

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 430 Chester, MT 59522

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St. Olaf Lutheran Church

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A Congregation of Lutheran Churches in Mission For Christ



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

St. Olaf

8:15 a.m. Worship

Communion St. Olaf - 1st Sunday

Our Savior's

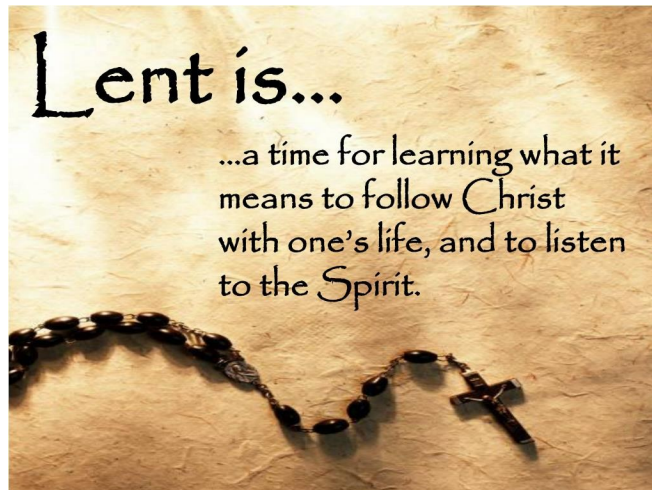
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

Communion: Our Savior's
1st Sunday (at rail)

Church Council— 2nd Monday of
each month, 7:00 p.m.
(August No Council Mtg)

Wednesday School
Wednesdays, 3:00 pm.



Parish Caller - February 2026

Greeters for February 2026

- Feb 1 — Trina Thielman
- Feb 8 — Vinsons
- Feb 15 — Gwen Henderson
- Feb 16 — *Need 1*
- Feb 22 — Dorothe Overlie

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Greeters

“Come and follow me,” said Jesus to the fishermen Peter, Andrew, James, and John. **“From now on, you will be fishing for people!”** (Matthew 4: 19)

Dear Family and Friends of SOLC and OSLC,

Recently I happened upon the following illustration highlighting the life of Herm Haakenson, a salmon fisherman and “fisher of men.”

During salmon season, he [Herm] is permitted only one catch a week from his commercial fishing boat, The Good News. But Herm Haakenson, 70, casts his gospel net year-round in nursing homes. He and his wife, Trish, not only visit nursing homes but run The Sonshine Society, which develops Christian materials for the growing nursing-home population.

Challenged at a Seattle Sunday school conference more than 20 years ago to “not forget people in nursing homes,” Herm found the closest one to his church, half a block away. He invited any Lynnwood Manor resident who wanted to go to church to meet him for a ride. No one responded.

Herm called the manager on Monday. “Could we start a Sunday School class on the premises?” he asked. “Maybe in the dining room?” With no guarantee of higher response from the residents, the manager agreed.

The following Sunday, Herm arrived with a guitar and Bible. Timidly turning off the TV, he played, sang, read Scripture, and gave a devotional. The few people there seemed indifferent.

For six months, nothing changed. Herm came; the same handful of men and women were in the room. But Herm noticed one thing – the people in wheelchairs outside the room, within hearing distance, increased in number. Before long, they joined.

“The music attracted them; it’s fundamental to a nursing home ministry,” says Herm, fingering a harmonica he keeps handy. For the next few years, Herm and his team carefully looked at the needs of their special congregation. The hymnals – donated from local churches – were not senior-friendly: the print was too small. For similar reasons, Bible reading was difficult, too. Rather than give up, Herm launched a ministry that now provided Christian nursing home materials for some 10,000 people.

Feeling at home in this off-site “church” is a reward in itself say the Haakensons. “The doors at these facilities are open to Christians, if you provide something meaningful to their residents,” says Herm.

Sometimes staff members “take their breaks during our service,” Trish explains. “And more and more, caring families of residents show up regularly. They delight to be “in church” with their loved ones.”

Have you ever stopped to consider (I mean seriously consider!), “What happens when cooks don’t cook and teachers don’t teach and doctors don’t doctor?” These questions lead us up to the most essential one: “What happens when fishermen and women don’t fish?” The answer? No “fish” get caught. The lost are not found. The un-churched remain un-churched. Those who are in darkness are left without the light! The kingdom is not advanced!

Please allow me to encourage you with this invitation – “It’s time to go fishing [for people]!” When you think about it, it is always time to go fishing. This is the call of discipleship – to present the Good News story of Jesus Christ and His love, grace, and truth in the most compelling way possible so that others would know the love and saving grace of the Savior who sends us out with the invitation, “from now on you will be fishing for people!”

Herm and Trish go fishing in the nursing home down the street from where they live. How about you? Who needs to hear and experience the Good News story from you? Think of the possibilities when proclaimers proclaim, followers follow, prayers pray, singers sing, ministers minister, and disciples’ disciple. God calls us out into our communities.

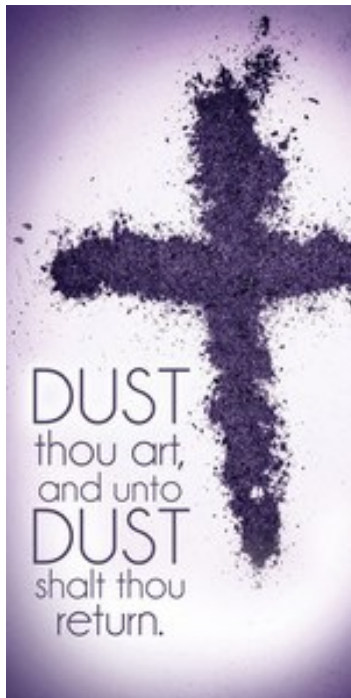
I love you,
Pastor Ken

Lenten services will begin on Sunday, February 15th at St. Olaf with the impositions of Ashes during the worship service at 8:15 am. The Ash services for Our Savior's will be on Monday, April 16, at 7:00 pm.

We will then continue with Lenten Soup Suppers and Lenten services on Monday nights through the Lenten season. (February 23– March 23rd 2026) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Soup supper will begin at 6:00 pm with Lenten Service to follow at 7:00 pm.

Be watching for clipboard to sign up for soup suppers.

Why the Ashes on Ash Wednesday?



We put ashes on our foreheads in Lent to remember that we are sinners in need of God's grace and mercy.

When our first parents, Adam and Eve, lived in the Garden of Eden they enjoyed perfect love and perfect communion with the Lord. God instructed them not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. But Satan, the enemy, twisted God's words and created doubt in their minds. They wondered, "Does God really have our best interests at heart? Can we really trust him or is he holding out some special secret or power from us?"

The first couple believed the lie. They ate against God's clear instructions. They wanted to be like the Creator, to control their own lives rather than be obedient to God. This was the first sin - and every human since Adam and Eve has committed similar sins because we want to be in charge of our own lives rather than be faithful to God.

God searched for the couple after they had sinned. He knew they were ashamed and he covered them. But because of their disobedience they were cast from the garden and would spend their lives working the land and toiling for their needs.

To the woman God pronounced pain in childbirth. To the serpent God cursed him to slither on the ground and eat dirt. And to Adam God said, "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Greeters for March 2026

March 1—Jerry Fenger

March 8—Trina Thielman

March 15—Need 1

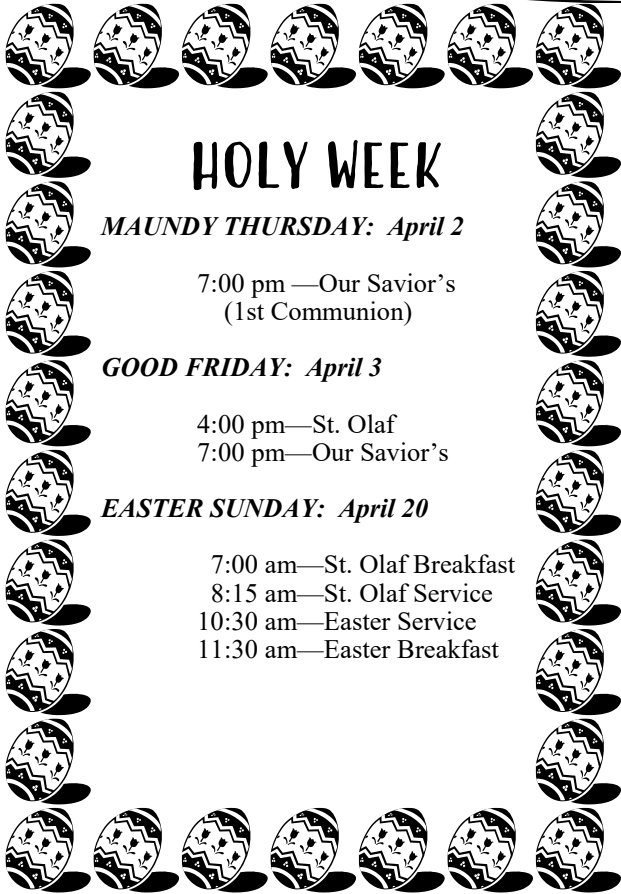
March 22—Need 1

March 20—Need 1



Greeters

ANNOUNCEMENTS



HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY: April 2

7:00 pm —Our Savior's
(1st Communion)

GOOD FRIDAY: April 3

4:00 pm—St. Olaf
7:00 pm—Our Savior's

EASTER SUNDAY: April 20

7:00 am—St. Olaf Breakfast
8:15 am—St. Olaf Service
10:30 am—Easter Service
11:30 am—Easter Breakfast

This past month God sent (on Average) 45 souls to share in our Sunday fellowship. Praise God for all His blessings including our Coffee/Fellowship Hour Volunteers.

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss
December 1, 2025—December 31, 2025**

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income		
4000	Worship Service Offerings	\$83,511.43
4100	Coffee Hour	537.93
4400	Sunday School Offering	7.00
4500	Donations	4,761.00
4700	Vacation Bible School	231.46
4800	St. Olaf Reimbursements	\$ 13,486.44
4900	Miscellaneous Income	<u>4,041.35</u>
Total Income		\$106,596.61

Expense

5000	Benevolences	\$12,651.71
6000	Service & Ministries	\$10,326.85
6020	Office Expenses	\$ 6,131.64
6200	Programs	\$ 614.28
6400	Auto	\$21,110.95
6500	Church & Parsonage	\$33,423.21
6800	Church Staff	\$31,521.11
8000	Payroll Expenses	<u>\$ 2,145.29</u>
Total Expenses		\$111,874.02

Net Income: —\$ 5,277.41



We pray for healing and comfort for:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Amayah | Quannah Bailey |
| Chris Berg | Joshua Brown |
| Cliff Christenot | Millie Denter |
| John Fauerbach | Finnley Foster |
| Dick Gebhardt | Becky Gollehon |
| Lil Gebhardt | Bev & Gary Jensen |
| Rita Laird | Penny MaCrae |
| Jennifer Mansfield | Kate McGuire |
| Carol Mattson | Sierra McDowell |
| Donna Nealy | Arletta Nicholson |
| Steve Oraw | Diane Roberts |
| John Shevlin | Dale Soper |
| Noel Walston | Annie Wickum |
| Marcia Wickum | Barbara (Melinda's Mother) |
| Jim (Melinda's Stepdad) | Eugene (Melinda's Dad) |
| Laura (Melinda's Sister) | |

**We pray for the families and friends mourning the loss of:
Maxine Wickum**

Please let the church office know if your have prayer concerns to add or remove from this list

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting January 25, 2026

Meeting called to order at 11:50a.m. after church service Those present are noted on the sign-in sheet. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Ken Waag.

Minutes: The minutes were read from the January 2025 Annual meeting by Secretary Glenda Hanson. Paula Childers moved to approve the minutes as read. Karla Kulpas seconded and the ayes have it.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff talked about the biggest changes in the reports. The investments have done better this year with current interest rates. Jeff explained that the benevolences are 15% of the offerings. There was discussion on the Profit & Loss statement. St Olaf helps with costs of the Church. We are still looking at bids for insurance. Gary and Carmen Jensen are helping with that. There being no questions Gary moved to approve the finance reports. Shirley Rudolph seconded and the ayes have it. Chris then asked for a motion to approve the 2026 Budget. Julane Jensen moved and Shirley Rudolph seconded, the ayes have it.

Reports:

Dianne Clark reported that the Caring Ministry sent out 26 packets. Also, she will do the egg hunt after Easter Service. Twenty-four Christmas bags were given out for the Sunday School Program.

Call Committee: The agency we are using is getting us applications but salary is an issue. We are still actively searching.

Highlights: A scrubber was bought and is working great. A pickup was purchased and is being used for pastoral use. The cameras are all installed this will help with insurance. Karla asked about the chimes, Jeff said he will look at it and see if he can fix it. David Roberts moved to approve the reports and Julane seconded it and the ayes have it.

Old Business: We are still getting quotes from contractors on the Parsonage basement floor. The church software has been purchased and working well. The Parish Caller is on the website and app (chesterosl.com). Hardcopies of the caller will be taken to the Sweetgrass Lodge and Wheat Country Estates. If you have suggestions for the quarterly benevolence let a council member know. The National LCMC Convention is October 4th -7th in Des Moines Iowa.

Chris thanked Ann, Glenda, Julane, Dave & Diane, Derek and Jenny, Carmen and Gary, Stephanie and Eli and Pastor and Julie Waag for answering our prayers. Everyone is doing a great job. With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 12:40p.m.

Secretary, Glenda Hanson

Our Saviors Lutheran Church Council Meeting January 25, 2026

Present: Chris Mattson, Diane Roberts, Dianne Clark, Shirley Rudolph, Logan Anderson, Kent Matkin, Barb Vinson, Glenda Hanson, Pastor Waag.

The meeting was called to order at 1:15p.m. with Glenda reading the December 2025 minutes. Logan moved to approve the minutes and Kent seconded the ayes have it.

Offices: Chris agreed to stay on as President, Diane agreed to continue as Vice President and Glenda continuing as Secretary with Jeff as treasurer. Logan moved to approve the slate of officers and Shirley seconded. The ayes have it

The next meeting will be February 9th.

Pastor Waag handed out "One Day At A Time" books and asked that we read them when we can.

There was a discussion on what to do with Lenten Services and soup suppers. It was decided that we can move those to Mondays when Pastor can be here. Pastor Waag will do the Holden service and will look for ideas to go with it, readings etc. Glenda will email the committees to everyone so everyone can think about which one/s they want to do. Logan will reach out to Pastor Chad on Promise 686.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:35p.m.

Glenda Hanson, Secretary

NORTHWEST DISTRICT GATHERING 2026



The Gathering Committee has been diligently discussing plans for the upcoming 2026 Annual NW District Gathering. It will be held at Camp Lutherhaven situated on shores of beautiful Lake Coeur d' Alene. The camp is located near the city of Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. It will be convened from April 23-26. Keynote speakers will include Molly Wilmington from ZoeCare and Duane Walker from Mid-Valley Fellowship.

The theme for the Gathering is "From Saul to Paul." The theme verse from scripture is 1 Peter 3:15-16. But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

The group agreed to include information about the event in the upcoming e-connectors and the Spring Edition of the Happenings newsletter. We anticipate full registration details to follow by January.

Council wants to encourage pastors to attend the entire weekend as a retreat. To help congregations in this regard, our chair Pastor Ed Skutshek will post (on the District's website) a manuscript and a video of a sermon that can be used for Sunday April 26th.



LENTEN SCHEDULE

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We will then continue you with Lenten Soup Suppers and Lenten services on Monday nights through the Lenten season. (February 23-March 23, 2026) at Our Savior's

St. Olaf & Our Savior's Lutheran Churches February 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1		3 No Quilting	4 3:00 Wed School	5	6	7
8	8:15 SO Worship w/communion 10:30 OSL Worship w/communion 11:30 Fellowship	10 9:30 Quilting	11 3:00 Wed School	12 7:00 AA	13	14
15	8:15 SO Worship 10:30 OSL Worship 11:30 Fellowship	17 NO Quilting	18 3:00 Wed School 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	19 7:00 AA	20	21
22	8:15 SO Worship 10:30 OSL Worship 11:30 OSL Fellowship	24 NO Quilting	25 NO Wed School	26 7:00 AA RED CROSS BLOOD DRAWING 11:30 am to 5:15 pm	27	28
23	6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Service					

St. Olaf & Our Savior's Lutheran Churches March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 8:15 am SO Worship w/communion 10:30 OSL Worship w/communion 11:30 Fellowship</p>	<p>2 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Service</p>	<p>3 9:30 Quilting</p>	<p>4 3:00 Wed School</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 8:15 SO Worship 10:30 OSL Worship 11:30 Fellowship</p>	<p>9 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Soup Supper 8:00 Church Council</p>	<p>10 9:30 Quilting</p>	<p>11 3:00 Wed School</p>	<p>12 7:00 AA</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 8:15 SO Worship 10:30 OSL Worship 11:30 Fellowship</p>	<p>16 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Service</p>	<p>17 9:30 Quilting</p>	<p>18 3:00 Wed School</p>	<p>19 7:00 AA</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 8:15 SO Worship 10:30 OSL Worship 11:30 OSL Fellowship</p>	<p>23 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Service</p>	<p>24 9:30 Quilting</p>	<p>25 3:00 Wed School</p>	<p>26 7:00 AA</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 PALM SUNDAY 8:15 SO Worship 10:30 OSL Worship 11:30 Fellowship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

Our Savior's Sunday Helpers - February 2026

	Ushers	Scripture Readers	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild	Flowers	Coffee Hour
2/1	<i>Need 2</i>	<i>Need 1</i>	Shirley Rudolph <i>Need 1</i>	Annie Wickum (Green)	Shirley Rudolph	Diane Roberts
2/8	Gerry & Karla Kulpas	Julie Waag	NO Communion	Annie Wickum (Green)	Shirley Rudolph	Shirley Rudolph
2/15	Deanna Standifor- <i>Need 1</i>	Shirley Rudolph	NO Communion	Annie Wickum (White)	Shirley Rudolph	Julane Jensen
2/18 ASH WED	<i>Need 2</i>	Dianne Clark	<i>Need 2</i>	Annie Wickum (Purple)	NO FLOWERS	<i>No Fellowship</i>
2/25	<i>Need 2</i>	Dave Roberts	No Communion	Annie Wickum (Purple)	NO FLOWERS	Saige Bachteler Marcia Wickum

Our Savior's Sunday Helpers - March 2026

	Ushers	Scripture Readers	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild	Flowers	Coffee Hour
3/1	Paula Childers Glenda Hanson	Shirley Rudolph	Judy Wickum Jerry Fenger	<i>Need 2</i> (White)	NO Flowers	Diane Roberts
3/8	Gwen Henderson	Julie Waag	NO Communion	<i>Need 2</i> (White)	NO Flowers	Shirley Rudolph
3/15	Gerry & Karla Kulpas	Shirley Rudolph	NO Communion	<i>Need 2</i> (White)	NO Flowers	Dianne Clark
3/22	Barb & Jim Vinson	Barb Vinson	NO Communion	<i>Need 2</i> (White)	NO Flowers	Gerry & Karla Kulpas
3/29	<i>PALM SUNDAY</i> <i>Need 2</i>	Dianne Clark	NO Communion	<i>Need 2</i> (Purple)	Palms	<i>Need 2</i>