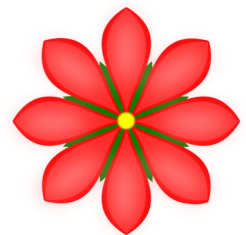


PARTNERS



MAY 2025

VOLUME 37 ISSUE 5



Covert Christianity

Do you ever get really worked up or anxious when it comes to sharing your faith? Do you feel a sense of obligation or possibly stressed about publicly professing Christ? Do you feel you should act a certain way or live a certain way so that other people might believe in the Jesus that you do? What if there was a more subtle approach? A kinder, gentler way to live our lives—one not out of obligation; rather, with some level of spontaneity. I call it “Covert Christianity.” What I mean by that is to live a kind of Christianity that is perhaps a little bit more subtle, purposeful, overflowing with the love and care of Jesus Christ that’s not so bombastic when it comes to sharing your faith but rather “covert.” My experience has been when people see your intentions it can change the results. It’s the kind of Christianity that you can do all the time. You can live your life in such a way that they’ll never see you coming (only Christ in you) and because of it you’ll become much more effective as it relates to evangelism.

So if the Four Gospels of the New Testament reveal Christ, then the book of Acts is the unique contribution of telling us historically what people did with that message. We soon discover that the sheepish disciples of the Gospels are now in the book of Acts, endowed with increased levels of boldness which causes them to get in the same sort of trouble that Jesus got into during his earthly ministry. You can divide the book of Acts into two simple halves. The first half Peter is the main character. The second half the main character becomes the apostle Paul. Thus, it’s both of these men and many others, who contribute to further growing what we now know is Christianity. It’s this level of passion, which leads to many conversions, including what many characterize as the first Gentile conversion of the New Testament found in Acts chapter 16.

As we arrive at the text, we discover that Paul and his missionary associate, Silas, have been jailed because of their mission activities. They, and many others, have continued to spread the Gospel and have been met with much opposition. On this particular occasion, Paul and Silas find themselves shackled in a prison, singing hymns at midnight. It is my sincere belief that Paul and Silas did not go into that jail with a specific plan for outreach. They were simply living life and doing what would come naturally to them as followers of Jesus. They practiced what I would call a “covert” style of Christianity. Look how effective their witness was. They seem to be unaware that their impromptu worship service has drawn the attention of the other prisoners. Even in the midst of their bondage, they continue to be salt and light for Christ. Therefore, what happens next no one could anticipate. A great earthquake arises, and the very foundations of the prison are shaken. All of the doors spontaneously opened, and everybody’s chains were unfastened. When the jailer comes after this has happened, he draws his short sword. All people in his position would’ve carried two different types of swords. He draws the shorter sword in a moment of suicidal panic because he knows full well that if all of these prisoners escape he will be killed by his superiors. Just at the moment of sheer chaos, Paul speaks and cries in a loud voice for him not to harm himself. This, too, becomes a missional moment as the jailer asks both Paul and Silas what he must do to be saved? Wouldn’t it be great if we heard more people ask that question? If people, in the midst of their despair and hostility, would ask honest questions such as this? Please note, he is asking what he must accomplish for his own salvation, not realizing the length that Jesus had already gone to on the cross to ensure his rightful place in paradise. Paul seizes the opportunity by saying to him very simply, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your entire household.” Verse 32 tells us of the impromptu sermon that Paul gives at that moment and then in this beautiful reciprocal picture we have the jailer washing the wounds of the prisoner, and the prisoners now baptizing the jailer. Just a footnote, there are many instances in the book of Acts where we are told that several members of the same family were baptized in a communal setting. Many scholars have taken this as one picture of the fact that infants were also baptized in these situations.

So, maybe it’s time for us to be less intimidated when it comes to outreach. If our intentionality is one of the reasons why people feel manipulated as they’re being evangelized, perhaps, the best approach is to be more subtle, or as I have argued here, more “covert.” With a subtle, more whimsical approach a higher success rate of people coming to Christ can be wrought. May God bless you in your “covert” quest to share Christ with others.

4Him,
Pastor Steve

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES April 2, 2025

These minutes were recorded at the last council meeting and will be approved at the next meeting.

The OSLC Church Council met for its monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 in fellowship hall. Members present were Pastor Steve Walswick, Chad Coulter, Chad Beranek, Kari Halter, Deb Furth, Kris Vollmer, Janice Werner, John Smith, Steve Halter and Justtina Erickson.

Guest: Vernon Pfarr

President Coulter called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM and Pastor Steve led the group in prayer.

Secretary's Report: Chad B moved and Steve H seconded to approve the March minutes that were sent out to council members by Deb Furth prior to the meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kari reported the February checking balance of \$12,145.80 and savings balance of \$66,609.10. On a motion by Steve H. and seconded by Kris, the treasurer's report was approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Steve submitted a written report of his activities for March, which included 13 personal contact visits, 2 communion visits, 1 pastoral care visits, Worship and Music committee meeting, Lutheran Brethren Seminary in Fergus Falls where he preached in the Chapel, met with Pastor Cathy Hoffbeck to plan Holy Week, and conducted a VVM service. Pastor asked what we would consider his ending date at OSLC. Chad Beranek moved that we accept Pastor Steve Walswick's resignation effective May 18, 2025. John seconded and the motion passed.

Committee Reports

Education: Justtina reported that they will meet, Wednesday, April 9 when they will finalize plans for Vacation Bible School.

Worship and Music: Janice reported that we will have slide shows for Mother's and Father's Day. Pictures should be submitted for those occasions.

Worship and Music continued: It was also brought to our attention that Facebook will only save 4 weeks and then delete services. We need to decide whether to continue with Facebook or switch to something else. We will have Jodi Smith check with John Cowan, our IT person, to see how we might handle this.

Life, Growth & Stewardship: Kris reported Lenten meals are going well. Directory photos also went well with 106 appointments made. Those that are submitting photos have until May 1st to do so. \$320 in donations were made toward the directories.

Property: John reported that we are looking into the sliding curtain at the old school as a possible replacement for the curtain between the sanctuary and the overflow.

Old Business:

Action Plan: Due to Pastor Steve's resignation, council feels we are done with the action plan.

Care Teams: There will be a care team meeting after church on Sunday, April 6. This is open to anyone who would like to be a member of this group and do visits for our members who are shut-in or in need. Pastor wants to equip people on the teams especially over the summer, with some guides for visits and communion distribution.

Overflow Refresh update: The painting is almost complete and lighting is done. There a few things left for the electrician to do. New rugs have been ordered for the entryways. The committee will start decorating after Easter.

Boiler: Property committee received a quote from Lamberton Heating and Plumbing of \$25,384.95 that includes 2 boilers, warranties and installation. This doesn't include the electrical hook-up. Steve H moved to table the purchase of the boilers until next month. Janice seconded and the motion passed.

Membership: Kris moved to form a committee to look into our church membership. John seconded. Motion passed. A request will be put in the monthly newsletter and the bulletins for people to volunteer to be on a committee to contact and update our membership list. A sign up sheet will be posted on the church bulletin board by the church offices.

Council Minutes Continued**New Business**

Donation: We have received an anonymous donation of \$5000 to be used for the overflow refresh, if not needed for the general fund. John moved to use the donation directly toward the overflow refresh. Chad B seconded. Motion passed.

Bibles, Burgers and Brew: There are no plans to continue this program this summer.

Church Spring Cleaning: Deb moved and Kari seconded to have a church spring cleaning week from Friday, June 13 to Friday, June 20, 2025. Motion carried. We are looking for volunteers to sign up for cleaning tasks that will be posted at a later date, that cannot be done by our custodian. Tasks can be done at any time during that week. More information to follow as time gets closer.

Luther League Lock-in April 5-6, 2025: Kris moved and Janice seconded to approve a Luther League lock-in at the church for Saturday, April 5 to Sunday, April 6, 2025. Motion carried.

Search for a new Pastor: Council decided to contact Aaron Deutsch from the Augustana District to meet with us as soon as possible to give us guidelines on how to move forward with this task.

Communion Assistants

Congregation members are encouraged to sign up on the bulletin board outside the offices if they would like to assist with communion.

April 5, 2025 (1st communion for 5th graders)

– Gayle Erickson and John Smith

April 13, 2025 – Mike and Kris Vollmer

April 20, 2025 (Easter)- Chad Coulter, Janice Werner, and Kari Halter

May 4, 2025 (Confirmation) 10 AM – Deb Furth and Gayle Erickson

Next council meeting: Wednesday, May 7, 2025

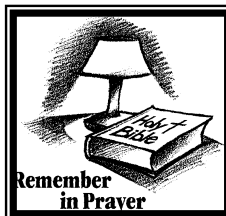
Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, Chad B moved to adjourn and Kris seconded. Motion carried. Adjourned at 8:57 PM. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Furth

Council Secretary



Please note our list of people needing our prayers regularly. This list is much more complete since it addresses ongoing issues while the Sunday bulletin list is aimed at more

immediate concerns. We ask that you would keep all these people in your prayers each day.

Jeffrey Kuehl (health issues)

David Rue (hospice)

Nancy Rue (health issues)

Randy Hammerschmidt (health issues)

Paula (Mattison) Meidl (bone marrow transplant) recovery

Kim Churchill Oelfke (stroke & cancer)

Vicki Churchill Schenk (cancer treatments)

Briana Halter Peterson (health concerns)

Pray for people affected by other disasters ...

**Thrivent Choice Dollars**

As always, Our Savior's Lutheran Church is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving plans. If you are a Thrivent Financial member eligible to direct Choice Dollars, we ask you to consider our congregation as you help direct Thrivent Financial's charitable funds. For more information about how to designate Choice Dollars visit: Thrivent.com/choicevote or call 800-847-4836.

**May Media Operator Schedule**

May 4, 2025	Trenton Blomgren (507-822-6571)
May 11, 2025	Val Halter (507-276-0008)
May 18, 2025	Sam Furth (507-227-7666)
May 25, 2025	Val Halter (507-276-0008)



BUDGET RECAP as of 4/20/2025

Total Outstanding:

Accounts Payable	\$0
Estimated Payroll	\$4,000.00

Income:

3/16/25— 4/20/25	\$15,745.96
In Checking Acct.	\$10,988.24
In Savings Acct.	\$66,609.10

Needed weekly to

Meet budget	\$3,200.00
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Online Giving

To assist you with your stewardship ministry, you may make a gift online! You may visit our website or use the link.

<https://oslclamberton.churchcenter.com/giving>

You may still mail checks to the church office.

**Address found on last page of newsletter.*

MAY USHER SCHEDULE

Cory Blomgren
Trenton Blomgren
Pete Valentin
John Mariner



TAXI

Please call an Usher by
Fridays for a ride!



Thank you for supporting our monthly missions! Here's how much we helped the mission last month.

March—WAFER—\$272.02

Thank you for your support!

MAY MISSION EMPHASIS **~Shetek Lutheran Ministries~**

All Ages, All Year Round

Shetek Lutheran Ministries is for people of all ages who want to spend time having fun in the beauty of God's creation. They provide summer camp for youth and many programmed retreats for youth, adults, senior adults, women's groups, men's groups and families throughout the year.

Shetek's location provides for year-round fun and adventure in the great outdoors.

Help us support the work being done at Shetek Lutheran Ministries. Many of our youth attend camp at Shetek. You may use an envelope provided in the pews for your donation to the camp.



You can use the envelope in the pews or your own envelope and write "Shetek" on it to designate for mission giving. You may also give your donation online via our website or use the link below and select 'mission'.

<https://oslclamberton.churchcenter.com/giving>

Your contributions are greatly appreciated!!

Thanks for your support!

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Upcoming Dates:

- April 30th - Confirmation pictures and rehearsal at 4pm - only the 9th grade students need to attend
- May 4th- Confirmation Service 10am. Confirmands be there at 9:30am. No Sunday School
- May 11th- Last day of Sunday School classes
- May 18th - 10am Senior Recognition Fellowship following Worship Service
- June 8-12th. Bible School dates - looking for volunteers (sign up sheet is on bulletin board). Ages include those going into kindergarten through finishing 6th grade.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank you to the Sunday School teachers for preparing and teaching each week and to the parents for sharing their kids with us!

We had a great year! Due to Confirmation, no class on May 4th. May 11th will be our last Sunday School time. We have something fun planned, so be sure to join us!

Memory Work

All Nursery - 6th graders who completed their memory work will be honored during the Sunday, April 27th church service with a certificate. So proud of these youth for making time to learn more about God's message to us. If your child has completed their memory work, do let their teacher know. Certificates will also be passed out the last day of Sunday School May 11th during class time.

Join us for
Vacation Bible
School
There is Victory
in Jesus!
V-I-C-T-O-R-Y!



All students entering Kindergarten this fall through those just finishing 6th graders are invited to join in the fun
Sunday, June 8th - Thursday, June 12th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Each night, youth will sing, dance, learn about a bible story, create during craft time and dig into science experiments. We know schedules may be busy, so while we would love for you to join us all five nights, please come to as many that work in your schedule. If you have a friend who isn't a member at Our Saviors and would like to join us, super - bring them along! Do let Nicole at the church office know their name and grade so we can add them to our list.

Students will receive a light snack (not full meal) as part of the VBS program thanks to the very generous Women's Circles.

HELP WANTED!

We are looking for teachers, group leaders, window painters, craft, games, and skits, for Vacation Bible school. A few of our usual helpers aren't able to attend so we're hoping you will consider helping us with this fun week! Some positions are all week and some just a night or two. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.



Bible Camp Info

- Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Register at: GLLM.org
- Inspiration Point Christian Camp and Retreat Center. Register at: IPOINT.ORG 218.338-5379
- Shetek Lutheran Ministries Register at: <https://shetek.org/summer/>
- Lost Timber Bible Camp Register at: <https://www.losttimber.org/>

Bible Camp Scholarships – Register and then reach out to the church office for more details.



Wishing You a
Happy Birthday!

MAY Birthdays

- 1st** - Sandy Polkow, Daniel Kronbach
- 2nd** - Kierra Petersen, Guy Dammann, Emily Senst, Traycten Pistulka
- 4th** - Denise Mattison
- 8th** - Sam Furth
- 12th** - Sally Erickson, Leah Teveldal
- 13th** - Sharon Coulter, Marissa Koppen, Kegan Zimmermann
- 14th** - David Thillen
- 15th** - Brenna Pfarr, Eleanor Benedict
- 16th** - Brynlee Halter
- 17th** - Gracelyn Keck
- 18th** - Dawson Mariner
- 22nd** - Myron Bedner, Jeff Frank, Mary Neperman, Megan Watercott, Kari Redman, Jace Engen, Jade Engen
- 24th** - Austin Krueger, Jeff Kuehl, Marshal Petersen, Braiden Davis
- 25th** - Alex Kircher
- 26th** - Tom Halter, Susan Knutson
- 27th** - Amber Bergemann
- 28th** - Wendy Mattison, Tyler Beermann, Alexandra Eidem, Harlow Neperman
- 29th** - Steve Vollmer
- 30th** - Judy Dagner, Lillian Johnson



May **Anniversary Celebration**

- 8th** - Pete & Kellie Valentin
- 12th** - Tim & Stacy Osland
- 14th** - Larry & Lee Ann Kronback
- 16th** - Jon & Amber Bergemann
- 19th** - Dean & Deb Lingle
- 21st** - Lynn & Pat Story
- 26th** - Roger & Roxie Pfarr
- 27th** - Todd & Wendy Mattison
- 29th** - Chris & Susan Jeckell



MAY ACOLYTE & VIDEO SCHEDULE

9:00 A.M. Worship Service

May 4, 2025
10:00 A.M. Confirmation Sunday
Sam Thillen & Lindsey Guggisberg
Video: Dawson Rue

May 11, 2025
Madisyn Keck & Zoey Keck
Video: Isaac Wondercheck

May 18, 2025
Braylen Braulick
Video: Lincoln Hesse

May 25, 2025
Halle Paplow
Video: Quintin Willhite

Please remember it is your responsibility to find a replacement for your designated worship service.
Thank you!!



PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer concern you would like passed along to the Prayer Chain, please contact Judy Kuehl, 507-822-1716, or the church office. Please specify if you want the concern on (1) the Prayer chain and/or included in Sunday morning prayers which will be included for two (2) Sundays unless request is renewed. Thank you.



Senior Recognition

May 18th we will be honoring our seniors! All OSW Circles will be serving coffee and light refreshments after church in the fellowship hall for family and friends.

Everyone is welcome!

Our seniors are:

*Mason Huffman, Shadae Knutson,
Braiden Davis, & Ethan Willhite*

**Congratulations and best wishes in
your future endeavors!
God's blessings be with you!!**

Confirmation Sunday

You are invited to attend and be part of the Confirmation service on Sunday, May 4, 2025! The worship service time is changed to **10:00 A.M.** that morning. There will NOT be Sunday School that day.

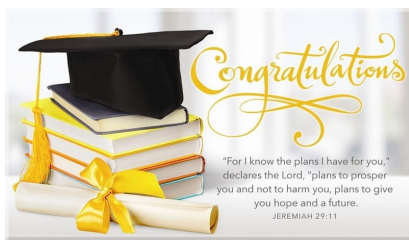
Blessings to:

*Max Erickson, Colton Jeckell,
Dawson Mariner, Maverick
Mathias, Aron Van Meveren, &
Austin Werner as they confirm
their faith in the Lord!*

RRC Baccalaureate Service

The clergy from the RRC school district and the Lamberton Ministerium gather in ecumenical worship honoring the graduating seniors of Red Rock Central at the Baccalaureate Service.

The service will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lamberton on **Sunday, May 18th at 7 P.M.**



Everyone in the community is invited to attend! We hope you will join with them to be a part of this special time.



MAY ALTAR GUILD

Cheryl Van Meveren
Wendy Wondercheck

You're Invited!

Join us for coffee & cake on **Sunday, May 11th** following the morning worship service as we show our appreciation for **Pastor Steve Walswick.**



This special gathering also marks the **last day of Sunday School**, and the children will be served cake to celebrate as well.

We hope to see you there!



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

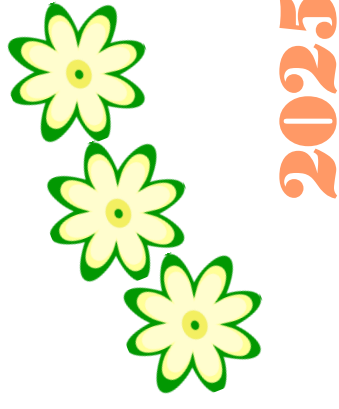
Call Committee – Help Shape Our Future!

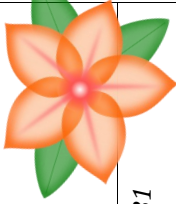



We are seeking volunteers to serve on the Call Committee—a group that will play a vital role in shaping the future of Our Savors. This committee will represent a cross section of our congregation and will be elected at a special meeting in June. Their first tasks will include developing a job description and posting based on insights gathered from the congregational survey.

This is a unique moment in our church's journey. We have a strong foundation, including a vibrant youth program, and we need a pastor who can help us build on that momentum and continue nurturing the next generation.

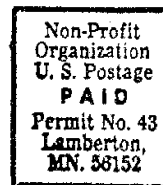
Serving on the Call Committee is more than just a task—it's a chance to press the reset button, dream boldly, and provide direction for our next chapter. Ask yourself: *What can I do?* We need all hands on deck to get this important job done.

If you're passionate about the future of Our Savors, please consider volunteering. Together, we can look ahead with hope and faith as we seek the next leader who will walk with us in ministry, mission, and growth.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Please have your bulletin announcements into the Church Office by 10 A.M. on TUESDAYS! THANKS!</p>			<p>30 4:00 9th Confirmation Rehearsal & Pictures</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2 <i>Offices Closed</i> 9:00 Community Bible Study</p>	<p>3 Directory Picture Session <i>Addition</i></p>
<p>4 10:00 Confirmation Service (C) <i>*No Sunday School Classes Fellowship hall reserved</i></p>	<p>5 <i>Church Office Closed</i></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 7:00 Church Council</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 <i>Offices Closed</i> 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:00 Worship/Communion w/ baptism of Laykyn Pistulka 10:00 Sunday School; Pastor Appreciation Fellowship <i>*Last Day of SS Classes*</i></p>	<p>12 <i>Church Office Closed</i></p>	<p>13 2:00 OSW Meeting</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 <i>Offices Closed</i> 9:00 Community Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9:00 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Senior Recognition Fellowship 7:00 RRC Baccalaureate <i>Pastor Steve's last day</i></p>	<p>19 <i>Offices Closed</i> <u>Newsletter</u> <u>Articles Due!!</u></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 <i>Offices Closed</i> 9:00 Community Bible Study 7:00 RRC Graduation</p>	<p>24 </p>
<p>25 9:00 Worship</p>	<p>26 <i>Office s Closed</i>  Memorial Day</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 </p>	<p>29 <i>Wedding Rehearsal</i> </p>	<p>30 <i>Wedding of Lilly Stavnes & Ashton Juhnke</i></p>	<p>31</p>

**OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
805 BIRCH ST
P.O. BOX 67
LAMBERTON, MN 56152-0067
507/752-7334**

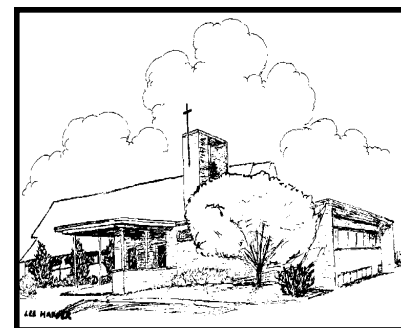


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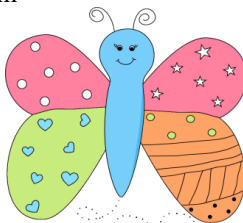


Pastor Steve Walswick

Pastor Steve's Cell Phone: 320-808-4588
Pastor Steve's E-mail: stevewalswick@yahoo.com
Pastor's Office Hours: 9am-3pm Mon-Wed

Church Office Hours:

9 a.m.-Noon, 1-4p.m. Tues-Thurs
Church Phone: 752-7334
Church Email: oslclamberton@centurytel.net
Website: www.oslclamberton.com



The Mission of Our Savior's Lutheran Church is to demonstrate Christ's Spirit through worship, witnessing, and ministry to the needs of the people of this church and the community.

Please have bulletins articles into the church office by 10am Tuesday mornings.

+++++

Please have your Newsletter articles or calendar items into the church office a designated on the monthly calendar.

Worship Services:

Sundays: 9:00 A.M.
Sunday School:
10:00 A.M. (Sept.-May)

Cable Broadcast of Services:

Lamberton -WED: 4:00 P.M.
Springfield -Wednesday: 6:00 P.M.