



Our Savior Lutheran Church & School

Congregation Meeting Agenda

2.2.25

9:30	Welcome & Call to Order	Jake Kasper <i>Chairman, Board of Directors</i>
9:32	Opening Prayer	Pastor Chris Deneen
9:35	Ministry Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning Christ• Living Christ• Sharing Christ• Vision Team	Pastor Wangelin
9:50	Our Savior Lutheran School Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week• Enrollment & Admissions Update	Matt Couser <i>School Principal</i>
9:55	Early Childhood Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Out of School Time (OST) Grant	Windy Carroll <i>Early Childhood Director</i>
10:00	Financial Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring Income and Expenses• Blackbaud Accounting System• OSL Auction March 1	Stephanie Trapp Business Manager
10:15	Q & A	Staff
10:20	Closing Prayer	Jim Sundstrom <i>Chairman, Spiritual Life Team</i>
10:21	Meeting Adjourned	

LOOKING TO LENT 2025

Valparaiso Choir Concert – Tuesday, March 4, 7 p.m. Host families needed.

Ash Wednesday – March 5, worship 7 p.m. w/ Holy Communion & ashes, in-person & online

Wednesdays in Lent – “Prayer of the Passion” 40 min. devotional service at 7 p.m. focusing on prayer.

Lenten Dinners start at 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday

Palm Sunday – Holy Week – Easter Egg Hunt – Easter Sunday – the greatest days of the year!

Minutes of the Congregation Meeting, **Sunday, September 29, 2024**, 9:30 a.m.

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Lansing, (In the Commons)

Minutes approved by the Board of Directors 10/22/24

Steve Mohnke, Financial Officer of the Board of Directors, called the meeting to order at 9:43am. In a last minute swap, Pastor Chris opened the meeting with prayer (Jim Sundstrom closed the meeting in prayer)

Ministry Update - Pastor Wangelin gave the following ministry update: OSL – Learn, Live, Share Christ – We have what the world needs (the love of Jesus) in our church/school ministry. Pastor stated 3 key resources to look at: Joining Jesus as a Family; The Great Dechurching; The Anxious Generation. God Sightings – South Africa Missions; Children are central to the churches mission. Time in the Word – Bible studies happening, LifeLight Bible study-Hebrews book study, DOS Class. Time Together – Give of time in worship-Pastor went over the attendance and the difference in the head count and the connecting card and what we do with these numbers. Time in Prayer – Prayer for our Nation service – Sunday, November 3rd at 4pm, this is two days before the next National Election.

Connect the Dots Report - Pastor Chris gave a recap of the Connect The Dot Parties we had this past summer- 34 of the 35 groups met-419 participants which equated to 65% of our active membership.

Vicar Program Application - Steve walked us through our journey with the vicar program and that it was that time of year when we needed an affirmation from the congregation to continue with applying to the vicar program for the 2025-2026 year. If selected this would be Vicar #9. Motion was made by Steven Mohnke, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to proceed with submission of application to St. Louis Seminary for 2025 Vicar Placement. Motion was supported and approved by all in attendance.

School Report - Principal Couser stated our school theme this year is: God Is Our Rock; Psalm 62:2 – he also commented about our new facility dog Onyx and how he is a nice addition to our church/school community. OSL has 20 new students this year and Early Childhood has a waiting list. Also mentioned for the first trimester Chapel offering we are partnering with Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization. Church and school community has the option to purchase OSL apparel. Commitment to Learning, Thank you to Teachers – New Staff: Faith Korte-3rd grade, Carly Mossner-Music; Melinda Charter-Food Service. Early Childhood Update – EC has a wait list to enroll; the director, Windy Carroll is working on a Grant for before and after care.

Financial Report - Stephanie Trapp Thanked those that have helped her compile her reports: Patina Wood, Harlan Schaedig, Dev Schleben, Mark Moeller, Kathy Benington.

OSL had to borrow on our Line of Credit in June but has now paid it back in full in August. Stephanie then walked through the Fiscal year end financials for 2023-2024. She mentioned that the Non-budget accounts are those that are not recorded in the general fund but are designated gifts that are restricted. We have a Special Gift List that are requests that we had to take out of our 2024-2025 budget so that it would be balanced – these are items that are still in need and would be gifts that come in above and beyond our regular tithing. Our next Auction theme is: Kentucky Derby-tickets will be available starting November 1st.

Q & A There was only one question concerning filling out the Connecting Card online when watching our LiveStream service. Yes, it is important to fill that out to be counted.

Closing Prayer & Adjournment - Closing prayer was offered by Jim Sundstrom as Pastor Chris opened the meeting with prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 by Steve Mohnke

Learning, Living, and Sharing Christ!

Through our “churchschool” ministry, we invite young and old to learn, live, and share Christ at church, school, and home. We desire to be Christ-centered, Bible-based, mission-driven, and Spirit-led. In another year of God’s grace and abundant mercy, we have been able to join Jesus on His mission and help people see and share our Savior.

Our Ministry at a Glance

Baptized **Membership** as of 1/1/25: 1232

Median Age of membership: 39

New Members welcomed in 2024: **+36** (14 baptized infants/children, 10 adult confirmation, 3 profession of faith, 9 transferred in from LCMS)

Membership losses: **-27** (9 deceased, 10 joined non-Lutheran, 8 transferred to LCMS)

Total **baptisms** in 2024: 17

Infants baptized in 2024: 10

Adults baptized in 2024: 3

Students in our school baptized in 2024: 4

Ave Sunday in person worship Sept – Dec 2024: **416**

Ave estimated livestream attendance: 352

(Ave Sunday Sept – Dec 2023: 380 in person

Ave Sunday Sept – Dec 2022: 344 in person)

Confirmations in 2024 (youth): 16

Funerals or Memorial Services in 2024: 9

School Enrollment as of Jan 2025: 261

K-8 enrollment: 196

Early Childhood enrollment: 65

New students K-8: 21 (5 in 6th-8th grade)

General Offerings & Contributions for six months, July – Dec 2024: \$690,965 (-\$7,416 from 2023)*

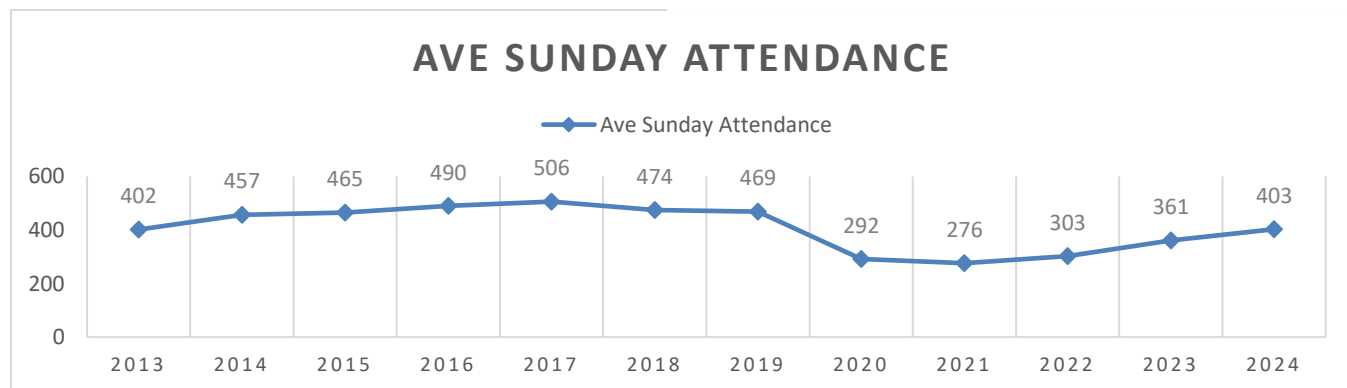
*Our budget for 24-25 required a 3% offering increase from 2023



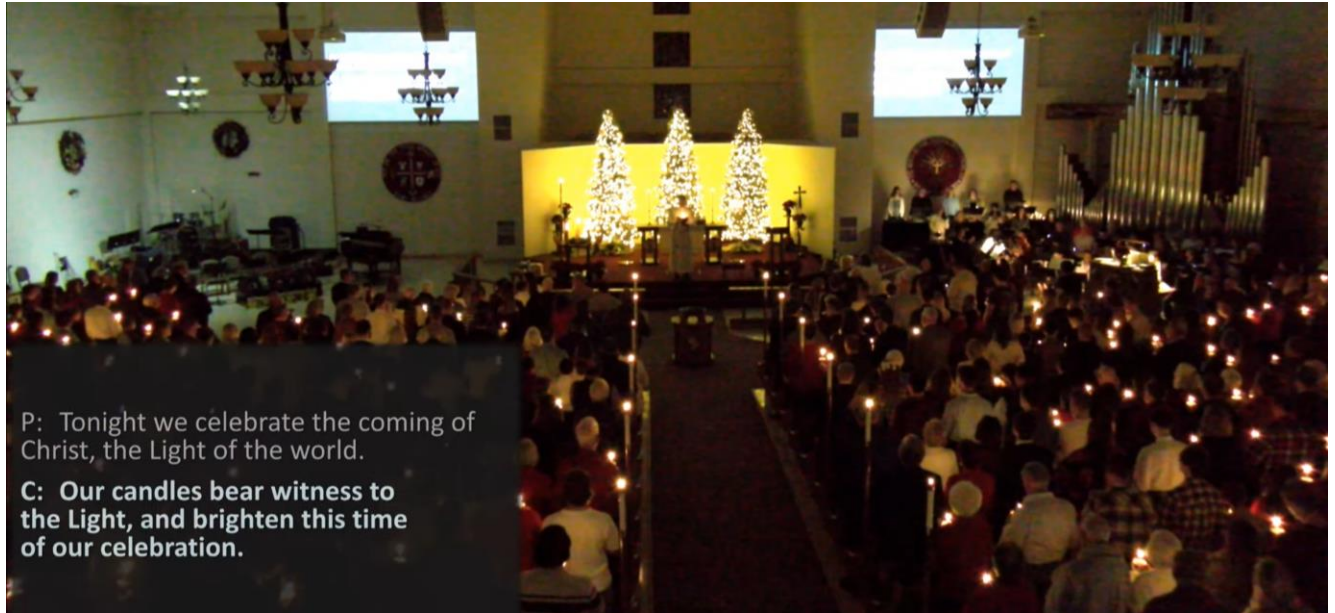
Confirmation Sunday 2024



Celebrating Student Baptisms



WORSHIPPING OUR SAVIOR JESUS



P: Tonight we celebrate the coming of Christ, the Light of the world.

C: Our candles bear witness to the Light, and brighten this time of our celebration.



Christmas Eve Worship Totals

2013: **507** (ice storm)
2014: **765**
2015: **830**
2016: **844**
2017: **876** (Includes 9:30am service)
2018: **886**
2019: **815**
2020: **430** (COVID)
2021: **601**
2022: **497** (snowstorm)
2023: **1,002** (Includes 9:30am and 10:00am services)
2024: **918**



Connect Service

Our young family oriented, station-based worship service hosts from 30-60 twice a month. This includes a number of early childhood families. 12 host families rotate in set up/clean up duties.

We continue to invite young families to grow in faith, hope, and love, as we learn, live, and share Christ.





High School Youth Group

We have 15 – 30 high school youth who attend Thursday Night Youth Group, led by Youth Director Kaitlyn Mews. Youth went Christmas caroling before their annual Christmas celebration (pictured).



ENDURE

JULY 19-23, 2025; NEW ORLEANS, LA

LCMS Youth Gathering 2025

Fifteen high school youth from OSL are attending the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. Youth Director Kaitlynn Mews has a great parent team to help coordinate, plan, and fund raise.

BLESSED WITH LAY LEADERSHIP 2025



Board of Directors – L to R: Mark Moeller, Joe Clark, Eric Morris, Wendy Boyce, Jake Kasper (chairman), Jennifer Miller, Jon Grocki (Financial Officer), Beth Krause (secretary), Lee Greve (vice chairman), Jim Sundstrom (SLT chair)



Spiritual Life Team – L to R: Nate Wagner (vice chairman, Jordan Miller, Jim Sundstrom (chairman), Bill Burmeister, Steve Boyce, Jon Schmidt, Stan Ferris, Darryl Warncke, Todd Davis, Jim Whitacre, Dennis Sohn, Joel Walter, Ben Davenport, Matt Sternemann (secretary)

Christian Education Team – Ross Anderson, Sarah Felsing, Zane Goucher, Nicki Judd, Aaron Krause, Chris Kuhlman, Brooke Miller, Brian Trudell, Josh Wyatt.

Vision Team 2025

The Board of Directors has formed a team to explore how we might grow and strengthen our ministry in the **next 5-10 years**, especially when we pay off our mortgage. Would we ever build an addition? How can we expand our school and early childhood? How can we better share the Gospel with the greater Lansing area and equip others to learn, live, and share Christ? The team has had two meetings and will be gathering data, demographics, and feedback from the congregation as we prayerfully discern where we are headed as a churchschool. They will report to the Board of Directors in May and at the next congregation meeting. Team Members are Jim Sundstrom (chairman), Simone Margraf, Tammy Mazur, Jake Kasper, Jim Koschmann, Claudia Carter, Darryl Warncke, Matt Sternemann, and Wendy Boyce, with Pastor Wangelin and Matt Couser consulting.



Safety Grant & Safety Training

Our Savior has contracted with **Lion Safety Consulting** to assess and provide safety training for our church and school. A **staff safety training** was held on Monday, January 6, for professional development with over 40 staff from church, K8 school, and early childhood participating. A **church safety training** was held Sunday, January 12, with 40 volunteers including elders, ushers, and musicians. A second staff training will be held Friday, February 14. **Written protocols** will be drafted as a result of these training sessions for future use. The cost of this consultant is paid for by the Michigan Safety Grant, of which Our Savior is a recipient. The Safety Grant has also allowed us to upgrade our **keycard system**, which is aging. The next step is transitioning to new key cards that have better security features in the coming year. Security cameras, locks, and other safety features are also being addressed by the Safety Grant. A **third AED** has been donated by Farm Bureau Insurance which will be located in the gym. That gives us three AED's spread across our building.

Out of School Time Grant

The Out of School Time Grant (OST) is a public grant for before and after school programs, including summer programs. Early Childhood Director Windy Carroll secured an OST grant for Our Savior in the amount of \$156,000. This will be utilized according to the grant guidelines, and provide materials for our before and after school programs and summer camp, additional training, education elements, and other enhancements that benefit the children in these programs. Our Summer Camp program is in the planning and hiring phase, as they anticipate serving 200-250 campers this summer. If you know someone who loves working with kids, applicants for camp staff must be 16 years old. There are opportunities for part-time and full-time over the summer.



Mission Middelburg – South Africa Missions



A mission team of 18 people, mostly OSL members, will be going to Middelburg, South Africa, **June 27 – July 7, 2025**. They will be visiting our ministry partners at St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church and St. Peter Christian College, Amajuba Orphanage and Caring Friends Ministries. They will be ambassadors of faith, and participate in a number of service projects for the community and the churches. The team is currently preparing, praying, and raising funds for their trip. Our **school chapel offerings** for 3rd trimester will go towards sending our three teachers (Ms. Mazur, Miss Korte, Miss Mews) and their mission endeavors.

The **Building Up the Kingdom Conference** will be held in the United States this year, in Michigan! **Saturday, March 8**, is the Building Up the Kingdom Conference at **St. Luke Haslett**. Our mission partners from South Africa (including Bishop David Tswaedi, Muzi Khumalo, and David Hannay) will be presenting. If you would like to hear the amazing things that God is doing through our partnership, you won't want to miss it. Check the news & announcements for more information.



Living Word Orphanage, South Sudan

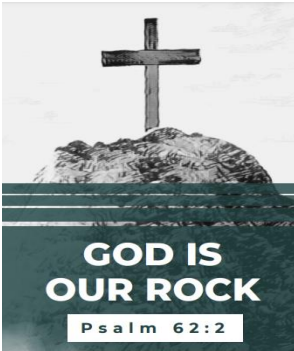
Pastor Moses and Alice Danbga returned in August from their mission trip to South Sudan, where they dedicated the property and put plans in place for the Living Word Orphanage. A mission support team in Lansing has been formed, including members of OSL. We look forward to partnering with Pastor Moses and Alice Danbga, Living Word Lutheran Church of Lansing, praying for this mission venture and joining Jesus in His mission in South Sudan!

Friendship Sunday

Sunday, April 27, 2025

The Sunday after Easter is a time many visitors are willing to join us in worship. Let's welcome them with gift bags, a breakfast, and true OSL hospitality as the Holy Spirit draws people to Him! Stay tuned for more details in the news & announcements.





Our Savior Lutheran School

2024-2025 School Year

Together we Learn, Live, and Share Christ while building up the Kingdom of the Lord. We are having an amazing and wonderful school year of faith and learning. In every aspect of our school day, whether during academic activities, play, or worship, whether it is teaching or correcting, Our Savior exists to be spiritually focused while leading children to be disciples of Jesus. May the Lord bless our journey!

Our Savior Music Program...Preparing for Music Festival

Our student musicians in grades 6-8 are working on multiple selections in chimes, hand bells, band, and choir. They will be performing at Concordia University in February. Additionally, our middle school choir will join the Valparaiso University Choir with a special performance on March 4th at Our Savior. Meanwhile, our K-3 music students are enjoying our new music teacher, Mrs. Mossner. She closes each class with students singing the Doxology. That is Lutheran Schools!

Our Savior Athletics...Hooping it Up!

Boys Basketball had a successful season at both the 5th/6th and 7th/8th grade levels. They were strong competitors and displayed excellent sportsmanship all season long. Twenty 5th-8th grade boys participated this season. The 7th/8th Won the Our Savior Grand Rapids Basketball Tourney!

PeeWee Basketball for grades 3-5 has twenty-six girls and boys learning and playing. We have six wonderful volunteer coaches who are teaching and encouraging our hoopers. Games take place every Saturday at Our Savior. OSL alumni assist with game operations and officiating.

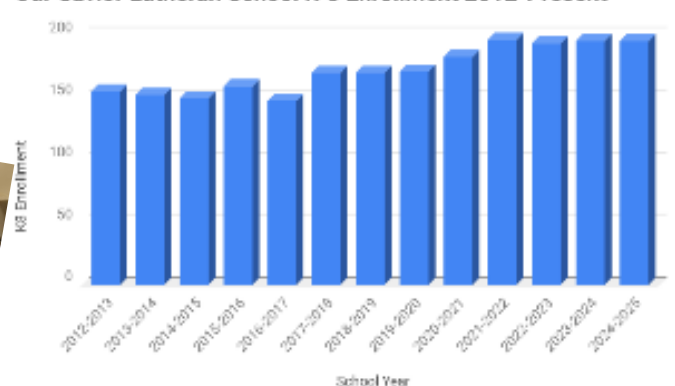
Girls Basketball: Twenty-four Girls are currently playing OSL Basketball for the 5th/6th & 7th/8th Grade Teams. These girls love the Lord, love playing for each other, and love to hoop. **GO PANTHERS!**

Most Ministries – 2nd Trimester Chapel Offering

Each year, MOST Ministries provides recycled eyeglasses to people living in the developing nations around the world. Generous individuals, churches and organizations across the US collect and send used eyeglasses to MOST Ministries, where they are sorted, tested, and repackaged by volunteers for distribution on the mission field by our team members. Praise God!



Our Savior Lutheran School K-8 Enrollment 2012-Present



Financial Report

"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

6 month report July – December 2024

Year to Date Income and Expenses: July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024				
	Actual Income	Budgeted Income	Actual Expenses	Budget Expenses
Church	\$750,692.86	\$755,187.00	\$767,145.74	\$777,826.91
K-8 School	\$655,791.92	\$571,895.00	\$534,336.11	\$547,226.31
Early Childhood	\$375,361.18	\$352,737.50	\$375,062.52	\$354,138.26
Total	\$1,781,845.96	\$1,679,819.50	\$1,676,544.37	\$1,679,191.48
% of Budget	106.07%		99.84%	

	<u>2024-2025 Offerings</u>	<u>2023-2024 Offerings</u>
Total Budgeted Offerings	\$1,360,503	\$1,230,300
YTD Offerings (12/31)	\$690,965 (50.7% of budget)	\$698,381 (56.7% budget/ 52.2% actual)
Year End Total Offerings	\$690,965 + January – June 2025	\$1,335,793 (+\$105,493)

Dart Bank Account Balances as of January 30

- General Fund Checking Account: \$48,555.76
- Non-Budget Account: \$200,799.06

Mortgage Balances

- Building Mortgage Balance: \$2,794,372.85 (Monthly Payment \$28,110)
- Parking Lot Balance: \$42,890.05 (Monthly Payment \$1,011)

2024-2025 Budget Development Strategies

Resources for Ministry (Income)

- Budgeted congregation giving at 3% increase over last year's actual contributions
- Increased Summer Camp Fees
- \$100,000 Budget Supplement Reserve Fund from special gifts to support budget

Moving Ministry Forward (Expenses)

- 2% increase for salaried staff
- 8% increase in health care insurance
- Moved special projects like classroom updates, facility maintenance, sanctuary updates, & technology needs to "wish list"
- Stewardship Education Emphasis for the coming year

Steps Taken by The Administrative Team

- The school responded to the enrollment numbers by not hiring an aide/academic coach for 1st grade.
- The congregation was notified about the 3% increase in offerings in a stewardship letter dated September 13. Another letter sent on November 18 stating the lack of sufficient income.
- Staff have implemented cost saving measures to conserve utilities (i.e. electricity, heat) and supplies (i.e. copies, food, materials, curriculum, etc.).
- Administrators reached out to key donors and supporters to see if any special gifts can be secured and we received a \$90,000 donation.
- Three testimonies on "Why I Give" at Sunday Services.
- Health Care Task Force formed to research options with similar coverage and lower premiums.
- Secured Out of School Time Grant for After School Care and Summer Camp (\$156,000). Secured Filter First Grant (\$7,088) to address the cost for the new filtration regulatory requirements.

Non-Budget Accounts

Non-Budget accounts are restricted, designated gifts that are not recorded in the income and expenses of the general fund.

Account Name	Balance as of January 30, 2025
Adult Ministry Trip	\$1,053.51
Alms Fund	\$7,108.10
CEF Stamp Program	\$234.30
Chapel Money	\$249.23
Church Account	\$11,680.53
CityServ	\$2,041.47
Clearing Account	\$875.00
Debt Reduction	\$5,344.74
Early Childhood Grant	\$6,377.35
Eighth Grade Trip	(\$2.56)
Endowment Fund	\$2,017.32
Endowment Fund: Vicar Fund	\$70,861.73
Fall Confirmation Retreat	\$2,639.01
Food Bank	\$18,737.34
Hot Lunch Clearing Account	(\$25.20)
Memorial Garden	\$10,045.00
Men of Courage Scholarship	\$604.27
Outreach	\$3,502.32
PTL	\$7,147.96
RaiseRight Program	\$2,326.04
School Account	\$22,780.86
South Africa	\$11,586.33
Special Gifts	\$2,250.00
Student Council	\$3,471.64
Youth Account	\$3,935.73
Youth Gathering	\$3,957.04
Total	\$200,799.06



Our Savior Lutheran
Church & School

2025 AUCTION

Saturday
MARCH 1, 2025 - 4:30PM

Get your hats and seersucker suits
ready for a derby style auction!

Tickets now available online or at the front desk.
Now accepting donations and sponsorships.

[OURSAVIORLANSING.ORG/AUCTION](https://oursaviorlansing.org/auction)