



PARTNERS

JANUARY 2026

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 1



THE HIGHWAY OF GOD

So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land. Deuteronomy 8:6, 7

Where are we going? The roads stretch out before us, and each one of us must determine his own destination. No one else can choose it for us. Many voices are trying to persuade us to go in different directions. It would be well if we would spend time to be still and listen to the voice of God.

Because of the mercy and love of our Saviour, God will not only forgive but forget the sins of the past if we are penitent.

We have now entered a new year. Where are we going? If we decide to walk with God, we shall have an eternal destiny.

He will not show us all of the way at once. It is not necessary for us to know the whole way—as long as He knows it. Traveling down the beautiful North Shore drive of Lake Superior, one comes to a place where it appears that the road leads right into the open sea. We travel on because we have confidence that the road builder would not build a road to end at the edge of a cliff. We have faith that even though we cannot see it now, we shall come to a point in the highway where the road will turn away with the shoreline.

The highway of life has many curves. Each succeeding day holds many things “around the corner.” This can make of life an exhilarating adventure, if we set our minds to face it that way. We who are Christian have confidence that God would not build for His children a dead-end road, but that the highway of faith, hope, and love is a thoroughfare that leads somewhere.

Christmas 2026

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

Last January we started the new year with our whole family celebrating Christmas together on the first Weekend in January in Sioux Falls. We plan to that again this year. January also brought us our second Great-grand-child, Noah, born to Dani and Dillon Taylor,

In July we flew to New Jersey for the funeral of our niece Crissy Savitt. She was Sandy's brother, Brad's Daughter. Granddaughter Maddy Moncur was married in in August in Lincoln. Welcome to the family Tanner. We also attended the annual LCMC retired pastors retreat at Lake Okoboji in Iowa. On the way home we attended the funeral of Tom's cousin, Wayne Clark in Clear Lake WI.

Tom Started the year driving for River Cities Public Transit, but after 4 ½ years he resigned in late August to become the interim pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lamberton , MN. Until they find a new pastor. It's a great congregation and has a very nice parsonage to stay in when we are there.

Sandy still works for the nursing home in Highmore, part-time, and also occasionally subs at the school. She also teaches Sundry school in Highmore.

In September we attended Owen Moncur's wedding in Texas. (We took the train of course) Welcome to the family Sophie. We also went to Sandy's 60th high school reunion in Minneapolis. November found us Visiting family in northern Minnesota.

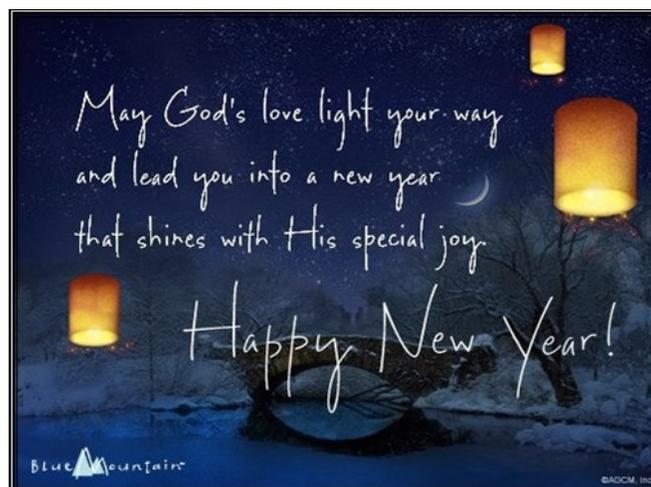
We have been busy spending time in both Highmore and Lamberton (222 miles apart). The kids. grandkids and great grandchildren are all fine, Abraham had some health problems this fall but is doing much better now.

Come visit us at either place, Highmore or Lamberton,

Love in Christ, Tom and Sandy Sahl

220 Hague Ave SW, Box 414, Highmore, SD 57345

Tom 402-239-9549 Sandy 402-239-9532 bunnerrabbits@live.com



**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
December 3, 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, December 3, 2025 in the fellowship hall. Members present were Chad Coulter, Chad Beranek, Kari Halter, Deb Furth, Kris Vollmer, Steve Halter, Justtina Erickson and Pastor Tom Sahl.

Absent: Janice Werner and John Smith

President Coulter called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and Pastor Tom led the group in prayer.

Secretary's Report: Kris moved to approve the minutes from November as corrected and sent out by email. Kari seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kari reported the November checking balance of \$30,283.55 and savings balance of \$61,703.98. On a motion by Chad B and seconded by Steve, the treasurer's report was approved. Kari also reported that effective, January 1, 2026, all employers and employees will have to contribute to Minnesota Paid Leave through payroll.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tom Sahl reported holding confirmation classes and making 6 visits. Pastor received a call asking for a possible Gideon presentation. Council will keep this in mind for sometime in 2026. Pastor asked for the 1st Sunday in January off. Council will look into getting someone to cover that Sunday.

Committee Reports:

Education: Justtina reported that they met on November 12. They worked on finishing up the Christmas program, which is December 14. Sunday School will then be off for the remaining of the year and start again on January 4, 2026. They are also looking at possible new curriculum for nursery and the younger children and also starting to plan ahead for Vacation Bible School.

Worship and Music: No report as Janice was absent.

Life, Growth & Stewardship: Kris reported there was nothing new to report since the last meeting.

Property: John was absent but sent a report to Chad C. by text. There was a water leak in the old kitchen floor in the church basement. They capped the lines in the utility room. There was an issue with a relay being stuck on on the boiler and it didn't let the boiler shut off. Lamberton Heating and Plumbing fixed it and it was not part of the new boiler. They are working on the parsonage items needing attention.

Old Business:



Call committee update

No new applicants. Will look to repost again in after the holidays.

Confirmation Retreat

Chad B moved that the church pay 100% of confirmation retreat registration with families making a \$50 deposit which would be refunded after the student attends the retreat. Kris seconded. Motion carried

New Business

Office request:

The church offices be closed between Christmas and New Year's and this will be put in the upcoming bulletins.

Yearly reviews of OSLC employees:

The Exec Council will try to meet with church employees on January 4, 2026 before our next council meeting for their annual review.

2026 Budget:

Council members should look at the budget numbers before our next meeting.

Benevolence funds for 2025:

Deb moved to send \$350 to Tartu Academy in Estonia, \$350 to The Table Ministry in Sioux Falls, SD and \$300 to LCMC Disaster Relief Funds for our 2025 benevolence giving. Chad B. seconded. Motion carried.

Council Minutes Continued...

Communion Assistants

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

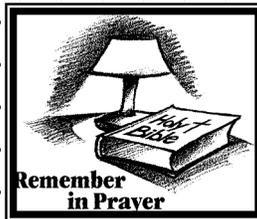
- December 7, 2025 – Gayle Erickson and Kris Vollmer
- December 24, 2025 – Steve Halter, Deb Furth and Kari Halter
- January 4, 2026 - Gayle Erickson and Kari Halter

Next council meeting: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 7 PM.

Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, Kris moved to adjourn and Steve seconded. Motion carried. Adjourned at 8:42 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.

- Ruth Churchill (hospice)
- Dennis Theis (cancer radiation treatments)
- Jeffrey Kuehl (health issues)
- Diane Nalley (health concerns)
- Ray Arkell (leg blood cot)
- Briana (Halter) Peterson (cancer surgery)
- Pastor Cathy Tetrick Hoffbeck (recovery)
- Jean Lange (health concerns)
- Nancy Rue (health issues)
- Randy Hammerschmidt (health issues)

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.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Be sure to stop and pick up your 2026 offering envelopes in the overflow.

If you do not see one with your name on it, please take a blank one and write your name on the clipboard.

We pray that all will consider the stewardship of sharing what God has given us to meet the needs of our congregation and community.



HOLY BAPTISM

"Through Baptism make this child to be your faithful follower and witness to your Gospel."

Blakely Elizabeth Erickson
 Infant daughter of
 Tyler & Mikaela Erickson



BUDGET RECAP
as of 12/14/2025

Total Outstanding:

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

Income:

11/16/25— 12/14/25 \$8,358.00
In Checking Acct. \$18,671.19
In Savings Acct. \$61,703.98

Needed weekly to

Meet budget \$2,824.62

AUDITS

Attention all committees with a checking or savings account!

- Please contact one of our auditors after the 1st of the year to have your books audited.
- Please plan ahead, **all books must be to the auditors by Friday, January 9th.**
- Thank you!!

2025 Auditors are:
Chantel Neperman,
Emily Evans, &
Susan Jeckell



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.*



LUTHER LEAGUE



Sunday, January 11, 2026
Tubing & Pizza

We will go tubing in Mankato and stop at Pizza Ranch on our way home.

You may bring a \$5-10 gift for a gift exchange if you would like!

NOMINATING TEAM



The Nominating Team will be working on finding candidates for different positions on the council. When they call you, say Yes!™.

Also, members for other teams are needed.

Contact the chairperson of the various Teams if you would like to be part of a Team.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Thank you to each and every volunteer who worked together on the Sunday School Christmas program!!



A special thank you to Courtney Thram for her hours of dedication to pull the program together and Misty Willhite for coordinating the potluck meal.

No Sunday School January 25 due to the Annual Meeting. All Confirmation students are required to attend the Annual Meeting and complete the worksheet provided.

Confirmation Retreat for all confirmation students is March 6-8, 2026, at Inspiration Point in Vining, MN. Check-in is Friday evening and concludes late Sunday morning. Youth should sign up during Confirmation class. If you have not yet signed up, please contact Pastor or Allison Sauer to get added to the list. Registration is due towards the beginning of February.

We are in need of one male and one female chaperone (at least 21 years old). Please let Allison know if you are interested or if you have any questions.

The Board of Education would like to thank Wendy Wondercheck for her time on the Board of Education.



JANUARY ALTAR GUILD

Gayle Erickson
Sally Erickson



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Our Savior's Lutheran Church—LCMC will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

Students in grades 7-9 are required to attend the meeting and complete a report. There will not be any Sunday School classes that day.

Annual reports will be available on Friday afternoon, January 23rd. Please, one report per family. Thank you!

**JANUARY ACOLYTE
& VIDEO SCHEDULE**
9:00 A.M. Worship Service



January 4, 2026

Zoey Keck & Quintin Willhite
Video: Lincoln Hesse

January 11, 2026

Braylen Braulick & Izabella Britt
Video: Lindsey Guggisberg

January 18, 2026

Chloe Coners
Video: Levi Jeckell



January 25, 2026

Halle Paplow
Video: Sam Thillen

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

Wishing You a
Happy Birthday!

January Birthdays

1st - Justina Erickson
 2nd - Addison Irlbeck
 4th - Fred Henkel, Jeanette Hildreth, Penny Mattison, Graham Erickson
 5th - Holden Mariner
 6th - Zakary Zimmermann, Cody Casey
 7th - Lauren Willhite, Ezekiel Anderson
 8th - Sandra Danielowski, Charles Dammann
 9th - Stella Rue
 14th - Karl Dagner, Jeremy Knutson
 15th - Joshua Hesse, Arlene Wetter, Marshal Willhite
 16th - Bentley Jo Werner, Mike Senst, Gary Mattison
 19th - Kevin Dagner
 20th - David Egenes, Joshua Pfarr
 21st - Mike Redman
 22nd - Joyce Hoffrogge
 23rd - Peyton Coulter, Samuel Thillen, Brady Jeckell
 24th - Shawn Willhite, Teagen Werner
 25th - Ashton Kronbach
 28th - Jeannie Horning
 29th - Treyton Knutson
 30th - David Lange, Kyle Salfer

January Anniversary Celebration

4th - Chad & Karen Beranek
 12th - Todd & Brenda Anderson
 20th - Dennis & Arlene Theis

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!!

Attention! This reminder is for the chairpersons of the various teams, heads of organizations, and president of the congregation.

Please have your Annual reports into the church office by **Sunday, January 4, 2025**. You can drop them off (slide under the door) but email is preferred:

In addition to the team reports, the financial reports are needed as soon as that information has been attained.

Thank you!!



JANUARY USHER SCHEDULE

Nathan Erickson
 Mike Redman
 Jake Erickson
 Kurt Willhite

Darrel Knutson—Sub

TAXI

Please call an usher by Fridays for a ride!

~ Hospitalized ~

Because of privacy laws, a phone call from a family member or friend is the best way to make sure the pastor is notified if you or a loved one are hospitalized or in a nursing home or would like a pastoral visit.

JANUARY MISSION EMPHASIS
~TRINITY MISSIONS~
(formerly Mission to Mississippi)



Mission to Mississippi began in the 1960s and serves families in the Greenville, MS area who have no other means for critical home repairs. Working out of Revels Memorial United Methodist Church, volunteers from our region and beyond provide both practical help and spiritual encouragement.

Since 2011, more than **16 families** have been served and **300+ volunteers** have given their time and resources. Volunteers often share that they return home feeling even more blessed than those they serve.

Please consider supporting this ministry with a financial gift. To learn more or to volunteer, contact **Mike Vollmer** or **Pastor Mike Stangland**. **2026 dates:** First week of March (attend for any portion of the week).

You can use an envelope in the pew or use your own envelope and write "Trinity Missions" 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://osclamberton.churchcenter.com/giving>
Your contributions are greatly appreciated!!



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

November—Inspiration Point—\$161.65
Thank you for your support!

Faithful Lord, Father of Love pour down your grace upon these children.

The Our Savior's family extends its warm congratulations and God's blessings to:



Nathan & Makayla Knutson



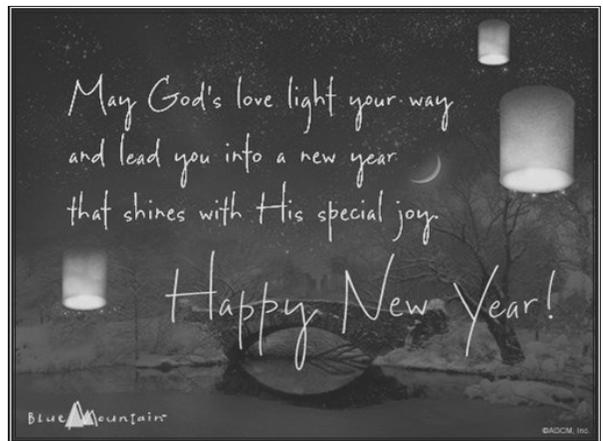
PRAYER CHAIN

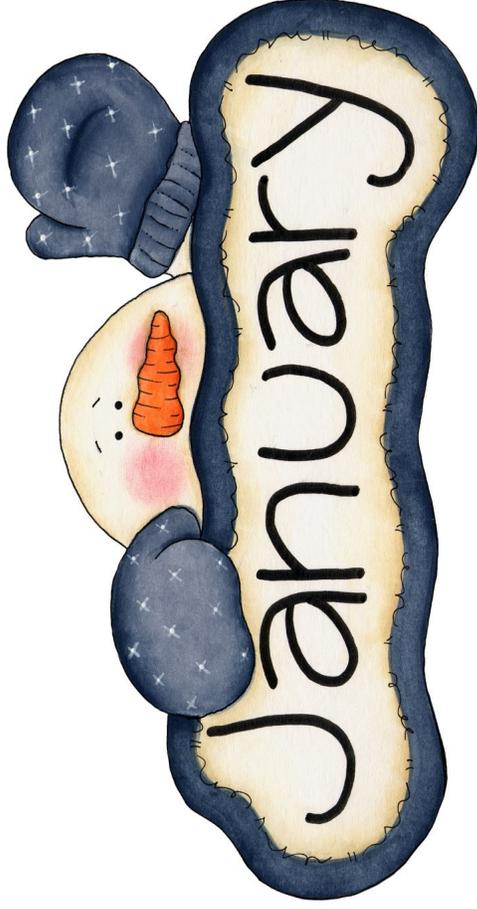
If you have a prayer concern you would like passed along to the Prayer Chain, please contact Judy Kuehl, 507-822-1716, or the church office. Please specify if you want the concern on (1) the Prayer chain and/or included in Sunday morning prayers which will be included for two (2) Sundays unless request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

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered throughout the year!

We are blessed with talented, caring, and willing members and we couldn't do all we do without all of you!
You are truly appreciated!!

Thank you for all you do!





January

2026

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>Offices Closed</p>	<p>Offices Closed</p>	<p>Offices Closed</p>	<p>1 Offices Closed </p>	<p>2 Offices Closed 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Sunday School; 6th Grade Acolyte Training & Coffee Fellowship Annual Reports Due!</p>	<p>5 Offices Closed</p>	<p>6 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord!</i> </p>	<p>7 3:20 8th Grade Confirmation 4:25 7th & 9th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Church Council</p>	<p>8 </p>	<p>9 Offices Closed Financials due to Auditors 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship <i>Time TBD</i> Luther League Christmas Party, Tubing in Mankato</p>	<p>12 Offices Closed</p>	<p>13 1:30 OSW Exec. Bd 2:00 OSW Meeting</p>	<p>14 3:20 8th Grade Confirmation 4:25 7th & 9th Grade Confirmation 6:00 Luther League Meeting</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Offices Closed 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 10:00 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>19 Offices Closed Newsletter Articles Due!! </p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 3:20 8th Grade Confirmation 4:25 7th & 9th Grade Confirmation</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Offices Closed 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study</p>	<p>24 </p>
<p>25 9:00 Worship Annual Meeting *7th-9th Required to attend</p>	<p>26 Offices Closed</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 3:20 8th Grade Confirmation 4:25 7th & 9th Grade Confirmation</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study</p>	<p>31</p>

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



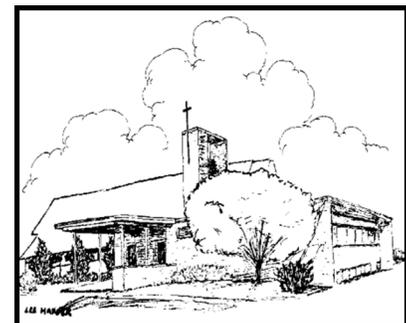
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January

PARTNERS

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Pastor Tom's Cell Phone: 402-239-9549

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

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.



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.**
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- ◆ **Please have your Newsletter articles or calendar items into the church office as designated on the monthly calendar.**