

# THE PULSE



OUR SAVIOR'S  
Lutheran Church

## Our Savior's Lutheran Church Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025

Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church

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# ADVENT SCHEDULE



### December 7, 2025

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

TRADITIONAL @ 8:45AM  
CONTEMPORARY @ 10:45AM

#### LIFT ADVENT CRAFT

AT 9:45AM

Join us in Luther Hall for an interactive advent craft the entire family can enjoy throughout the entire month of December!

#### ADVENT CONCERT

AT 6:30PM

Join us in the sanctuary for an Advent Concert featuring performances by the Chancel Singers, Rebecca Luttio, OSLC Youth, Dolce Bells, Cornerstone, the OSLC Drama Team, and a variety of woodwinds, brass, and organ.

### December 14, 2025

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

TRADITIONAL @ 8:45AM  
CONTEMPORARY @ 10:45AM

#### FELLOWSHIP TIME

@ 9:45AM  
@ 11:45AM

#### STILL WORSHIP

AT 7:00PM

Join us in the sanctuary for STILL Worship, a reflective worship, led by our very own OSLC Youth.



### December 21, 2025

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

TRADITIONAL @ 8:45AM  
CONTEMPORARY @ 10:45AM

#### 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.

763.784.1971

www.oursaviorsonline.org

9185 Lexington Ave. N. Circle Pines, MN 55014



Christmas is coming!



[Online Order Form](#)

[Plant Selection](#)



Order your poinsettia plants today to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas and give a gift of honor of a loved one!

The poinsettias will be ordered through the office and placed around the altar for our Christmas Eve services (11:00am, 4:30pm, and 10:00pm). The flowers/plants you purchased can be picked up AFTER our 10:00pm service on 12/24/2025 or during normal office hours the week of December 29th.

Physical forms (found in the office) can be return to the office completed with a check in the amount you ordered made out to Our Savior's Lutheran Church with "Poinsettia Memorial" in the memo line. Online forms (with online payment) can be found by clicking the button link below. The cut-off date to get order forms in by is December 14th.

If you have any questions please reach out to Sierra in the office.  
Thank you!

### *Advent Concert 12/07*

You're invited to "The Best Gift Ever"! Join the musicians and performers of Our Savior's Lutheran Church for a joyful Christmas concert and play written by Ellie Lehn-Timm.

Enjoy performances by the Chancel Singers, Rebecca Luttio, OSLC Youth, Dolce Bells, Cornerstone, the OSLC Drama Team, and a variety of woodwinds, brass, and organ.

- Sunday, December 7th
- 6:30 PM
- OSLC Sanctuary (9185 Lexington Ave. N. Circle Pines, MN 55014)

Stay afterward for a festive cookie reception in Luther Hall — sweet treats and warm conversation included!



[Click here to share or respond to our Facebook event](#)

### ❑ **Sweet Holiday Skill Alert!** ❑

*Baklava Class*

Saturday, December 13th

10 AM – 12 PM ~ Free to attend!

Join us in the kitchen at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (9185 Lexington Avenue North, Circle Pines, MN 55014) and learn how to create the perfect holiday baklava with Sandy Kurkowski as your guide. Come for the fun, stay for the sweetness... and maybe bring home a new signature dessert!

Bring a friend — everything's sweeter together!

RSVP/Register to Sandy: Text/Call 612-309-8488

[Check out our Facebook event for it here!](#)

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH BAKLAVA BAKING CLASS

## BAKLAVA BAKING CLASS

at Our Savior's Lutheran Church



Join us in the kitchen at Our Savior's Lutheran Church and learn how to create the perfect holiday baklava with Sandy Kurkowski as your guide. Come for the fun, stay for the sweetness... and bring home a new signature dessert!

DECEMBER 13 | 10-12PM  
9185 LEXINGTON AVE. N.  
CIRCLE PINES, MN 55014

hands-on instruction for every skill level  
no experience needed  
learn authentic techniques step-by-step  
a festive skill you'll use for years to come

RSVP AT 612-309-8488 WWW.OURSAVIORSONLINE.ORG



### AMAZING GRAYS

Reminder: Season's Dinner Theater Matinee, doors open at 10:30 AM; performance begins at 12:30 PM. **No** church van is provided so form your own car pool and proceed directly to the Bunker Hills Event Center.

**Notice: Dairy Allergy:** The side dishes, which are part of the meal, contain dairy. Please contact [Callie.Kiepe@BunkerHillsEventCenter.com](mailto:Callie.Kiepe@BunkerHillsEventCenter.com) and inform her so the staff can be made aware and plan accordingly.

Say a prayer for good weather that day!

### "In-Between" Fellowship: The Results Are In!

You voted, and we listened! Join us for coffee, treats, and fellowship **between the 8:45 AM and 10:45 AM services.**

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with friends and meet new people. Various mission teams will continue hosting and providing delicious refreshments each week. We hope to see you there!



# Thank you.

During the month of November, the confirmation & SALT youth partnered with the congregation in collecting donations for the Centennial Foodshelf. Thanks to you, we were able to donate a whopping 787 pounds of non-perishable items!!!

God walks with us in the fiery furnaces of life, just like with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. It's good to walk together with our neighbors during times of difficulty.



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## STILL Worship December 14th

All are welcome to join us Sunday, December 14, at 7:30 pm for our annual STILL worship. This quiet, reflective Christmas worship is hosted by the high school SALT students. Come hear some great music from the high school

band, NOEqual, and hear from a couple congregate members on their faith. This year's speakers will be Chuck Sikora and Evan Dufresne. The offering collected will go towards supporting a charity of the youth's choice.

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### **Congratulations to Sarah Ward and Matt Martien**

**Sarah Ward was elected to serve as Council Secretary through February 2026.** Sarah and her family came to Our Saviors in 2023, in 2024 she joined the Endowment Committee, and in 2025 she was elected to serve a three-year term on the Congregation Council. Sarah brings a wealth of experience in healthcare systems and process management, a love of music and singing, as well as humor and compassion.



**Matt Martien was elected to serve on the council through February 2028.** Matt became a member of Our Savior's in 2017, and his family has become more active members over the past year. Matt has been involved with the Facilities Maintenance team, and his family is looking for ways to be part of the Children, Youth, and Family ministry. Matt is also passionate about our sister congregation in San Isidro, Guatemala.

"The congregation has an incredible opportunity to bring a community together who is focused on benefitting others, despite going through some tough times over the past few years". "The congregation and its members are resilient and I look forward to seeing a reinvigorated group of people come together stronger than ever to serve God's purpose." Serving the community was a core principal Matt noticed the first day he stepped in to our Savior's and it is something his family wants to be a part of moving forward.

Matt offers a new perspective on the Council because he is not only a more recent member but also has a young family who wants to make Our Savior's their place of worship. Additionally, with their family's involvement in youth activities in the Centennial School District and youth sports associations, Matt has new ideas to the congregation on how to attract and retain young families. Matt works at Medtronic and brings attention to detail and strategic decision-making experience to the work we are doing at Our Savior's.

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Please complete your Ministry Support card by **December 7th** to communicate how you will support Our Savior's Ministry Plan.

**Ministry Support cards can be completed online here**  
**<https://oslcp.breezechms.com/form/2026Stewardship>**  
**by December 7th.**



Ministry Support cards will also be available in the church office/during service. \*Please return completed cards to the office by Dec 7th.

*Please prayerfully consider how you will support Our Saviors and what God is calling us to be!*

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### **Help Thank Our Savior's Staff this Christmas**

As 2025 draws to a close, we at Our Savior's have much to be thankful for: a new lead pastor after a period of transition, and a variety of ministries that continue to serve our congregation, our communities and beyond.



We are especially grateful for our amazing OSLC staff. It takes a devoted team to guide these ministries, lead volunteers, and keep the church humming behind the scenes. Our staff brings us meaningful worship filled with wonderful music, cares for our children in the nursery, teaches God's love in Bible school and provides Christian education in confirmation and through mission trip opportunities. They create safe spaces for community, discussion and adult learning. They tend to us with compassion during life's joys (marriages, baptisms) and sorrows (illnesses, funerals). They manage the business of church, from paying bills to communications to technology. And they do so much more that we as members simply don't see.

To recognize the blessings our staff provides, the Human Resources Committee, together with the Congregational Council, invites you to help thank our staff this Christmas season. On November 30 and December 7, a table will be in the narthex with several ways for you to participate:

1. **Write a thank you note.** Share a note of gratitude with a specific staff member or the whole team. Your words of thanks and encouragement will help brighten their busy work season. Notecards will be available at the table and can be dropped in a box there when complete. They will be shared with staff during December.
2. **Sign up for a small act of service** Christmas season brings its own set of stressors for those who work in a church. You can sign up for a simple act of kindness, such as bringing in treats or a meal. A list of suggestions will be available at the table. Your creativity is welcome, too!
3. **Donate a gift card.** Gift cards are a wonderful way to support and appreciate staff throughout the year. For instance, a gift card to

a coffee shop will help provide beverages during a staff meeting. Restaurant gift cards can be used to help treat the staff. Other gift cards can recognize milestones or service. A box to collect gift cards will also be available at the table.

*Boxes and the sign-up list will also be available in the church office during normal business hours.*

There are many demands on our time and resources during the holidays, but we hope you will embrace one of these opportunities to say thank you to those who serve Our Savior's. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Human Resources Committee: [Charisse Froemke](#), [Keralyn Groff](#), [Kerry Gustafson](#), and [Angie Robinson](#).

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### **Young Adults Gathering**

Calling all young adults (ages 18-35)! We will be having a post Christmas/New Years gathering on **Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 28th.

*There is no cost to join and friends are welcome!*

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### **Christmas Porch Pot Workshop Recap**



Earlier this month, our Connections Team hosted a festive Christmas Porch Pot Workshop at Erickson Bros Tree Farm near Taylors Falls—and what a wonderful turnout they had!



Over the course of four sessions (two on Friday, Nov. 14 and two on Saturday, Nov. 15), participants gathered to create beautiful porch pots using fresh greens and holiday accents supplied by the farm.

The workshops offered a warm, hands-on environment perfect for creativity, conversation, and a joyful start to the Christmas



season. It was a blessing to welcome familiar faces and new friends alike.

A special thank-you to everyone who joined and helped make the event such a success!

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**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**  
**Financial Summary**  
**For the Tenth Month of our Year Ended December 31, 2025**

	Oct 2025 Actuals	YTD 2025 Actuals
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$47,489</b>	<b>\$471,691</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$76,809</b>	<b>\$572,875</b>
<b>Budgeted Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$29,320)</b>	<b>(\$101,184)</b>
Pass Through (Income) Expense	(\$255)	\$963
Other Income	\$0	\$34,038
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(29,575)</b>	<b>(66,183)</b>

**Treasurer's Report**

*Financial Statement - Year to date we have received \$471.7k against our budgeted revenue of \$561.4k Our YTD Expenses are \$572.8k compared to a budget of \$574.0k **This puts us at a negative \$101.1k year to date.** However, because of the Employee Retention Credit of \$34,038, we are now at a negative \$66.2k.*

*Balance Sheet & Cash Flow - The total of cash and accounts receivable is \$206.8k. Funds allocated to dedicated accounts is \$180.5k. We have had to draw from our savings over the last month to pay our bills and dedicated accounts are in jeopardy.*

*The Congregation Council will be evaluating ministry plans and engage the congregation in decision making regarding resolving this deficit as our financial reserve is limited.*

**Advent Angels Guide Us to  
Christmas**

You are invited to join us at "Lift" to create this advent angel bell and wreath with your family. Sunday, December 7th at 9:45 (between services).


Please register ahead to ensure we have enough prepared materials.



\*No cost – Financed by a Thrivent Financial grant.

[Registration](#)



ELEANOR  
SQUAD 

### **Eleanor Squad Adult Forum**

*December 14th 9:45AM  
in Luther Hall*

Deacon Krista Lind, the Assistant to the Bishop at St. Paul Synod will speak on work that is done on behalf of Congregations and ministries throughout the Synod. If you've ever wondered what the Synod is or what it's purpose is - you won't want to miss this presentation.



### **High School Mission Trip: Detroit July 11-18**

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.

### *High School Mission Trip Registration: Detroit*

Information Packet



### **Faith on Fridays**

Last Friday our 6<sup>th</sup> graders spent some time over at Coon Rapids United Methodist Church. They offer a free meal give away every Tuesday and Friday evening. Our youth helped to sort 2 whole pallets of food which had 660 bags of food each containing rice, beans, sardines, corn, beans, and coconut milk!

### **3rd Grade Bibles – Faith Stepping Stone**

All third-grade students and their parents are invited to attend the 3rd Grade Bible Faith Stepping Stone January 4th - February 8th (no class Jan 18th).

Third grade students and one or both of their parents (or an adult) should attend the sessions together each week in Luther Hall at 9:45am.

Please email Danielle Draheim at [ddraheim@oursaviorsonline.org](mailto:ddraheim@oursaviorsonline.org) to register for this class or if you have questions. If your child is older than 3rd grade and hasn't taken this class, please join us!



# L.I.F.T.

LIFE IN FAITH TOGETHER

Let's gather for a **whole church**

Sunday school experience.

We're not whole  
unless you join us!

Luther Hall at 9:45 am

~~Sept. 21~~

~~Oct. 5 & 19~~

~~Nov. 2~~

Dec. 7

Feb. 15

March 1

April 19

May 3 & 17

All ages are encouraged!





# Young FAMILIES GROUP

Join us the 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of the month at 5:45 pm  
in the Conference Room!

- ~~10/1~~ Parent Bible Study
- ~~11/5~~ Parent Bible Study
- 12/3 Christmas Sing-A-Long
- 1/7 Parent Bible Study
- 2/4 Family Service Project
- 5/6 Family Service Project



Childcare is available upon request



Register now for  
Noah's Ark Preschool  
&  
Before/After  
School Childcare

[Noah's Ark Website](#)

# PRAYER

## **PRAYER CONCERNS** **Please remember in your prayers:**

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Cori Sendle, Jack DeWalt, Rusty, Deb Rykken,  
Pat K, Jacque Capistrant, Garnet Ellertson, Loretta Phillips,  
Ethan O'Brien, Darlene Hults, Dona Paulsen, Peggy Nelson,  
Rick Carlson, Dave Hults, Marnie Mackey, Marla Walter, Gail Willenbring,  
Sharon Dornfeld, Theresa Cullen, Tori Appelhof, Richard & Lynn Rossiter,  
Cindy Hanson, Sandy Ellenwood, & Jim Rauner

Shana, daughter of Russ and Cindy Ellenwood  
Denny and Sharon's friend, Larry  
Annie, grand-daughter of Roy & Pat Feine  
Stephanie Erickson, grand-daughter of Karen Davis  
Tom, father-in-law of Beto Farias & father to Adam Ginkel  
Martin Remus & family  
Molly F and all family & friends of Darla

First Responders, Military & their families  
San Isidro Labrador in Guatemala  
Tarkanfi in Ethiopia  
All those affected by conflict  
Relationships

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Shut-Ins unable to worship with us include:

Marnie Mackey  
Marlys Gamm  
Russ Eklund  
Cindy Durand

Marlena McClanahan  
Elaine Thielke  
Garnet Ellertson  
Katie Stormo

To join the prayer chain or to add your concerns, please email  
[prayerchain@oursaviorsonline.org](mailto:prayerchain@oursaviorsonline.org) or call Jeanne Zaske at 651.398.2414

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## **LIVESTREAMING**

[Click here for our live streams](#)

Last weeks 9:45am blended worship service



*Click the video above to see our most recent worship service.*

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## Attendance Totals for November 30th, 2025

**9:45 AM**

In-Person = 110

Online\* = 110

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

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### Service Times (Sundays):

8:45AM - Traditional

10:45AM - Contemporary  
(Labor Day - Memorial Day)

9:45AM - Summer Worship  
(Memorial Day - Labor Day)



### Our Pastors:

Lead - Leland Armbright  
CYF - Susie Modrow



# serve at worship



## Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in receiving emails regarding opportunities to serve at worship please click the button below and complete the form it brings you to. The physical sign up sheets can still be found in the Narthex.

For questions specific to volunteering contact:

[office@oursaviorsonline.org](mailto:office@oursaviorsonline.org)

Email Form Sign-Up

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
[www.oursaviorsonline.org](http://www.oursaviorsonline.org)

Follow us for Faith & Community.  
Connect with us, and Grow with us.



Our Savior's Lutheran Church | 9185 Lexington Ave. N. | Circle Pines, MN 55014 US

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