

FEBRUARY 2026

THE MESSENGER

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Beloit, WI



AS TIME FLIES, LENT DRAWS NEAR



*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.
-John 14:27*

It seems like we just finished celebrating Christmas and we're already looking towards Lent. Unreal you say? Well, we all know how quickly time flies by and when you look at the calendar you realize that Ash Wednesday is right around the corner.

This year we will again meditate on the Words of our Savior as we come together and worship on Ash Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 pm. It is at this service where the ashes are imposed and we remember, repent and prepare for what is to come during the Lenten season. We remember the events of Holy Week and what our Lord experienced and went through just for us. We repent as we turn to the cross, turning away from our sins.

Then finally we prepare, getting ready for the joy and splendor of Easter.

As we travel through the 40 days of Lent let us each take the time to reflect and come together to remember why God sent His Son to come and live among us. Why He came as a babe to experience life just as we do, who died to save us from our sins and save us to be able to live as a family of God. We are truly a blessed people.

Following Ash Wednesday, we will continue to gather each Wednesday night for our traditional soup suppers starting at 6:00 pm. Service will follow at 6:30 pm where we will be doing Holden Evening Prayer with a short message.

I hope each and everyone of you will be able to attend these meaningful services and prepare yourselves as we look toward Easter and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Blessings,
Jean Lincoln
Lay Pastoral Assistant

To reflect God's love through caring service to our church, the community, and the world.

News from the Board

One of the responsibilities you have entrusted to us, as a Board, is the management of the day-to-day operations of the church. This consists of caring for our staff, maintaining our building, and providing support for the programs and groups that use our facility. We are committed to these responsibilities and to providing a worship experience the congregation can rely on throughout the year.

We would like to share an update on the results of the fall "Giving for Growth" Stewardship campaign and how they help guide our planning for the coming year. As of year-end, the total number of pledges is lower than last year, which is something we are thoughtfully considering as we plan ahead. At the same time, among the pledges we have received, approximately 20% reflect increased commitments—a meaningful sign of continued generosity and support. Overall, this results in an estimated income for 2026 that is about 15% lower than last year.

We are also grateful to share some good news. We have received an unexpected and generous gift of \$45,000, designated for building our ministry for the future. This gift provides encouragement and tangible support as we continue to move forward in faith.

It is that time of year when we make resolutions as we identify things we would like to change in our lives. As we start into 2026, we have an opportunity to put the past behind us and move forward with our goals and missions. We live by faith that we will receive enough to cover our expenses, but it is far less stressful when we have some idea of what to expect. If you have not yet filled out a pledge card, please consider doing so. It would be a great help to us and greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support and guidance, it is you, as members, that make our church a family.

God's blessing to you,
Mark Sorenson
Interim Board President

In the OSLC Family

Congratulations to Dawson Van Fleet, who officially earned the rank of Eagle Scout this past December!

On February 1, John Albers will celebrate his First Communion by receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion during worship.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 1 at 10:30 am

All members are encouraged to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting to review and celebrate the past year, vote on this year's leaders, and hear about plans for the year ahead.

Super Bowl Sub Sale

Pick up your subs on Sunday, February 8 at 10:30 am in the Kitchen

Enjoy a sub sandwich while watching the Super Bowl, and let the youth do the work for you! Your choice of ham or turkey sub, chips, and a cookie for \$10. Order forms can be found in the Commons. The last day to order is February 1.

Young @ Heart

Thursday, February 12 from 12:00-2:00 pm

Come out for fellowship, games, and a delicious lunch of BBQ, fries, and dessert. To help us prepare, please sign-up on the sheet located on the counter in the Commons by Sunday, February 8. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Lincoln or any member of the Fellowship Team.

Contributors Needed for Lenten Devotional

We are currently organizing an online devotional written by members of Our Savior's which will be sent out via email throughout Lent. If you would like to secure a date and contribute a reflection, please visit: <https://signup.com/go/DspgZUp>

Ash Wednesday

Our Savior's will hold an Ash Wednesday worship service on February 18 at 6:30 pm to usher in the beginning of the Lenten Season. Entering the discipline of Lent, the service will include the Imposition of Ashes, Holy Communion, Word, and Music.

Lenten Soup Supper and Worship

Beginning Wednesday, February 25 we will hold weekly Lenten Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm in the Commons, followed by worship at 6:30 pm. Sign-up sheets for our Lenten Soup Suppers are now available on the counter in the Commons, please consider signing up to provide soup and/or bread.

Path to Peace

Among the most exciting practices of our Lenten journey is gathering for worship every Wednesday of the season. Once again, we will use the Holden Evening Prayer as our liturgy for these services. This beautiful setting breaks into our soul with the music and prayers that expressed our hope in Christ.

This year's services will focus on the theme "Path to Peace."

February 25 - Is Peace Attainable?

March 4 - Desire Peace

March 11 - Peacemaking-Active, Not Passive

March 18 - Peace as Shalom

March 25 - The Gift of Peace

Lenten Service Opportunity

During Lent this year, we are collecting hair care products to assist Caritas in their service to those in need. Donations of new shampoo and conditioner may be placed in the blue bin in the Commons.

LENT SOUP SUPPERS

BEGINNING
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25
AT 6:00 PM IN THE COMMONS



Followed by Worship at
6:30 pm in the Sanctuary

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

Wednesday Lenten Services
Beginning February 25
6:30 PM

 Our Savior's
Lutheran Church

Confirmation Update

Confirmation had a great kickoff! We're looking forward to seeing students each week and we welcome mentors, students, and families on February 11. We're having a wonderful time learning about the Old Testament and digging deeper into what it means to be an adult in the church.

Youth Connect

Youth Connect has been digging into The Gospel According to the Simpsons. Here are some of the topics we've covered in January:

- Living in a World of Shortcuts
(Grace, Law, and Integrity)
- What makes us "us"?
(Identity, Spirituality, and the Breath of God)

Youth Connect meets Sunday morning at 10:30 am.

Kids Connect

Kids Connect has been exploring different stories in the gospel! We've talked about:

- Jesus is the Vine
(John 15:1-7)
- Jesus Commits to God's Will
(Matthew 26:36-46)

We'll be exploring Lent in February-come join us, Sunday morning at 9:30 am!

Order Easter Lilies

Would you like to sponsor Easter Lilies to beautify our altar on Easter Sunday? Plants are \$10 for a single and \$20 for double and they can be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. Order forms can be found on the table outside the sanctuary by the elevator or call the church office. Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 15.



JOYOUS SOUND

A New Music Ensemble

A new music ensemble, *Joyous Sound*, is starting at Our Savior's! With our new worship schedule, Molly and Cheryl are excited to form an **intergenerational, family-friendly music group** designed to fit even the busiest schedules.

All ages are welcome—children, youth, and adults; singers and instrumentalists alike. If you haven't had time to join choir, or if you're looking for a meaningful activity the whole family can enjoy together, this group is for you. For those who prefer not to sing or don't play an instrument, we will create parts using **chimes, bells, and rhythm instruments**.

**Rehearsals will be held on
the 4th Sunday of the month:**

- **Dates:** February 22 & March 22
- **Time:** 10:45–11:15 a.m.
- **Location:** Basement Youth Room

Youth Connect will not meet on these Sundays.

**We will be preparing a special musical
offering for Palm Sunday, March 29**

Please sign-up in the Commons,
so we can prepare music parts for everyone.

Upcoming events

MAR
1

FAMILY FUN @ CORAL COVE

MAR
22

TACOS & TRIVIA



MAR
29

PALM SUNDAY/YOUTH SUNDAY

APR
5

EASTER SUNDAY



APR
19

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

JUNE
9

GRADUATION SUNDAY

JUN
14

CHURCH PICNIC



AUG
3-5

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

AUG
4

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



*Don't miss out on the fun -
mark your calendar!*

Women ^{of the} **ELCA**

Circle Meetings

Anna Circle

Tuesday, February 3 at 6:30 pm
Meeting at the church.

Naomi Circle

Monday, February 9 at 5:30 pm
Meeting at the church.

Rebekah Circle

Thursday, February 12 at 9:30 am
Meeting at the church.

Shalom Circle

Monday, February 16 at 2:00 pm
Hostess: Kay Alpers

Elizabeth Circle

Tuesday, February 17 at 1:00 pm
Hostess: Shari Larson

SEWING BEE

Every Monday 8:30-11:30 am
Fellowship Hall

KNIT WITS

Wednesday, February 11 at 2:00 pm

HEARTS OF LOVE TEA

Sunday, February 15 at 10:30 am

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 19 at 4:00 pm

SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 15 | 11 am - 1 pm



Key Financials | December 31, 2025

Month	2024 Actual General Offerings	2025 Actual General Offerings	Budget Offering Per Month	Monthly Surplus (Shortfall)	Cumulative (Shortfall)	Unrestricted Expenses	Budgeted Expenses	Reimbursed from Foundation
January	\$33,122	\$30,280	\$35,417	\$ (5,137)	\$ (5,137)	\$33,443	\$38,587	\$3,582
February	\$30,057	\$33,392	\$35,417	\$ (2,025)	\$ (7,162)	\$36,404	\$38,587	
March	\$35,334	\$53,283	\$35,417	\$17,866	\$10,704	\$34,303	\$38,587	
April	\$26,590	\$24,912	\$35,417	\$ (10,505)	\$199	\$35,755	\$38,587	\$5,784
May	\$29,958	\$25,838	\$35,417	\$ (9,579)	\$ (9,380)	\$33,096	\$38,587	
June	\$30,906	\$32,709	\$35,417	\$ (2,708)	\$ (12,088)	\$32,669	\$38,587	\$14,337
July	\$24,822	\$21,806	\$35,417	\$ (13,611)	\$ (25,699)	\$24,164	\$38,587	
August	\$22,910	\$27,194	\$35,417	\$ (8,223)	\$ (33,922)	\$27,622	\$38,587	\$11,253
September	\$24,930	\$29,915	\$35,417	\$ (5,502)	\$ (39,424)	\$37,372	\$38,587	
October	\$32,017	\$27,379	\$35,417	\$ (8,038)	\$ (47,462)	\$28,344	\$38,587	
November	\$47,249	\$25,017	\$35,417	\$ (10,400)	\$ (57,862)	\$28,870	\$38,587	\$6,577
December	\$35,290	\$33,493	\$35,417	\$ (1,924)	\$ (59,786)	\$24,104	\$38,587	\$14,819
Total	\$373,185	\$365,218	\$425,004			\$376,146	\$463,044	\$56,352

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Our Savior's
Lutheran Church
749 Bluff Street, Beloit, WI 53511
Phone: (608) 362-0716

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Beloit, WI
PERMIT NO. 167

Worship with Us.

Sunday mornings at 9:30 am



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 18, 2026

Worship with Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes - 6:30 pm