



A publication of

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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September, 2025

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September 2025



I Love My Church!

This month, we are kicking off a new Logos series called “**I love my church!**” Thank you to the Donald and Hannah Schank family for being the first interview!

Tell us about yourself and your family.

Donald is a machinist, runs a prescribed burn company and farms.

Hannah is a teacher. Started her career at Our Savior Lutheran and now works for Kingston Community Schools.

Samuel is an 11th grader at Kingston and enjoys engineering club, robotics and track.

Carter is a 7th grader at Kingston and enjoys soccer, engineering club, basketball and track.

Jayson is a 6th grader at Kingston and enjoys creating, crafting and riding his dirt bike.

Hannah and Donald both grew up in North Branch and are raising their family in Clifford.

How and when did you become members of Our Savior Lutheran Church?

Donald and Hannah became members of OSL in 2007. Hannah was first introduced to the church by Craig Storm and brought Donald along when they started dating.

What are some ways your faith has grown? Or how has your faith been strengthened? Are there particular moments, people, or ministries that were especially meaningful?

One important person from our church was Jeff Knox. Jeff was always welcoming and caring. He was known to the children as the candy man. It was an honor to be able to give Jayson the middle name Jeffery after Mr. Knox.

What do you love most about our church family?

What we love most about our church family is how everyone works together to help and support one another. We all know that Grandma Judy Fischer will always be there to give the biggest hug! Pastor Kern is always there willing to drop anything and everything to make a long drive to the hospital to pray with you. Even when we are saying, “no, you don’t need to come”. He knows what is needed and he makes it happen. We love the worship, doctrine and teachings of OSL. They are things that help us get through life.

What does it mean to you to be part of the one, holy, Christian, and apostolic Church?

Being a part of the one, holy, Christian, and apostolic church is especially meaningful to us because of the joy and grace it brings to our hearts being able to worship with those who believe the same.

How has the Divine Service impacted your life?

The divine service has impacted our lives with confession and absolution, and the Lord’s Supper. These are needs that we have in our lives and the Divine Service fulfills those needs. We also love the hymns and being able to sing them in everyday life to help us through many situations.



Is there a particular memory or moment at OSL that stands out as especially encouraging or special to you?

Moments at OSL that stand out for us are our wedding service, all three of the boys baptisms, and Samuel and Carter being confirmed. Also, anytime that our boys are serving as either acolytes or music is a true blessing. One very meaningful service was the Easter vigil in 2024. This service fell on the same day that we buried Donald's brother. There was nothing better than after a funeral going to this service and being a part of Ian Conley's baptism. This day will forever hold a very special place in our hearts.

Why do you love your church?

Why we love our church —

Jayson loves our church because Pastor Kern is there and that means he gets to play with Freddie!

Carter loves our church because he gets to attend the Higher Things conference.

Samuel loves our church because he gets to help run the organ during service and going to Higher Things.

Donald loves our church because of the friendly atmosphere.

Hannah loves our church because it is home, and filled with love.



SEPTEMBER'S HYMN OF THE MONTH, #756

"Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me"

From the "Hope and Comfort" section of our hymnal

Text written by Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676



- (1) Why should cross and trial grieve me? Christ is near
With His Cheer; Never will He leave me.
Who can rob me of the heaven That God's Son
For me won When His life was given?

Prayer Concerns

Church Members

John Hollenbeck, Jeff Eager, Brenda Fifield, Bob Gaiser, Lela Gilroy, Carter Schank, Trey Lester, Brian Westover, Ashton Jones, Carmen Kinney, Jerry Priebe, Neil Schaudt, Ellen Romosier, Gus Schumacher, Kathy Tallieu, Gwen Hulett, Mike & Karen Wettstein, Virginia Woudstra, Mary Lou Champion, and Fran Clemens



Extended Family and Friends

Conrad Brooks—Judy Fischer's son-in-law
 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
 Lennie Chronowski—young daughter of Earl & Gwen Hulett's friends
 Nancy Higgins—Bob Stoick's sister
 Karen Kobylak—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
 Glen Phillips—former employer of Adam Ondrajka
 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, Daniel, & David Glover, Dalton Randall, Ruth Ann Lober, 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



September Elders

9/7 Don Schank
 9/14 Chris Durham
 9/21 *Unassigned*
 9/28 Marty Brandt

Altar Guild

Volunteer(s) appreciated

Service Music

September 7, 14, and 21—Caleb Storm/Samuel Schank
 September 28—Renea Lambert



Sunday Morning Greeters

9/7 Bob & Jeannie Stoick
 9/14 Adam & Kelly Ondrajka
 9/21 Randy & Brianna Haas
 9/28 *Volunteers appreciated*

A reminder that we now have a sign-up sheet on the table in the church hall where willing volunteers can sign up for a Sunday. Please consider adding your name to the list of Greeters. Thank you!

Acolytes

Carter and Jayson Schank



Church Council Report

From the meeting of August 21, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by President Adam Ondrajka. Present were: Adam Ondrajka, Pastor Kern, Caleb Storm, Chris Durham, Randy Haas, Tim Forys, Karen Forys, Kathy Tallieu, Marty Brandt, and Renea Lambert.

Pastor opened the meeting with a devotion from the book, "Day By Day We Magnify Thee", based upon the writings of Martin Luther.

The **Treasurer's Report** was distributed and reviewed. It showed that total Income for the month of July was \$20,655.59 with Expenses of \$16,170.95 for that same period. A motion to accept the Report was made by Tim Forys and seconded by Chris Durham. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Update since the last meeting:

- There were no Baptisms, Weddings, Confirmations, or Funerals
- 19 Worship Services held (includes those at Peace Lutheran)
- Bible Study on Lutheran Distinctives continues
- Pastor made 7 Home/Institutional Visits
- Attended Higher Things with the Youth Group
- One person is in Adult Instruction
- Two couples in Pre-Marital Counseling (one couple from Peace)
- Weekly Confirmation Classes at OSL begin on Wednesday, September 10th, starting at 6:00 p.m.
- Youth Nights begin on Friday, September 26th. This will be an every-other-month event, running from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- There will be a Tri-Parish Cemetery Clean Up at the Argyle Cemetery on Saturday, October 4th at 9:00 a.m. The congregations of Our Savior, Peace, and Good Shepherd-Cass City will participate. Rain Date: Saturday, October 11th.
- Pastor has been asked by Rev. Michael Eschelbach (former Peace Pastor) to participate in a "Best Practices" Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. This Conference will be held in February and Homeschool Co-Ops are one of the topics. There will be an announcement in the Sunday Bulletin about this, along with a request to consider making a donation to help him cover travel expenses, etc.

Elders' Report – given by Marty Brandt

- The Elders continue working as usual

Council Report, continued

Board of Christian Education Report – given by Randy Haas

- The first day of the new Sunday School year will be on September 7th. Sunday School Staff will be Installed during the Divine Service that day also.
- Erica Gaiser has volunteered to take on the instruction of the Nursery – Grade 1 class, replacing Hanna Kern. Hanna will remain as Sunday School Superintendent.

Facilities Trustees Report – given by Kathy Tallieu and Chris Durham

- Regular maintenance done as needed, including plans for kitchen faucet repair.

A motion to accept all Board Reports was made by Chris Durham and seconded by Randy Haas. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Council members who are also on the Constitution Revision Committee were asked to stay following the Council meeting for a very brief meeting.

New Business

- A request has been made to assign a designated 2-6 Grade Sunday School classroom in the school. It was decided that the former 5/6 grade classroom (between the Restrooms and Library) will be their classroom.
- A request has also been made to assign a designated Youth Room in the school building. It was decided that the classroom that formerly housed 2nd/3rd grades (the classroom just past the Homeschool Co-Op room) will be their assigned room. Arrangements will be made with school staff to finish clearing out materials currently left there.
- Pastor will be getting more information from “Positive Alternatives”, a pregnancy counseling service in Tuscola County, on the possibility of offering a space in the school to house a Baby Pantry. Volunteers from OSL would be needed to help run the Pantry. Pastor will bring an update to the next meeting. A decision on whether to go forward with the plan was tabled until more information is gathered.
- Renea Lambert and Kathy Rachow have asked permission to refresh and paint the kitchen island. Trustees attending the meeting gave their approval.

The Secretary's Report from this meeting was read to the group. A motion to accept was made by Karen Forsys and seconded by Tim Forsys. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Karen Forsys and seconded by Kathy Tallieu. Motion carried. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer at 8:12 p.m.

The next Council Meeting will be on Thursday, September 18th at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Renea Lambert, Secretary

Homeschool Co-Op Singers



Some of the children from the OSL Homeschool Co-Op program joined us to sing for the congregation on Sunday, August 24th. They sang, “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know”, and their sweet little voices added a special note to the Divine Service. Thank you, boys and girls! We look forward to having you come back and sing again on the 4th Sunday in October. 🎵

... and Speaking of Singing ...

A Hymn Festival, “*I Am Baptized Into Christ: The Devil’s Might Unraveled*” will be held on Sunday, October 12th at 3:00 at Grace Lutheran Church in Auburn. Commentators for the Festival will be Rev. Stephen Starke and Rev. Aaron Schian. Kantors will be Nathan Beethe (Kantor from Grace-Auburn), Jon Eifert, and Brian Heinlein. A Mass Choir composed of members from area congregations will sing and instrumentalists are invited too! Anyone wishing to participate should contact Kantor Nathan Beethe at 989-878-2103. Two rehearsals have been scheduled: Saturday, October 4th at 2:00 and again on Sunday, October 12th at 1:30.

Whether you’re a singer or simply a listener, if you love music and our Lutheran hymns, you’ll want to attend this special event!

LAST OPPORTUNITY!

Don't miss out!

In support of the mission and ministries at
Our Savior Lutheran Church in Marlette
The Barnabas Club
sponsors the Fourth Annual



BENEFIT RAFFLE



FIRST PRIZE

\$1000 CARD

SECOND PRIZE

\$750 CARD

THIRD PRIZE

\$500 CARD

FOURTH PRIZE

\$250 CARD

WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A GIFT CARD TO

BEN'S GREAT OUTDOORS
BEN'S CONTRACTOR CENTER

+Cards can be used for ANY purchase+

SPORTING EQUIPMENT ★ FIREARMS ★ BUILDING SUPPLIES
OUTDOOR GEAR ★ TOOLS ★ HOME IMPROVEMENT NEEDS

No matter what you're looking for, Ben's probably has it.

\$20 PER TICKET DRAWING DATE: 9-20-25
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

All proceeds from this activity help support the mission and ministries of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Marlette

Events to Keep in Mind

Sunday School and Youth Group

- The new school year begins on September 7th at 10:30 a.m. We have very faithful, dedicated, caring teachers, and we give thanks for each one!
 - Nursery-Grade 1: Mrs. Erica Gaiser
 - Elementary Grades 2-6: Mrs. Debie Kaltz
 - Youth Group, Grades 7-12: Mrs. Hannah Schank
- All groups meet in the school building.

Confirmation Class

- A new group of Confirmation students will begin meeting on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to learn more about Youth Confirmation, please speak with Pastor.

Men & Boys Nights

- This is open to all men and boys, so invite friends! The group meets at the church on the second Friday of each month from 6:00-8:00 for a service project, games, and learning. The next event is set for Friday, September 12th beginning at 6:00.

Youth Nights

- NEW! This will be an opportunity for our Youth to get together for some fun and learning. Right now, plans call for this to be scheduled on an every-other-month basis with the first Youth Night set for Friday, September 26th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Friends are welcome too!

Fourth Sunday “Bring Your Own Picnic to Church”

- On the 4th Sunday of each month, everyone is encouraged to pack a picnic and gather with your church family for fun, games, fellowship, and food. Following the Divine Service, plan to stay and play cards or visit while the children attend Sunday School. When they're dismissed, it's time to eat and enjoy. 😊

Serving the Lord and our Congregation

Staff Directory and Board Members

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Kelsey Justin, Secretary
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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

SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP

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

BOARD OF ELDERS

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

* Chris Durham is a non-voting Trustee



Note: The School Board is no longer meeting regularly