

DECEMBER  
2025

# OSL & MELO FAITH CONNECTION

Our Savior's & Melo Lutheran Churches

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### *Poinsettias Have Been Shared By:*

**Carol Anderson**  
*In Honor of: OSL/Melo  
Quilters*

**Yvonne Bossman & Family**  
*In Memory of: Bill & Chris  
Bossman*

**Mylo and Marlene  
Carlson**  
*In Memory of The Carlsons  
and in Memory of Lewis &  
Esther Bonnettes and Myron  
& Margaret Carlson*

**Mike & Hollie Cheney**  
*In Memory of: Jady Cheney*

**Kelsey, Coper, Austin &  
Nora Deschene**  
*In Memory of: Brandon  
Deschene*

**Folz Family**  
*In Memory of: Belinda Folz  
and Glen & Doris Johnson*

**Janice Grochow**  
*In Memory of: Willis and  
Wayne Grochow*  
*In Honor of: Jeffrey  
Grochow, Jennifer Audette  
& family*

**Pete & Virlynn Hanson &  
Family**  
*In Memory of: Ruth &  
Albert Hanson, Dennis  
Anderson, Gladys & Selvin  
Aase, Roberta Stengl, and  
Jill Anderson*

**LuAnn, Tony, Lindsey,  
Easton, Everly, Evan &  
Jessie Johnson**  
*In Memory of:  
Robin Johnson, Ralph &  
Leona Knudsen, Dennis  
Knudsen and Wayne  
Theusch*

**Carol Kilen & Family**  
*In Memory of: Greg Kilen,  
Roger & Dowie Kilen, and  
Laurel & Bev Wittman*

**Sandy Magnusson**  
*In Memory of: Ruth Ann &  
Marville V. Magnusson*

**Lois Monroe**  
*In Memory of:  
Milo Monroe, Ervin Rokke  
and Joan & Edwin Rokke*

**Philip & Denise Olson**  
*In Memory of: Marvin, Ida,  
& Mark Olson*

**Stacy & Mary Paulseth**  
*In Memory of: Les & June  
Seward and Joyce*

**Delores Sedlacek & Family**  
*In Memory of: Jack Sedlacek*

**Joan Peterson, John,  
Grant, & Jarrod**  
*In Memory of: Gary  
Peterson, John & Mae  
Grega, and Earl & Edith  
Peterson*

**Jim & Tammy Duckstad**  
*In Memory of: David & Bev  
Duckstad, and Robert  
Duckstad*

*As of 12/2*

### **Pastor**

Amber Kalina  
Office: 745-4478  
Cell: 218-298-1897

### **Office Manager**

Shelly Conely  
osl@oursaviors-melo.org  
Office: 745-4478  
Cell: 218-201-2361

### **OSL Custodian**

Jake Reinier  
701-740-5299

### **Sunday Worship Times**

9:00 am Melo Worship  
& Coffee Fellowship  
9:30 am Sunday School at OSL  
10:00 am Sunday School at Melo  
10:15 am OSL Coffee Fellowship  
10:45 am OSL Worship

### **Television**

Live on Garden Valley Channel 34  
Monday at 3:30 pm on Sjoberg's  
Channel 13

### **Online**

www.oursaviors-melo.org  
Search OSL Warren on YouTube  
OSL Facebook



## From the Pastor's Desk

One of the best things about December, I think, is the return of Christmas music. The joyful hymns, the catchy tunes from the movies, the nostalgic songs that zap you back to Christmases past.

One of the Christmas songs that I love, but that unfortunately isn't in any of our hymnals, is the song, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" The song tells of the news spreading about the birth of Jesus, with the night wind speaking to a little lamb; then the lamb speaking to a shepherd boy; then the boy speaking to a mighty king; then the king speaking to people everywhere.

It could be that I'm reading too much into the song, but I think there are so many beautiful insights that we can glean it:

First, all of creation, not just humans, are involved in declaring the message of Jesus. The night wind and the lamb lend their voices to the telling, along with the shepherd and the king. This shows that the whole world is part of sharing this good news. If we listen to the world around us, what is it telling us about Jesus?

Second, each of the messengers in the song shares a different part of the Christmas story, a detail that most stuck out to them. This shows that the story of Christmas speaks to us in unique ways. What parts of the Christmas story speak most to our hearts this year?

Third, the story of Jesus' birth is passed on from messenger to messenger until it reaches people everywhere. It reminds us that the story of Jesus can be passed on from one to another so that all can have a chance to hear the good news. How can we be sharing the Good News of Jesus in this time?

Whether or not you hear this song this Christmastime, I hope that all of us will let the story of Christmas speak to us anew and that we would lend our voices to telling the story, so that all may be able to hear the Good News and rejoice.

Your sister in Christ,  
Pastor Amber Kalina



# November Ministry Highlights!



Youth Event held at North Star Manor on November 9th. Residents had great fun participating in all the exciting activities.



7th & 8th grade confirmation class visited and helped out at the North Country Food Bank.



# Lambs & Lions



Youth  
Christmas  
Cookie Baking  
Dec., 7th, 3 PM at OSL

Sunday School  
Program Practice:  
OSL, Wed. Dec., 17th  
@ 5:30 PM.  
Melo, Sat., Dec.  
20th, time TBD

## CONFIRMATION

7th & 8th Grade  
Wednesdays at 5:45  
Dec. 3rd, 10th, & 17th.

9th Grade  
Sunday, December 14th  
Noon at OSL (going to  
North Country Food Bank)



Melo & OSL Sunday  
School kids sang  
during worship on  
Nov. 16.



Pre K &  
Kindergarten  
Sunday School  
Class lesson  
time with Katie  
& Danelle.



### December Acolytes

- 12/7-Chandler Klassy & Matthew Klassy, Jr.
- 12/14-Soiphia Wurtzel & Ava Nybladh
- 12/21-Emma Dahlman &  
Olivia Woinarowicz
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service-Kaley Boe &  
Camdyn Carlson
- 12/28- Leo Johnson & Gabe Marquis



7th-8th grade confirmation  
class - Crossing the Red Sea!

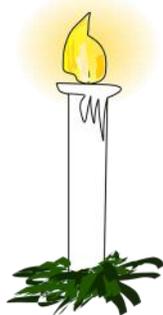
# Ministry on the Horizon



Our Savior's Lutheran

## Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 14th, at 7 PM



Sunday School  
Christmas Programs!  
Sunday, December 21st  
During worship at Melo & OSL!



Congregational Meals to  
Follow worship.  
Melo—Breakfast- Egg Bake!  
OSL— Pasta Bar, Salad, Garlic Bread,  
& Cake  
All are Welcome!!

### Magnifying the Magnificat: Thursday evenings in Advent

This Advent, come and dwell in the song of Mary, the mother of Jesus. While it is only ten verses in the Gospel of Luke, it powerfully proclaims the wonderful works of God and can help fuel our faith as we anticipate the arrival of Jesus. This study will take place on Dec 4th, 11th, and 18th at 7pm at OSL.

Lydia-Phoebe Circle  
Meets on Dec. 10th  
1:30 PM at  
North Star Community  
Room



**WELCA BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday,**  
**December 3rd, 3:30 PM**  
**NSM Assisted Living**



### Bible Study!

Mondays- Dec 1, 15, 29  
At 10:00 AM At OSL

### Quilting!

OSL/Melo Quilters meet on Tuesdays from  
1-4 PM at OSL!  
All skill levels are welcome to join in on the fun!  
No quilting on Dec 23rd or 30th

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study  6:00 PM Ed Committee Mtg.	<b>2</b> 1:00 PM Quilting at OSL	<b>3</b> 5:45 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation  7:00 PM Choir 7:45 PM Bells	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM Magnificat Study at OSL	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Nathan Erickson & Jessica Olson wedding at OSL
<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Melo Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School at OSL 10:00 AM Sunday School at Melo 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:45AM OSL Worship  3:00 PM Cookie Baking Youth Event.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 1:00 PM Quilting at OSL	<b>10</b> 1:30 PM Lydia-Phoebe Circle at NSM  5:45 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir 7:45 PM Bells	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM Magnificat Study at OSL	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Melo Worship 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:45AM OSL Worship Noon 9th Grade Confirmation -going to North Country Food Bank  7:00 PM Candlelight Service at OSL	<b>15</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study  7:00 PM OSL Council	<b>16</b> 1:00 PM Quilting at OSL	<b>17</b> 5:30 PM OSL Sunday School Program Practice  5:45 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation  7:00 PM Choir 7:45 PM Bells	<b>18</b> 7:00 PM Magnificat Study at OSL	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Melo Sunday School Practice TBD
<b>21</b> Sunday School Programs 9:00 AM Melo Worship 9:30 AM OSL Sunday School 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:45AM OSL Worship Noon Pasta Bar meal & Garlic Bread & Cake at OSL	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve  No Confirmation  3:00 PM Worship at Melo  4:30 PM Worship at OSL	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Office Closed	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Melo Worship 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:45AM OSL Worship	<b>29</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve			

# December Celebrations

*Happy Birthday!!!!*

12/1 - Austin Wittman  
Chase Anderson

12/3 - Ilene Slusar

12/4 - Rick Solberg  
Rita Walker

12/5 - Lincoln Hamrick  
Tate & Brynlee Lura

12/6 - Elizabeth Yeado  
Chase Knoll

12/7 - Ella Nybladh  
Benny Schmidt

12/8 - Gerald Hamm  
Ruann Deschene

12/10 - Macey Boe

12/11 - Carol Anderson  
Shawn Spidahl

12/12 - Kirby Kilen  
Larry Rud

12/13 - Jessica Myrfield

12/14 - Linda Hamrick

12/15 - Mike Miller

12/17 - Lambert Kostrzewski

12/18 - John Walker  
Taylor Knoll

12/19 - Jim Bustrack  
Carrie DeLisle

12/20 - Elliot Clark  
Faith Porter

12/23 - Collins Reinier  
Phil Thompson

12/24 - Kristen Duckstad  
Travis Hanel

12/25 - Danelle Klassy

12/26 - Caden Benson

12/27 - Darren Carlson  
Matthew Myrfield

12/28 - Jessica Olson

Boston Kasprowicz

12/29 - Betty Graham

Ilayne Potucek

Hayden Hamrick

12/30 - Brody Knoll

Jacqueline Clark

*Happy Anniversary!*

12/8 - Allison & Justin  
Johnson

12/12 - Donnie & Linda  
Hamrick

12/15 - Mike & Heather  
Goroski

12/19 - Linda & Earl  
Johnson

12/19 - Karen & Peder  
Larson

12/22 - Tim & Linda  
Conely

12/26 - Lana & Alan  
Maruska

## December Servants

### December 7

Coffee: Brittney & Jennifer Palm  
Lector: Brittney Palm  
Usher: Tony Johnson & Adam Sparby

### December 14

Coffee: Amanda Liebersbach  
Lector & Usher: Darby Boe

### December 14 Candlelight

Coffee: Youth & Amanda Liebersbach  
Ushers: Gerald Hamm & Tony Johnson

### December 21 (Sunday School Program)

Coffee: Ashley Sparby, Brittney & Jennifer Palm  
Lector: Brittney Palm  
Usher: Tony Johnson & Adam Sparby

### December 24 (Christmas Eve Service)

Lector: Bev Clausen  
Usher: Gerald Hamm & Ken Palm

### December 28

Coffee: Lindsey Johnson  
Lector:  
Usher: Bob Conely

### Melo Custodians:

Nov. 30-Dec 7 Steve & Shannon Hamrick  
Dec 14-21 Tony Hamrick  
Dec 28-Jan 12- Wayne & Linda Hamrick

# OSL Council November 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Betty DuBore, Brittney Palm, Donna Miller, Dustin Marquis, Katie Benson, Wanda Gubrud, Wayne Torgerson, Pastor Amber Kalina. Absent: None.

The meeting was called to order by President Katie Benson at 7:08 pm. Pastor Amber opened with prayer.

Agenda & Previous Meeting Minutes: Brittney moved to approve the previous minutes and this month's agenda; Wayne seconded; motion carried.

## **Reports:**

Treasurer's Report: The Ministry Growth Fund investment amount (\$275K) is still included in the General Fund balance. Wayne moved to approve the treasurer's report; Betty seconded; motion carried.

Worship and Evangelism: Cmte met Nov 10. Planning for the Dec 14 Candlelight service was discussed; other community members are being sought to add to the performances of OSL/Melo choir and members.

Education & Youth: Cmte met Nov 3. Sunday School will sing Nov 16. Confirmation Tea for 10<sup>th</sup> graders and guests will be on Nov 19. Trunk or treat went well. Christmas program on Dec 21 will be True North Christmas; practice will begin Nov 16. Plans were made for a meal following the program. VBS 2026 will have a Rainforest theme. Next meeting is Dec 1.

Property/Tech: Pastor Amber, Katie and Wanda met to discuss sanctuary renovation options received from Wade at Foss and then met by zoom on Nov 14 with Foss and Comstock regarding the sanctuary renovation. Aluminum base was installed around the wheelchair lift in place of the plywood; carpet will be installed over the base. Two new replacement doorknobs were installed at the parsonage. There were issues with intermittent internet recently that were resolved by Garden Valley and Josh; streaming of at least one Sunday service was affected by this and the fire alarm system needed to be reset as well.

Stewardship/Outreach: Committee will meet Nov 24 to plan future activities.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Amber officiated at Affirmation of Baptism for seven Confirmands on Oct 26 and presided at a memorial service for Patricia Rolland. She participated in a Consultation committee meeting with the NWMN Synod and will participate in a Candidacy committee meeting next month. She participated in Trunk or Treat and took vacation Nov 11-12. She'll preside at a graveside service on Nov 20 and take Confirmation students to North Country Food Bank on Nov 23. She continues with homebound/hospital visits, teaching Confirmation and with her many ongoing monthly activities.

Dustin moved to approve the committee reports; Wayne seconded; motion carried.

## **Ongoing Business:**

+Rural Revival: Pastor Melissa Pickering (NWMN Synod Rural Ministry Mission Developer) will be conducting interviews with 12 OSL and Melo members & families the first week in December to gain insight into the needs of the church and community and will report on her findings after the holidays.

+ELCA Foundation Investment: Account establishment for investment of \$275K from the General fund in the Ministry Growth Fund is in process. Amanda desires information on setting up an online account to monitor the investment. Katie, Amanda and Phil Thompson are designated account representatives.

+Sanctuary Renovation: Diagrams with options for increasing sanctuary space, functionality and accessibility were shared with Council and were discussed. Revisions are being made and will be shared soon.

+Church Rental Fees: Discussion was held on updates to fees. Brittney moved to approve adjustments to rental fees including simpler language and description; Donna seconded; motion carried. Changes will take effect on Jan 1, 2026.

+New Members: There are two individuals and one family who have expressed interest in becoming members of OSL to Pastor Amber. She hopes to move forward with this soon.

**Council Meeting Minutes Continued:**

**New Business**

+Feed My Starving Children Donation: A letter was received asking for contributions. The 2025 donation has been made; there will be another budgeted amount in 2026 for a donation to FMSC.

+CD Interest Donation: Discussion was held regarding donation of the interest earned on CD#1 which was renewed in October. Betty moved to donate \$1300 to Bencke missionaries, and \$1500 each to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response; Wayne seconded; motion carried.

Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Dustin moved to adjourn; Wayne seconded; motion carried, and meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. Next meeting: December 15, 2025, at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Gubrud

# October Treasurer’s Report

**General Account**

Receipts

General Offering	\$ 10,530.00
Endowment Fund	\$ 40.00
Project 2000/Building Fund	\$ 240.00
Missions	\$ 20.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,830.00</b>

Expenses

Other Missions	\$ 3,150.00
Salaries/Pension/FICA	\$11,313.70
Mileage	\$ 373.66
Utilities/Phone/Internet	\$ 497.67
Worship Supplies/Music	\$ 850.78
Office Supplies/Postage	\$ 32.08
Sunday School	\$ 337.58
Confirmation	\$ 617.98
Office-copier Liberty Contract	\$ 217.14
Custodial Supplies	\$ 45.99
Bank Service Fee	\$ 8.50

**Total Expenses** **\$ 17,445.08**

**Net Ordinary Income** **\$- 6,615.08**

Other Expense-Money Market \$275,000.00

**Net Income** **\$-281,615.08**



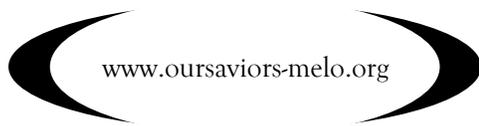
OSL Accounts

General Fund	\$ 365,480.80
Memorial Fund	\$ 22,989.64
Mission Fund	\$ 5,893.94
OSL Bell Ringers	\$ 711.63
OSL Servant Group	\$ 11,035.78
Project 2000/Bldg Fund	\$ 95,872.76
Money Market	\$ 97,724.51
CD #1	\$ 258,749.25
CD #2	\$ 110,507.79

**Total** **\$ 968,966.10**

OUR SAVIOR'S & MELO  
LUTHERAN CHURCHES

220 W JOHNSON AVE  
WARREN MN 56762



## Lessons for December 2025

### December 7 - Advent 2

Psalm 31:21-24

Ezekiel 37:1-14

John 11:17-27

### December 14 - Advent 3

Psalm 98:4-9

Isaiah 55:1-13

John 4:13-15

### December 21 - Advent 4

#### Children's Programs

Psalm 130:5-8

Genesis 1:1-5

John 1:1-18

### December 24 - Christmas Eve-

#### Birth of Jesus

Psalm 96:7-10

Luke 2:1-20

### December 28 - Christmas 1

Psalm 32:1-5

Isaiah 40:1-5

John 1:19-34

