



# December 2025

## CrossTalk Newsletter

The Mission of Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School is 'connecting families in Christ' by proclaiming the forgiveness of sin in the Gospel and the Sacraments.

### Advent

God's mercy and peace to you this Advent Season. As we transition from the time of Thanksgiving to Christmas, it's ok to put up the Christmas tree and decorate the house. It's always wonderful to see the sanctuary adorned with banners and colors of Advent. I love seeing the Advent wreath and thinking about the meaning of each candle as we draw closer to Christmas Day. One of the early memories I have of Decembers as a child, is that we would go to the tree retailer and pick out the perfect tree. Living in a major city didn't give much opportunity to cut your own tree down, but you could still pick out a "fresh" tree. We would have the bottom three inches of the trunk cut off and then we would get the tree stand set up. Not only was this contraption important for holding the tree in place, but it had a vase at the bottom to hold water and nutrients. The last thing you wanted is for your tree to go dry!

Interestingly, this tree analogy is a good reminder for the Christian. We cannot live without regular nourishment from our Lord, and the Divine Service on Sunday morning is the primary means of keeping our souls from going dry! Confessing our sins, receiving absolution, and hearing God's Word proclaimed is like drinking all the water we could ever need. Jesus reminds us in John 4, "let all who are thirsty come to me and drink. For the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." Jesus was of course referring to the Holy Spirit, who is living and active in the Church today. All who attend and listen intently to the precious words of Scripture are blessed. We receive by faith all that the Spirit offers: comfort, encouragement, forgiveness, hope. And in these good gifts of God we are made to be alive for Christ. "We are like a tree planted by streams of water, whose leaf does not wither." Psalm 1:3

May the Lord Jesus draw us to His Church that we may be encouraged in the fellowship of the saints and receive His gifts. Advent is a perfect time to steep yourself in the rich worship life of Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. We can be fed together in God's house but also drink deeply of the life-giving Spirit. We rejoice to spend time together, to be refreshed in our relationship with God, and to prepare our hearts for the birth of God's Son. Take this opportunity to invite someone to our Wednesday meals. What could be better than catching up with a friend over a warm meal? Being a good brother or sister in Christ begins with an invitation. May the Lord bless you to be a shoulder to lean on and a good Christian friend, for when we gather together at Christmas you'll have a genuine smile. Someone will be looking for you in the crowd and excited to see you! May you be greeted with tidings of great joy this Christmas Season.

Peace of Christ be with you always,  
Pastor Daniel Gadbow

# From Our Health Ministry

## What Is Pneumonia?

### Could You Have Pneumonia?

Symptoms of pneumonia can be mild or serious. They may include:

- Chest pain when breathing or coughing
- Chills and/or fever
- Coughing with or without mucus
- Low blood oxygen levels
- Shortness of breath

Other symptoms may include a headache, muscle pain, extreme tiredness, nausea (feeling sick to your stomach), vomiting, and diarrhea. Older adults may experience weakness, confusion, or a lower-than-normal temperature instead of a fever. Sometimes babies may vomit, appear restless or have low energy, or show signs of breathing problems.

Pneumonia can be hard to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to a cold or flu. Symptoms can vary from mild to severe depending on the type of germ causing the infection, your age, and overall health. To diagnose pneumonia, your doctor will review your medical history and do a physical exam. They may also do a chest X-ray, blood test, or measure the oxygen in the blood.

Learn the facts about pneumonia, its signs and symptoms, and ways to manage it after a diagnosis.

### Basic Facts About Pneumonia



**Pneumonia is an infection that causes the air sacs (called alveoli) in one or both lungs to fill up with fluid or pus.**



**Germs such as bacteria, viruses, or fungi can cause pneumonia.** Influenza (flu) is an example of a virus that can cause pneumonia.



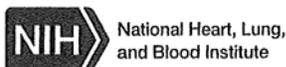
**Pneumonia can be mild or severe.** A person's health and age, and the type of germ causing the infection, all contribute to how serious it is.



**Staying up to date on pneumococcus and flu vaccines can help prevent some types of pneumonia.** Vaccines can also help decrease the severity for those who do get pneumonia.



**Pneumonia can affect people of any age.** However, children 2 years old or younger, and adults age 65 or older, are more likely to have serious pneumonia.



LEARN MORE  
BREATHE BETTER



# From Our Health Ministry

## Managing Pneumonia

Treatment for pneumonia depends on the germ causing the infection, and how serious it is. Bacterial pneumonia is usually treated with antibiotics. But if you have viral pneumonia, antibiotics won't help. In mild cases, your doctor may prescribe medicine or suggest over-the-counter medicine to treat it at home.

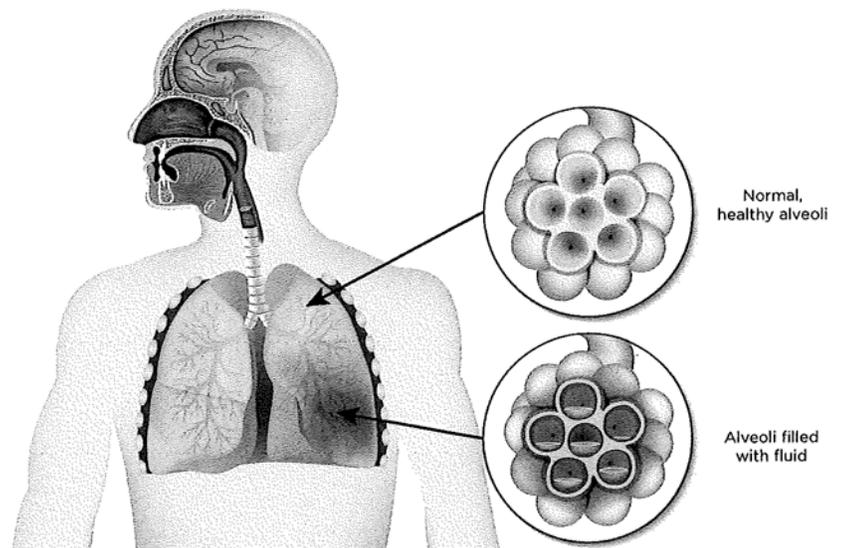
For more serious cases, hospital treatment may be needed. At the hospital, people with pneumonia will receive medicine and fluids through an intravenous (IV) line. Sometimes oxygen therapy is used to pump oxygen into the blood. In very serious cases, a ventilator may be used to help with breathing. Damaged sections of the lung may also need to be removed to help prevent pneumonia from happening again.

Recovery can take weeks or even months. Your doctor may suggest lifestyle changes, such as eating healthy or getting enough sleep, to help with recovery. Talk to your healthcare provider about your treatment plan. This can help you avoid complications and start feeling better.

## How Pneumonia Affects Breathing

Sometimes germs like bacteria, viruses, or fungi can get into your airways through mucus. The airways are lined with hair-like cilia, which help to push the mucus and germs out of your airways, usually by coughing.

Sometimes germs make it into air sacs, or alveoli, in the lungs. The body's immune system usually attacks the germs. If the immune system is weakened, germs that cause pneumonia can multiply. As the body tries to fight off the germs, it can cause swelling, or inflammation. Inflammation can make air sacs in the lungs fill with fluid and pus. This makes it hard for the body to get enough oxygen and breathe easily.



For more information about lung health, visit [www.nhlbi.nih.gov/BreatheBetter](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/BreatheBetter)

For more information about pneumonia, visit [www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/pneumonia](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/pneumonia)

# Servant Fair Opportunity of the Month

*In January 2025, the Health Ministry hosted a Servant Fair to showcase the wide range of volunteer opportunities available at OSL. Each month, we'll spotlight one or two of these opportunities to help you discover meaningful ways to connect—and stay connected—with your church family. Stay tuned and consider how you might get involved!*

## **Our Saviors Lutheran Church Servant Fair**

### *Volunteering to Serve Our Lord*

**Name of Group:** Greeters

**Contact Person:** Barb Pischke

**Time Commitment:** 30 minutes at 8:30 on Sundays or ½ hour before services on holidays

**Description of group's work:**

- Greeting members and visitors as they enter the Church
- Open the door for people with canes, walkers etc.
- Ask visitors to please sign the guest book and welcome them to Our Saviors Lutheran Church

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## **Our Saviors Lutheran Church Servant Fair**

### *Volunteering to Serve Our Lord*

**Name of Group:** Health Ministry Council

**Contact Person:** Joan Ewald

**Time Commitment:** An active group, time commitment various with activity

**Description of group's work:**

- Monthly meeting first Monday of the month (around 1 hour)
- Plan a variety of activities to promote healthy eating, moving, connecting with others
- Serve Fellowship Hour (provide coffee/treats) and take blood pressures the first Sunday of the month October-June
- Make home visits with frozen meals according to our guidelines

# News from the Early Learning Center

Happy Holidays from the ELC!

Yes, the holiday season is fast approaching and we, just like everyone else, are gearing up for the busy months ahead.

## **Fall Transitions**

As we transition into fall, our classrooms are once again full of energy and learning. We welcomed a full group of students from infants through preschool and introduced a new curriculum from Concordia for our toddler and preschool programs, which will carry us into 2026.

## **Thanksgiving Plans**

With Thanksgiving approaching, we're embracing a season of gratitude. Each Thursday, children will contribute items to our Blessing Box to support those in need. We'll also host a Thanksgiving Feast for all students on the Wednesday before the holiday — a cherished tradition that brings our community together.

## **Preparing for Christmas**

Our Christmas curriculum will span four weeks, focusing on the birth of Jesus. Each week includes an Arch Book, music, and themed activities to help children prepare their hearts for the season.

## **Staffing Needs**

We're currently seeking a full-time teacher to work with our toddlers and infants — a role we've found challenging to keep consistently filled. Additionally, we're hoping to welcome back our snack coordinator from medical leave by mid-December.

## **Looking Ahead to 2026**

With Paid Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) beginning in January 2026, we're actively planning for its impact on staffing and enrollment. Some families with infants originally scheduled to start in early 2025 may now delay their start dates.

Our enrollment remains strong and is currently full through June 2026, thanks to our wonderful families and dedicated staff.

Lori Holtberg  
OSL Director



## Upcoming Guild Events

**Remember all ladies of the congregation are invited to join us!**

- √ Get your Christmas cookie and candy recipes ready as we plan for our annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 6, 2025. Please look for sign-up sheets near the office for workers and cookie/candy makers. Proceeds from this event will be used for a variety of local, national, and global mission projects.
- √ Come celebrate with us as the Guild will be having a Christmas Potluck on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 beginning at 11:30 am in the commons. After our meal, Pastor Gadbow will be leading us in Bible Study. The Red Stocking for OSL Social Ministry will be displayed for contributions. Regular business meeting to follow. **All ladies of the congregation are welcome!**
- √ The Guild will be serving the Advent Soup Supper on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for a good meal and fellowship with serving beginning at 5:00 pm before attending Advent Services at 6:30 pm.
- √ Ablelight (Bethesda) Thrift Store visit is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2025. Contact Sharon Haberkamp if you would like to assist with duties at the Thrift Store.
- √ Quilters will be meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 9:00 am in the commons to tie quilts for Orphan Grain Train and Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Newcomers are always welcome!
- √ If you have a special program or mission project that you would like to see the Guild sponsor in 2026 please let any of the Guild Executive Board members (Gwen Dahl, Jackie Morris, Linda Butzin, Karen Gensmer, Vivian Gonzalez) know as they will be planning the program for 2026 very soon!

**The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.**

### ***Mission Statement***

*As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.*

### ***Vision Statement***

*The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.*

# Our Savior's Lutheran Women's Guild News

## Highlights of the November 11, 2025 Guild Meeting

The OSL LWML Women's Guild met on November 11, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in the Commons beginning with lunch provided by Vivian Gonzalez and Barb Field. Twenty-seven people attended, including guests.

- President Gwen Dahl welcomed attendees. Table prayer songs were sung.
- After the meal, Gwen led the group in a reading about workouts.
- Gwen introduced Pastor Chad Kirchoff, a Hutchinson native, from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Hastings, Minnesota who spoke about his ministry, ReDo Fitness, which he utilizes to spread the Word of God to people in his community and the surrounding area.
- For their November mission project, the group contributed \$100.00 to Pastor Kirchoff's ReDo Fitness ministry and \$50.00 for his mileage to Hutchinson.
- The fall Human Care project will be the collection of knitted, crocheted, sewn, and or purchased items such as mittens, hats, scarves etc. for the Orphan Grain Train Christmas tree that will be placed in church during Advent/Christmas.
- A December human care project will involve the assembly of cookie plates at the time of the Cookie Walk for the congregation shut ins. Volunteers to deliver the plates will be needed.
- Cheer Chair Vivian Gonzalez reported that she sent a total of 4 cards in October.
- Sharon Haberkamp reported that she will be traveling to AbleLight on Thursday, November 13, 2025. She also reported that 38 lbs. of food was taken to the Emergency Food Shelf in October.
- Jeanette Bening reported that the quilters will be meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commons. Eleven quilts were tied in October.
- Sharon Haberkamp reported on the LWML Fall Conference Rally held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 18, 2025.
- Letty Bernhagen reported on the Veteran's Day celebration organized by Group 2 held on Sunday, November 9, 2025.
- Barb Field reported that the Guild served the Arlene Schumacher funeral on Thursday, November 6, 2025, with all events held at Hantge Funeral Home.
- Vice President Jackie Morris reported that Candace Metzger will continue in her position as Christian Life/Human Care Chair and that Janet Mraz will fill the position of Alternate Delegate.
- The group was reminded of the upcoming Table Treasures event to be held on Saturday, November 15, 2025. Helpers are needed for that day.
- Cookie Walk is scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 2025. Cookies and helpers needed. Sign-up sheets on black doors in hallway across from the office.
- OSL has a new seminarian currently serving his vicarage that we will be sponsoring.
- Members were given OSL Women's Guild Service Opportunities for 2026 sheets to complete.

# Cookie Walk

## Our Savior's Lutheran Church

800 Bluff St NE, Hutchinson

## Cookie & Candy Sale

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am-11:00 am  
(or until sold out)

\$9.50 per pound

- \*Bring your own container/lids
- \*Choose your cookies/candies
- \*Weigh & pay
- \*Pack up your cookies
- \*Your Holiday baking is done for the year!

Forget your own containers? You may purchase a platter/container from us!

Sponsored by the Women's Guild.  
All proceeds go to Mission work.  
Supplemental funds provided by  
Thrivent.



# This and That

## Our New Seminarian

Our Savior's has selected a new seminarian to sponsor due to the graduation of our former seminarian, Pastor Esser.

Our new seminarian is Wesley Deiss. He and his wife, Sharon, have three children – William (10), Bernadette (8), and Alfred (5) along with a dog. Wes was an engineer before he entered the seminary, His wife is currently working as an engineer and continues to labor on getting her degree as a Lutheran school teacher as well as continuing employment as an engineer. They just completed a vicarage in Naperville, Illinois. If you would like to send them a card of encouragement, you may send it to: 319 Pistoia CV, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

No preconfirmation on Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Christmas order for Scrip will be placed **December 5th**. All orders must be prepaid. See Brenda or Sherry if you have any questions.



## 21st Annual Orphan Grain Train Drive

The shoe, mitten, hat, scarf, sock and underwear tree will be up again in the back of the church. You have until January 4th to bring in your items for children or adults.



## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The next social event of this group is scheduled for **Friday, December 5th** from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Commons here at OSL. All widows and widowers are welcome!

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God." (II Corinthians 1:3-4)*

# Holiday Worship Schedule

Please make plans to worship with us this holiday season as we help – “Every Heart Prepare”. Advent services begin at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday evening beginning December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

## “Evergreens”

Soup Supper 5 p.m.–6:15 p.m.

Hosted by the Quilters

Advent Service – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

## “Lights”

Soup Supper 5 p.m.–6:15 p.m.

Hosted by the Guild

Advent Service – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

## “Crèche”

Soup Supper 5 p.m.–6:15 p.m.

Hosted by the Kranz’s

Advent Service – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>,

Christmas Eve

Traditional Candlelight Service at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>,

Christmas Day

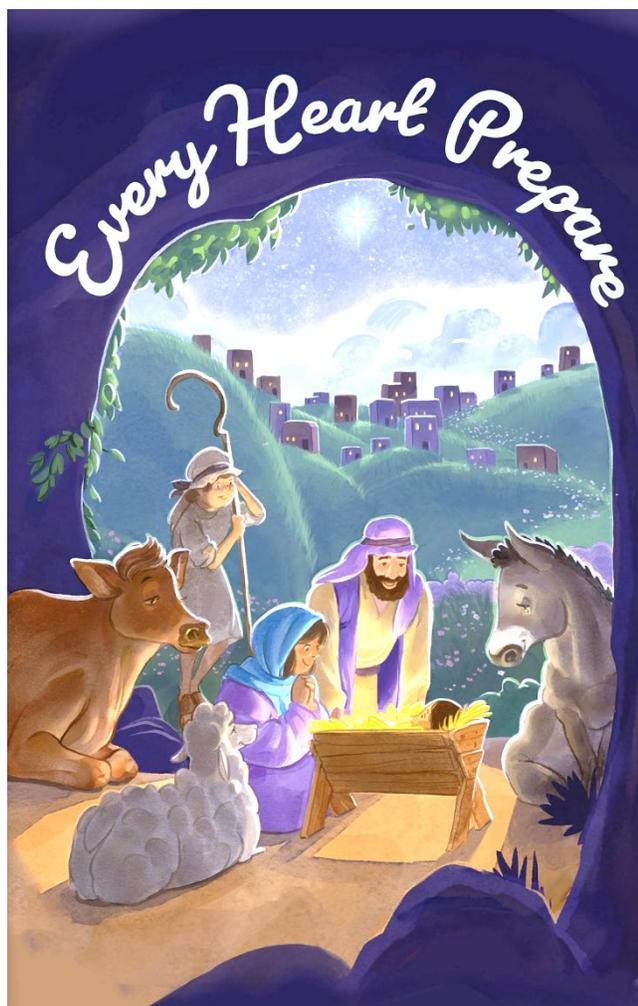
## “Wrapped Presents”

9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Communion

Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>,

New Year’s Eve

Divine Service with Communion at 6:30 p.m.



# Celebrating this Month



## December BIRTHDAYS

12/3	Ada Amundson
12/6	Melissa Ostlund
12/7	Tyler Esser
12/7	Carol Mlinar
12/7	Cindy Teichert
12.10	Seth Gadbow
12/10	Glen Jorgensen
12/11	Ken Binder
12/13	Kathy Monson
12/14	Tim Zackrison
12/15	Diane Binder
12/17	Luke Kamrath
12/17	Deanne Wild
12/18	Beckett Buresh
12/18	Cathy Burns
12/21	Pamela Hensel
12/21	Mitchell Messner
12/21	Lonnie Weerts
12/25	Allan Haley
12/26	Bonnie Timm
12/27	Wally Erickson



## December ANNIVERSARIES

12/12	Mark & Michelle Mlinar	33 Years
12/12	Kevin & Karen Ostlund	38 Years
12/14	Duane & Barbara Pischke	57 Years
12/22	Dominic & Jamie Blumhoefer	19 Years

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church & ELC

800 Bluff Street, Hutchinson, MN 55350

320-587-3318

Website: [www.oslhutch.com](http://www.oslhutch.com)

## Ministry Staff

Rev. Daniel Gadbow.....Pastor  
Shirlee Landskroener..... Music Director  
Karen Ostlund..... Sunday School  
Sherry Drahos..... Administrative Assistant

## 2025 Church Officers

Chairman	Wayne Kuehl
Vice Chairman	Kevin Mathews
Secretary	Michelle Metzger
Treasurer	Dale Ortloff

## Elders

Marshall Kranz, Chairman  
Paul Barchenger  
Mark Bening  
Jason Coyle  
Craig Jergens  
Jim Lauer  
Mike Smithers

## Trustees

Mike Metzger  
Chuck Esser  
Adam Field

## Custodians

Jeff Radunz  
David Radunz

## Early Learning Center Staff

Lori Holtberg..... Early Learning Director  
Carrie Farley..... Healthcare Consultant  
Shirley Alsleben..... Cook  
Wendy Ziegenhagen..... Snack Coordinator  
Cora Bjorngjeld..... Childcare Team  
Rachel Carlson..... Childcare Team  
Laila Dubay..... Childcare Team  
Lucy Dubay..... Childcare Team  
Kalon Erickson..... Childcare Team  
Morgan Glieden..... Childcare Team  
Alysha Hatton..... Childcare Team  
Miranda Heine..... Childcare Team  
Katarina Larson-Schmidt..... Childcare Team  
Shelby Norgaard..... Childcare Team  
Tracy Polzin..... Childcare Team  
Ginny Rogers..... Childcare Team  
Paige Slinden..... Childcare Team  
Ana Sullivan..... Childcare Team  
Kathryn Vesely..... Childcare Team  
Courtney Williams..... Childcare Team

## Early Learning Center Committee

Dean Brehmer..... Chairman  
Gaylen Timm..... Finances  
Ashley Buresh..... Secretary  
Rev. Daniel Gadbow..... Pastor  
Lori Holtberg..... Director  
Linda Esser..... Representative

