

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS IN MINISTRY

Sunday, December 21st
8:45am Traditional Worship
8:45am Youth Club Worship Skills
9:45am Fellowship Time After Worship
9:45am Rooted in Love Update - Luther Hall
10:45am Contemporary Worship

Tuesday, December 23rd
10:00am Quilters

Wednesday, December 24th
NO COW, YC or YCJR
Office Closed - Christmas Eve
11:00am Children's Worship
11:00am Youth Club Worship Skills
4:30pm Candlelight Family Worship
6:00pm Dolce Bells Rehearsal
7:00pm Chancel Singers Choir Rehearsal
10:00pm Traditional Candlelight Worship

Thursday, December 25th
7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous
Office Closed - Christmas

Friday, December 26th
7:00pm Opera Rehearsal

Saturday, December 27th
Communion Set up
8:00am Overeaters Anonymous
8:30am Cornerstone Rehearsal
6:00pm Opera Rehearsal

Sunday December 28th
9:45am Worship
10:45am Fellowship Time After Worship
2:00pm Opera Performance

Monday, December 29th
6:30pm Scouts Troop 65

Tuesday, December 30th
10:00am Quilters

Wednesday, December 31st
NO COW, YC or YCJR



Lead Pastor
Leland Armbright
[Extension x1004]
larmbright@oursaviorsonline.org



CYF Pastor
Susie Modrow
[Extension x1005]
smodrow@oursaviorsonline.org



Director of Contemporary Music
Ellie Lehn
elehn@oursaviorsonline.org



Interim Choir & Handbell Director
Doreen Hutchings



Traditional Service Accompanist
Katherine Shmelev
kshmelev@oursaviorsonline.org



Director of Children's Choir
Joy Rauner
763.234.8131



Office Manager
Sierra Busakowski
sbusakowski@oursaviorsonline.org



Finance
Christine Ventrelli
cventrelli@oursaviorsonline.org



Director of Children's Ministry
Danielle Draheim
ddraheim@oursaviorsonline.org



Director of Youth Ministry
Nick Gilbert
ngilbert@oursaviorsonline.org



Nursery Attendant
Christine Evans



Nursery Attendant
Julie Ackerman



Audio/Visual
Tyr Altman

Kerry Gustafson
Don Lyk
Tyr Altman

Audio/Visual Team
Andrea Stone
Ellie Lehn
Johnnie Timm

Joy Rauner
Richard Rossiter
Brian Sanderson

Head Ushers
Vern Nelson
Chuck Sikora

Funeral Coordinators
Joy Rauner
Pat Feine

SUNDAY WORSHIP

December 21, 2025 †



*Created for relationship with God, all people everywhere and creation itself.
Called to equip people to serve by growing disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Fourth Sunday in Advent
TRADITIONAL SERVICE - 8:45AM

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY
Rev. Susie Modrow
Rev. Leland Armbright
Katherine Shmelev, piano/organ
Youth Club Percussion

Chancel Singers Choir
Dolce Bells
Arriana Stone, clarinet

PRELUDE *Carol of the Bells*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP
L: Beloved, God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit’s guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.
C: **We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**
L: Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real—realer than real—to ignore.
C: **We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**
L: For generations, God has sent signs of God’s coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.
C: **We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**
L: Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.
C: **Come! Let us worship as we listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

GATHERING HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ELW#257
verses 1 - 4

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH **Remus Household**
L: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary’s womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God’s love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.
C: **With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world’s judgment.**
L: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

HYMN *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* ELW#240
verses 1 - 4

GREETING
L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY
L: Let us pray, God of all time,
C: **Your Word became flesh and walked among us. Receive our gratitude and awe for all that you have done through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING
Reader: Ruel Carpenter

JOHN 1:1-18
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

L: The Gospel of the Lord!
C: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON **Pastor Susie Modrow**

HYMN OF THE DAY *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*
all verses ELW#251

CREED
We Believe, Jesus has taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God’s Kingdom. We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice and love will triumph in the end, and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day ‘all tears will be wiped away’ and ‘the lamb will lie down with the lion.’ True peace and true reconciliation are not only desirable, they are assured and guaranteed. This is our faith, and our hope.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
After each intercession, please respond to the words,
L: Lord, in your mercy,
C: **Hear our prayer.**

Attendance Totals:
December 14th, 2025

8:45 AM	10:45 AM
In-person = 54	In-person = 82
Online* = 82	Online* = 68

*The ELCA's online worship reporting guidelines multiply online views by 2 to account for individuals within a household.

Online Giving

Scan the QR code to the left with your cell phone camera to go to our online giving site.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

9185 LEXINGTON AVE N.
CIRCLE PINES, MN 55014
WWW.OURSAVIORSONLINE.ORG

office@oursaviorsonline.org
sbusakowski@oursaviorsonline.org

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RECONCILIATION

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise!

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial.
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

COMMUNION BLESSING

L: May the body and blood of our precious Lord and Savior, strengthen you and keep you to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

L: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

L: May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you hope in the waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW#250

all verses

DISMISSAL

L: The Lord is coming. We wait with hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE


We Three Kings

Youth Club Drummers

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

@instagram.com/oslcpcirclepines
@facebook.com/oslcp
Follow Us

ADVENT SCHEDULE



December 21, 2025

WORSHIP SERVICES


TRADITIONAL @ 8:45AM
CONTEMP. @ 10:45AM

ROOTED IN LOVE - TALK

@ 9:45AM LUTHER HALL

FELLOWSHIP TIME

@ 9:45AM
@ 11:45AM



December 24, 2025

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

AT 11:00AM

A worship service specially designed for children. Families and friends are invited to praise and worship the newborn king in a style appropriate and meaningful to young children. There will be puppets, stories and song time.

FAMILY CANDLELIGHT


AT 4:30PM

Join us in the sanctuary for our family candlelight service.

TRAD. CANDLELIGHT

AT 10:00PM

Join us in the sanctuary for our traditional candlelight service.




December 28, 2025

WORSHIP SERVICES

ONE BLENDED SERVICE
@ 9:45AM

FELLOWSHIP TIME


@ 10:45AM



763.784.1971


www.oursaviorsonline.org


9185 Lexington Ave. N. Circle Pines, MN 55014




CHILDREN’S WORSHIP, CHRISTMAS EVE 11:00 AM -

Join us for a worship service specially designed for children. Families and friends are invited to praise and worship the NEWBORN KING in a style appropriate and meaningful to young children. Kids interested in playing piano or other musical instrument for the prelude/postlude or interested in reading scripture during this worship service should call or text Joy Rauner, 763-234-8131 or email at joyrauner2@gmail.com by December 19.



Ingredients/nutrition facts for the communion bread can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

LIVE
STREAMING

Please be aware that we livestream all of our worship services; including audio & video recording. By participating, you consent to being recorded & understand that the content will be shared publicly. Thank you for your understanding.

Young Adults Gathering

Calling all young adults (ages 18-35)! We will be having a post Christmas/New Years gathering on Saturday, January 3rd at 6 pm. Spend some time catching up with old friends, playing games, and reminiscing in the youth room. Please RSVP to Nick by December 28. There is no cost to join and friends are welcome!

Please remember in your prayers:

Rusty, Jeff Weiss, Jacque Capistrant, Dona Paulson, Peggy Nelson, Darlene & Dave Hults, Tori Appelhof, Cindy Hanson, Richard & Lynn Rossiter, Sandy Ellenwood, Jim Rauner, Gail Willenbring, Marnie Mackey, Deb Rykken, Ackerman Family, Stephanie Erickson.

Shana, daughter of Russ and Cindy Ellenwood
Denny and Sharon’s friend, Larry
Annie, granddaughter of Roy & Pat Feine
Tom, Father-in-Law of Beto Farias & Father to Adam Ginkel
The Dolney Family, for the loss of Marjorie Sorvig
Martin Remus & family
Molly & all family + friends of Darla

First Responders, Military & their families
San Isidro Labrador in Guatemala, Tarkanfi in Ethiopia

Shut-ins unable to worship with us include:

Marnie Mackey, Marlys Gamm, Elaine Thielke, Cindy Durand, Katie Stormo, Garnet Ellertson, Russ Eklund & Marlena McClanahan.


To join the prayer chain or to add your concerns, please email prayerchain@oursaviorsonline.org or call Jeanne Zaske at 651-398-2414


Thank you for being a hero and a blessing to our community. Your care and support for people of all ages shines through in everything you do. We are deeply grateful for the kindness you've shown us, and for welcoming us into your facility. sincerely Troop 65

High School Mission Trip Detroit July 11-18

Scan the QR code below for the info packet & registration link.

The registration for the 2026 High School Mission Trip to Detroit is now open! Follow the links for more information and to register for the trip. Spots are limited. We are also looking for a couple adults to join us on this adventure. See the last page of the informational packet for more information on adult leaders. If you are interested in being an adult leader of the mission trip contact Nick Gilbert. Deadline to register is January 11, 2026.

Registration Form

Info Packet

OSLC Financial Summary

For the Eleventh Month of our Year Ended December 31, 2025

	Nov 2025 Actuals	YTD 2025 Actuals
Total Income	\$36,515	\$508,206
Total Expenses	\$51,325	\$624,200
Budgeted Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$14,810)	(\$115,994)
Pass Through (Income) Expense	\$418	\$1,381
Other Income	\$0	\$34,038
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(14,392)	(80,575)

Treasurer's Report


Financial Statement - Year to date we have received \$508k against our budgeted revenue of \$616.7k Our YTD Expenses are \$624.2k compared to a budget of \$630.2k This puts us at a negative \$116k year to date. However, because of the Employee Retention Credit of \$34,038, we are now at a negative \$81k.

Balance Sheet & Cash Flow - The total of cash and accounts receivable is \$184.5k. Funds allocated to dedicated accounts is \$170.1k. We have had to draw from our savings over the last 2 months to pay our bills and dedicated accounts are at risk.

The Congregation Council is actively evaluating ministry plans and will engage the congregation in decision making regarding putting forth a balanced budget for 2026.

What are you giving your family, friends, and neighbors for Christmas?

Studies show that 60-80% of those who don't attend church would attend worship if invited to attend worship with someone they knew. Additionally, Christmas is a time when more people are open to an invitation than other times throughout the year. Consider inviting your family, friends, & neighbors to join you at worship this Christmas Eve at 11:00am, 4:30pm, or 10:00pm.




PARENTS

We love having children in worship - wiggles, giggles, and all! Here are some ways your child is invited to participate:

- * Visit the Playground Table next to the pulpit (toys/puzzles)
- * Roam around the sanctuary
- * Grab a worship bag (located behind the A/V booth)
- * Visit our staffed nursery
- * Help lead the greeting (pastors will invite the kids up)
- * Come up for the children’s message

Children are invited to move freely between all of these spaces. We’re glad you’re here and welcome the opportunity to support you as you fulfill the promises of baptism!

Join Pastor Leland today (12/21) in Luther Hall at 9:45am for an update on the Rooted and Grounded in Love dreaming sessions. Thank you to the nearly 70 people who participated and shared their hopes and dreams for Our Savior's.



The Endowment Committee will be offering a free workshop sponsored by Thrivent Financial to spark ideas for estate planning, wills, trusts & long term care. This is for you! If you have started a new job, are married or divorced, have children or not, you will not want to miss this free opportunity! No obligation to purchase anything. Join us on January 15, 2026 at 6:00 pm in Luther Hall for free pizza + conversation. Please RSVP to Paul Solheim 763-218-0397 or pksolheim@comcast.net so we can order plenty of pizza. See you in January!

A Special Way to Support Our Church: Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

If you are 70½ or older + have a Traditional IRA, there's a powerful, tax-efficient way to support Our Savior's mission: a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD allows you to transfer funds directly from your IRA to our church, our other 501c3 organizations, tax-free.

Key Benefits for Eligible Donors:

- * Tax-Free Giving: The amount you donate via a QCD is excluded from your taxable income, which may help reduce your overall tax liability.
- * Satisfy RMDs: If you are age 73 or older and are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution, a QCD can count toward all or part of that yearly requirement.
- * Direct Impact: Your gift directly supports our ministries and mission – helping us serve our community and share God’s love.


Thank you for considering this special way to support the work we do together in faith!

Nominations for Planning Council, Nominating Committee + Adult Team

The Nominating Committee has begun its work to identify potential candidates to fill open positions for 2026. We are looking to fill four positions on the Planning Council, three on the Nominating Committee and two on the Audit Team. Candidates will be voted on at the congregational meeting on February 22.

If you have been looking for a way to serve Our Savior's or are interested in a new opportunity that impacts the future of our ministry, please consider any of the open positions mentioned. Current Nominating Committee members Laurie Dahl (linodahls@comcast.net), Tanya Dolney (tanyadolney@gmail.com), and Erika Pouliot (erikagjerde@yahoo.com) are working to finalize the slate of candidates by mid-January so are happy to answer any questions. Please prayerfully consider serving if a Nominating Committee member contacts you.

Over the past couple of weeks, the families + students who attend Noah’s Ark have collected toys, school supplies, and personal care items to be packaged and shipped to children around the world. In addition to the donated items, Noah’s Ark students included handwritten notes and drawings, sharing messages of love, kindness, and encouragement.



This Sunday, coffee and treats will be sponsored and served by the Facility Team. The team was busy sharing their time and talent this year by reviewing vendor contracts, organizing work sessions, monitoring the boilers, managing and repairing the irrigation system, handling routine maintenance and making miscellaneous repairs like addressing roof leaks and condensation issues. If you have talents in the facility field that you'd be willing to share, please talk to one of the Facility Team members today - they'll be easy to recognize.

