

A Little Bit of Sunshine

Email: oslc@rushmore.com

Web Site: www.oslcspearfish.com

December 2024



Dear Friends,

Welcome to December, and the season of Advent! We observe the season during these four weeks leading up to Christmas as a time to consider what waiting looks like, feels like, aims toward. It's a pretty counter-cultural discipline, as the rest of the culture has already jumped headlong into something called the "Holiday Season." Advent encourages us to wait in contemplation and prayer for something to appear, for God's love to be made manifest in a world that most certainly needs it. A post-Thanksgiving "Holiday Season" is more of a count-down furtively rushing for a terminus... for something to be over and put out on the curb or returned to the store come December 26.

Don't get me wrong... I really do love so much of December's Christmas vibe. There's nothing wrong with spending some energy celebrating friends and family, thinking about the wants and needs of others, scheming surprises and bringing some light into the darkest time of the year.

But... but... there's also something to be said for honestly accepting the darkness as a present reality (and by darkness, I don't simply mean the shortness of sunshine.) Such honesty can build a real anticipation and hunger for that which truly brings light and warmth... and hope.

Last month I wrote a bit about our recent "song survey" here at OSLC. One of my favorite Advent hymns, "Lost in the Night," didn't make *anyone's* list but mine. It's one of those minor-key, ominous sounding songs that tend not to set people's toes to tappin', but I've always liked it for its intense honesty. I've shared some of the history behind this hymn before, but it's worth sharing again this year:

"Lost in the night do the people yet languish; longing for morning, the darkness to vanquish; plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish; will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?"

It's based on an old Finnish tune (we have plenty of old Finns around here ☺) but the words were translated into English by a Norwegian named Olav Lee.

Now here's an interesting aside about Olav Lee: He emigrated to the U.S. in 1876, enrolled at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa in 1878, graduating from there in 1883 (*103 years before I did the same.*) He went to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota (*where I studied*), graduating from there and becoming an ordained Lutheran pastor in 1886 (*104 years before I did the same.*) And get this... he served Trinity Lutheran Church in Hayfield, Minnesota about 85 years *before I did the same.* It's crazy how much common ground he and I both covered!

He went on to be a professor at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, while I went on to serve Our Savior's Lutheran in Spearfish. Pretty sure I got the better deal, there:-)

"Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow? Shall those who have light, no light let us borrow, giving no heed to our burden of sorrow. Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?"

Anyway, Olav Lee translated this hymn at the request of F. Melius Christiansen, the choir director at St. Olaf College at the time. Weston Noble, who was Director of the Luther College Nordic Choir for over fifty years, used Christiansen's arrangement often, and I first heard it while I was a student at Luther. It's a hauntingly beautiful hymn expressing that Advent longing for God's revealing in the midst of a troubled world.

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“Sorrowing wand’rers, in darkness yet dwelling, dawned has the day of a radiance excelling, death’s deepest shadows forever dispelling. Christ is coming soon! Christ is coming soon!”

I guess what strikes me is not only how Olav Lee’s journey foreshadowed so much of my own, but really how over the last century this hymn has expressed a longing that has not abated one single bit. In other words, ain’t nothin’ changed. We know in our gut and in our soul that there’s yet plenty of lostness and darkness surrounding our sojourn through this life. Though so much of the modern world would be unrecognizable and incomprehensible to Olav Lee, this fundamental longing for God’s immediate, healing presence abides still. And yet...

“Light o’er the land of the needy is beaming; rivers of life through its deserts are streaming, bringing all people a Savior redeeming. Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!”

His words express our longing. And so, we look forward...

Pastor Stephan Sandness

The “Love Your Neighbor” Jar for the month of December will benefit Spearfish Community Food Pantry.

October’s Love Your Neighbor Jar raised \$1,473.43 for Sharing the Dream in Guatemala.

☪ Pastoral Acts ☪

Funerals

November 1 Chuck Bliss, Spearfish, SD

November 12 Christal Pummel, Spearfish, SD

OSLC Fellowship Hall Heat Pump: 1996 – 2024 Blessed be its memory among us.

The heat pump supplying warm air to the Fellowship Hall has “laid down its burdens and gone to its reward.” The combustion chamber corroded through after 28 years of faithful service, and the unit must now be replaced (or our coffee hours, Wednesday Suppers, funeral gatherings and the countless other happenings in that room will be unbearably frigid real soon!)

The Church Council has received a number of bids for a new unit, and we’ve accepted a bid for \$32,165.00 from Wolff’s Plumbing and Heating. There will be an additional expense for the electrical hook-up, meaning we’ll most likely be somewhere in the \$33,000 range to get it all done. Could you join us in this effort?

We take great pride in the wonderful home for worship, learning, fellowship and service that is our building. It has come to us by the generosity of generations before, and maintaining it as a tool for ministry is our privilege and responsibility. We’re confident that we can see this project completed in short order, with all of us taking up a piece of the load. Contributions to the cause can be dropped off at the Church office, mailed in or dropped in the plate at worship, or Online Giving credit or debit cards, earmarked for the “Heating Unit.”

Thanks for all you do in taking care of your “faith home” that is OSLC!

Dear friends in Christ,

“I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

~ Psalm 27:13-14

When the people around us are already in the midst of Christmas celebrations, it may seem odd to live in a holding pattern of waiting as we do. But in these weeks of Advent, Christians around the world wait for the Lord’s coming. And part of their waiting is taking time to prepare for the Lord’s coming, not only for the festivities of the holiday itself.

Please consider joining us in an Advent Bible Study entitled “Close to Home” that will engage all of your senses in the Biblical story surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ. There will be small group gatherings at OSLC on December Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings. And you can choose to be a part of a state-wide community online with Pastor Kari Webb whether you are involved in the small groups or not. Please see the article below with a bit more description of the daily focus that will be available online. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please contact us: Jan Holz 308-760-9679 or Laura Campbell 605-642-3715.

As we begin the season of Advent, I also have on my mind the elderly in our nearby facility Spearfish Canyon Healthcare who spend a great deal of time waiting—for someone to visit, if even for a few minutes, to brighten their day. Pastor Stephan and I and a few volunteers provide a monthly worship service with communion there on the third Wednesday each month. I invite you to talk with me about how you might help with that service or how you might occasionally brighten the day for a resident who is “waiting for you.”

May God’s peace sustain you as you wait this Advent season,
Deacon Laura Lee Campbell

Advent Bible Study Opportunity: “Close to Home”

December 1 through December 22

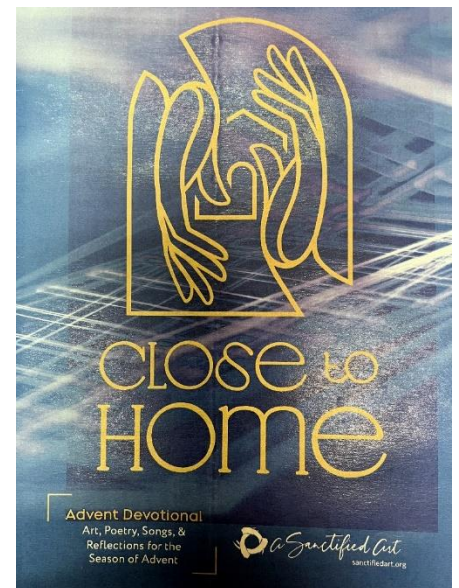
Two small groups and a digital community participation option

Pastor Kari Webb invites us to participate in the digital community and attend her zoom gatherings on Sundays at 4:00 pm while also meeting in small group discussion at our church with Jan Holz and Laura Campbell on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am or Wednesday evenings at 5:45 pm.

Sign-up sheets are located in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please contact one of us: Jan Holz at 308-760-9679 or Deacon Laura Campbell at 605-642-3715.

The Advent Bible Study follows this pattern:

- Sunday**—weekly Zoom with Pr. Kari 4:00 pm Mountain (Small Group at OSLC 10:00 – 10:30 am)
- Monday**—Reflection on the lectionary gospel text
- Tuesday**—Art & reflection (*on one of the RCL texts, Year C*)
- Wednesday**—Art & reflection (*on one of RCL texts, Year C*) (Small Group at OSLC 5:45 – 6:15 pm)
- Thursday**—Journaling prompt
- Friday**—Hymn at home (*by Rev. Anna Strickland*)
- Saturday**—Sabbath prompt



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES



1:30 PM
3:30 PM
5:30 PM
10:00 PM

Christmas Eve Music Wanted

To enhance our Christmas Eve worship services, we would love to have four pieces of Special Music (one offering and up to three communion) at *each* of our worship services (1:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM and 10:00 PM). Please call the church office to sign up for a service or stop by and sign up on the sign-up sheet in the church office.



Christmas Eve Ushers and Holy Communion Assistants are needed for all four worship services: 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm and 10:00 pm. Please sign up on the Faith & Care Board by the kitchen.



Spearfish Community Food Pantry needs for December

Pork & Beans, Jams or Jellies,
Macaroni & Cheese, Jell-O Pudding or
Gelatin, Canned Chili or Beef Stew,
Diced Tomatoes or Tomato Sauce



2025 Members and Friends Photo Directory

New Pictorial Directory in the Works!

It's been a minute since we last undertook the production of a "family photo album" for Our Savior's Lutheran Church. (Actually, it's been about five years!) We're working on rectifying that. Our congregation has changed in the last half-decade, and we'd like to update our pictorial directory.

Our original intent was to possibly take portraits during the month of December. We've re-thought our timeline and are aiming to begin this endeavor after the first of the year. Stay tuned for updates so that you can be a part of this important historical document!

ALSO... if you're together with family over the holidays and happen to take a photo that would be "directory worthy," hang onto a digital copy for possible submission. 😊
Thanks!



Help provide a Christmas gift for people in need.

Thank you for your support of the annual OSLC Angel Tree program since 1996!

Gifts are needed this year for children in the Northern Hills, children and their mothers at the Artemis House shelter, and seniors in our church who may not have family nearby.

All Angel Tree gifts must be wrapped and returned to the church on December 15.

With grateful hearts ~ Mission Team

Julefest

Scandinavian Christmas Festival & Bazaar



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
- Fellowship Hall -

Saturday, December 7
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Public Invited!
Coffee & Pastries served all day!

Lefse, Smorgasbord, Yuletide Music, Homemade
Crafts & Baked Goods, OSLC Cookbook,
Quilt Sales, Face Painting, Antiques & Boutique,
Silent Auction, Local Artist Calendars,
Rosemåling Gift Booth
Scandinavian Gift Shop
by House of Scandinavia

*Public is encouraged to bring a can of
food for the Spearfish Food Pantry*



Julefest

Scandinavian Christmas Festival and Bazaar
December 7, 2024

WE NEED HELP ON THE DAY OF THE JULEFEST.

Cashiers, kitchen and serving help, set-up, clean up, etc. Sign-up sheets are posted near the Fireside Room for help at the Julefest. *Anything you can do will be appreciated!*

JULEFEST SILENT AUCTION ITEMS: Items may be brought to the church on Thursday, December 5. Please include the description, donor name, value, and starting bid.

REMEMBER THE ANTIQUE BOUTIQUE when looking for new homes for your treasures that you no longer have space for. **Donations of collectibles and antiques** may be brought to the church beginning **Tuesday, December 3.**

CRAFTS AND BAKED GOODS DONATIONS should be brought to the church on **Friday, December 6.** Your donations will be much appreciated



NEW MEMBERS At Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Fred Cronkhite

Erica & Doug Douglas

Ron & Rhonda Erickson

Barbara Lee Guthrie

Wes & Nancy Nelson

Nathan & Sentel Schreier

Jon & Diane Van Patten

Patrick & Lauren Williams

Jacob & Allison Zacher



The WELCA cookbooks are available in the church office. You can also purchase them at our booth at the Julefest on Saturday, Dec. 7. The cost per book is only \$20.00 with all proceeds going to WELCA projects. The cookbooks make

great gifts for beginning and/or experienced cooks and are full of delicious recipes from our own OSLC cooks.

Music Ministry

Bell Choir Wednesdays at 5:15 pm

Senior Choir Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Interested in joining?

Please talk with Carissa Deming.

Or email: Carissa.Deming@bhsu.edu



Adult Enrichment Opportunities



Many small group opportunities exist through OSLC for you to grow in God's Word and deepen your faith:

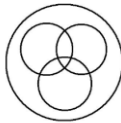
- Thursday Lunch at The Living Room
- Women's Circle Bible Studies--Ruth, Deborah, and Esther
- Men's Fellowship
- *Two on Tuesdays* Women's Bible study
- *Marthas Gathering* Women's Evening Bible Study
- *Young Adults' Bible Study*
- Sunday morning Adult Forum or Bible Study

Please check the church calendar and website for gathering dates/times/places!

If you would like to begin a new group, Deacon Laura will be happy to get you started. Contact her at oslc1@rushmore.com or 642-3715.

Friendship Ministry

Extending the love of Christ
from Friend to Friend



The Christmas holiday can be a bittersweet time for many due to loss of loved ones, financial worries, illness, broken or strained relationships, etc. It can also be a time of overwhelming expectations. Sometimes it helps to talk with someone. Friendship Ministers are members of our church who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people in our congregation and community. Please know that a Friendship Minister is available for you who will provide a listening ear with care that is confidential and free. To request a connection, please call Nancy Christopherson at 645-2723.

If you are interested in becoming a Friendship Minister, let us know! Training will be available in the new year.



Senior Ministry

Senior Ministry Christmas Party

Thursday, December 12
11:00 AM
OSLC Fellowship Hall

*Please join us for a
soup/sandwich lunch, treats,
and Christmas Program.*

Join us and
bring a friend!



Sunday Morning Transportation



Everyone is welcome to use the free Sunday morning transportation service. Our friendly drivers will make your trip to and from church a fun part of your day! Simply call the church office at 605-642-3715 by 2:00 pm on Friday afternoon to arrange your ride. If you would like a standing order for rides every Sunday morning, let us know and we will have you on the schedule.

Confirmation

December 4: Class
11: Class
18: Class
25: No Confirmation

December Acolyte Schedule

Sundays, 8:30 AM Worship

Layla Meredith, Alyvia Sitzman

Sundays, 10:45 AM Worship

Leela Bosworth, Payce Hemeyer

High School Youth Group

7:10 PM, Wednesday Evenings

The Living Room, 810 N. Yale.

All freshmen through seniors.

On these gathering nights we discuss matters of faith, life and anything on your mind. It is a great hour of fellowship and faith formation. It is a very informal and meaningful evening and bringing a friend or friends is always welcomed.

Our High School Youth are encouraged to sign-up for reminders by sending a text to: **text @oslc to the number 81010**

Questions? Please contact Chris Blain at ckblain@gmail.com.

Shopping for Christmas Gifts?

❖ Shop for unique fair-trade gifts at:



<https://community.elca.org/ELCAGoodGifts>

<https://lwr.org/giving-category/gifts>

www.sharingthedream.org (online store)

SonShine Squad

The SonShine Squad will meet on Monday, Dec. 2 at 9:00 am to work on a craft to take to the folks we visit. We will also make plans for our 2025 visits and meetings. You are most welcome to visit our meeting. For more information, please call or text Cheryl W. at 605-673-1334.



**Don't forget...
OSLC is on
Facebook!**

There are times when we need to get out information quicker than the weekly bulletins or the monthly newsletter will allow. If we have a sudden cancellation of an event or building closure (think snow day), we will post it on our Facebook page, as well as on our website.

To get the very latest information "like" our facebook page.

www.facebook.com/oslcspearfish

Not on facebook...?



Sign up for text alerts.

Opt in to OSLC instant text messaging!

As a reminder, OSLC has an instant text messaging system. It allows us to communicate time-sensitive information, such as event updates, emergency closures, schedule changes, etc. If you've signed up in the past, you don't have to do anything. If you haven't signed up, **or if your email or phone number has changed**, please contact the church office at 605-642-3715 or oslc@rushmore.com with up-to-date email addresses and phone numbers.

Thanks for helping us all stay connected!

605-642-3715 or oslc@rushmore.com with up-to-date email addresses and phone

WELCA December News 2024

Thank you Women of OSLC Thankoffering Sunday was November 24. We were reminded of our history and role as women of the ELCA, formed 35 years ago. The tradition of commitment and sharing of our blessings as women of the church has continued. We are also reminded that every woman in our church is a WELCA member and, however you care to contribute to the work of this church and its surrounding community we serve, is very much appreciated.

Volunteer Crafters and Bakers: Throughout the year our WELCA members are busy donating their time to making quilts, knitting prayer shawls, and baking/cooking countless items for events in both our church and the community we serve.

Julefest on December 7th is another yearly and spectacular example of women in our church coming together to serve others and raising money for those in need in our community. Please reflect on how you can help us by lending a hand. Ways to help throughout 2025 include: Assisting the quilters, knitters, bakers, and cooks, Julefest setup and donations for Julefest.

You can also help with serving communion, ushering and greeting during church, offering your special musical talents and serving coffee and cookies after church. Women can also serve on our church's Board and participate in any of our Circles. We welcome all!

Note: New WELCA booklets can be picked up from your Circle Leaders or the Church Office in December. If you have a phone or name change, please get this to the church office immediately!

Baking Opportunities to help this month: December 3 and December 5 at 6pm Cookie Baking in the church kitchen. Please be aware of anyone in our groups/church/community who need prayers and support.

Thank you to the Deborah Circle for kitchen cleanup October and Ruth Circle November. Ruth Circle is also cleaning kitchen December.

*Marvis Custer, WELCA President
(605) 631-0182
Marvis.custer@gmail.com*

Circle Meetings

<p>Deborah Circle December 11, 10:30 AM Lunch @ Lucky 13's</p>
<p>Esther Circle December 14, 11:00 AM Potluck Lunch</p>
<p>Ruth Circle December 19, 10:00 AM Leader: All Hostess: Mary Ellen Lantis @ Church</p>

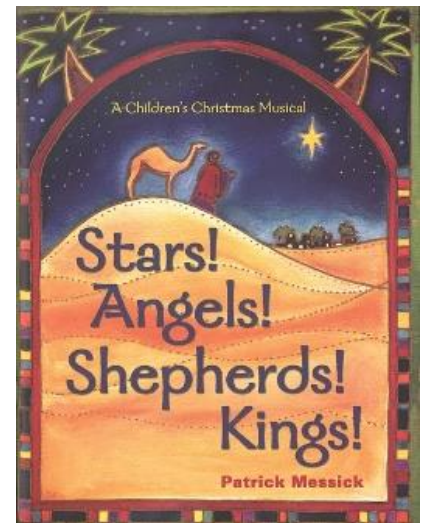


Please remember your Secret Sister during the month of December by mailing a card and keeping her in daily prayer.

 **Scriptures** 

- Dec. 1** Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36
- Dec. 8** Malachi 3:1-4 OR Baruch 5:1-9
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6
- Dec. 15** Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 3:7-18
- Dec. 22** Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]
- Dec. 29** 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!
The Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 15
at 10:45am



We cordially invite everyone to the Children's Christmas Program. Our kids and teachers have been practicing the program over the last few weeks and are excited to present it to you!

Christmas program PRACTICE schedule



SUNDAY Dec 1 & Dec 8—during Sunday school.

SATURDAY DEC 14 AT 1:00P.M. – In the sanctuary. We will keep it as close to 90 minutes as possible!

Day of the program schedule

Sunday December 15 – Please be here by 9:30am. Kids should go right downstairs to get their costumes on. We will meet in the sanctuary at 9:45 SHARP for a quick run through.



MILESTONE MINISTRIES

FIRST GRADE MILESTONE: **Sunday December 8**

The First-Grade class will receive a "The Birth of Jesus" story cube as a gift from our Senior Choir during either worship service.

Dear Families,

We will not have Sunday school on December 22 or 29. *Sunday school will resume on January 5.* We will not have Wednesday school on December 25, or January 1. *Wednesday school will resume on January 8.* Please enjoy this holiday time with your families and remember to pray for and thank the volunteers of our children's ministry programs. Merry Christmas! ~Miss Beth



**P.A.S.S.
Class**

P.A.S.S Class for Parents & Families

Our first class was a great success, and we are ready to meet again! Let's talk and learn together about Advent and Christmas traditions for all ages!

Sunday December 8, 9:50'ish, downstairs in the Quad. A light breakfast will be served!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year dear church family!

May your heart rejoice in the blessings of Christ this Christmas and throughout the year! ~Miss Beth

Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, November 10, 2024 – 9:45 AM

Meeting Location: Fellowship Hall

**OUR MISSION: Inspired by God's grace, we open our hearts to all in faith, prayer,
Fellowship and service through Jesus Christ**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Andy Binder at 9:45 AM. Eighty-five OSLC members attended.
2. **Devotions:** Pastor Stephan Sandness opened the meeting with a fitting prayer.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the April 21, 2024, Annual Meeting of the Congregation:** Sue Konstant moved to approve the minutes; Kathy Helmer seconded; motion carried.
4. **Endowment Committee Report:** Lennis Larson shared information about the Endowment Fund, which was established to enhance the work of Our Savior's by funding challenges and opportunities not covered by the annual budget. As of November 2024, Our Savior's endowments investments are: OSLC Scholarship Endowment Fund - \$68,563.86, OSLC Endowment Fund - \$57,795.01, Thrivent Fund - \$92,561.26, and Interest Income Account at First Interstate Bank - \$14,649.41. The Endowment Fund also provides OSLC students who attend Lutheran colleges with a scholarship. OSLC has two scholarship recipients at Augustana College, Amelia Klug and Gabe Knudson. Each have received a \$1,500.00 scholarship. Lennis reminded the congregation, they should consider the OSLC Endowment Fund in their special gift giving.
5. **Updated Treasurer's Report:** David Pummel reported the following financial highlights:
 - General Fund
 - Budgeted Offerings/Expenses \$657,886
 - Through October \$548,238
 - Expenses through October \$485,163
 - Income through October \$492,816
 - Year-to-date difference actual: \$ 7,653
 - General Fund Assets
 - Cash & Cash Assets \$141,934
 - Debt \$0
 - CD with BHFCU \$ 85,819
 - Endowment Fund
 - Investments \$218,920.13
 - Cash (Money Market) \$ 13,490.51

Deming Haugland moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; Deb Kimbell seconded; motion carried.

David Pummel continued with a short presentation of some dedicated accounts. Dedicated Accounts being those funds under control of another committee or group, or under control of the Congregation but held outside of the annual budget.

- Some of the larger balances are:
 - Repair and Replacement \$ 7,165
 - Living Room Upkeep \$ 6,251
 - Sabbatical Expenses \$ 9,974
 - Youth Account \$ 5,407
 - Quilting \$11,940
 - Bible Camp Scholarships \$ 15,889

6. **Vote on the Proposed 2025 Budget:** David Pummel presented the congregation's history of budgets for the past four years. It was noted that each budget increase aligned with inflation for that given year. Following the review of historic budget increases, the proposed budget for 2025 was presented, showing a 1.84% increase from 2024. Notable changes include a 2.44% increase in most staff compensation, keeping in line with or above cost-of-living increases. Additional notable changes include a decrease in the Office Manager Medical coverage of -\$7,105.12 as she is moving to Medicare coverage and a 29.18% increase in property insurance expense. Deb Kimball moved to approve the 2025 budget proposal; Dale Donat seconded; motion carried.
7. **Election of Nominating Committee:** Three people from the congregation volunteered to be on the nominating committee: Priscilla Romkema, Pam England, and Leesa Haugland. Two people from the Church Council, to be selected at an upcoming Council meeting. Sara Miles moved to accept these volunteers and those selected by the Council as our 2025 Nominating Committee; Deb Kimball Seconded; motion carried.
8. **Property Improvement Updates:** Pastor Stephan Sandness shared updates that are completed or ongoing. The Fix-It group has recently completed changing out all of the Fellowship Hall lights from fluorescents with ballasts to LED lights.

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9. Tree removal and sidewalk repairs were completed earlier this year. The Living Room exterior repairs were completed, helping to keep this property looking great. The heat pump for the Fellowship Hall was installed in 1996 and has recently stopped working. Bids were obtained for a replacement. The winning bid from Wolf's Plumbing and Heating came in at \$32,500 which was roughly \$12,000 less than the next bid. Pastor Stephan Sandness extended an invitation to all members to prayerfully think on donating funds to help with this heat pump expense.

10. **Adjourn and Closing Prayer:** Pam England moved to adjourned; Deming Haugland Seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 AM, and Pastor Stephan Sandness closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andy Binder President



Thank you to the members of Our Savior's for your continued support of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala. OSLC hosted three successful sales in October, selling over \$5,000 worth of crafts made by Guatemalan artisans. In addition to the sales, we received over \$900 in donations and throughout the month of October, collected over \$1400 in the Love Your Neighbor Jar. The funds from the LYNJ allow us to once again offer a scholarship to our high school student, Marta. In addition to the scholarship, we are also able to continue sponsoring two elders at the Elder Center, providing them with meals, medical attention, social activities and transportation.

I would also like to thank the Sharing the Dream team for all their hard work in setting up and selling the beautiful merchandise. I have the easy job of bringing items from Vermillion for our sales, the team gets all the credit for how well the sales do. If anyone is interested in joining this great team, please let me know.

There will be a couple opportunities to travel to Guatemala with Sharing the Dream in 2025. If you are interested in joining one of the groups, please reach out to me or go to Sharing the Dream's website for more information.

I'm humbled by the generous way Our Savior's continues to bless the people of Guatemala.

Pam England

FAITH & CARE

Serving in Worship and Fellowship

Every household is encouraged to sign up to serve in various ways on Sunday mornings at **any time throughout the year!**



Servers are needed as:

- Welcome center hosts
- Ushers
- Communion assistants
- Snack providers
- Coffee Server

This QR Code link to SignUp Genius will allow you to sign up at your convenience.

Job Descriptions are posted by the Church Kitchen for your information. Questions or need help signing up? Contact Sommerlyn Clausen at 605-381-5422

Office Notes:

Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1 for the Holidays. The Good Shepherd Clinic will be closed Mondays, December 23 and December 30 for the holidays.

The deadline for submission of items for the December newsletter is **Friday, December 20**. Please send your newsletter items to Lisa at oslc4@rushmore.com

Ways to give electronically:

Scan this code to give online



Scan the code or go to our website, click on the Online Giving button:

Clicking on that button will take you to a secure page on which you can donate to the vital ministries of Our Savior's Lutheran Church directly from a checking or savings account, or using a credit or debit card.

Check out our website for the monthly newsletter, calendar and much more... www.oslcspearfish.com.

Has your address or phone number changed? Please let us know at 605-642-3715 or e-mail Julie at oslc@rushmore.com

Prefer not to receive a paper copy of our newsletter? Let us send you an email with a link to our newsletter when it's posted to our website. If you are interested, please send your email address to Julie at oslc@rushmore.com or call us at 605-642-3715. Thank you!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Minutes

November 12, 2024 6:30pm ~ Conference Room

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Andy Binder at 6:30pm. All council members were present other than Dave Pummel who was missed and in our prayers.
- 2. Devotions:** Mike Steffen talked about the times in life where you feel like you are giving it all you have. He talked about his grandchildren and the phases of life they are going through where everything seems to "mine, mine, mine" and he gives them all he has! On the flip side, as we age, we sometimes look at things from the point of view of "that's mine" like your reaction to your favorite chair that gets sat in by someone else at dinner time or TV time. We have an impulse to be selfish at any age and must trust in Him, release those tendencies, grow in community, and depend on one another and God.
- 3. Approve Agenda:** Deming Haugland made a motion to approve the agenda. Pam Tyma seconded; motion carried. Agenda approved.
- 4. Approval of the October Council Minutes:** Sherry Kloekel moved to approve the meeting minutes. Karson Klein seconded; motion carried.
- 5. Approval of the October Treasurer's Report:** Pastor Stephan passed on that things with the finances are looking great. We had \$58K in income and \$46K in expenses leaving us approximately \$8K in the positive on the YTD as we enter into our historically best two months of the year. There will be a furnace expense and an insurance expense that there are no concerns about at this time. All looks well in the dedicated accounts. There is \$16K available for bible/fam camp and the council agreed to \$1K per family for fam camp if there is interest. As well as approving to replace the computer in the audio nook. Mike Steffen made a motion to approve the expenses and Sherry Kloekel seconded, motion carried. Christina Miles made a motion to approve the October Treasurer's report. Brady Harr seconded; motion carried.
- 6. Ministerial Staff Reports:** Pastor Stephan talked about attendance at the Bear Butte conference as well as Advent information/dates. Our 5th graders participated in their first communion with 12 total completing the milestone. He mentioned caring for families during a couple of recent funerals and passes on a huge thanks to the funeral team who always does such an amazing job with the food and care. He also mentioned that his only wedding of

the year is taking place the weekend right after Thanksgiving and that the holidays are quickly shaping up to be a busy season as usual. There was also discussion that there will be a new Church Directory in the making. Be on the lookout for AJ to coordinate with you all on getting photos taken and your information updated.

Deacon Laura passed on that we welcomed 9 new families to the congregation during New Member Sunday and she encourages everyone to welcome them and get to know them. The Wednesday Healing Service went very well and had good participation. The Advent devotionals are available and there is also an opportunity to participate in an Advent bible study online called "Close to Home." The class includes opportunities to join via Zoom and in person.

- 7. Committee Reports:** The education committee is working on spreading the word and recruiting for camp, is excited there are a few babies on the way and wants to remind everyone that we do have paid staff in the nursery. Do not be afraid to use them! The property team is working on getting Christmas trees up in the sanctuary. Senior Ministry is planning for their Christmas party that will take place December 12th. The Mission Team is busy with the Angel Tree. Campus Ministry passed on that they just completed their quarterly meeting and had 1 interview setup up for a new director.
- 8. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned with a motion by Nichole Braithwait and a second by Andy Binder at 7:30pm followed by the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10th, 2024, at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nichole Braithwait

Treasurer's Report

As of October 31, 2024

Year-to-date Offerings:	493,393.62\$
Year-to-date Expenses:	\$484,913.69
Year-to-date Budget:	\$544,020.09

DECEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Education Hour 10:45 AM Joyful Journey Worship Service 1st Sunday of Advent Angel Tree Tags	2 9:00 AM SonShine Squad 10:30 AM Circle Study Leaders 1:00 PM Yarn Ministry 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Clinic Pastor's Day Off	3 8:30 AM Fix-it Group 9:00 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Education Comm 6:00 PM Troidhaugen Choir 6:00 PM Cooking Baking for Julefest in the Kitchen 7:00 PM Young Adult Bible Study @ TLR	4 9:30 AM WELCA Board Mtg. 1:00 PM KidZone 5:15 PM Bell Choir 5:15 PM Confirmation 5:16 PM Wednesday Supper 5:40 PM Wednesday School 6:26 PM Wednesday Word 7:00 PM Senior Choir 7:10 PM HS Youth TLR Angel Tree Tags	5 12:00 PM Lunch @ TLR 12:30 PM Quilters 6:00 PM Cooking Baking for Julefest in the Kitchen	6 6:00 AM Christian Business Men's Group at TLR Deacon's Day Off	7 8:00 AM Men's Fellowship <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><i>8:00 am - 1:00 pm</i> <i>Julefest</i> <i>Scandinavian</i> <i>Christmas Festival</i> <i>& Bazaar</i></div>
8 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Education Hour 9:50 AM PASS Class 10:45 AM Joyful Journey Worship Service 1st Grade Bible Cubes Angel Tree Tags	9 10:30 AM Deborah Circle @ Lucky 13's 1:00 PM Yarn Ministry 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Clinic Pastor's Day Off	10 8:30 AM Fix-It Group 9:00 AM Quilting 2:00 PM Two on Tuesdays Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 6:30 PM Church Council 7:00 PM Young Adult Bible Study @ TLR	11 11:00 AM Esther Circle 5:15 PM Confirmation 5:16 PM Wednesday Supper 5:40 PM Wednesday School 6:26 PM Wednesday Word 7:00 PM Senior Choir 7:10 PM HS Youth TLR	12 11:00 AM Senior Ministry Christmas Party 12:00 PM Lunch @ TLR 12:30 PM Quilters	13 6:00 AM Christian Business Men's Group at TLR Deacon's Day Off	14 1:00 PM Kids of the Kingdom Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
15 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Education Hour 10:45 AM Kids of the Kingdom Christmas Program/ Joyful Journey Worship Service Angel Tree Gifts Due	16 10:00 AM Senior Ministry 1:00 PM Yarn Ministry 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Clinic Pastor's Day Off	17 8:30 AM Fix-It Group 9:00 AM Quilting 2:00 PM Two on Tuesday Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM Mission Team 7:00 PM Young Adult Bible Study @ TLR	18 10:00 AM Spearfish Canyon Healthcare Worship Service 5:15 PM Bell Choir 5:15 PM Confirmation 5:16 PM Wednesday Supper 5:40 PM Wednesday School 6:26 PM Wednesday Word 7:00 PM Senior Choir Angel Tree Gift Delivery	19 10:00 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Lunch @ TLR 12:30 PM Quilters 1:00 PM Cradle Roll	20 6:00 AM Christian Business Men's Group at TLR 7:00 AM GSC Board Mtg Deacon's Day Off Newsletter Items Due	21 8:00 AM Men's Fellowship
22 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Education Hour 10:45 AM Joyful Journey Worship Service	23 1:00 PM Yarn Ministry Good Shepherd Clinic Closed	24 1:30 PM Candlelight Service 3:30 PM Candlelight Service 5:30 PM Candlelight Service 10:00 PM Candlelight Service	25 Office Closed  Merry Christmas!	26	27 6:00 AM Christian Business Men's Group at TLR Deacon's Day Off	28
29 9:00 AM Worship Service A Service of Lesson & Carols	30 1:00 PM Yarn Ministry Good Shepherd Clinic Closed	31 8:30 AM Fix-It Group 9:00 AM Quilting	January 1  New Year's Day Office Closed			

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1020 State Street
Spearfish, SD 57783

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Spearfish, SD
Permit No. 78

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1020 State Street
Spearfish, SD 57783

Staff: Stephan Sandness, Senior Pastor
Laura Campbell, Deacon
Beth Nielsen, Director of Children's Ministries
Julie Lee, Office Manager
Lisa Williams, Receptionist

Worship: Sundays 8:30 am Worship Service
10:45 am Joyful Journey-led Worship Service
Live stream at 8:30 am or watch later! Connect through our web site.
Wednesday 5:16 pm Wednesday Supper
6:26 pm Wednesday Word

Church Office located at 1020 State Street
Church Phone Number: 605-642-3715
Kitchen/Quilting Phone Number: 605-722-0660

Office Hours: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Monday thru Friday

WEB site: www.oslcspearfish.com
E-mail: oslc@rushmore.com



Mission Statement: *Inspired by God's grace, we open our hearts to all in faith, prayer, fellowship and service through Jesus Christ.*