

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
PO Box 277 + 305 Sixth St
Cleveland, MN 56017



February
2026



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are called to let our light shine as instruments of the
Holy Spirit as all may know God's love.

305 6th St. + PO Box 277
Cleveland, MN 56017
(507)931-1564

<https://www.oursaviorscleveland.org>
oursaviorslutheran1@gmail.com



Contact Us!

Pastor Liz Rossing **Home (507) 931-5450**
pastor.oursaviorslutheran@gmail.com

Office Assistant, Sam Fraley **(507) 931-1564**
oursaviorslutheran1@gmail.com

Treasurer, Brian Block **(507) 560-0050**
lecenterhh@gmail.com

Custodian, Gary Hasse **(507) 931-1415**

OSLC Church Council

Tom Christensen, President **(507) 340-9404**
sellitfaster@hotmail.com

Jim Grabow, Vice President **(507) 720-7910**
jimgrabow0@gmail.com

Ginny Grabow, Secretary **(507) 304-0667**
vgrabow@gmail.com

Terri Heimerman **(507) 351-4973**
dtheimerman@gmail.com

Betty Consoer **(507) 317-7975**
bettyconsoer@gmail.com



Grapes from the Vine



From the Pastor

Beloved,

We are living in troubling times. As I write this, it is nearly one month since the fatal shooting of Renee Good and not quite two weeks since Alex Patti was killed in Minneapolis during Operation Metro Surge. Closer to home, there have been peaceful protests and fraught confrontations in St. Peter, Mankato, and Le Sueur Co. Neighbors, loved ones, and beloved members of our communities all over Minnesota (and the rest of the country) are shuttered behind closed doors in fear and desperate need. And, as has been the case for several years now, people are afraid of speaking openly with their neighbors for fear of stirring up political conflict, even within the walls of our church.

It breaks my heart and unsettles my spirit. Having grown up in the deep South, perhaps I feel the weight of division in a different way. You see, even though it has been over 160 years since the end of the American Civil War, there are ever present reminders in nearly every town. The Confederate flag can still be seen on a regular basis and the song popularly known as "Dixie" plays from car horns, ringtones, and high school marching bands. "The war of northern aggression" is a common phrase and the division between north and south lives on in the communal psyche.

I learned, from a young age, the dangers of deep political division and "othering". Othering is the social process of defining, labeling, and marginalizing individuals or groups as "not fitting in" or as "other" in relation to a dominant, "normal" group. It's the "us vs them" mentality. Othering goes against everything Christ teaches us. I have to repent often of this sin. Instead, reminding myself of the inherent dignity and belovedness of each and every person in this world. It would be so much easier to write off those who are different, that I disagree with, or who make me uncomfortable.

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February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 a.m. Worship Holy Communion 10 a.m. Fellowship	2	3	4 6 p.m. God Squad Service Project	5 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	6	7
8 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Fellowship	9	10	11	12 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	13	14
15 9 a.m. Worship Holy Communion 10 a.m. Fellowship	16	17	18	19 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	20	21
22 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Fellowship	23	24	25 5:45 p.m. Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:30 p.m. Worship	26	27	28

Annual Meeting of Our Savior's Lutheran Church Cleveland, MN, January 25, 2026

The 2026 annual meeting of Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Cleveland, MN was called to order by council president, Tom Christensen. All council members (Pr. Liz, Tom Christensen, Terri Heimerman, Betty Consoer, Jim & Ginny Grabow) -were in attendance with approximately 37 additional voting members. Pastor Liz Rossing led the devotional as printed in the annual report.

Old Business:

- **Pastor's report** on the 2025 ministries of Our Savior's was approved on a motion by Greg Davis and a second by Cindy McCabe.
- **Secretary's minutes** of the 2025 annual meeting were approved following a motion by Brian Block and a second by Terry Batemen.
- **Members & Stats**—The stats showed an average weekly attendance of 53 for 2025. Several corrections were made in the first communion list. Total baptized, active members for 2025 was 260.
- **Council President's report**—Tom thanked the many people who helped with Building & Grounds tasks. There was nothing new to report on the parsonage roof project, which will be done early spring. Tom shared the plans for removal of the large maple tree behind the parsonage. We have some members who will assist in removing wood once it is down. The condition of the parsonage deck was discussed. We will explore in greater detail once the maple tree is removed. It was suggested that a new deck be maintenance-free.

New Business:

- **Finances & budget**—Brian Block, treasurer, took questions on the financial report. It was acknowledged that the utilities section is hard to budget for due to increasing energy costs. Brian answered a question on the interest rate on our CDs. Gratitude was expressed for the gifts of the people of Our Savior's that enable us to carry out our ministry here. Motion by Mark Consoer, second by Terry Bateman to accept the financial report. Passed.
- **2026 Budget**—Approved on a motion by Deb Gehrke, second by Dean Heimerman. A 4% salary increase for employees of Our Savior's was authorized by the vote.
- **Election of council members:** Marcia Carlson was nominated by Terri Heimerman and Scott Lassiter was nominated by Jim Grabow. Both were duly elected & will serve beginning with the February meeting, when officers will be elected by council.
- **Synod Assembly, in Mankato, May 2, 2026:** Terri Heimerman has volunteered to attend with Pr. Liz. We can send one more volunteer. If interested, please contact Pr. Liz.
- **Internet Service Provider:** A question was asked about our Internet service. We explored changing to MetroNet from Mediacom and found that we could save some money each month by changing. This change has increased our Wi-Fi capability in the church building.
- **Participation of young adults and children:** The group discussed the desire to explore improving faith formation in families of young adults with children. How can we help?
- **Adjourn:** Motion by Cindy McCabe with a second by Scott Lassiter. Passed
- The meeting closed with Prayer.

Ginny Grabow, council secretary

Called to Let Our Light Shine!

OSLC News and Announcements

God Squad

The kids are loving the VBS format with a Bible story, music time, games and crafts, and a snack! We'll continue to have Family Worship (including Holy Communion) on the first Wednesday of the month.

- February 4 – Service Project
- February 18 – Family Worship & Ash Wednesday Worship

February Make and Pray

This month's Make & Pray will be held on Monday February 9th at 6 p.m. Do you remember candy hearts for Valentines Day? The February Make & Pray activity and devotion is about "Christian Candy Hearts". Join Pr. Liz in creating iron on t-shirt transfers. Cost is \$5 and you need to bring a shirt or textile item to put your transfer on.

Worship & Music Committee Meeting

The Worship & Music Committee will be having a meeting following the service at 10 a.m. this Sunday February 1st.

Choir Notice

Easter Choir practice will start on Wednesday February 25th after worship service.

Bible Study Schedule

Adult Bible Study continues on Thursday mornings at 10:30 am. Come share faith, fellowship, and treats!

Can YOU Help Us?

We have a number of people who depend on our online streaming for their Sunday worship experience. We have three trained operators, and we could use a few more so we can offer our services each Sunday.

If you would be willing to learn to serve in this way, please call or text Ginny Grabow at 507-304-0667 or email vgrabow@gmail.com.

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

We follow Cleveland School District for all weather-related closings. If our school is closed or dismissed early due to weather, ALL church related activities, particularly God Squad activities on Wednesdays are cancelled. Our Sunday worship and other scheduled meetings will be announced. Sunday worship will be announced through our local St. Peter radio station, KRBI – FM 105.5, and KEYC News.

From the Pastor Cont.

We are called to love others as Christ first loved us (1 John 4:19). And as the Apostle Paul wrote to the community at Corinth during a particularly divisive time, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." (1 Cor. 13:4-8a)

A recent letter from the six Minnesota Bishops of the ELCA spoke of living God's love in this way, "we commit ourselves to continue to pray, to advocate and act... and to use the resources and gifts we have to work toward the fulfillment of the reign of God, so that all may know the abundance of life Jesus comes to give (John 10:10). We encourage you to remain connected to one another and actively support the efforts in your communities to meet the needs of those directly impacted in this time of fear and intimidation." And "When the challenges that surround us are overwhelming, we cling to what is true. We serve a God who sees us and who enters into the beauty and messiness of human life in the person of Jesus the Christ. Because of what God in Christ has done, we know that God is with us and we are not alone (Romans 8:38-39).

Until the day the reign of God arrives in full, we continue to work for justice and peace, grounded in prayer, rooted in Scripture, and compelled by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Link to full letter [here](#).)

Be brave and courageous dear ones, be agents of peace, and live God's love in word and deed. Peace be yours,

Pr. Liz

Birthdays

2nd Chris Glassel, Jenna Zimmerman
3rd Tony Smith, Rylan Wargelin, Leanne Wolf
4th Cade Olson
5th Joe Biehn, Peter Koppelman, Karna Ziebarth
6th Leo Koppelman
7th Kristin VanEck, Walter Glaser, Mattea Grandaw, Jordan Wolf
8th Ravae Biehn
10th Gaylord Martin
11th Neenah Lassiter
13th Lori Mueller
17th Terri Heimerman
18th Reid VanEck
19th Dave Voss
21st Kayla Schafer, Myron Wolf
22nd Allison Cink, Anthony Hollerich, MacKenzie Johnson, John Weber
28th Wendy Friedrichs, Anne Hiller, Vicki Walechka, Andrew (A.J.) Zimmerman, Macey Ziebarth

Please contact oursaviorslutheran1@gmail.com to request changes or prayers.

Aniversaries

1st Scott & Cindy Hass
14th Brian & Rhea Block
24th Patrick & Karen Johnson

Prayer Concerns

Members: Charlotte Jacoby+, George Bauer+, Kevin Mueller+, Karen Johnson+, Bradley Riba+, Michaela Biehn+, Jean Seely+, Jayne Martin+, Dianne Hansen+, Doug Starkweather+, Joanna Starner+, Molly Stoffle+

Non-Members: Cindy Wieland+, Holly Kallestad+, Deb Vieth+, Gary McCabe+

Those in the military service

Active Military: Brendon Brown, Alex Garrison, Chris Glassel, Tyler Seitz, and Tyler Piotter.

We also pray for all veterans who have served in our nation's Armed Forces.

Preparing for Worship

2/1: Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; Matthew 5:1-12

2/8: Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:4-9;
Matthew 5:13-20

2/15: Transfiguration of Our Lord
Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99; Matthew 17:1-9

2/22: First Sunday in Lent
Romans 5:12-19; Psalm 32; Matthew 4:1-11

