

Our Savior's February 2025 LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WORSHIP TIMES: Wednesday at 6:00 pm Sunday at 9:30 am

1207 Prairie Ave SW Faribault, MN 55021

507-331-2276

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Friday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Visit our website:

oursaviorsfbo.org

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All Music is licensed by CCLl#511495 CVLI license and Screenvue Vaults Dear Siblings in Christ,

I've heard some people who live "up North" joke that, "It's not the end of the world, but we can see it from here."

I'm also reminded of a conversation I had decades ago with an employee at the store where I worked as a manager. We had determined that both of us were followers of Jesus, and she surprised me by asking, "Do you think we are in the end times?" I didn't know much about Christianity in its various flavors back then, but I knew enough to understand that the question represented a particular viewpoint, one about which I had reservations. This is not the place for a discussion about the end times, but I did answer her. "Yes," I said, though a bit disingenuously, because I didn't want to get into a protracted argument that time either. The upshot is that I do believe we are in the end times, but not in the same way that she did.

Endings have been on my mind lately as the Call Committee has finished its work. I understand that they have worked hard, thoughtfully, and faithfully to discern the Holy Spirit in its commission. And, of course, with that ending comes the ending of my time here.

I'm relating these two seemingly unrelated stories to remind you that endings are not always the end because endings always bring beginnings. (Some of the TV shows and movies I watch with my wife have taught me that characters never stay dead for long. It's more often a question of **when** a character will return, not **if**.) The ending of the Call Committee's work and my time here brings the beginning of a new chapter in your congregational life.

On a serious note, many of the current events in our world can make us wonder if the day of reckoning is upon us. Mass shootings, unjustifiable wars (as if any war is justifiable), systemic racism, attacks on vulnerable people, and threats to our democracy are just some of our valid concerns. There are days when wanting Jesus to return looks like a great idea.

But this verse from the Bible keeps coming to mind, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5.17) No matter what our situation, God is continuing to make all things new. We may not be able to see it, or see it clearly, but we know that we are to keep looking.

The ending of the Call Committee's work means that your new settled pastor is coming, and no one knows how that will unfold, though we trust in God's provision. As noted earlier, it also means that my time as your interim is at an end, something I've reminded you of each week in worship. This ending will mean a new beginning for me as I enter retirement. And, of course, this ending means I will no longer be available for pastoral acts. Even so, what won't end is that I will carry you all in my heart. Thank you for allowing me to walk with you on this part of your faith journey.

As for the tumultuous events of our present day, we cling to God's promised presence in, with, and through us and our world, that suffering is not the end. Not even that great separator, death, has the last word. You have claimed that presence throughout your short history, especially as you have dealt with difficult circumstances. You are truly a resilient people.

We are continually moving from one ending to the next beginning and that can be disorienting. If that's where you find yourself today, know that God is always with you. You are never alone, and God is never done with you. That's good news.

In Christ,

Pr. Scott Olson

FAITH GROWS HERE.

Shame has no claim!

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Luke 3:21-22 NRSVUE

The month of February this year falls entirely within the season of Epiphany, which began with Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. I would like to use this space to highlight portions of the sermon I preached that day, which attempted to address the presence of shame in our lives and moving us toward what God says about us in our own baptisms.

Do you know the difference between guilt and shame? Perhaps the simplest way to explain it is that guilt deals with the things you do – your actions or deeds, particularly your misdeeds – the things you've done or left undone – the theological term would be sins. But shame is about who you are. Guilt is "I did something bad." Shame is "I am bad." Be honest, have you ever felt like you weren't good enough? Have you ever felt like you don't belong, or that you're not valued, or worthy of love? Have you ever felt like you aren't smart enough, thin enough, attractive enough, capable enough, strong enough, emotionally healthy enough, likeable enough. Or that you just don't have it together. Have you ever told yourself, I'm just not enough? That's what shame is.

Carl Jung, the famous psychologist, called shame "the swampland of the soul." It's that place in us that festers and rots away at us from the inside. It's where we store all the negativity and judgment that the world puts on us, and it feeds the swamp. The thing about swamps is that they're stagnant. There's no place for the swamp water to go, it just sits there and festers and grows. So when the shame swamp fills up with the things people say about you, you start to believe those things yourself, and you get stuck in the swamp. Research shows that shame is highly correlated with addiction, depression, aggression, violence, bullying, eating disorders, and suicide.

Brene Brown, who's done a lot of research on shame, says that there are three things that allow shame to grow. The first is judgment. Judgment can come from others, but it's most damaging when it comes from ourselves. The other two things are secrecy and silence. Think about the swamp image; judgement is what pumps the sludge into the swamp, but it's secrecy and silence that keep the swamp dammed-up and stagnant. We don't want to talk about our shame or show it to others. Why? Maybe because if we say it out loud we're afraid it might become true, or that the other person will reject us for it. So we keep it secret and hidden, mistakenly thinking we'll be better off in the swamp, because at least it feels safe there.

But that feeling safety is a dangerous illusion. The place of true healing and wholeness, the way out of the swamp... is the river. Because its at the river that we hear the truth about who we really are:

You are my son, my beloved. With you I am well pleased.

You are my daughter, my beloved. With you I am well pleased.

You are my children. I have called you by name, and you are mine. You are enough, and I love you.

May that mighty river of God's mercy and love flood the swampland of your soul and break open the dams of secrecy and silence. Shame has no claim over you! Because you belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia!

Yours in Christ's Baptism, Pr. Drew

JOIN OUR TEAM

We are accepting applications for these open postitions:

Facilities Coordinator

We are accepting applicants for the part-time position of Facilities Coordinator. This position performs routine cleaning, set-up and tear down for various activities and events, and ensures a safe and presentable environment. This position is responsible for the upkeep and basic maintenance of the church facilities and grounds, coordinating with contractors on further repairs, maintenance, and projects.

Qualifications include:

- High School Diploma or equivalent
- 1-2 years' experience or education in cleaning, building maintenance, or facility repairs. Prefer experience with basic plumbing, electrical, and HVAC systems.
- Basic computer skills including email.
- Ability to push, pull, lift, carry up to 50 lbs. occasionally, and 30 lbs. frequently.

This is a part-time position, working 25-28 hours per week. Schedule is typically Monday-Friday with occasional nights and weekends. Starting pay range is \$17-\$19/hour, based on experience. This position is eligible for the following benefits: vacation, sick time, and holiday pay.

Email or drop off an application, or a cover letter and resume. To request an application or the detailed job description, email: *churchcouncil@oursaviorsfbo.org*.

Business Administrator

We are accepting applicants for the part-time position of Business Administrator. This is an integral role to the overall operations of the church.

This position manages the business operations of the church, implementing and overseeing financial, human resources, and general operations to achieve our mission objectives. This role partners with our Pastors, staff, council, and committees, on budgeting, contracting and service needs, and analysis and reporting.

We are seeking:

- Intermediate experience in Microsoft Word, Excel, and email.
- Demonstrated experience in financial management, budget oversight, and reporting.
- Prefer working knowledge of human resources policies, laws and benefits.
- Analytical, problem-solving, and decision-making skills.
- Availability to attend meetings outside of regular working hours, as needed.

This is a part-time position, working 25 hours per week. Some flexibility in selecting hours and days scheduled. This position is eligible for the following benefits: vacation, sick leave, and holiday pay.

To apply, submit a cover letter and resume via email. Inquires and requests for a job description can also be directed to: *churchcouncil@oursaviorsfbo.org*

COUNCIL CORNER

January's council meeting is a full slate. We take time to look back at the year that was and look forward to the year ahead. The respect around the table shows through as we gather, and that makes it difficult knowing that January's meeting will be the last for those whose time on council is coming to an end. The terms for Andrea Kubinski, RIta Wunderlich and Amy Cox have come to an end, and I'd be remiss if I didn't take a moment to recognize them for how they've given so much to Our Saviors with their time, energy and leadership.

The reports from staff, tables, and committees, all show the dedication, commitment and love that embodies our congregation. There is so much that goes into our church in order so that we may extend ourselves beyond it.

It's oft repeated that the generosity of this congregation should never be underestimated. We've had to share troubling financial news at times, and I've had to deliver financial reports to the council that haven't been so great at times, but I was eager to deliver January's report. November's numbers, reported in December, had us at a net loss for the year of nearly \$38,000, yet we know we can generally rely on a strong December for giving, and this past month was just that. Giving in December exceeded the Ministry Spending Plan (MSP) forecast by over \$16,000 for the month and not only cut into our YTD net loss, but erased it entirely giving us a modest net gain for the year. As we've dedicated ourselves to transparency as a council, while I celebrate the net gain and thank everyone who gave to make it so, it needs to be said that when actuals are compared to the 2024 MSP, actual giving for the year fell short of the forecast by ~\$62,600 and our expenses were nearly \$100,000 "under budget" primarily because we did not have as high of staff costs being without a Business Administrator and Director of Children's Ministry for the year.

We discussed the Annual Meeting, finalized the agenda for it and accepted an MSP for 2025 to be presented during it. The meeting will also include voting on new council members and proposed amendments to the Church's bylaws.

The Personnel Committee has recommended and the Council has approved to hire Ashley Andersen as the Kathleen Putrah Director of Children's Ministry!

The Call Committee has made a recommendation for a candidate to be called as Our Savior's next Lead Pastor. The Council approved of the candidate, and will move forward with calling a Special Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 2nd, following worship with the sole purpose of presenting the candidate to the congregation for a vote.

We are continually grateful for the many ways you, members of OSLC, continue to support the church and its mission with your time, talent and resources. I'll say it any time I can: thank you.

Respectfully,

Jarid Finstuen OSLC Treasurer

Community Garden Volunteer

There is a need for a volunteer to coordinate our church community garden. Our garden has served the Faribault community for over 20 years. Each gardener plants and maintains their own plot or plots. It is a nice outreach program for OSLC as many of the gardeners are not members of OSLC and do not have any place of their own to raise produce for their families.

The coordinator has several tasks to help set-up the garden each spring and close down the garden in the fall. Mark Zentner is retiring as coordinator in 2026, but is looking for a volunteer interested in taking over to work with this year to ensure a smooth transition.

Please contact the church office or Mark Zentner at 815-451-1937 if you are interested or have any questions.

Financial Update

Fast Figure	s				
2024 Financ	als				
Finalized through Dece	nber	2024			
		Actual		Ministry	Difference
December Reciepts	\$	99,591.49	\$	83,231.00	\$ 16,360.49
Decenber Expenses	\$	(61,160.98)	\$	(66,913.00)	\$ 5,752.02
Receipts Over Expenses	\$	38,430.51	\$	16,318.00	\$ 22,112.51
					\$ -
YTD Receipts	\$	643,945.71	\$	706,532.00	\$ (62,586.29)
YTD Expenses	\$	(643,748.35)	\$	(742,310.00)	\$ 98,561.65
Receipts Over Expenses	\$	197.36	\$	(35,778.00)	\$ 35,975.36
Balance Sheet Recap		Actual		Beginning	Change
Total cash on hand as of 12-31-2024	\$	260,471.12	\$	252,370.07	\$ 8,101.05
Total cash Designated for specific purposes (restricted accounts)	\$	182,901.73	\$	174,998.03	\$ 7,903.70
Leaving a cash balance for General Operating expenses of	\$	77,569.39	\$	77,372.04	\$ 197.35
December is final	zed.				
Giving compared to plan is up	+19.66	5% or \$16,360			
Expenses are down compared to plar	<-8.0	60%> or <-\$5,7	521	>	

Year to Date: Giving compared to plan is down <-8.86%> or -<-62,586> Expenses are also down compared to plan <-13.28%> or <-\$98,561>

Total Cash in General Operating Account is \$77,569, this is the cash we have access to for any reason/need. Goal is to have two months in reserve.

The year ended beautiful! \$197 in the black! Thank you

You are all such a blessing to OSLC!

The thoughful, generous giving in December, rising to the challenge of what we needed to end 2024 in the black was accomplished! Thank you to all of you gave joyfully, those who caught up your pledged amount, for those of you who gave extra gifts in December, for all of the visitors who gave to our loose offering!! A Heartfelt THANK YOU for supporting the Mission and Ministry of Our Saviors! This was an amazing update to be able to share!!



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UPCOMING EVENTS AT OSLC



Friday, February 21, 2025 11 am - 5 pm

Please use the Red Cross Donor App, call 1-800-733-2767, or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: OSLC to schedule an appointment.



February 4, 2025 at 12PM Good food and fun for all!

Please RSVP to Cindy Kubes: ckubes53@gmail.com or call at 507-838-8683



50 Faribault Kills CAN'T MAI

Join us as a volunteer reading tutor today!

58 Faribault elementary kids are waiting for reading tutors. Help ensure they get the support they need (**no experience necessary**). Give just **one hour per week** - Sign-up by **February 14** <u>www.readingpartners.org/volunteer</u> (612) 474-4292



faith grows here.

ROOTED IN GOD'S LOVE. GATHERED AS CHRIST'S COMMUNITY. SPRINGING INTO JOYFUL DISCIPLESHIP.

PARTNERS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY





MEET OUR Director of Children's Ministry

My name is Ashley Andersen and I have been a member of Our Saviors for over 21 years. I have three children ages 23, 21, and 17. I worked in the field of social services for many years before becoming a substitute teacher for the Faribault school district in 2017. Although I have loved my time with the school district, I feel called to this new position as Director of Children's Ministry and am enthusiastically looking forward to sharing God's word with the children of Our Saviors and getting to build relationships with the young families in our congregation.



The Director of Children's Ministry position is being supported and named in honor of Kathleen G. Putrah through a generous bequest from her family. A celebration of this donation is being planned.

A THANK YOU from Rice County Social Services



faith grows here.

this year!

annoz Manager

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Child+ Family Division Social Services



WEDNESDAYS | 8-9 PM OSLC YOUTH ROOM

Youth in grades 9 -12 are invited to spend your Wednesday night having fun, building community, and learning about God with us.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT OSLC



February 28 - March 2, 2025 | Twin Cities, Minnesota

Confirmation students are invited for our 2nd annual service trip to the Twin Cities! In partnership with Service Learning Camps, we will engage in service, reflection, and fun!

Register with the QR code





SERMON TEXT & VOLUNTEERS

February

Healing on the Sabbath Wednesday, January 29 & Sunday, February 2 Luke 6:1-16

Roman Centurion/ Raising the Widow's Son Wednesday, February 5 &

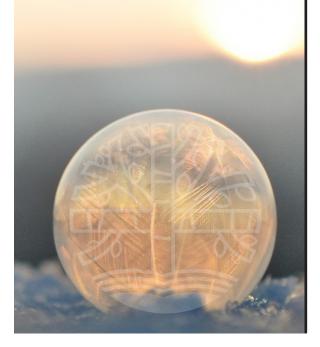
Sunday, February 9 Luke 7:1-17

More than a Propheth Wednesday, February 12 &

Sunday, February 16 Luke 7:18-35

Forgiven at Jesus' Feet Wednesday, February 9 &

Sunday, February 23 Luke 7:26-50



FEBRUARY USHERS

RICK BARTNESS © DAVE HENRY MIKE & AMY COOK **JANE CARSON ROBIN FINKE PAUL & KATHY STEPKA**

COMMUNION

PREP

FEBRUARY 2

SERVERS

Mary Osborne Evon Ask Barb Condit Paula Schauer Linda Mueller Angel Yackel Ardys Johnson

FEBRUARY 16

Mary Osborne Dennis & Rita Wunderlich Dan & Karen Rasmussen **Ruth Hickey** Jill Finstuen

SCRIPTURE READERS

FEBRUARY 2 **Jill Finstuen FEBRUARY 9 FEBUARY 16 FEBUARY 23**

Kris Hoysler Scott Koepsell Donn Johnson

SOUND & TECH TEAM

FEBRUARY 2

Sound: Linda Hanegraff Media Shout & Lights: Owen Harrison Livestream: Brendan Cox

FEBRUARY 9

Sound: Grace Harrison Media Shout & Lights: William Silver Livestream: Brendan Cox

FEBRUARY 16

Sound: Amy Cox Media Shout & Lights: Tim Cox Livestream: Brendan Cox

FEBRUARY 23

Sound: Jordyn Finstuen Media Shout & Lights: Jarid Finstuen Livestream: Brendan Cox



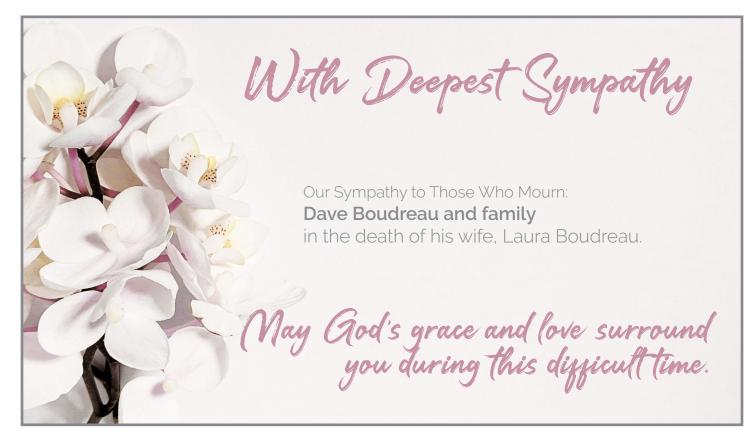
UPCOMING EVENTS AT OSLC





faith grows here.

Sympathies





Pub Theology

Thursday, February 27 7 p.m. | Joe's Sports Cafe

Join us for conversation on issues relating to faith and life! Come have something to drink, and stay for a good conversation! Everyone over 21 is WELCOME!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1207	Jurc		Prairie Ave. SW, Faribault, MN 55021	, MN 55021		February 2025
Mon. Tue.	Tue.		Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
						1 8:30 am – 3:00 pm Beau Chant Choir Retreat
 3 4 6:30 pm Grief 9:30 am Staff Meeting Support "Stronger Pogether" Together" 10:30 am Grief Friends 10:30 am Grief Friends 12:00 pm Lamplighters 12:00 pm Circle of Care (Fireside Room) 6:00 - 8:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Free Spirit Reh. 	 4 9:30 am Staff Meeting 9:30 am Grief Support for Newly Bereaved" 10:30 am Grief Friends 12:00 pm Lamplighters Luncheon w/OS Staff 2:00 pm Circle of Care (Fireside Room) 6:00 - 8:00 pm Persor Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Free Spirit Re 	Help s s s ch.	 5 6:00 pm Worship on Wed. (WOW) 6:30 pm Church School, (Pre3-5th Gr.) Confirmation (6th – 8th Gr.) 6:35 pm Adult Ed. "Making Sense of Scripture 8:00 pm High School Youth Group 	6 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters	7 9:30 am Friday Morning Women's Bible Study	8 12:30 – 3:30 pm Family, Fellowship & Fun Family Ice Skating 5:30 pm Ruth's House "Heart of Aloha"
10 11 6:30 pm Grief 9:30 am Staff Meeting Support "Stronger 9:30 am Newly Bereaved Together" 9:30 am Crief Friends 5:30 pm Executive Council 6:30 pm Free Spirit Reh.	 11 9:30 am Staff Meeting 9:30 am Newly Bereave Grief Group Support 10:30 am Grief Friends 5:30 pm Executive Counci 6:30 pm Free Spirit Reb 		 12 6:00 pm Worship on Wed. (WOW) / Communion 6:30 pm Church School, (Pre3-5th Gr.) 6:30 pm Family, Faith & Life Confirmation (6th – 8th Gr.) w/parents 6:35 pm Adult Ed. "Making Sense of Scripture 8:00 pm High School Youth Group 	 13 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 8:30 am Dynamic Dusters 9:00 am Quilters 9:30 am Cannon River Conference 	14 Valentine's Day 9:30 am Friday Morning Women's Bible Study	ر
 President's Day 18 6:30 pm Grief 9:30 am Staff Meeting 9:30 am Grief Support "Hel Together" Together" 10:30 am Grief Friends 11:30 am FACMA Meeting 6:30 pm Free Spirit Reh. 	 18 9:30 am Staff Meeting 9:30 am Grief Support " for Newly Bereaved" 10:30 am Grief Friends 11:30 am FACMA Meeti 6:30 pm Free Spirit Reh 	"Help s eting	 19 6:00 pm Worship on Wed. (WOW) 6:30 pm Church School, (Pre3-5th Gr.) & Confirmation (6th – 8th Gr.) & Confirmation (6th – 8th Gr.) & Confirmation (6th – 8th Gr.) 8:35 pm Adult Ed. "Making Sense of Scripture 8:00 pm High School Youth Group 	20 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Faith Circle 10:30 am Dynamic Dusters	21 9:30 am Friday Moming Women's Bible Study 11:00 am – 5:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive	52
 24 25 6:30 pm Grief 9:30 am Staff Meeting Support "H. Support "Stronger 9:30 am Grief Support "H. Together 10:30 am Grief Friends 10:30 am Grief Friends 10:30 pm Free Spirit Reh. 	 30 am Staff Meeting 30 am Grief Support Newly Bereaved" 330 am Grief Friends 30 pm Mill City Servi 30 pm Free Spirit Re 	"Help" s "tice"	26 6:00 pm Worship on Wed. (WOW) / Communion 6:00 pm Church School, (Pre3-5 th Gr.) & Confirmation (6 th – 8 th Gr.) & Confirmation (6 th – 8 th Gr.) & Confirmation (6 th – 8 th Gr.) 8:00 pm High School Youth Group 8:00 pm High School Youth Group	 27 8:30 am Henry's Handy Helpers 9:00 am Dynamic Dusters 9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Pub Theology (Joes Sports Cafe) 	28 9:30 am Friday Morning Women's Bible Study (DVD) Feb. 28 – March 2 Mini Confirmation Service Trip Twin Cities, MN	



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STAY CONNECTED

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Rev. Dr. Scott E. Olson Interim Lead Pastor pastorolson@oursaviorsfbo.org

Pr. Drew Yackel Associate Pastor pastordrew@oursaviorsfbo.org

Ashley Andersen Childrens Ministry Leader childrensministry@oursaviorsfbo.org

Grace Harrison Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries grace@oursaviorsfbo.org

Wendy Smith-Becker Office Coordinator wendy@oursaviorsfbo.org

Pam Salveson Financial Secretary financialsecretary@oursaviorsfbo.org

Garrett Springer Facilities Coordinator garrett@oursaviorsfbo.org

Micah Lynn Congregational Council President churchcouncil@oursaviorsfbo.org

Special Congregational lecting

to present a candidate of call for the position of Lead Pastor

Sunday, February 2, 2025 10:45 AM following Worship

To maintain confidentiality, the name of the candidate will be disclosed at the meeting. Please do not ask the Call Committee or the Church Council for information. We will need a quorum of 75 people.