volunteer hours and fundraising, it’s one or the other.)

### Ash Wednesday Meal

Click [Here](#) to raise funds by helping serve/clean up at the Ash Wednesday Meal or donating baked goods.

### Palm Sunday Breakfast

Click [Here](#) to raise funds by helping serve/clean up at the Palm Sunday Breakfast or working the Egg Hunt.

### Easter Bake Sale

Click [Here](#) to raise funds by baking items and/or working the Easter Bake Sale.



## Gertens Flower Sale Starts Feb. 16

Get ready for Spring and help out our youth! This is a fantastic fundraiser for our youth who are attending mission trips or camp this summer. It’s easy to order – go to [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com), enter the Store ID Code of 151 or simply use the link on the website at [osel.org](http://osel.org) **beginning Feb. 16**. If you have any questions contact Ann Traeder at [ann.traeder@osel.org](mailto:ann.traeder@osel.org). **Orders must be placed online no later than Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 pm** with flower delivery on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Please let Ann Traeder know if you can help with the sorting of flowers on the morning of May 7<sup>th</sup>.

# Growing Community



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Looking for a way to give back to the community?  
Help with community outreach at Our Saviour's!

Each month Our Saviour's focuses on a unique need or partnership in our community. We need 1-2 people each month to help with the implementation and distribution of items (when necessary). All volunteers will work with a church staff member to best organize and promote the monthly requests. Sign up [Here](#) or at the Information Desk.

### Upcoming Outreach at Our Saviour's

**February** - Food 4 Kids (United Way of Hastings)

**March** - Food & Funds Drive (Hastings Family Services)

**April** - Easter Playpen and Park Cleanup

Watch your weekly updates and slides in the Gather Space and Worship Center for more information on each of these events to see how you can support our community!



November Outreach: Senior Holiday Gift Bags for Hastings Senior Center

Good News Gang  
at the  
City of Hastings  
Tree Lighting



January Outreach: Feed My Starving Children



Emergency Bags for Hastings Family



**Next Meals:**  
**Thursday, Feb. 5, 6:00 pm**  
**Thursday, March 5, 6:00 pm**

\*No Meal in April due to Maundy Thursday Service being held

Watch the announcement sheets or weekly email for upcoming menus. No reservations needed, just come!

All are welcome!

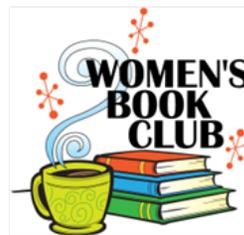
Signup sheets for food donations and help with prep/setup, serving and/or cleanup are available at the Information Desk at church or you can email Cathy Shores, at [cathyshores@me.com](mailto:cathyshores@me.com), or text/call Cathy at 651-208-6244 or contact the church office. Watch for digital sign up for food donations in your weekly emails and on slides in the Gathering Space.

## Tanzania Update



Our Saviour's has a long and deep companion church relationship with the parishes of Ilambilole and Ihominyi in Tanzania. This past year our congregation was blessed with enough funds to gift each parish funds that

were earmarked towards construction projects of their choosing. Ilambilole used the funds to put a roof on their future church building. These are relationships that we must continue to strengthen and grow. Thank you for your generosity.



**Women's Book Club**  
**First Saturday of the Month**  
**9a in the Chapel**

Joining a group, reading more books, having wonderful conversations – if any of these things are on your 2026 radar, you are in luck! Join the Women's Book Club for honest discussions about real topics through the lens of current novels. Whether you have read the book or not, try it out! The Women's Book Club meets the first Saturday of the month at 9am in the Chapel at Our Saviour's. No sign-up required, just show up!

### Upcoming Meeting Dates & Book List

- February 7 – Second half of "Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again" by Rachel Held Evans
- March 7 & April 4 – "The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah
- May 2 & June 6 – "A Full Life: Reflections of Life" by Jimmy Carter

\* 2026 Summer dates TBD.



50+ Better Together is a group for singles, couples, and friends.

If you have any questions, contact Lori Mikel at [lmikel57@me.com](mailto:lmikel57@me.com) or 651-336-3579.

Watch for fall event details in upcoming communications and in the Gathering Space.

Everyone is WELCOME!

Next Event:

**February 27th at 7:15pm**

Meal packing at Feed My Starving Children  
 990 Lone Oak Road in Eagan

Contact Lori by February 19th if you plan to attend.



United Way of Hastings student food initiative in partnership with





Our bodies need water to survive! But why? Years ago, in anatomy and physiology class I learned why water was so vital for survival. But apparently, like other nurses, I forgot to apply what I knew. I avoided drinking water when it wasn't convenient in the workplaces. I needed to change this. In my research I re-learned why water was so vital. I also noticed a correlation with the soul's need for water! So, I presented a CONNECT session titled "Water for Life-Body and Soul." Handouts are at the information desk or can be sent or emailed to anyone interested. This article gives a bit of information from my handout.

### Water for Life – Body

It might surprise you that water is the most abundant substance in the body. For example, a 154-pound man has a little over 10.5 gallons of water in his body. Of that, 7 gallons are inside his cells, 2.5 gallons are in the area around the cells, and nearly 1 gallon is in his blood, according to the Merck Manual. Water helps in ways such as delivering oxygen throughout the body, making hormones and neurotransmitters in the brain, as a shock absorber in the brain and spinal cord, and in regulating body temperature. Water is a vital nutrient to the life of every cell. It allows cells to grow, reproduce, and survive. God designed our bodies with the need for water, for our cells to function. Dehydration occurs when the body uses or loses more fluid than it takes in. We can lose more fluids than we normally lose each day, if there is profuse sweating, hot weather, high fevers, vomiting, or diarrhea. Inadequate fluid levels in the body can result in potentially serious complications. Infants, children, and older adults are most at risk for dehydration. The young are more likely to lose fluids through illness or high fevers. Older adults have a smaller fluid reserve, are less likely to feel thirsty, and may have conditions or take medications that increase their risk. Note that if you have a health condition requiring fluid restrictions, know your limits. Prevention of dehydration includes purposefully drinking more water each day and replacing fluids when excess fluids are lost. Intentionally drinking more fluids daily gets easier as you start feeling better from the practice!

### Water for Life – Soul

Our souls also need daily water from God's Word. Talk with God throughout your day, in the quiet and the noisy moments of life. Listen for God's still, small voice in reply. Notice changes and helpers around you. Bible verses placed in your home or by your computer remind you of God's unfailing love. We can feel dehydration of our souls in times of trial or uncertainty and realize our need for refreshment. Remember Isaiah 58:11 "The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."

## COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

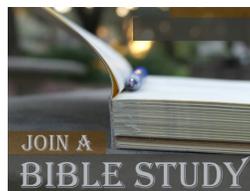
Hosted by Regina Medical Center Auxiliary  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

**Monday, March 2 ~ 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

**Saturday, March 14 ~ 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

*Ronnie Langenfeld Memorial Blood Drive*

For more information or to make an appointment,  
please call 1-800-RED CROSS  
visit: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
Enter Sponsor code: Our Saviours



### Small Groups Meet Weekly

Join in a weekly Bible study

Gather together with a pastor to read the scripture for the coming Sunday's worship, read commentaries concerning the scripture and then discuss, learn and grow in understanding, and faith.

**Please know you are invited!**

**Each of the following meets in person in the church building. Join a group!**

Tuesday — Women's Bible Study, 9:00 am

Wednesday — Men's Bible Study, 7:00 am

Thursday — Men's Bible Study, 9:00 am



**www.osel.org**

Donate and/or  
Pay Registration fees:  
**osel.org/give**  
(Click: Give Online)

- Ongoing Ministries
- Building Fund
- Youth Fundraiser
- Youth Mission Trip
- Tanzania Scholarships
- Memorial Gift
- Wedding Deposit
- Building Use
- Wednesday Night Meals
- Youth Activities

Find Recent Sermons,  
Photo Gallery and more!

## HOST TEAMS



### Hosts Team Needs!

2nd Sunday of the month  
(full team needed)  
9 am

4th Sunday of the month  
(join existing team)  
10:30 am

Contact Lori Mikel at  
lmikel57@me.com or Jennifer  
Whitson at [jennifer.whitson@osel.org](mailto:jennifer.whitson@osel.org)  
or call Our Saviour's office (651-437-  
9052) if you are interested in joining.

### Our sincere Christian sympathy is extended to:

Lloyd Menke - death of mother  
Bruce Spicer - death of aunt  
Family of Barb Barduson  
Jan Tripp - death of mother  
Family of Robert Baxter  
Nancy Angerman - death of sister  
Family of Karen Wilson  
Joyce & Mark Rust - death of daughter  
Diana Meyer - death of sister  
Joel Rova-Hegener - death of father  
Michele Russell - death of mother-in-law  
Kathy Anderson - death of husband  
Family of Richard "Doc" Anderson



Please remember these and others you may know of in your prayers.



We are grateful to receive the following  
memorials and gifts given by family  
and friends in memory of those listed  
for Christ's work through our  
congregation:

*Barb Barduson  
Cindy Johnson Farber  
Jerry Flom  
Gordon Gathright  
Ellsworth Johnson  
Loraine Menke*



**Kerry and Deb Linbo**  
on January 20th



Our prayer chain is composed of  
church members who pray daily  
for those requesting prayers for  
themselves and others. Prayer  
requests can be for anyone, not  
just members of our church or  
community. Requests are kept  
confidential unless otherwise  
specified and may be submitted to  
the Prayer Chain: [oselprayerchain@  
osel.org](mailto:oselprayerchain@osel.org) or to the Prayer Chain  
Anchor, Sherri Lohmann by phone  
or text at 651-307-6220 (voicemail  
is available if no one answers). You  
may also call the church office,  
651-437-9052.

### Personal and Family Devotionals and Care Notes

Provided by the Pastoral Care Team,  
these are available for free and found  
in the racks outside the church office.  
January through March booklets and  
Lenten devotionals are here. Some  
large print devotionals are available.  
Stop by M-Th, 9-4:00 or pick them  
up when you come to worship.



### Getting our Emails?

We have been sending weekly emails to keep you  
updated with what's happening at Our Saviour's. If  
you have not been receiving them and would like to,  
please provide us with your best email.

Call the office, 651-437-9052, or email: [osel@osel.org](mailto:osel@osel.org).

Checking your spam/junk mail is also a good idea.



God's Love truly grows Community here at Our Saviour's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Transition Team members:

Interim Pastor Karen Behling, Scot Bigalke, Theresa Chatelle,  
Ann Erickson, Michelle Mayo-Hellie, Lonnie Menard,  
Kathleen O'Connor, Dave Oxley, and Jan Tripp.

The Transition Team is NOT the Call Committee but is part  
of the Call Process.

Phase 1 of the call process is the leave taking of the retiring  
Senior Pastor. Phase 2 is the Transition Team and Interim  
Ministry. Phase 3 is the Call Committee. Phase 4 is Begin-  
ning New Ministry.

The assignment of the Transition Team is to gather data/  
information necessary to complete the Ministry Site Profile  
which is shared with the Synod and potential candidates. We  
have engaged in Active Listening, engaged in Conversations,  
consulted church records, and begun writing the Ministry  
Site Profile.

THE DATA SHOWS WE ARE NOT THE SAME. What  
really matters is the love of god unites us beyond any  
division!

- The transition team has engaged in over 100 one on one  
listening sessions with congregational participants ages  
10-100 this summer and early fall. A central value we  
are hearing is Community. After hearing that the church  
values community, council and staff adopted a theme  
for 2025: God's Love Grows Community.
- The team is beginning to work on drafts of the Ministry  
Site Profile so that the Congregation can review them.
- Our Process will End with an In Person and Virtual  
TOWN HALL planned to take place this spring.

THE TRANSITION TEAM STILL WANTS TO HEAR  
FROM YOU!

You can reach the transition team by: speaking to a person  
wearing a green transition team shirt, calling the church  
office and ask to be contacted by a member of the transition  
team, emailing the Transition team email  
[oseltransitionteam@gmail.com](mailto:oseltransitionteam@gmail.com), or dropping a note in the  
suggestion box at the information desk.

Blessings in Christ, Your Transition Team



While the exact origins of the Quilters group at  
Our Saviour's can't be pinpointed, it's ties go back  
to Women's Organizations at Our Saviour's as early  
as 1882, primarily Ladies' Aid. The Quilters were  
a small group within these organizations. There is  
documentation as early as 1971 of over 100 quilts  
being donated to various causes.

Today our Quilters consist of 6 core members that  
meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month  
from 9a-2p (some cut it a bit shorter when needed).  
Typically they work at pairing quilt tops with backs  
and putting in fiber fill before completing a full quilt.  
Some members sew quilt tops to be dropped off for  
other members to compile for the final product.

The completed quilts are distributed locally with the  
help of United Way of Hastings to other organizations  
such as Hastings Family Service, TLC and the  
Veteran's Home.

On average, the Quilters donate about 60 quilts per  
year. The materials for this group comes through  
donations of fabric and designated Memorial Funds  
for the purchase of fabric and batting. The greatest  
need the Quilters face is covering the cost of batting.  
On average a 30 yard roll of batting costs \$90. From  
this they can make approximately 15-18 quilts. They  
invite people to join their group! Even if you cannot  
sew, they have regular work of tying quilts that needs  
to be done. Can't make the Wednesday time-slot?  
Ask how you might sew quilt tops to be dropped off  
and used by the group. Contact the church office  
at 651-437-9052 or email [osel@osel.org](mailto:osel@osel.org) if you are  
interested in being a part of this group or would like to  
contribute in anyway.



# 2025 Finance Committee Annual Report

The Finance Committee thanks you for your continued partnership and support of the program ministry and vision of Our Saviour's. Your generous donation of time and resources allows us to sustain many areas of ministry and maintain our beautiful church. We are grateful to work with you as we seek to live the mission statement of Our Saviour's: "Living as the hands, feet and heart of Christ".

Below is a summary of the operating activity for 2025.

## Giving

- 2025 giving was \$956,419, a decrease of 5.1% – or \$51,154 – as compared to 2024.
- Despite the decrease in giving, we were able to meet all expenses and increase our Operating Reserve. Our goal is to have 3-6 months expenses in our Operating Reserve and we are currently at nearly two months in reserve.

## Expenses

- Total expenses for 2025 were \$956,076, a decrease of 4.5% – or \$44,738 – as compared to 2024.
- This decrease was largely due to decreased payroll expenses due to retirement, unfilled staff positions (NextGen Ministry Director and Outreach Coordinator), and changes with administrative staffing. We also had decreased expenses in the area of Youth as Youth Ministry needs were largely satisfied by your generous Dedicated Giving to this ministry.
- Decreased expenses were offset somewhat by increases in Serving Ministries (Wednesday Night Meals), building maintenance and repairs, and insurance expenses.

## Projects

With your Dedicated Giving, we were able to complete our landscaping project without any expense to our Operating Budget. Thank you for your continued generosity to maintain our place of worship!

Ashley Dellwo  
Treasurer

### Summary of 2025 Operations

Giving + Interest	\$ 956,419
Expenses	<u>-\$ 956,076</u>
Giving less Expenses	\$ 349
Payments to St. Paul Area Synod	\$ 61,668
<i>*Includes \$3,160 for Planting Hope</i>	
Operating Account Balance	\$ 112,627
Designated Savings Balance	\$ 232,975
Designated CDs Balances	\$ 217,400
Memorial Savings Balance	\$ 43,156

Click [Here](#) to donate to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church or mail your donation to the church office at: Our Saviour's,  
400 9th Street West,  
Hastings, MN 55033.  
Thank you for your support.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

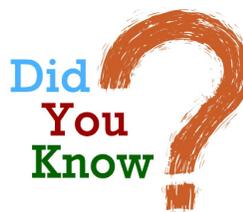
Ashley Dellwo    Joyce Nelson  
Jerry Wiegrefe    Jerrie Pittenger  
Karen Behling    Rob Judge



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