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A publication of

## Our Savior Lutheran Church

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# May 2025

## THE LOGOS

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### Who is God? Who am I?

A few Saturdays ago, I and a few council members from our congregation attended the Philippians Conference at Zion Lutheran in Harbor Beach. The topic of this conference was Stewardship, and the teacher at that conference was Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador. Pastor Meador's official title is very long, and I am sorry that I did not write it down, but suffice it to say that he is the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod's expert on stewardship. In many ways, this conference opened my eyes, and I am not at all ashamed to tell you that I learned and relearned so much about stewardship in those 5 hours. So, for the next few months, I would like to share with you a few of the things that we learned from Pastor Meador. We will talk about our identity and our vocation as Christian stewards. We will learn about stewardship's relationship to justification and sanctification, and how everything that the Christian receives and does flows from the cross of Christ. We will hear about the God given and blessed task of the Christian steward and how it is different from the stewardship of unbelievers. The unbeliever's stewardship is motivated by greed or fear while Christian stewardship is motivated by love for God and for the neighbor. We will also learn about how stewardship is part of our royal vocations as the priesthood of all believers. It is an act of daily worship. Finally, we will talk about some of the nuts-and-bolts practical suggestions that Pastor Meador gave us to nurture a culture of Christian stewards in our local congregations.

Before talking about the activity of stewardship, we need to start out from the right place. Stewardship, and really the whole Christian life, all begins with identity. Who is God? And who am I? The very first verse in the Bible tells us the answer to the first question. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." – Genesis 1:1 God is Creator. He made all things. That means that all things are His. They belong to Him. Psalm 24 says, "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell

therein for He has founded it upon the seas.” Since God made the heavens and the earth, then the heavens and the earth are His. Not only that but every living thing that is in the world is His. The implications of this begin to answer the second question, the “who am I” question. For starters, I am not my own. I belong to the Lord. Everything that I have is not my own. It belongs to the Lord, for He made it. All of the people in my life are not mine. My wife is not mine. My children are not mine. My friends and neighbors are not mine. They are the Lord’s.

But God has more to say about who we are in His world. If we keep reading through the first chapter of Genesis we come to Genesis 1:26-28 where God says,

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So, God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

I’ve underlined a few words in the verses above because they teach us about who God made us to be. First and foremost, we are made in the image and likeness of God. When the devil tempted Eve and said that she could be like God, he was tempting her with something that she already possessed. She already was like God. She was sinless, she was immortal, she shared dominion with her husband, she had perfect communion and fellowship with God and man. She already reflected God. And so did Adam. The first thing we need to know about ourselves and our identity is that we are made in God’s image and likeness, we are mirror reflections of Him. That means that as Christians, we should desire to do what God does and to be the best reflections of Him that we can as His image bearers and even as His adopted sons and daughters who bear His name in our baptism. What does that look like? God exercises benevolent dominion over creation. He causes the sun to shine and the rains to fall. He makes the plants and animals grow, and He gives daily bread to all of creation. Likewise, we are to exercise care in our dominion over the creation that God has entrusted to us. Remember, none of it belongs to us. “The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof...” We do not have ownership over creation. God has entrusted us with its dominion, with its stewardship. We care for His creation as His children who are made in His Image.

Another aspect of God's Image and even of dominion is that we are to be fruitful and multiply. God created the heavens and the earth and everything in it. He has made us male and female, and He entrusts male to females and females to males in holy marriage so that they may be fruitful and multiply and join God in His creative work of making living beings who bear His image. Again, your husband or wife is not yours. Your children are not yours. They belong to God. "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and all who dwell therein." So, in your closest relationships, ask yourself, "how am I going to steward God's [spouse's name here]? How am I going to steward God's [children's/grandchildren's name here]?" How am I going to speak to, serve, and sacrificially love this priceless, immortal soul that God has entrusted to my keeping?

One more detail from the identity conversation is that Pastor Meador refrained from using "gift" language. He said that never once in all of Scripture does God deed anything or anyone over to you. There is no "gift" or "giving". "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof." Everything that you are, everything that you have, everyone in your life still belongs to the Lord, for He made it and He made them. They are only "yours" insofar as He has entrusted them to you. The garden of Eden was not "given" to Adam and Eve. If it was a true gift, then God could not have taken it away from them. It was entrusted to them. They were the stewards, managers, and trustees of that precious treasure. Their job was to work it and keep it. We will talk a little bit more about those two words next time. Nevertheless, they were caretakers of God's own possession. Their entire identity and vocation is to be made in the image and likeness of God and to be a steward of God's treasure, acting according to His good and gracious will exercising dominion under His ultimate Sovereignty. So, over the next month ask yourself a series of questions:

- † What are the things/resources that God has entrusted to my keeping?
- † Who are the people that God has entrusted to my care?
- † How would God want me to steward His resources?
- † How would God want me to care for His children?



# Prayer Concerns

## Church Members

John Hollenbeck, Jeff Eager, Brenda Fifield, Bob Gaiser, Lela Gilroy,  
Ashton Jones, Carmen Kinney, Pam Mutschler, Jerry Priebe,  
Ellen Romosier, Neil Schaudt, Gus Schumacher, Kathy Tallieu,  
Mike Wettstein, Virginia Woudstra, Mary Lou Champion, and Fran Clemens



## Extended Family and Friends

Lennie Chronowski—young daughter of Earl & Gwen Hulett's friends  
Nancy Higgins—Bob Stoick's sister  
Karen Kobyluk—a friend of Adam Ondrajka  
Jack Stoick—Bob's cousin  
Deborah Durham—Chris' step-mother  
Scott & Carol McCready—friends of the McGarvie family  
Mary Kay Bell—relative of Judy Fischer  
Dennis Ondrajka—Adam's father  
Donna Ferguson—Adam Ondrajka's grandmother  
Mary Mitchell—sister of Lela Gilroy  
Linda Fraley—Lela Gilroy's daughter  
Meredith Stewart—cousin of Chris McGarvie  
Glen Phillips—former employer of Adam Ondrajka  
Danica Willis—a friend of Mary Brief  
Joan Kuhne—Mary Brief's mother  
Cathy Mutschler and Cathy Khoury—Pam Mutschler's sisters in law  
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, Daniel, & David Glover,  
and Russel & Terri Strauchman;

*Please help us keep this list up to date. If you have a family member or friend listed here who is no longer in need of prayer, please call the church office and let us know.  
Give thanks too, to the Lord who answers prayer!*

# Serving the Lord in Gladness



## May Elders

5/4 Craig Storm  
5/11 Jerry Priebe  
5/18 Chris Durham  
5/25 Marty Brandt

## Altar Guild

Pat Hurttgam

## Service Music

5/4, 5/11, and 5/25—Caleb Storm/Sam Schank  
5/18—Renea Lambert



## Sunday Morning Greeters

5/4 Bob & Jeannie Stoick  
5/11 Jerry & Verna Priebe  
5/18 Randy & Brianna Haas  
5/25 Jerry & Verna Priebe

## Acolytes

Carter and Jayson Schank



## Can you help solve two small mysteries?

- Misplaced? Borrowed? No one seems to know what has happened to our "KITCHEN CART". This is that large, gray plastic cart with wheels, a handle, and two shelves that used to sit by the kitchen door. It hasn't been seen in a while.
- Also missing from the Sacristy is the "BANNER POLE", a long narrow wooden stick with a hook on the end that is used to move the banners in the Chancel.

😊 Any "clues" to solving these mysteries are appreciated! 😊

# Church Council Report

## MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by President Adam Ondrajka.

Present were: Pastor Kern, Caleb Storm, Chris Durham, Randy Haas, Karen Forsys, Karrie Forsys, Tim Forsys, Kathy Tallieu, Katie Laur, Marty Brandt, Adam Ondrajka, and Renea Lambert.

Pastor opened with a devotion focusing on “Witness, Mercy, Life Together”.

The **Treasurer’s Reports** from February and March were reviewed.

- The February report showed a total income of \$10,509.27 and expenses of \$16,947.19.
- The March report showed a total income of \$24,505.27. This included the monies received from the closure of the Thrivent Scholarship Account which have been directed to Debt Retirement. Total expenses in March were \$27,052.60.
- A motion to accept both the February and March reports was made by Tim Forsys and seconded by Karrie Forsys. Motion carried.

### **Pastor’s Report**

Since the last Council meeting:

- No Baptisms (one will take place on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> during the Vigil).
- No Weddings.
- One Funeral for Doris Ann Brief, mother-in-law of Mary Brief.
- There have been 19 worship services held. Sunday morning Bible Study continues with “Stuff You Missed in Sunday School”.
- 12 Home visits/shut in visits. 3 hospital visits.
- Transfers: 3 transfers out – Mike & Linda Harm to St. Paul in Kalkaska and Kendra Holley to St. John’s in New Boston, MI.
- Pastor attended the Regional Forum at St. John in Pinconning and Winkel at Grace, Fairgrove in March and at Zion, Harbor Beach in April.
- Pastor will attend the Philippians Conference on Stewardship on Saturday, 4-12-25, at Zion, Harbor Beach.
- Confirmation will take place on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Pending examinations, Carter Schank, Hallie Lester, Verity Ondrajka, and Trinity Ondrajka will be Confirmed.
- Need all hands on deck as we look at “Witness, Mercy, Life Together”.

### **Elders’ Report – given by Marty Brandt**

The Elders discussed “Witness, Mercy, Life Together” as presented by Pastor.

A letter will be going out to Inactives, encouraging them to return home.

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**Board of Christian Education Report – given by Randy Haas**

- The Board met on 4-6-25. Plans for VBS are well underway. VBS will run from June 16 – 19, 9:00-11:30. The theme is, “Journey to The Promised Land”. This year, a registration form will be used and this will include a permission slip for possible trips off the property, such as visiting Hannah Wolfe and ECF.
- There was some discussion at Council to look at different times of day/evening for VBS in the future.

**Facilities Trustees Report – given by Karrie Forys and Chris Durham**

- Faucets in the bathrooms need to be replaced
- Some shingles need to be replaced

A motion to accept all reports was made by Katie Laur and seconded by Marty Brandt. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

- The Constitution Review Committee needs to meet again.

**New Business**

- **Spring Clean Up date: Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 to 12:00.** Rain date: Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. A list of chores will be put together.
- The Voters’ Assembly will meet on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Board reports will be given.
- A Budget Review Committee was organized. On the Committee are Chris Durham, Randy Haas, Karen Forys, Karrie Forys, Adam Ondrajka, and Pastor Kern.
- BOCE President Randy Haas is willing to organize a “Men & Boys Night” which would be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. These nights will include a bonfire and hymn sing. Participants should bring things along for fun, such as bikes, games, projects, etc.
- **The first Men & Boys Night will be on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00. Invite friends too!**
- Another regular event that Randy and the BOCE will organize is a monthly Church Family Picnic. This would be a “BYO Picnic” to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month following Sunday School/Bible Study. Bring games and fun activities to share if you can.
- **The first Church Family Picnic will be on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> after Sunday School/Bible Study.**

The Secretary’s Report from this meeting was read to Council. A motion to approve was made by Katie Laur and seconded by Karrie Forys. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Karen Forys and seconded by Karrie Forys. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The next Council Meeting will be on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Recorded by Renea Lambert, Secretary



# Something NEW!



## Our Savior Lutheran Men & Boys Night

2nd Friday of Every Month  
from 6-8pm

at Our Savior Lutheran Church

First Meeting: May 9th

Join us for an opportunity for great fun, conversation, and a chance to help around the community. Invite your friend, neighbor, brother, uncle, cousin, etc. **The more, the merrier!**

Bring snacks and drinks if desired, along with any sports equipment, bikes, scooters, games, etc. to enjoy. Some nights will have a planned event, but most will be open for the group to do whatever sounds fun that day.

Our hymn of the summer: *The Son of God Goes Forth to War*



# 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY

## B<sub>RING</sub> Y<sub>OUR</sub> O<sub>WN</sub> PICNIC

FAMILY • FELLOWSHIP • FOOD • FUN

Mark May 25th on your calendar!

On the FOURTH SUNDAY of each month, there will be an opportunity to join your church family for a few hours of fun and fellowship.

To keep it all simple and stress-free, this will be a “BYO Picnic” where each family will bring their own lunch to church. After Sunday School and Bible Study, we can join together to eat. Then, the conversation and games begin!

- ☺ Frisbee, football, baseball, badminton, croquet, whatever! If you have some easy to bring equipment to share, please do.
- ☺ Card games are always fun too.
- ☺ A little pleasant conversation is nice as well!



Whether you bring your “picnic” in a pretty basket or a brown paper bag, please come! This should be a lot of fun. The first 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday BYO Picnic will be on May 25<sup>th</sup>, beginning around 11:30.

# Vacation Bible School at Our Savior Lutheran

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## **Vacation Bible School**

**June 16<sup>th</sup>—19<sup>th</sup> ★ 9:00—11:30**

**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
6770 Marlette Street | Marlette  
989-635-7994**

*Crafts  
Prayer  
Bible Lessons  
Outdoor Fun  
Snacks  
Songs*

Open to all children through Grade Six

# April in Pictures

Throughout the Lenten Season, weekly Pot Luck Suppers were held at 5:00.

Here we see some of our members with plates in hand. 😊  
→

The food is *always* good!

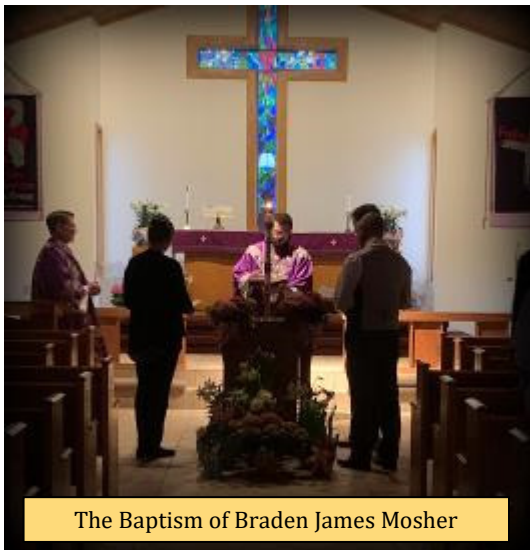


This is a peek at some of the Homeschool CoOp activities the boys and girls enjoyed this month.

# April in Pictures



The Vigil begins



The Baptism of Braden James Mosher

The Easter Vigil  
Saturday, April 19, 2025



Vigil Fire



Pastor and our newest member, Braden Mosher



# April in Pictures

## The Egg Hunt on Easter Morning



— Getting ready for the Hunt—



All of the  
Egg Hunters had  
fun and found  
lots of EGGS!



# Serving the Lord and our Congregation

## Staff Directory and Board Members

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

Kelsey Justin, Secretary  
ChurchOffice@OSLMarlette.com

Office Phone: 989-635-7994 | [www.OSLMarlette.com](http://www.OSLMarlette.com)  
[www.facebook.com/OSLMarlette](http://www.facebook.com/OSLMarlette)

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Adam Ondrajka, President  
Tim Forys, Vice-President  
Karen Forys, Treasurer  
Renea Lambert, Secretary  
Bridget Storm, Financial Secretary

### BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Randy Haas  
Chris Durham  
Caleb Storm  
Kathy Tallieu  
Renea Lambert

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Karrie Forys  
Kathy Tallieu  
Katie Laur  
Christopher Durham \*  
Tim Forys  
Caleb Storm  
Randy Haas

### BOARD OF ELDERS

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

### SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP

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



\* Chris Durham is a non-voting Trustee

*Note: The School Board is no longer meeting regularly*