



A publication of

Our Savior Lutheran Church

6770 Marlette Street ▪ Marlette, Michigan

989-635-7994 ▪ ChurchOffice@OSLMarlette.com

www.OSLMarlette.com ▪ www.facebook.com/OSLMarlette

Rev. Timothy Kern, Pastor ▪ Timothy.Kern@OSLMarlette.com

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May 2026

God's Will for My Life



In the month of May at Our Savior Lutheran, we will rejoice and celebrate with our high school graduates. We will bless these graduates and pray for them as they prepare to leave home and embark on new adventures. Many of us will remember our own lives when we were so young and when life was so full of promise and possibilities. Today, we might remember that time with fondness. We can look back knowing that everything worked out. Even the difficult things in life were part of God's plan, and He worked all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. But in the moment, we were likely also full of fear and uncertainty about what the future holds. Will we go to college? What will be our major? Should we go to the big state school, the expensive private school, or maybe to the community college? Should we maybe go to trade school instead? Is there a job that we could jump right into straight out of high school? Where will we live? Do I stay close to home? Do I move to a larger town or city where there are more jobs and opportunities? Who will I marry? Where will I go to church? How often should I come home? What if I don't have a plan? What if I mess up?

All these questions can weigh heavy on someone who is about to launch into adulthood. But actually, in a lot of ways, we all face questions like this. Perhaps, I'm married with a young family. Should I take this new job opportunity that makes more money but displaces my family? How can I guide and mold my children so that they grow up to be faithful Christians and virtuous people? How can I keep my marriage strong even though jobs and kids seem to take

up all of our time? Perhaps, I'm retired and I'm an empty nester. Who am I and what is my purpose now that I'm no longer an employee? What do I do with my time now? What is my role in my adult children's lives? How much time do I have left, and what will I leave behind? No matter our age or life situation, we are all full of questions and uncertainty, and for a Christian, a lot of these questions can be summarized into the one question: What is God's will for my life? Essentially, how do I know that the choices I make in the next few days, months, and years will be God pleasing?

Many Christians struggle with this question. Many worry that God only has one path for their life. They worry that God has one person in mind for them to marry, or he has one career path, or one very specific purpose for their lives. And since the Bible doesn't say, "Timothy Kern, God wants you to be a pastor and marry Hanna and do xyz with your life, family, and church," people get caught worrying that they will make the wrong decisions. What if I marry the wrong person, and then later I meet "the right person"? What if I become a mechanic, but God actually wants me to be an accountant? What if I have 8 children, but God actually only wanted me to have 2? This might sound ridiculous to some of us, but to others, these are difficult questions to wrestle with.

The Bible does, however, give us the answer. What is God's will for my life? God's will for your life is for you to be a Christian. In John 6:40, Jesus says, "**This is the will of My Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.**" What is God's will? Paul writes to Timothy, "**God desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.**" God speaks through the prophet Ezekiel (18:23), "**Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord, and not rather that he should turn from his evil way and live?**" God's will, desire, and pleasure for your life is for you to be a Christian. God wants you to repent of your sin, to turn from your evil way and live. God wants you to look to Jesus and believe in Him so that you can have eternal life and be raised up on the last day. God desires for you to be saved!

In the small catechism, Martin Luther answers this question. How is God's will done? *God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come (which do not want us to be Christians); and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.* God's will is done when you are a Christian, when you are kept in His Word and in the faith for the rest of your life. So, do I have to worry about discerning God's precise will in every daily decision? No. God has given me the 10 commandments which show me how a Christian should live and to guide me through these decisions. But ultimately, I can be a pastor and still be a Christian. I can be a mechanic, a farmer, an accountant, and so many other things and still be a Christian. I can marry or not marry. I can go to college or to trade school or get a job right out of high school and still be a Christian. I can stay in the job I currently work or take another job and still be a Christian. God gives me freedom to make decisions about daily matters, to consider my gifts, abilities, and talents, my interests, my needs, and the needs of those around me. And through all of these decisions and the uncertainty about the future, I can rest secure knowing that God's will is to give me eternal life and raise me up on the last day. God's will is my salvation. God's will is my faith and life.



Prayer Concerns

Church Members

Bob Stoick, Bob Gaiser, Lela Gilroy, Everlynn Hurley,
Carter Schank, Brian Westover, Ashton Jones, Carmen Kinney, Jerry Priebe,
Neil & Geraldine Schaudt, Ellen Romosier, Gus & Barb Schumacher,
Kathy Tallieu, Earl & Gwen Hulett, Mike & Karen Wettstein,
Virginia Woudstra, John Hollenbeck, and Fran Clemens



Extended Family and Friends

Jill Borek—Judy Fischer's daughter
Brad Cummings—friend of Mike & Karen Wettstein
Unborn baby fighting an illness—friends of Mike Janiszewski
Friend looking to relocate—friend of Mike Janiszewski
Lori Spencer—Randy Haas' mother
David Johnson—Wendy (Priebe) Johnson's father-in-law
Nancy Higgins—Bob Stoick's sister
Jack Stoick—Bob's cousin
Dennis Ondrajka—Adam's father
Donna Ferguson—Adam Ondrajka's grandmother
Mary Mitchell—sister of Lela Gilroy
Linda Fraley—Lela Gilroy's daughter
Danica Willis—a friend of Mary Brief
Joan Kuhne—Mary Brief's mother
Randy Kasdorf—Shauna Lester's Baptismal Sponsor
Ken and Pam Wood—parents of Kelly Ondrajka
Harvey Kaltz—Debie's husband
Family & Friends of Virginia Woudstra: Dennis Davis,
Robbie Kuechenmeister, Richard and Terri Strauchman,
Samantha Jones, Tim Harris, and Dalton Randall

Please keep all of these brothers and sisters in your prayers.. If you have a family member or friend listed here who is no longer in need of special prayer, please call the church office at 989-635-7994 so the list can be updated.

Serving the Lord in Gladness



May Elders

- 5/3 Chris Durham
- 5/10 Craig Storm
- 5/17 Don Schank
- 5/24 Bob Stoick
- 5/31 Marty Brandt

Altar Guild

Pat Hurttgam

Service Music

May 3, 10, 24, and 31—Caleb Storm/Samuel Schank
May 17—Renea Lambert

Sunday Morning Greeters

- 5/3 Anthony and Mary Theel
- 5/10 Adam and Kelly Ondrajka
- 5/17 Mike Janiszewski
- 5/24 Randy and Brianna Haas
- 5/31 Mike Janiszewski



Our Acolytes

Max Haas
Jacob Laur
Jayson Schank
Andrew Theel



Church Council Minutes

A report from the meeting of April 16, 2026

President Bob Gaiser called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Present were: Don Schank, Ian Conley, Marty Brandt, Tim Forsys, Kathy Tallieu, Caleb Storm, Randy Haas, Bob Gaiser, Chris Durham, Pastor Kern, and Renea Lambert.

The meeting began with a devotion from “Day by Day We Magnify Thee” as read by Pastor Kern. The devotion focused on The Good Shepherd.

Due to illness, the **Treasurer’s Report** was not available.

Pastor’s Report (covering the time since the last meeting of 3-19-26)

Pastoral duties:

- One wedding at Peace, one funeral at Peace.
- 19 Worship Services
- Bible Study continues – Comparing the Gospel accounts of the Passion.
- 13 Home/Institutional visits (7 for OSL, 4 for Hope, 2 for Peace)
- Reception of new member at OSL, Rae Ann Ferguson, through a Profession of Faith.

Other duties:

- Homeschool co-op chapel every Wednesday. Peace preschool chapel every week on Tuesday or Wednesday.
- The April Men & Boys Night was hosted at the Kern’s on April 10th.
- Confirmation at Peace on Sunday, 4/19 and at OSL on May 17th.
- A new Adult Instruction course is beginning for Phil and Michelle Whitmore. The Whitmores will be baptized during the service on April 19th.

Future planning:

- Update on Hope Lutheran – they have submitted their new Constitution to the Michigan District. It is now pending approval.
- Update on Peace Lutheran – they have extended a Call to Rev. Michael Bagnall from St. John’s Lutheran Church in Staten Island, New York.
- The Doxology Conference in Kansas will be June 1-4. Pastor has a full scholarship to attend.
- VBS at OSL will be June 15 – 18 and VBS at Peace will be July 13-17.
- The Higher Things Youth Conference will be in St. Louis, MO, June 23-26.
- The Bugenhagen Conference in Racine, WI is July 27-29.

Elder’s Report – given by Marty Brandt

- Elders are updating the membership roster and attendance reports, and working on the inactive members list.

Board of Christian Education Report – given by Randy Haas

- VBS will be June 15 – 18 under the theme, “A Greater Exodus”, learning how the exodus from Egypt applies to our salvation through Jesus.
- The Mom-to-Mom Sale went well, with both the Co-Op and Youth raising funds.
- The Co-Op families used their funds to travel to Oxford and enjoy a day at the Trampoline Park.

Facilities Trustees Report – given by Ian Conley

- The outside door near the kitchen was repaired.
- An Inventory of property continues.
- The Curriculum room is being cleaned and organized.

A motion to accept all Board Reports was made by Don Schank and seconded by Ian Conley. Motion carried.

Old Business

- A notification letter to the church secretary of the termination of the position was reviewed and accepted by all in attendance. A copy will be forwarded to Karen Forsys for her review also.
- The review process for the Church Constitution continues. Acceptance via email will be completed before the next meeting.
- Bob will create a Volunteer Church Cleaning schedule to be posted soon.
 - The Trustees are reviewing the Key Policy and may make adjustments in light of the need for a plan to borrow and return keys for the cleaning of the building(s).

The Secretary’s Report from this meeting was read, and a motion to accept was made by Ian Conley and seconded by Don Schank. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tim Forsys and seconded by Caleb Storm. Motion carried. The meeting closed with The Lord’s Prayer at 7:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 21st at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Renea Lambert, Secretary

Confirmation and Graduation

On May 17th, Jayson Schank will take his vows of faithfulness during the Rite of Confirmation.

The June edition of the Logos will include photos of his Confirmation. Please keep Jayson in your prayers as he prepares for this day.

Also on that day, we will recognize our high school Graduates—Trey Lester and Josh Eager. Watch for a feature in next month’s Logos with pictures and information on their future plans.

Easter Vigil + Easter Breakfast



The Vigil began with fire in the darkness, reminding us that Jesus is our light.

We were blessed again this year to have Pastor Bagnall (Good Shepherd, Cass City) and one of their young men join Pastor Kern in leading the service.



Easter Breakfast was delicious! Many thanks to everyone who provided a dish to share. Many thanks are also due to our Youth who planned, cooked, and cleaned! They're a great group of young people and we give thanks to God for each one.



+ April Was a Busy Month +

April 10, 2026 Men & Boys Night at the Kern's

Outside,
burning
brush ...



... inside,
watching
the splash-
down of
Artemis II.
Very cool!

April 19, 2026



Phil and Michelle Whitmore
were Baptized during the
worship service that Sunday
morning. What a joy!



Homeschool Co-Op Adventure on April 17th



Some of the funds raised recently at the Mom-to-Mom Sale hosted by the Co-Op parents allowed the families to enjoy a Field Trip.



They traveled to the Trampoline Park in Oxford for a day of fun and excitement. Just look at these happy faces. ☺



Looking Ahead ...

Things to know —

- ☺ Don't forget about the **Mother-Daughter Tea** on Sunday, May 3rd at 3:00. It should be a great day!
- ☺ **Spring Clean Up Day** at church will be on Saturday, May 16th, starting at 9am. Bring your yard tools and plenty of ambition!
- ☺ Sunday, May 17th is **Confirmation Day**. We will also recognize our **High School Graduates**.
- ☺ **Picnic & Pie** is on the calendar for Monday, June 8th. Everyone likes this event which helps raise funds for our Youth and other ministries.
- ☺ **Vacation Bible School** will run from June 15-18. This year's theme is, "The Greater Exodus". More to come on this soon —
- ☺ The **Higher Things** Youth Conference will be held in St. Louis, MO, June 23-26. This will be a great learning adventure for our group of students and their two chaperones.

Serving the Lord and our Congregation

Staff Directory and Board Members

Rev. Timothy Kern, Pastor
Timothy.Kern@OSLMarlette.com

Chris Durham, Secretary
ChurchOffice@OSLMarlette.com

Office Phone: 989-635-7994 | www.OSLMarlette.com
www.facebook.com/OSLMarlette

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bob Gaiser, President
Tim Forys, Vice-President
Karen Forys, Treasurer
Renea Lambert, Secretary
Bridget Storm, Financial Secretary

BOARD OF ELDERS

Marty Brandt, Head Elder
John Hollenbeck
Jerry Priebe ▪ Bob Stoick
Craig Storm ▪ Chris Durham
Don Schank ▪ Gus Schumacher

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ian Conley, Chairman
Kathy Tallieu, Secretary
Christopher Durham
Tim Forys
Caleb Storm
Don Schank
Ian Conley

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Randy Haas, Chairman
Chris Durham, Secretary
Caleb Storm ▪ Kathy Tallieu
Ian Conley

SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP

Hanna Kern, Superintendent
Nursery-Grade 1—Erica Gaiser
Grades 2-6—Debie Kaltz
Youth Leader—Hannah Schank

