



January 2026

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.

Traditions of the Christmas Season

God's blessed grace and mercy to you this Christmas season! As you gaze upon your beautifully decorated Christmas tree, do you see any ornaments that remind you of family or perhaps even have a picture of a young son or daughter, mom or dad, etc.? We happen to also have an ornament or two that evoke our own childhood memories. Maybe it's a figure skater, or a pretzel ornament you made in Sunday School. Maybe it's a Snoopy ornament that Grandma gave you when you were little. These ornaments are absolute treasures from your life. And while a very appropriate movie may be playing in the background, "It's a Wonderful Life", we really should cherish the memories that tie us to family and our wonderful Christmases together!

One of the neat traditions of the Church is that we hang Chrismon's on the sanctuary tree. What do these ornaments of white and gold remind us? They give us moments of reflection on: God, the Christian symbols of the Church, Word and Sacrament, and especially Jesus. They were developed in 1957 by Frances Spencer at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA. Cheers to the 1950's and the positive Christian influence we still see today! What I gather from the sparkly gold contrasted by the pure white, is that the Lord brings Himself and good gifts to the Church that reflect His glory. So, the use of gold gives us the reminder of the Lord's presence and that His sanctuary even today helps focus our hearts and minds on things above and not on things of this world.



It's the decorating of the Paschal candle with the Advent wreath that also grabs our attention. What a neat tradition to highlight God's Holy Word as the readings prepared our hearts and minds for Jesus. And Christmas Day did not disappoint as Jesus blessed us with His gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Your Christian faith renewed in hope, looking forward to a Second Advent. Your relationship with the Lord is once again established in heavenly peace. The angels proclaimed joy to the world as the Babe in Bethlehem was swaddled. The Father showed you an eternal love as the child born for us has taken on the Names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. May our Lord Jesus continue to care for you and all the children of His Church forever and ever. Amen!

Peace of Christ be with you always,
Pastor Daniel Gadbaw

From Our Health Ministry

FACT SHEET

Feet and Footwear for Older Adults

Footcare and safe shoes can prevent falls

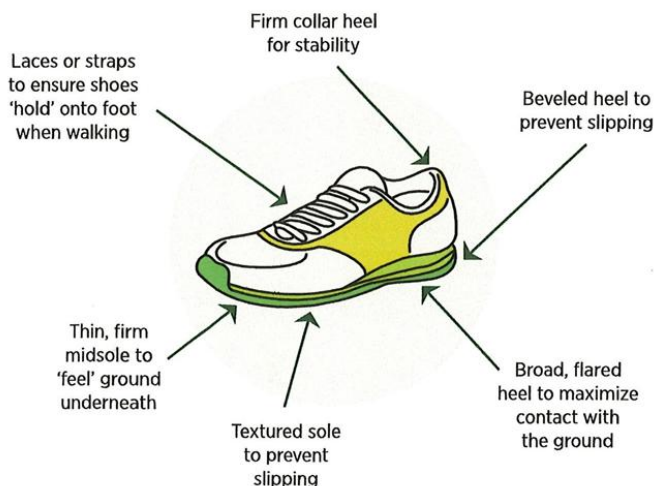
Falls are the leading cause of injury for older adults (ages 65 and older) and can have serious consequences, like limited mobility and loss of independence. Routine care for feet and proper supportive footwear can reduce your risk of falls.

What foot problems are associated with falls?

Foot related risk factors that increase fall risk:

- Increased foot pain
- Reduced flexibility in ankle joint
- Reduced calf muscle strength (the muscle that helps you rise on the balls of your feet)
- Reduced sensation resulting from neuropathy (nerve damage)
- Presence of a bunion (hallux valgus deformity) or toe deformities

What makes a shoe safe?



Footwear Tips

Health Tips

- Your healthcare provider or podiatrist can check your feet and determine if there are issues that increase your risk of falling. Podiatrists diagnose and treat foot conditions.
- Ask your healthcare provider to check your feet once a year.
- See a podiatrist if you have foot problems, such as toe or foot deformities or foot pain.
- Work with a physical therapist to learn exercises to increase strength and flexibility of foot and ankle.

Safety Tips

- Always wear properly fitted shoes inside and outside your home.
- Wear sturdy shoes with low heels, traction, and strong arch and heel support.

Working with your healthcare provider or podiatrist to address foot problems and using appropriate footwear can reduce your risk of falling.



EMORY
HEALTHCARE

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers

STEADI

Stopping Elderly Accidents,
Deaths & Injuries

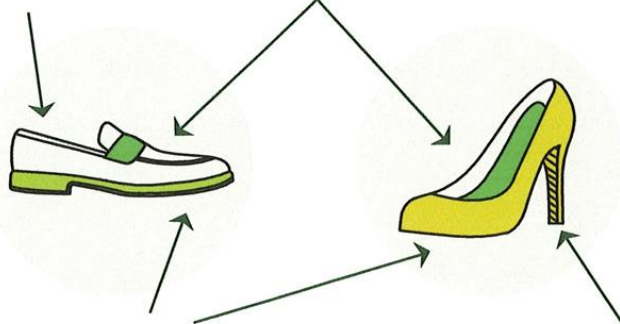
www.cdc.gov/steady

From Our Health Ministry

What makes a shoe unsafe?

Soft or stretched uppers allow the foot to slide around in the sole

Lack of laces means the foot can slide out of the shoe



Slippery or worn soles are a balance hazard, particularly in wet weather

Avoid high heels (more than 1 inch), especially ones with narrow heels

Examples of appropriate shoes to reduce risk of falls



Footwear Tips

Safety Tips

- Avoid walking in only socks inside and outside your home.
- Avoid wearing shoes with heels over one inch, with no ankle support, or with a smooth sole.
- Avoid wearing shoes with no back (such as a mule or clog) or strappy back (such as a slingback).

Footwear Tips

- Shop for shoes later in the day to ensure a proper fit.
- Have your feet measured to ensure appropriate shoe width and length.
- Accommodate foot deformities such as bunions or hammertoes by choosing shoes with a wide toe box.
- Consider a pedorthist, a specialist in footwear and devices, for footwear and orthotic recommendations to provide the best possible support for walking. See www.pedorthics.org for a searchable directory of credentialed pedorthists.

STEADI Stopping Elderly Accidents,
Deaths & Injuries

www.cdc.gov/steady



2024

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: LWML OSL Women's Guild

Contact Person: Gwen Dahl, Karen Gensmer, Linda Butzin, Candace Metzger

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

Regular projects include:

Regular month meetings at 11:30am with Sat. am meeting in March, breakfast meet in July and evening in September

Quilting meets monthly to tie quilts for Orphan Train and the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

Monthly trips to AbleLight (Bethesda) Thrift Store to help organize etc.

Food Collected monthly for food Shelf

Send cheer cards to Guild and congregation members monthly

Manage the Church bookstore and open for sales every Sunday

Place Lutherans for Live quarterly publication in all congregation members' boxes

Additional activities include:

Deliver birthday celebration items to Harmony River residents with February birthdays

Prepare and serve Lenten/Advent Suppers

Sponsor Food Shelf Sunday

Provide cards and gifts for high school and college graduates in our congregation

Assist new confirmands with constructing a banner for their confirmation Sunday

Send card/gift to new confirmands

Attend Fall and Spring AWML McLeod Zone Rallies

Sponsor an Ice Cream Social in the even years and Table Treasures in odd numbered years

Provide a meal for bloodmobile workers and cookies for blood donors in August

Honor a group in our congregation with a Friendship buffet each September

Celebrate LWML Sunday in October

Sponsor honey Sundays for Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

Honor Veterans from our congregation with various activities in November

Sponsor a Cookie Walk for the community in December to raise funds for mission

News from the Early Learning Center

Celebrating the Birth of Jesus - As we wrap up 2025, we rejoice in the greatest celebration of all—Jesus' birth! Our Christmas Program was a beautiful event, supported by a generous Thrivent donation. Each family received an Arch Book titled, *Baby Jesus Was Born*, after the program. Following the program, we gathered in the Activity Center to enjoy fellowship and Christmas cookies.

Birthday Party for Jesus - Thanks to remaining Thrivent funds, every classroom will enjoy a 'Happy Birthday' cake. On December 23, as we celebrate Jesus' birthday with the children—a joyful reminder that Christmas is truly about Him.

Christian Days of Christmas - Our staff is embracing the season with 'Christian Days of Christmas.' Each day features a Bible verse and a small gift. For example, the first day highlighted Luke 2:11, paired with a shower puck. This has been a fun and meaningful way to share Scripture and spread joy among staff.

Looking Ahead to January - Changes are coming to the ELC in January. Due to the Minnesota Paid Leave program, we have fewer infants enrolled, so we will temporarily operate one infant room. This adjustment will help strengthen staffing for our Pre-K and school-age programs. We are also preparing for new break laws and paid leave requirements starting January 1, 2026. While these changes may bring challenges, we remain hopeful and prayerful for blessings and quality staff at the right time.

Projects for 2026:

Door Security Update – We received a grant from the Hutchinson Foundation which covers 2/3 of the cost; we are looking to donations for the remaining cost.

New Flooring in rooms 102 and 106 – We have submitted a grant to cover the cost. We have tentatively set date in February and April for installation. We will probably need some licensing adjustments (already planned) to accommodate temporary room changes during this time. We plan not to close any room to accommodate the project.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Wishing you a season filled with joy, peace, and the love of Christ. Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we look forward to a blessed 2026 together!

Lori Holtberg
OSL Director



Upcoming Guild Events

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

- √ **All ladies of the congregation** are invited to our January meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2026, beginning with lunch at 11:30 a.m. Our program for this meeting will include a “**Mystery Speaker**” with regular business meeting to follow. If you want to find out who the Mystery Speaker is, please join us!
- √ AbleLight (Bethesda) Thrift Store visit is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2026. Contact Sharon Haberkamp if you would like to assist with duties at the Thrift Store.
- √ Quilters will be meeting on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commons to tie quilts for Orphan Grain Train and Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Newcomers are always welcome!
- √ Looking forward to February, the Guild will be meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, beginning with lunch at 11:30 a.m. Our speaker will be explaining the Common Cup backpack program which we will be participating in that day at 2:00 p.m. after our meeting.
- √ Look for the Guild to sponsor at least two soup suppers during the Lenten season.
- √ Guild work Group 1 will be sponsoring the Harmony River Birthday Party in February to celebrate all those residents with February birthdays.
- √ Don't forget to check the Guild bulletin boards near the Activity Center for news about past and future LWML events.

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.

Highlights of the December 9, 2025 Guild Meeting

- The OSL LWML Women's Guild met on December 9, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in the Commons beginning with a Christmas potluck lunch. Twenty-one people, including guests, attended.
- President Gwen Dahl welcomed attendees and guests. Table prayers were sung.
- After the meal, Gwen led the group with an LWML devotion.
- Pastor Gadbow led the group in a Bible Study about the birth of Jesus based on Matthew 1:18-25.
- For their November mission project, the group voted to contribute \$250.00 to Seminarian Wesley Deiss as the Guild's December mission project.
- 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.
- Cookie plates were also assembled at the Cookie Walk and delivered to our congregation shut-ins as an additional Human Care project for December.
- Cheer Chair Vivian Gonzalez reported sending a total of 8 cards in November.
- Sharon Haberkamp reported that she will be traveling to AbleLight sometime later in December if the weather allows. She also reported that 33 lbs. of food was taken to the Emergency Food Shelf in November.
- Jeanette Bening reported that the quilters will be meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commons. Twelve quilts were tied in November.
- Karen Gensmer reported that the Guild Executive Board served ten pastors breakfast and lunch at the Pastors' Winkel held at Our Savior's on Thursday, November 13, 2025.
- The Table Treasures event held on Saturday, November 15, 2025 was a success even though our speaker was unable to attend due to the death of his mother. Fifteen tables were decorated with approximately 120 people attending. Proceeds from the free will offering collected for the McLeod County Food shelf totaled \$1,115.00 including the money allotted for the speaker and his mileage.
- Karen Gensmer reported on the Cookie Walk held on Saturday, December 6, 2025. All cookies were sold. Tentative proceeds from the event are approximately \$2300.00.
- Work Group 3 is scheduled to serve the Advent Soup supper on Wednesday, December 10, 2025.
- Officers for 2026 are as follows: President: Gwen Dahl, Vice-President: Jackie Morris, Secretary: Karen Gensmer, Treasurer: Linda Butzin, Christian Life/Human Care and Delegate: Candace Metzger, Alternate Delegate: Janet Mraz.
- The 2026 Guild Program booklet is being prepared and will be ready for the January 2026 meeting.



ANNOUNCING S A G E S



GATHERING XXXVI

MAY 4 AND 5, 2026



Featured Presenter

Rev. Greg Finke

There will be . . .

**THREE PRESENTATIONS by Rev. Finke,
WORKSHOPS, MUSIC, FELLOWSHIP, AND
BANQUET WITH ENTERTAINMENT BY
THE RIVERBLENDERS**

Registration information available in February
Location: Country Inn and Suites, Mankato MN

*Presented by SAGES (Saints Alive, Growing, Ever Serving)
Minnesota South LCMS Older Adult Ministry*



This and That

Mark Your Calendar!

It may seem like we just finished Advent and Christmas, (which we did!), but Lent and Easter are just around the corner. Ash Wednesday, which signals the start of the Lenten season, is February 18th. Please mark your calendar so you don't miss it.

P.S. Sign up sheet for the Lent soup suppers will go up the end of January.



No preconfirmation on
Monday, January 19th .

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, February 6th** from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Commons here at OSL. There will not be a January gathering. 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)

AbleLight (Bethesda) Donations

AbleLight (formerly known as Bethesda) supports and advocates for people with developmental disabilities to ensure they have security, dignity and hope. For many years, the members of OSL have donated items to sell at their thrift shop in Minnetonka as well as work one day a month in their store. (See Sharon Haberkamp for more information.) Below is a list of items they will and will not accept.

Items We Accept:

All donations must be clean, not broken and sellable.
Clothing, clean and folded
Household goods
Books
Furniture, upon approval
Shoes
Purses
Jewelry
Linens
Fiction books
Greeting cards
Pictures & frames
Music
Movies, DVD
Small kitchen electronics
Stuffed animals
Small toys (no missing parts, complete)
Carry-on sized luggage
All holiday decor
Games and Puzzles, no missing pieces, must be in original container
Radios, Turntable, CD/DVD/Cassette players

Items We Cannot Accept:

Older tube TV's
Chemicals
Open cans of paint
Large appliances such as:
Dishwashers
Refrigerators
Washers & Dryers
E-Cigs and paraphernalia
Weapons that require a license to own
Fluorescent bulbs
Particle board furniture – at our discretion
Sleeper sofas
Upholstered furniture that has:
Excessive pet hair
Rips or excessive wear
Is dirty or smells of mildew, cigarette or pet odor
Mattress & box springs
Waterbeds
Cribs & Crib Mattresses
Car Seats
Baby Walkers

* AbleLight Thrift Shop reserves the right to refuse any donations at any time.

Donations can be brought to OSL and left at the east door in the ELC wing, preferably when the ELC is not in session.

Celebrating this Month



1/3 Marilyn Field
1/3 Nancy Hecksel
1/6 Roxann Field
1/6 Tricia Weber
1/8 Candace Metzger
1/9 Loretta Bernhagen
1/10 Leonard Lasley
1/11 Roger Beilke
1/15 William Abraham
1/18 Dominic Blumhoefer
1/18 Lauren Mrkvicka
1/22 Gary Hranicka
1/23 Iolonda Bening
1/23 Marlys Kurtzweg
1/24 Carrie Rannow
1/25 James Hensel
1/27 Tom Dahl
1/27 Amy Sauter
1/29 Rachel Sauter
1/30 Michelle Paulson
1/30 Caleb Rannow
1/31 Donna Luhring
1/31 Brittany Schindler



1/9 Eugene & Patricia Otto 66 Years
1/15 Oliver & Donna Luhring 54 Years

Our Savior's Lutheran Church & ELC

800 Bluff Street, Hutchinson, MN 55350

320-587-3318

Website: www.oslhutch.com

Ministry Staff

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

2026 Church Officers

Chairman	Marshall Kranz
Vice Chairman	Kevin Mathews
Secretary	Wanda Rannow
Treasurer	Dale Ortloff

Elders

Paul Barchenger
Mark Bening
Jason Coyle
John Gillard
Jim Lauer
Jeff Siedschlag

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
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
Kadi Powell..... Childcare Team
Ginny Rogers..... Childcare Team
Paige Slinden..... Childcare Team
Jovilynn Stoll..... 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

