

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Salt Shaker

You are welcome at Our Savior's, where we're all about
"connecting people to God, people to people, and people to mission."

Quarter 4 - December 2025

Address

612 14th Ave NE
Devils Lake, ND 58301

Office Telephone

701-662-5112

Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00 - 3:00

Building Hours

Mon - Fri: 9:00am-5:00pm
+ scheduled evening events

Website:

www.oursaviorsdevilslake.org

Facebook:

Our Savior's Lutheran
Church
Devils Lake, ND



Our Savior's Friends and Family,

This fall has ushered in a season of change for our church –one that may feel unfamiliar, yet also full of new possibilities. Pastor JoHanna has moved on to her next call, and we give thanks for her leadership and the many ways she served our congregation.

We have continued to move forward toward our prioritized goals, with special attention to caring for and updating our church building. Improvements such as new lighting and sound systems, along with a new computer for worship projection, have enhanced our services and helped support our ministry now and into the future. We are grateful for the vision and leadership that helped make these updates possible.

As we move forward, a Call Committee has now been established and will begin the process of seeking our next pastor. This is an important and prayerful task, and more information will be shared soon about how members can participate in this process.

This season invites us to trust God in new ways and to look forward with hope and confidence, knowing that God continues to guide and sustain our church. There are many ways to serve, and we especially invite prayerful consideration of leadership roles within the church. At the upcoming Annual Meeting on January 25th, we will have four open positions on the Church Council that we are hoping to fill. Chad Hunt will be completing his term, Luke Wasness is off to UND College in the fall, and we have had 2 open positions over the past year. Serving on council is a meaningful way to help guide and support our congregation during this time of transition.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness, generosity, and care for one another. Together, with God's guidance, we will continue to grow, serve, and share Christ's love in our community.

In Christ,

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council

Celebrating the Mission We Share!



Eighteen young people confirmed their faith and were affirmed in their baptismal promises!



We remembered the saints in our lives on All Saints Wed/Sunday!
Some of the Saints at OSLC!



Approximately 275 people came through our building for Trick-Or-Treat Street



Worship

Sunday Worship

The Church Council has been using a Pulpit Supply List from the synod to fill our worship schedule in this time of transition. We pray that our worship life remains strong and ongoing and we are thankful for those who help lead us in worship.

Good News! We will be back *live* beginning January 4th! 🎉 Thanks to funds from the Lefse Sale, a new computer has been purchased that allows us to both livestream worship and run the slides each week. We are excited to have everything working together smoothly and look forward to sharing worship with you—near and far!

What a joyful Christmas Eve Service! Thanks to our musicians, readers, and volunteers, the evening was filled with warmth, beauty, and celebration. We are so lucky to have such talented and dedicated members at Our Savior's, and we encourage everyone to continue sharing their gifts, time, and hearts as we worship, serve, and grow together in the year ahead.

Worship at OSLC

Sundays at 10am

with Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of each month

Wednesdays at 5:45 pm

Holy Communion will resume when an pastor is available to

Please note that there is no Wednesday Worship service on days when there is an early dismissal from school.

From the Call Committee

Ed Johnson, Jose Sanchez, Alex Fortney, Tracy Hoetl, Deb Follman, Gabe Nelson

We are excited to begin the prayerful journey of seeking our next pastor and are grateful for your support along the way. We invite you to keep the Call Committee and our congregation in your prayers as we listen for God's guidance and look ahead with hope.

The Call Process is quite extensive, and as the pastor at church recently reminded us in her sermon = PATIENCE Needed.

The first step will most likely include an "interim" pastor for our church, which means it will be someone on a regular basis and dedicated to our church while we search for a new pastor.

The Call Committee will soon begin work on our Ministry Site Profile (MSP), which is a detailed document describing our church's mission, community, needs, and goals to attract and call a new rostered minister. The MSP will help prospective pastors learn more about us as they look for a church.

Input from our congregation will be important as we develop the MSP and you will be receiving a questionnaire through a text or email. Paper ones will also be available.

We will provide regular communication as the process transpires. We ask for your prayers and encouragement as we move forward in this journey together, trusting God's guidance every step of the way.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Leaders Rock!



We appreciate our Sunday School Teachers,
Ashley Leibfried and
Hilary Kratzke.

Students have been learning about the Advent Candles and what they represent. Also, they have been talking about the different emotions and how God is present with us in all our feelings, and we can bring them to Him in prayer and honesty, as modeled in the Psalms.



We have ongoing children and youth faith formation programs:

Wednesday School
Wednesdays at 3:45pm

Sunday School
Sundays at 8:45am

Confirmation & Youth Group
Wednesdays at 7:00pm

For schedules, please visit the Children, Youth, and Family tab of our website:

www.oursaviorsdevillake.org

and watch for announcements via Flocknote and the Facebook page.

Wednesday Faith Formation

Faith Formation has been following the advent learning series.

Hats off to the wonderful adults who make Wednesday School happen each week:

Megan Wasness, January Obenchain,
Abby Wasness, Amy LaFleur, Alex
Fortney, and Stacey Heggen.
Carol Bonn sets up snack each week.



A group of older students helped with the Rummage Sale set-up.



Thank You - Our Church Family is Awesome!

We give thanks for the following donations and gifts shared with the church:

- Chad Hunt for working diligently to research, purchase and find people to change out all of the lights in our church - the workers - Chad Hunt, Ed Johnson, Kent Rohrer, and Phil Meyer
- Karen Hunt, Edie Johnson, Betty Johnson and Deb Follman who organized the very successful Christmas Rummage, Lefse and Bake Sale - and all the workers who made this happen!
- Peter Foss and Chad Hunt for snow removal they have kindly provided this winter so far.
- Edie Johnson and her "amazing team" for the beautiful decorating each season, especially in December - oh my!
- Rose Rockvov for holding rummage sales from left over church rummage and donating proceeds to OSLC
- RaShell Bye for making all the contacts and scheduling Pulpit Supply Pastors every Sunday
- Dan Johnson for keeping us updated with photos
- Emily Foss & Stacey Heggen for Facebook posts for OSLC
- The AMAZING Wednesday and Sunday School Faith Formation Teachers for sharing God's love and guiding our children each week
- All of the people that help with church service each week - ushers, greeters, readers, communion assistants, and the list goes on....

Memorials

Memorials given to the Genera Fund in memory of:

- **Glenn Olson** by John & Kathy Martin, Bev Bonzer, Stan & Sharon Orness, Chad & Karen Hunt, Gordie & Paula Schmid, Emil & Darlene Schoenfish, Babe Johnson, Barb & Ed Shimmin, Paula Ramsey
- **Wilbert Gutschmidt** by Eric & Sue Lysne, Bonnie Hagen
- **Nelda Langton** by Stan & Sharon Orness, Bruce & Bev Bonzer, Jerome & Lori Hahn, James & Janet Bauman, Merle Langton.
- **Jane Jabs** by Curtis & Linda Jabs
- **Kenneth Kamai** by Jay & Joycelyn Hagen
- **Gerald Schlenker** by Dennis & Donna Johnson
- **Bart Naglestad** by Eric & Sue Lysne, Dennis, Eric, & Paul Lysne
- **Paul Aaser** by Diane Rice
- **Esther Brokke** by Diane Rice
- **Mary Kay Heggen** by Eric & Sue Lysne, Rick & Deb Follman

Thank you to Sheryl Britsch for the gift of LED lighting for the church, given in memory of her parents, Derrel and Anne Britsch.



We are grateful for this lasting and thoughtful contribution.



Gratitude & Generosity, continued

Our Savior's Members & Friends,

As 2025 comes to a close, we give thanks for the many ways God's presence has made known through Our Saviors Lutheran Church Ministries this year.

We are grateful for the various gifts that you have continued to share with our church. What a blessing it is during this year to have our church family, giving your time and financial support.

This month, during the Christmas Season, we hope you will choose to share both in the spirit of your presence and your financial help as you are able. Your financial gifts will help us keep our facilities in good shape, cover our benevolence obligations, and keep this vital ministry strong as we move forward to 2026 as we look to call a new pastor.

The Christmas gifts are a celebration of Our Saviors Lutheran Church and our ministry through the past years. We look forward to joining each other and remembering the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Sincerely

Our Saviors Lutheran Church Council

John Martin

Acting Treasurer

General Fund

Our general, or operating fund, supports our regular expenses related to doing ministry together. This includes things like our lights and heat, music licenses and communion supplies, paper and management software, and wages for staff, including benefits for our pastor. These funds are separate from any designated funds, and are reflected in our annual budget.

Our undesignated general offering was **\$131,273 of the budgeted \$165,000 through the end of November.**

Building Fund

The building fund is designated for building projects and improvement. As of November 30, the current balance is **\$19,907.**

Youth Gathering Account

This account is designated for expenses related to the youth gathering. The balance remains at **\$611.96**, providing a starting place for the next group to attend in 2027!

from the Church Council & Office

Please plan to attend our
Annual Congregation Meeting

on
Sunday, January 26
at 11 am

to celebrate the ministry that has happened
this past year and and plan for the next!

Faith and Fellowship Groups

Beginning in January, we will once again be using Faith and Fellowship Groups each month to assist with ministries at Our Savior's.

Here are some of the tasks of the group each month:

Greeters: greet people at the door and provide a warm welcome to those attending

Readers: read the 2 Readings and 1 Psalm from the lectern.

Ushers: Give out the bulletin at the Sanctuary Door, light the candles, count those in attendance, pass the offering basket, direct worshippers for communion, and count the offering when worship is over.

Communion Assistants: Prepare communion before worship (pour wine, plate wafers), and distribute during services.

Videographers: Use the equipment to live-stream worship and post to our social media accounts.

Supplies Replenishment: bring paper towels, plates, napkins, etc.

Stay tuned for more information about your "month" and how to help.

OSLC Council

Peter Foss
President

Linda Brusven
Vice President

RaShell Bye
Secretary

John Martin
Treasurer

Open
Care & Concern

Chad Hunt
Property

Luke Wasness
Youth Representative

Vacant
Worship

**WE HAVE NEW EMAIL
ADDRESSES IN THE
OFFICE!**

Staff

Office Manager
Vicki Smith

office@oursaviorsdevilslake.org

Council Meeting Summaries

A summary of discussion topics and action-items from October, November and December Council Meetings are listed below. Full council meeting minutes are available for pick-up in the church office or at the welcome desk.

The sound system and lighting in the sanctuary has been completed! NCB Electric installed the lighting, and Peter Foss installed the new sound system. Thank you Peter and John Lunde of NCB Electric. Throughout the rest of the church we have installed 288 new bulbs and have 162 more to be installed after the first of the year. Thank you to Chad Hunt, Ed Johnson, Kent Rohrer, and Phil Meyer for installing the bulbs and changing the ballasts throughout the church.

Our website is going through a much needed update. Amber Nelson from Bee Real Creative is working with Deb Follman on this. Currently they are looking for the best option for formatting. Stay tuned.

Pastor Brad from the Synod office will be preaching on February 1st. He will also be meeting with the call committee and council members.

RaShell is working on Pulpit Supply and has it covered through most of January, with one Sunday left to fill.

Peter and Chad did a walk through of the parsonage with Pastor JoHanna. The house looked very good. No cleaning or maintenance is required.

Chad let us know that he fixed the John Deere snow blower and got it ready to use. It is in the church garage.

As of November 30th the General Fund checking account balance is \$7,630.15, and the Building Fund balance is \$19,907.10.

The **Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 25 after worship.**

The next council meeting is January 12, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

We  love
having you as part of our *flock*



Keep in touch
with us via
email & text

- Choose to get updates from groups you're interested in
- Unsubscribe anytime, no spam we promise

Text **OURSAVIORLIVES** to 84576

Looking for special music for church...

Are you a vocalist or play a musical instrument? This is the time to volunteer!

We were blessed by the beautiful voices and flute on Christmas Eve. If you have an instrument to play or a voice to share, we invite you to help continue this wonderful gift of music.

All the While

The greatest gift
you'll ever receive is
knowing how capable,
how accepted, how
usable, how blessable,
and how loved you
are in Christ.

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