



Our Savior Lutheran Church & School

Congregation Meeting Agenda

2.1.26

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|-------|--|--|
| 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">• God Sightings• Sanctuary Update Project• Vision Team | Pastor Wangelin |
| 9:50 | Vicar Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vote | Jake Kasper |
| 9:55 | 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> |
| 10:00 | Early Childhood Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Out of School Time (OST) Grant | Windy Carroll
<i>Early Childhood Director</i> |
| 10:05 | Financial Report | 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 | |



Scan the QR code for the minutes of the previous congregation meeting, 6/1/25

LOOKING TO LENT – REDEMPTION REVEALED

Ash Wednesday – February 18, worship 7 p.m. w/ Holy Communion & ashes, in-person & online

Wednesdays in Lent – “Redemption Revealed” 40 minute devotional service at 7 p.m. focusing on Old Testament pictures and prophecies of the cross and empty tomb.

Lenten Dinners start at 5:30 p.m.

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

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 teach young and old how to follow Jesus in today’s world.

Our Ministry at a Glance

Baptized **Membership** as of 1/1/26: **1,185**

Median Age of membership: 40

New Members added in 2025: **+ 39** (9 infants, 9 children/youth, 10 adult confirmation, 11 adults by transfer or profession of faith)

Membership losses: 9 deceased, 7 transfer to other LCMS, 72 removed from rolls by SLT

Total **baptisms** in 2025: 19

Infants baptized in 2025: 8

Children/Youth baptized in 2025: 8

Adults baptized in 2025: 3

Ave Sunday in person worship Jan – Dec 2025: **380**

(Sunday average attendance 2024: 403, 2023: 361)

Ave estimated livestream attendance: 372

Confirmations in 2025 (youth): 15

Funerals or Memorial Services in 2025: 9

School Enrollment as of Jan 2025: 267

K-8 enrollment: 207

Early Childhood enrollment: 60

New students K-8: 18

General Offerings & Contributions for six months,

July – Dec 2025: \$693,473.81 (49.4% of budget)

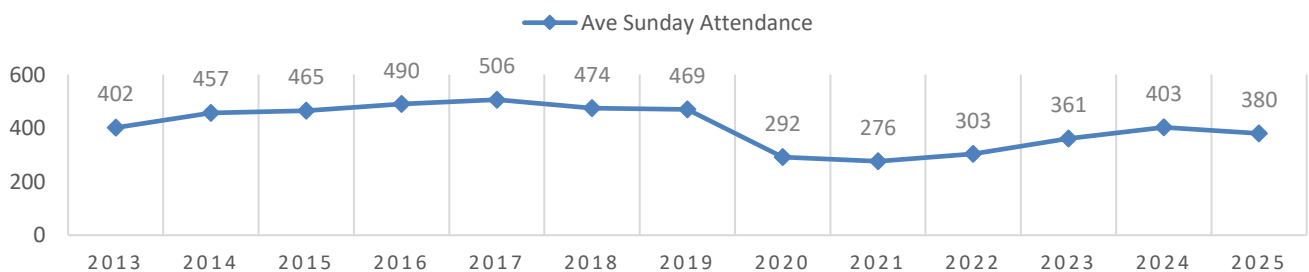
+ \$2,508 from 2024, 0.3% increase*

* our 25-26 budget included a 3% increase in offerings.



New Member Sunday November 2025

AVE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE



WORSHIPPING OUR SAVIOR JESUS



Christmas Eve Worship – 784 total in person attendance



Advent by Candlelight, Advent by Bonfire, Living Nativity, and the Connect Service all helped us learn, live, and share Christ with young and old.



High School Youth Group

We have 15 – 30 high school youth who attend Thursday Night Youth Group, led by Youth Director Kaitlynn Mews. In the fall they had a bonfire at OSL (pictured). In December they went Christmas caroling to shut-ins. The high school youth are again planning to lead a Wednesday Lenten service on March 18. Aside from Thursdays, we have many youth serving and helping at worship, outreach events, PeeWee basketball, and service projects.

BLESSED WITH LAY LEADERSHIP 2026

Board of Directors – Jake Kasper (chairman), Joe Clark (vice chairman), Beth Krause (secretary), Carla Kaschinske (financial officer), Jim Sundstrom (SLT rep), Simone Margraf (CET rep), Mark Moeller, Eric Morris, Jon Grocki, Lee Greve, Deb Kamm

Spiritual Life Team – Jim Sundstrom (chairman), Nate Wagner (vice chairman), Matt Sternemann (secretary), Bill Burmeister, Steve Boyce, Jon Schmidt, Darryl Warncke, Bill Hall, Brett Kaschinske, Jordan Miller, Todd Davis, Jim Whitacre, Dennis Sohn, Joel Walter, Ben Davenport, Duane Margraf

Christian Education Team – Ross Anderson (chair), Sarah Felsing (vice chair), Nicki Judd (secretary), Simone Margraf (BOD rep), Aaron Krause, Chris Kuhlman, Brian Trudell, Josh Wyatt, Nancy Filter

Sanctuary Update 2026



Note: The rendering above shows the old screens and does not include new tile under the pews and in the front of the church. Colors in the rendering may vary from the actual material.

Sanctuary Update Elements - Phase One:

- New carpet in existing locations
- New tile under the pews
- New chancel flooring
- Carpet covering hand bell and praise band platforms
- Wood veneer on columns
- New spotlights
- Realign screens for better viewing
- Pew Bibles
- Handrail to chancel

Phase Two Elements – as funding allows:

- Steam-clean the pews
- Floor cleaning machine
- New soundboard
- Lobby walls painted
- Lobby furniture

The revised estimated cost of phases one and two is \$240,000. As of 1/28/26 we have \$203,475 raised. We will proceed with projects as funds come in. No loans will be used for this project.

Designated gifts for the project may be placed in the provided envelopes and turned into the church office, placed in the giving baskets on Sundays, or mailed to the church office.

The church will be emptied for floor replacement on **Sunday, March 22**. Each person may take an item out, large or small, so that we can all participate in this together. The pews will be professionally removed and re-installed. The plan is to have flooring and lighting completed before Holy Week.



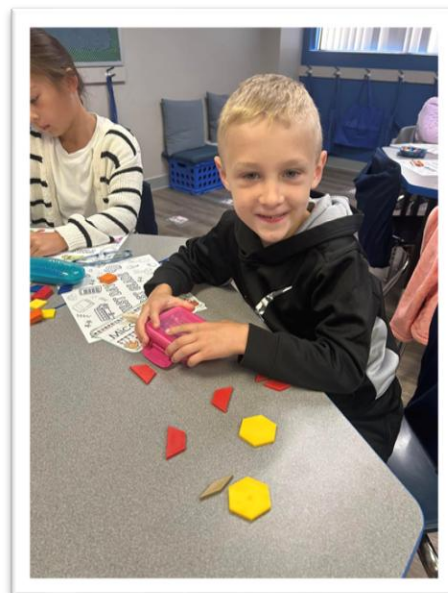
Vision Team 2026

Building on the work of the Vision Team last year, a subteam consisting of Pastor Wangelin, Pastor Chris, Principal Couser, Jake Kasper, and Jim Sundstrom are participating in the Vision Bridge Process from the Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI). This is a 9-month guided process of clarifying our mission, vision, values, and purpose. The focus is on clarifying our process for making disciples, and how we organize our ministry around that process. It includes two in person immersion

sessions in September and March, and monthly zoom meetings with coaching and assignments. A report will be given at the June finance meeting.

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 \$144,480. 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 another great year with a full camp. 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.



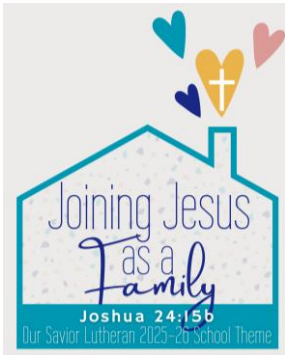
Check out the latest episode of **OSL Unscripted**



Join Dave Wright & Pastor Chris for fun conversations, faith-filled insights, and real talk about family, faith, and life together in Jesus.

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The OSL Unscripted Podcast is released twice a month and features Pastor Chris and Family Life Minister Dave Wright along with special guests on a variety of topics including family, faith, and life together in Jesus. You can find the podcast on most major podcast platforms or via our website oursaviorlansing.org.



Our Savior Lutheran School

2025-2026 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!

Spring Music Highlights for Our Savior Middle School

On March 12, 2026, Our Savior will host their own school music festival for 6th–8th grade music groups—including Choir, Band, Handbells, and Chimes—featuring onsite adjudicators and giving students the opportunity to perform, receive feedback, and celebrate their musical growth.

On March 18, 2026, the 6th–8th grade Choir will sing for a noon mid-week Lenten service at Historical Trinity in downtown Detroit. The annual spring Music Concert for grades 4th-8th is May 14th at 7pm in the sanctuary.

PTL Ministry Impact: PTL Donuts & Devotions Recap

In November, over 180 people attended the Parent Teacher League (PTL) sponsored Donuts & Devotions at a before-school event, led by Pastor Chris and sponsored by Kymm’s Cleaning. This event provides time and space for families to connect and grow in faith—living out this year’s school theme from Joshua 24:15b: *“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”* The next Donuts & Devotions will be held on March 17.

Growing Gifts: Middle School Specials and Electives at Our Savior

At Our Savior, middle school students experience a well-rounded program through required specials and engaging electives that nurture their God-given gifts. Specials—Art, Physical Education, Health, STEAM, and Computer Skills—provide all students with opportunities to grow creatively, physically, technologically, and spiritually while building 21st-century skills grounded in Christian values. Electives – including Choir, Band, Handbells, Family Consumer Science, Drama, Business World, and Coding allow students to explore personal interests each trimester.

OSL Service Club First Project Recap

The OSL Service Club, comprised of 13 students in grades 5–8, launched their first project of the year by supporting the OSL Food Bank through a school-wide collection of donated items. Each classroom had a box for students to place their contributions, and flyers were distributed to guide the collection. Service Club members visited classrooms to excite and inform students about the project. The Service Club is advised by Miss Faith Korte, Mrs. Meghan Morris, and Mrs. Rachael Engelbrecht.



2025-26 School Stats

- 207 K-8 Students
- 50% OSL Members, 50% Community
- 24 or more students in six grades
- 26 Kindergartners
- 30 Sixth Graders
- 60 EC Students





OSL Endowment Fund

The OSL Endowment Fund is the steward of long-term gifts for the current and future mission of our church and school. It invests these gifts and is able to distribute 5% of the fund annually. Most recently, a grant was approved for \$2,000 to replace old computers for teachers. To learn more about the OSL Endowment Fund, see the brochure, visit the website, or talk with Dennis Sohn, chairman. The main Endowment Fund is divided into three sub-funds:

Church Fund	School Fund	Christian Education Fund	Total
\$20,828.94	\$47,992.40	\$64,513.87	\$133,335.21

The **Church Fund** supports the work of the Endowment Committee and various ministries. The **School Fund** provides materials to our school ministry. The **Christian Education Fund** supports scholarships for students in church worker programs at LCMS schools. Gifts given to the Endowment Fund are distributed evenly among the sub-funds unless otherwise designated.

The Endowment Fund also manages three **Restricted Gift Funds** designated for specific purposes. The *Horst-Bickel Fund* is a gift given by Hildegard Horst that is currently earning interest. Another restricted gift fund supports the *Vicar Program* at Our Savior. The third restricted gift fund is the *Garden of Peace Fund*, which is held by Renaissance Charitable Foundation and makes annual distributions, administered by the Endowment Committee. The Endowment Committee makes reports on all of its investments and distributions to the Board of Directors annually.

Garden of Peace High School Scholarship

The Garden of Peace High School Scholarship is for any graduate of Our Savior Lutheran School attending any Christian high school. The scholarship is managed by the OSL Endowment Committee. Applications for scholarships for the 2026-27 school year are **due by April 1**. Scholarships will be awarded in mid-April and distributed in July. For more information, contact Jon Grocki at gardenofpeaceOSL@gmail.com.

Endowment Ambassador

The OSL Endowment Committee has selected **Bill Burmeister** to be the Endowment Ambassador. Bill will be meeting with members of the congregation individually to talk about estate planning. He will give helpful tips and guidance, drawing on years of experience as a professional gift planner for the LCMS Michigan District. Look for more information in the coming months.

Legacy Builders

The Legacy Builders are people who have included Our Savior Lutheran Church and School in their end of life giving, estate plan, or trust. They have completed the process to designate all or a portion of their earthly treasure for the continuing work of the Lord here at OSL. This group is recognized on a regular basis with special events, gifts, and ministry updates. To be included in the Legacy Builders, complete the **Declaration of Intent Form** found in the church lobby or on the website, and turn it into the business manager, Stephanie Trapp in the church office.

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

Six month report - July to December 2025

Year to Date Income and Expenses July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025		
	Actual Income	Actual Expenses
Church	\$793,013.14	\$822,173.60
K-8 School	\$812,895.89*	\$610,395.91
Early Childhood	\$281,487.13*	\$460,046.43
Total	\$1,887,396.16	\$1,892,615.94
% of budget	109.96%	110.27%

* about \$200,000 of Early Childhood income is recorded as K-8 income due to the initial set up of our accounting system. This will be properly allocated by the June meeting.

Non-Budget Accounts	1/20/26
8 th Grade Trip	\$16,434.39
Alms Fund	\$5,589.85
Chapel Offering	\$775.85
Church Account	\$158,575.32
CityServe	\$443.65
Confirmation Retreat	\$3,132.61
Student Council	\$3,499.14
Debt Reduction	\$8,668.70
Food Bank	\$16,541.92
Memorial Garden	\$12,031.31
PTL	\$5,874.81
South Africa Missions	\$17,096.93
School Account	\$1,056.21
Vicar Fund	\$198,355.91
Miscellaneous	\$13,743.25
TOTAL	\$461,819.85

	2024-2025	2025-2026
Total Budgeted Offerings	\$1,360,503	\$1,403,055
YTD Offerings (12/31)	\$690,965	\$693,473
% of budget	50.7%	49.4%

Dart Bank Account Balances as of January 20

- General Fund Checking Account: \$106,054.23
- Non-Budget Bank Account: \$461,819.85 This matches the non-budget account funds. The non-budget accounts are restricted, designated gifts that are not recorded in the income and expenses of the general fund.

Mortgage Balances

- The parking lot mortgage was paid in full in July 2025
- Building Mortgage Balance: \$2,580,899 (Monthly Payment \$28,110)
- We paid \$60,000 of principal-only on our mortgage in January

Blackbaud Systems

Accounting System

- Blackbaud allows paperless check requests and payments
- Blackbaud integrates with our credit card payments and Dart bank.

Tuition Module

- Handles all K8 and EC tuition contracts and extended care billing.
- Automatically links contracts, payment, and our accounting systems

Education Module

- This replaces Educate as our grading and school management system and integrates with all other modules.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

Our Savior Lutheran Church & School

2026 AUCTION

Proudly Presented by: Dart Bank Wealth

DATE

Saturday
March 7, 2026

TIME

4:30pm

VENUE

Our Savior
Gymnasium

GET YOUR
TICKETS AND
DONATE
TODAY!

oursaviorlansing.org/auction