



# Our Savior's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

# January 2026

NEW SLETTER

## WHAT'S INSIDE

FAITH GROWS HERE.

<b>A note from Your Council.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Financial Update .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Book Studies .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Children's Ministry .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Youth &amp; Young Adult Ministry.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Sermon Texts &amp; January Volunteers.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Sympathies .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>January Calendar .....</b>	<b>11</b>

## WORSHIP TIMES:

**Sunday at 9:30 am**

**Wednesday at 6:00 pm**

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](http://oursaviorsfbo.org)

### Follow us on Social Media:



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## Epiphany: God Revealed, Still with Us

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each year on January 6th, the Church celebrates Epiphany – a word that means “manifestation” or “revealing.” On this day, we remember the visit of the Magi, the outsiders from afar who followed a star and discovered that God had chosen to be revealed not in a place, but in a child – Christ, born for the sake of the whole world.

Epiphany is not just about a moment in the past. It is about a truth that continues to shape our lives: God is revealed in unexpected places, to unexpected people, in unexpected ways. God's light shines not only in times of clarity and stability, but also in seasons of transition, uncertainty, and change.

As a congregation, we know something about change. Staffing shifts, new rhythms, and unanswered questions can leave us wondering what comes next. Epiphany reminds us that God is not absent in these moments. The same God who guided by starlight is still guiding the Church today – sometimes clearly, sometimes quietly, but always faithfully.

The Epiphany season stretches beyond a single day, carrying us through the weeks that follow. During this time, we hear stories of Jesus being revealed; at his baptism, in his teaching, in acts of healing, and in ordinary encounters with people longing for hope. These stories proclaim a steady promise: God is with us, here, now, and still at work among us.

This season also invites us to pay attention. The Magi had looked up. They had to notice. They had to stop and listen. In much the same way, Epiphany calls us to create space in our lives to watch for God's presence – especially when life feels unsettled.

One of the simplest and most faithful ways we do this is through prayer. Prayer does not need to be complicated or eloquent. It can be as a breath, as honest as a sigh, or as quiet as sitting in silence. During this season, I invite you to open your heart to God at least once a day – whether through spoken prayer, scripture, or a few moments of silence. Even five minutes of stillness can help us remember that we are not carrying life alone.

Prayer is not about convincing God to be near; God is already present with you. Prayer simply helps us become aware of that presence. It roots us in grace, steadies us during change, and opens us to the light God continues to reveal.

As we move through Epiphany together, may we trust that God is guiding this congregation just as surely as that ancient star. May we notice the light along the way. And may we remember, in every season, that Christ is revealed for us – and still walks with us!

In Christ,

Pastor Kira

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

# Council Update

Dear Members of Our Saviors,

Your church council met for the final time in 2025 on Tuesday. Amidst the season of Advent, a time of expectant hope, we found reason to be hopeful. During the week where we lit the candle of Joy, we had time to celebrate. And in the final weeks of the year, we're able to look to the coming year.

We wrapped up our visioning with the final chapter of Anatomy of a Revived Church. Over the course of this book, we've been challenged to look at what it might take, what other churches have done, have changed, in order to revitalize the church. There are challenges, there are opportunities, and there are reasons to celebrate Our Saviors. Throughout our discussions, our town halls, and even more evident from the State of the Church, we've asked you to be open, honest, and vulnerable, and much of the discussion had and feedback we've received is that there are changes that Our Saviors may be asked or may need to consider making.

Change was the recurring theme of our meeting. We continue to amend the Ministry Spending Plan. Last month, our preliminary MSP had a deficit of \$110,000, and we knew we couldn't bring that forward. Additional pledges have come in, which we're grateful for, and we've been able to have frank and deliberate discussions about where we're at and where we're heading, and that's helped us in improving the MSP.

Another change we've encountered is in reduced pastoral staff. We have talked with the Synod office, and we will be bringing in Pulpit Supply to help Pr. Kira with ministry and preaching while we discern the next steps. There will also be a change in how we share the Lord's Supper together. Rather than the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month, as we've been doing, beginning next year, we will have Communion on the 3rd and 4th weeks of the month.

And yet, amidst change, there is something to be said for tradition as well, and what's Advent and the Christmas season without a children's performance. We want to thank the kids, the actors and the singers, for their CAKE performance, showing all of us how, not only in the season of Advent, but throughout the year, this congregation continually provides and embodies the Christmas Acts of Kindness in how when we give of our time, our gifts, our talents, in how we give of ourselves, we're giving Christ to others. We also want, again, to thank and congratulate Ashley on her first Christmas program along with the many youth volunteers that helped lead, teach and guide our kids.

Thank you, dear people of our expectant Savior, for sharing in the mission and ministry of Our Saviors.

In Christ,  
Our Savior's Council



# Financial Update

## Fast Figures 2025 Financials Finalized through November 2025

	Actual	Ministry	Difference
November Receipts	\$ 73,512	\$ 49,000	\$ 24,512
November Expenses	\$ (53,248)	\$ (59,532)	\$ 6,285
Receipts Over Expenses	\$ 20,265	\$ (10,532)	\$ 30,797
			\$ -
YTD Receipts	\$ 600,577	\$ 533,204	\$ 67,373
YTD Expenses	\$ (586,149)	\$ (669,410)	\$ 83,261
Receipts Over Expenses	\$ 14,428	\$ (136,206)	\$ 150,634

Balance Sheet Recap	Actual	Beginning	Change
Total cash on hand as of 11-30-2025	\$ 248,182.52	\$ 260,471.12	\$ (12,288.60)
Total cash Designated for specific purposes (restricted accounts)	\$ 176,449.75	\$ 182,901.73	\$ (6,451.98)
Leaving a cash balance for General Operating expenses of	\$ 71,732.77	\$ 77,569.39	\$ (5,836.62)

November is finalized.  
Giving compared to plan is up 50.02% or \$24,512  
Expenses are down compared to plan <-10.56%> or <-\$6,285>

Year to Date:  
Giving compared to plan is up +12.64% or \$67,373  
Expenses are down compared to plan <-12.44%> or <-\$83,261>

Total Cash in General Operating Account is \$91,997.35 this is the cash we have access to for any reason/need. Goal is to have two months of expense in reserve. We are almost at 2 months!!! THANK YOU!

November was such a wonderful month and it's such a blessing to be heading into December at \$14,428!!

We are grateful for all of you who have been participating in the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. This makes finalizing our MSP so much easier!! So one more plug, if you didn't have a chance to get your pledge card in, it's not too late! We are still accepting them all the way through December 31st!! You can use a card that is at the Usher Station or the QR Code that is in your pew!!

Thank you for your support of the Ministry here at Our Saviors!

## 2026 Offering Envelopes

**2026 Offering Envelopes are available** for pick up at the church during business hours or on Sundays before or after worship! **Please note we will not be mailing them.**  
**Thank you.**

# Fellowship Events



## Holy Grounds Mug Drive

**Got an extra mug?  
We need it!**

Starting in January, we're switching to reusable mugs to reduce waste and save money.

Donate a mug today by dropping it off with Ashley or placing it on the small red table in the Fireworks Room.

## Share Your Music with Us!

We are looking for people to play special music in worship throughout the summer. Please contact Wendy in the church office, at [wendy@oursaviorsfbo.org](mailto:wendy@oursaviorsfbo.org), if you are interested in sharing your talents in worship!



# Book Studies



Our Savior's  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Dwelling in the Word

Tuesdays | 9:30-10:30 AM | The Narthex

Join Pastor Kira **every Tuesday morning from 9:30-10:30 in the Narthex** for a Bible study called *Dwelling in the Word*. Each week, we will read scripture for the coming Sunday. Then we will engage in conversations around three key questions: What does the text say? What does the text mean? And, most importantly, What is God saying to me through this text?

*Dwelling in the Word* for all individuals! Whether you can attend every week or sporadically, whether you have a deep understanding of scripture or just starting to dig deeper. It's a great opportunity to connect with other members of our community, our Pastor, and grow in your faith through shared exploration of scripture. Come as you are, bring your questions and insights, and let's journey together through the pages of the Bible. We look forward to welcoming you with open arms and open hearts.



Our Savior's  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



A book club for women  
looking to connect  
outside of church!

## Join Us!

Our next gathering is on  
**Monday, January 12, 7-8pm**  
at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

We'll be discussing  
**"My Sisters Keeper"**  
by Jodi Picoult

Let's dive deep into faith together.  
**Interested?** Send me a text (507)412-1060  
or email [pastorkira@oursaviorsfbo.org](mailto:pastorkira@oursaviorsfbo.org)  
to start this journey with us!

# Fellowship Events



## Lamplighters

Adult Christians Lighting the Way

Join us at our next Meeting

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026  
at 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall**



**Our Savior's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Pub Theology

**Thursday, January 22, 2026**

**6 p.m. | Ten Thousand Drops**

Everyone is invited to join Pub Theology for a conversation about what's next. As Grace transitions to her new position with the Minneapolis Synod, I hope to come together to see what the group wants to be now.

So join us for conversation. **Everyone over 21 is WELCOME!**



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## Stepping Stone Classes

FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

# January 21

**1ST GRADE**

6:30–7:30pm | Fellowship Hall

**PRESENTATION:** Wednesday, January 28  
during the 6:00pm worship service.

We are no longer presenting stepping stones on Sundays.



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## *This I Believe*

Faith Storytelling Open Mic

## January 14, 2026

### 6:30 PM | Chapel

Confirmation families & the congregation are invited to listen to confirmation students reflect on their faith through poetry, story, song, art, or any other creative means!

Parents & guardians are encouraged to create their own creative faith reflection to share!



# YOUTH MINISTRY

Current 6th, 7th & 8th Graders!



*Save the Date* *Confirmation Camp*

# June 14-19, 2026

Mark your calendars and watch for more information!

## STAFFING UPDATE

December 16, 2025

Dear People of God,

I write to inform you of my formal resignation as Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of Our Savior's Lutheran Church effective January 15, 2026.

I am truly grateful for the three and a half years of service and partnership at OSLC with its congregation, staff, council, and the wider Faribault community. I am particularly grateful to OSLC's beautiful families who welcomed me with open arms.

This decision came after a lot of discernment and prayer, and feeling a nudge toward a different type of ministry. I have accepted an offer to serve as the Faith and Neighboring Organizer in the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA.

I am committed to working with you all and staff to ensure a smooth transition over the next few weeks.

I continue to pray for God's blessings on Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Grace Harrison'.

Grace Harrison

Dear OSLC Family,

We are grateful for Grace and the ministry she has shared with us over the past three years. Through her faithful leadership and genuine care, she has built meaningful relationships and nurtured the faith of our youth and young adults. We give thanks for the many ways she has shaped our ministry together.

Please join us in celebrating Grace on Sunday, January 11, and Wednesday, January 14, as we surround her with gratitude and prayers for what comes next.

Our Church Council and staff remain committed to supporting our youth and young adults during this transition, and we trust in God's guidance as we move forward together. We wish Grace every blessing in her next chapter and give thanks for her time with OSLC.

With gratitude,

Kira  
Lead Pastor, OSLC



# SERMON TEXT & VOLUNTEERS

## January

*"Jesus Says Come and See"*

Sunday, January 4

John 1:35-51

*"Wedding at Cana"*

Sunday, January 11

John 2:1-11

*"Jesus Cleanses the Temple"*

Sunday, January 18

John 2:13-25

*"Nicodemus"*

Sunday, January 25

John 3:1-21

### JANUARY USHERS

PETE ROBERTS ©  
KAREN CHURCHILL  
JERRY & PAULA SCHAUER

LARRY CHURCHILL ©  
LYLE & RUTH OLSON  
LINDA MUELLER

### COMMUNION

#### PREP

#### SERVERS

#### JANUARY 18

Mary Osborne  
Stew & Cindy Schuenke  
Dan & Karen Rasmussen  
Evon Ask

#### JANUARY 25

Mary Osborne  
Dennis & Rita Wunderlich  
Allen & Pam Salveson  
Jill Finstuen

### SCRIPTURE READERS

#### JANUARY 4

CHRISTINE SAMMON

#### JANUARY 11

JILL FINSTUEN

#### JANUARY 18

KRIS HOYSLER

#### JANUARY 25

SCOTT KOESPELL

### SOUND & TECH TEAM

#### JANUARY 4

Sound: Amy Cox  
Livestream: Brendan Cox

Media Shout & Lights: Tim Cox

#### JANUARY 11

Sound: Jordyn Finstuen  
Livestream: Brendan Cox

Media Shout & Lights: Jarid Finstuen

#### JANUARY 18

Sound: Allen Salveson  
Livestream: Brendan Cox

Media Shout & Lights: Linda Hanegraff

#### JANUARY 25

Sound: Need Volunteer  
Livestream: Brendan Cox

Media Shout & Lights: Need Volunteer

*As we begin this year,  
may we walk in  
faith, hope, and love.*

# Sympathies



## *With Deepest Sympathy*

Our Sympathy to Those Who Mourn:

**Judi Eul and family**

in the death of of her husband, Butch Eul.




*(May God's grace and love surround you during this difficult time.)*

## **SAFETY** *Team*

**For more information,  
contact Pastor Kira**



We're creating a Safety Team to help ensure Our Savior's remains a caring, secure, and welcoming place for all. If you have a calm presence, medical or security experience, or simply a heart for helping others, please join us.

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 New Years Day Office Closed	2	3
<b>4</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Worship Service. 	<b>5</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> Property Committee Meeting <b>6:30 pm</b> Grief Support	<b>6</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Grief Support "Newly Bereaved" <b>9:30 – 10:30 am</b> Dwelling in the Word <b>1:00 pm</b> Lamplighters <b>2:30 pm</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:00 pm</b> Personnel Meeting	<b>7</b> <b>7:00 am</b> 3 Big Question Book Study / Jr & Sr High School (Oasis) <b>6:00 pm</b> WOW Service <b>6:30 pm</b> Christian Education <b>8:00 pm</b> High School Youth	<b>8</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Henry's Handy Helpers <b>9:00 am</b> Dynamic Dusters <b>9:00 am</b> Quilters <b>9:30 am</b> Cannon River Conference	<b>9</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Friday Morning Women's Bible Study	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Worship Service <b>10:45 am</b> Gather Table Meeting	<b>12</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Grief Support <b>7:00 – 8:00 pm</b> Faithful Pages (Noah's Ark Room)	<b>13</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Grief Support "Newly Bereaved" <b>9:30 – 10:30 am</b> Dwelling in the Word <b>5:15 pm</b> Personnel Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>7:00 am</b> 3 Big Question Book Study / Jr & Sr High School (Oasis) <b>7:00 – 9:00 am</b> Ruth's House Meeting (Noah's Ark Rm) <b>6:00 pm</b> WOW Service / Comm. <b>6:30 pm</b> Christian Education <b>6:30 pm</b> "This I Believe" Faith Storytelling Open Mic Confirmation <b>8:00 pm</b> High School Youth	<b>15</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Henry's Handy Helpers <b>9:00 am</b> Faith Circle <b>10:30 am</b> Dynamic Dusters <b>7:00 pm</b> Civil Rights Trip (Zoom)	<b>16</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Friday Morning Women's Bible Study	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Worship / Comm	<b>19</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Grief Support 	<b>20</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Grief Support "Newly Bereaved" <b>9:30 – 10:30 am</b> Dwelling in the Word <b>11:30 am</b> FACMA Meeting (1 <sup>st</sup> English) <b>2:30 pm</b> Staff Meeting <b>5:30 pm</b> Executive Council <b>6:30 pm</b> Church Council	<b>21</b> <b>7:00 am</b> 3 Big Question Book Study / Jr & Sr High School (Oasis) <b>6:00 pm</b> WOW Service / Comm. <b>6:30 pm</b> Christian Education <b>6:30 pm</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Stepping Stone Class <b>8:00 pm</b> High School Youth	<b>22</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Henry's Handy Helpers <b>9:00 am</b> Dynamic Dusters <b>9:00 am</b> Quilters	<b>23</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Friday Morning Women's Bible Study	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Worship/ Comm <b>9:30 am</b> Temple Talk	<b>26</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Grief Support	<b>27</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Grief Support "Newly Bereaved" <b>9:30 – 10:30 am</b> Dwelling in the Word <b>1:00 pm</b> Mill City Service <b>2:30 pm</b> Staff Meeting	<b>28</b> <b>7:00 am</b> 3 Big Question Book Study / Jr & Sr High School (Oasis) <b>6:00 pm</b> WOW Service <b>6:00 pm</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Stepping Stone Presentation <b>6:30 pm</b> Christian Education <b>7:45 pm</b> Spring Table Meeting <b>8:00 pm</b> High School Youth	<b>29</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Henry's Handy Helpers	<b>30</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Friday Morning Women's Bible Study	<b>31</b> 





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## STAY CONNECTED

[oursaviorsfbo.org](http://oursaviorsfbo.org)



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*Kathleen G. Putrah Director of Children's Ministry*  
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**Apply Today!**

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**Micah Lynn**

*Congregational Council President*  
[churchcouncil@oursaviorsfbo.org](mailto:churchcouncil@oursaviorsfbo.org)

*Save the Date*

## ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, February 1, 2026**

10:45 AM following Worship



*Faith grows here.*