

Our Savior's & Melo Lutheran Churches

OSL & MELO FAITH CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2023

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Pastor

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Sunday Worship Times

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

A video of OSL Sunday
Worship can be seen on
*Monday at 3:30 pm on cable
channel 13 and on YouTube.
The service is now being
streamed live also. A link can
be found on the OSL/Melo
church website, and archived
services can be viewed as
well:

www.oursaviors-melo.org.

*We are aware that the Sunday
broadcast is not always
available on Sunday on
channel 13. We are sorry for
this issue. The cable
company is seeking a
solution.

- Garden Valley Customers
watch live on Sundays on
Channel 34 at 10:45



OSL Sunday
School Kids
sang a song
about the
disciples
during
worship on
January
29th



Thank you to all who attended
the annual meetings!

Thank you
Travis Hanel, Jim Duckstad & Adam Sparby
for your time serving on the OSL council!

From the Pastor's Desk

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" Isaiah 58:6-7

Lent is almost upon us, which means that many of us are going to start hearing (or asking) this question, "So, what are you giving up?" So often, as we talk about the season of Lent, we focus on the stuff that we are planning to leave behind: social media, distractions, chocolate, soda, etc. This makes sense, as Lent is considered a season of fasting in the church calendar, shedding those things that draw us from God in order to come closer to him.

But there is more to fasting than "giving up." Fasting is also a practice of "taking on."

When we give things up, we usually find that there is suddenly more time or more space for other things in our lives – other things that can be more meaningful or helpful. For instance, giving up social media makes a bunch of free time that can be invested in developing a new skill or working on in-person connections or slowing down and listening for God's Spirit.

Isaiah gives some other thoughts on what fasting allows us to "take on": helping people to experience freedom; giving bread to the hungry and shelter to the homeless; making ourselves available to people. All of these are activities that promote life and build relationships with other people. By "taking on" rather than just "giving up," we may find that we don't just improve our lives and our personal connection with God – we improve our connections with creation and our neighbors, as well.

So, as we approach Lent, perhaps consider "taking on" as part of your fast. Take on activities to deepen your discipleship, like reading the Bible on a daily basis (even if it's one chapter or one passage) or taking time to pray or keeping a gratitude journal. Or take on activities to build up your relationship with creation or other human beings, perhaps through writing a letter a day or repurposing items you would normally throw away or trying to bless someone every few hours (that would be a hard one, but amazing).

And maybe try asking, "So, what are you taking on?" this season.

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Amber

January Ministry Highlights!



The Sunday School Kids enjoyed Pajama Day!

Cookie Baking Night at OSL! Cookies were served at coffee fellowship at OSL and Youth will deliver to some of our homebound members!



Benny Daniel Schmidt, Son of Danny & Brenna Schmidt was baptized on Saturday, January 28th



Annual Meetings

Annual meetings were held on January 22nd
Here are your current council representatives:

OSL:

Joan Peterson
Tony Johnson
Johny Barbosa
Wanda Gubrud
Britany Palm
Katie Benson

MELO:

Sandra Solvik
Wayne Hamrick
Linda Hamrick
Cole Wittman
Gary Owens
Aaron Knoll
Ed Gulden

Lambs & Lions

February Sunday School

Feb 5– Sunday School

**Feb 12–Sunday School + Singing during
Worship at OSL**

Feb 19– NO Sunday School

Feb 26– Sunday School



UPCOMING!

First Communion Classes will take place in April for fifth grade students. While specific dates and times are still being planned, students can anticipate participating in four classes (one per week) in the month of April to learn about the sacrament. First Communion Sunday will take place on May 7 during worship at Melo and OSL. Stay tuned for specifics, and feel free to reach out to Pastor Amber with questions.

February Acolytes

Feb 5 – Malley Maurstad &
Brenna Benson

Feb 12– Destiny Bolton &
Sid Carlson

Feb 19 – Elliot & Rielly Clark

Feb 26 - Breawna Bolton &
Brooke Miller

February Confirmation

7th/8th Grade

3:30-4:45 pm

Wednesdays

9th Grade 11:45 am

Sunday, Feb 26th



Cookie baking fun!!
Help package up and deliver
Cookies to members on
February 8th!

Ministry on the Horizon

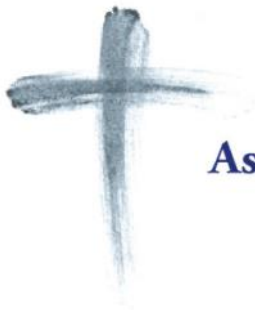


Lydia—Phoebe Circle
meets on February 8th
at 2:00 PM at North
Star Community Room

New! Living Lutheran in Lent

To keep us grounded and growing in faith this season, Pastor Amber will be leading a study of Luther's Small Catechism on the Thursday evenings of Lent. Come ready to tap into your memories from confirmation and experience new life in your Lutheran faith.

Thursdays at 7pm at OSL, Feb 23 – March 30



Worship Service
February 22nd, 7:00 PM
at OSL
Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

Pastor Amber will be
Preaching at North Star Manor
Sunday, February 12th and
Giving communion on
Tuesday, February 21st

Prayer Shawls Available
If you would like a
prayer shawl to give to someone
you know who is sick, lonely, or in
need of prayer, stop by the
OSL office to pick one up.

Monday Morning Bible Study

**Bible
Study**



**Alternating
Mondays at
10:00 AM
See calendar
for specific
dates. All
are welcome!**

2023 Community Lenten Service

THEME: "God's Grand Story"

Wednesdays March 1-March 29

evenings at 7:00 PM

afternoons at 2:00 PM at North Star Manor

- March 1 Host: Grace Methodist Church
Speaker: Pr. Ryan Sarenpa
Subject: Creation
- March 8 Host: Warren Covenant Church
Speaker: Pr. Jim Robberstad
Subject: Preservation
- March 15 Host: Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church
Speaker: Pr. Amber Kalina
Subject: Dedication
- March 22 Host: Warren Assembly of God (tentatively)
Speaker: Fr. Xavier Ilango
Subject: Salvation
- March 29 Host: Our Savior's Lutheran
Speaker: Pr. James Crandall
Subject: Invitation

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30 PM 7th/8th Grade Conf.	2	3	4
5 HOLY COMMUNION 9:00 AM Melo Worship 9:30 AM OSL SS 10:00 AM Melo SS 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:45 AM OSL Worship	6 6:00 PM Education Committee 7:00 PM Youth Board	7 1:00 PM Quilting	8 2:00 PM Lydia/Phoebe Circle 3:30 PM 7th/8th Grade Conf. 7:00 PM Choir at OSL	9	10	11
12 9:00 AM Melo Worship 9:30 AM OSL SS 10:00 AM Melo SS 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:45 AM OSL Worship/ Sunday School Sing	13 10:00 AM Bible Study OSL Library	14 1:00 PM Quilting	15 3:30 PM 7th/8th Grade Conf. 7:00 PM Choir at OSL	16	17	18
19 HOLY COMMUNION 9:00 AM Melo Worship 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:00 AM Melo S.S 10:45 AM OSL Worship	20 President's Day 7:00 PM OSL Council	21 1:00 PM Quilting 6:00 OSL/Melo Council appreciation dinner	22 Ash Wednesday No Confirmation 7:00 PM Worship at OSL	23 7:00 PM Living Lutheran Study	24	25
26 9:00 AM Melo Worship 9:30 AM OSL SS 10:00 AM Melo SS 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:45 AM OSL Worship 11:45 AM 9th Gr. Conf.	27 10:00 AM Bible Study OSL Library	28				

February Servants

OSL Lector:

Feb 5—
Feb 12— Bev Torgerson
Feb 19—
Feb 26—Jean Walker

OSL Usher:

Feb 5— Wayne Torgerson & Phil
Thompson
Feb 12—Wayne Torgerson
Feb 19— Curt Myrfield
Feb 26—Dean Chandler & Matt Klassy

OSL Coffee Fellowship

Feb 5— Gloria T.
Feb 12— Bev Torgerson
Feb 19—Deb Myrfield
Feb 26— MaryJo Chandler & Danelle
Chandler

Melo Custodians:

Feb 5-12 John Johnson Feb 22-29 Dustin and Emily Johnson

February

Happy Birthday!!!!

- 2 - Abigail Hamrick
- 3 - John Amundgaard
Jacob Cobb
Emma Dahlman
- 4 - Jon Slusar
- 5 - Sophia Wurtzel
- 8 - Lana Maruska
Cory Myrfield
- 9 - Josh Benson
Patrick Maruska
- 10 - Kenley Marquis
- 11 - Jeff Chandler
Jennifer Conely
Gabe Marquis
- 12 - Kristal Walen
- 13 - Becky Ament
Zak Duckstad
Hannah LeTexier
Sawyer Reinier
- 15 - Gracie Kittleson
- 16 - Steve Hamrick
DJ McGregor
- 19 - Jim Myrfield
- 20 - Michael Jevning
Carter Maruska
- 21 - Etta Vongroven
- 22 - Jan Riopelle
- 24 - Philip Olson
- 26 - Sadie Scherber
- 27 - Annabella Seaverson– Gutirttez
- 28 - Stacy Balzum



The cold weather kept us from having our family sledding outing but it didn't keep us from a fun family afternoon of games and fellowship!



Present members: Tony Johnson, Joan Peterson, Adam Sparby
Other present: Pastor Amber and Mallory Craik
Pastor Amber opened with prayer and discussion about what we are looking forward to in 2023
m/s/c Previous months minutes

Treasures Report - Amanda Liebersbach was not present but submitted the report.

m/s/c to approve committee reports

Mallory's Report

*Planning council appreciation meal/meeting for Feb.

*Explained officer nominations

*Updated council on the basement wall

*Update on Carillon Bells

Worship & Evangelism Committee:

*Joan Reported

*Thank you to Bev Clausen for wonderful care of flowers over Christmas season

*Choir starting soon

*Committee is excited about using screen more in 2023

Education & Youth Committee:

*Pastor Amber Reported

*Christmas program was a success

*Soup/Sandwich get together was wonderful, Adam suggested doing it more often

*Youth cookie baking event coming up, youth to serve fellowship coffee as well as deliver to home-bound

*Family sledding event scheduled for 29th

Property & Management Committee:

*Basement wall ready for paint, Randy & Wanda Gubrud will paint.

*Bathrooms will be finished

*Sanctuary fans and banner folder to be installed

Pastor Amber's Report

*This year has done a funeral, baptism and helped with a wedding

*Trainings coming up and Has been asked to write a chapter in a book
m/s/c to approve committee reports

NEW & OLD BUSINESS

*Emergency manual in progress

*Waiting to hear on cleaning of handbells

*Mallory gave update on Carillon, working with Brad Johnson

*Annual meeting/New Council Members, up to 6 spots to be filled

*Annual review of staff- Each December, remember to review in January

*Feed My Starving Children Event in Grand Forks—need donation, gave \$500 last year. m/s/c to give \$500. The youth will be helping with the event.

Next meeting February 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm at Main Street Cafe

Pastor Amber closed with prayer

m/s/c/ meeting adjourned

WELCA Secretary's Minutes

The Executive Board of Our Saviors Lutheran WELCA met Wednesday, December 7th at 4:30pm. The following board members were present: Deb Schmidt, Virlynn Hanson, Bobbi Mischel and Elva Bustrack.

Deb Schmidt, President, called the meeting to order. The Secretary's report was read and a motion to approve was made by Elva Bustrack, seconded by Bobbi Mischel.

Motion carried. The Treasurer's report was presented and will be put on file for audit.

There was no correspondence.

Old Business:

There was positive feedback on the fall supper. Net Proceeds on the Fall Supper was \$2,121.46.

New Business:

Virlynn has not heard back from the North Star Manor on the birthdays for December yet.

There was discussion on the donations we do this time of year for places in our area.

OSL WELCA donations for 2022

Warren Senior Meals \$100

Northland Rescue Mission \$100

North Star Manor \$100

Concordia College \$100

UND Christus Rex Center \$100

Warren Food Shelf \$100

Marshall Co. Service Unit of Salvation Army \$100

Warren Ministerial \$100

Lutheran Campus Ministries-Moorhead \$100

SOS Program \$100

North Valley Health Center \$100

Christmas gifts: \$300

The Board went over some of the Yellow Book changes when they met. Any further changes to the WELCA information in the Yellow Book should be reported to Deb Schmidt as soon as possible so it can be corrected for the 2023 Yellow Book.

Dates for the WELCA events in 2023 were set and are as follows:

Executive Board meeting, March 1, 2023 @ 4:30PM

Spring Supper, April 19, 2023

Deliver meals on wheels in April

LWR pick-up in May

Executive Board meeting, June 7, 2023 @ 4:30PM

Executive Board meeting, September 6, 2023 @ 4:30PM

Fall Supper, September 20, 2023

Executive Board meeting, December 5, 2023 @ 4:30PM

North Star Manor Christmas Birthday Party, December 2023 (to be set by the North Star Manor, usually the second Tuesday of December) The North Star Manor will provide food for the birthday party since regulations requires food be prepared in a licensed kitchen.)

The next WELCA Board meeting will be Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 4:30 pm in the church lounge.

The meeting was adjourned
Virlynn Hanson, Secretary

Treasure's Report

OSL TREASURER'S REPORT—DECEMBER 2022

General Account

Receipts

General Offering	\$ 93,754.05
Endowment Fund	\$ -480.00
Project 2000/Building Fund	\$ 3,940.00
Missions	\$ -220.00
Youth Group	\$ -550.00
Food Shelf	\$ -96.00
Total Income	\$ 95,898.05

Expenses

Other Missions	\$ 8,500
Salaries/FICA/Pension	\$ 12,555.62
Utilities/Phone/Internet	\$ 1,248.45
Church Repair/Maint.	\$ 3,706.51
Christmas Bonus	\$ 750.00
Continuing Education	\$ 495.00
Office Supplies/Postage	\$ 179.13
Office Repair/Maint.	\$ 660.57
Custodial Supplies	\$ 72.75
Parsonage Repair/Maint.	\$ 651.37
Sunday School	\$ 414.06
Worship Supplies	\$ 615.43
Flowers	\$ -52.00
Bank Service Chg	\$ 7.50

Total Expenses \$ 29,804.39

Net Ordinary Income \$ 66,093.66

Net Income \$ -66,093.66

OSL Accounts

Project 2000/Bldg Fund	\$ 102,388.31
Mission Fund	\$ 4,996.12
Memorial Fund	\$ 17,264.75
General Fund	\$ 307,298.98
Bremer MM Fund	\$ 8,244.21
OSL Bell Ringers	\$ 689.13
OSL Servant Group	\$ 7,617.81
CD	\$ 241,722.40

Thank you everyone for the generosity in 2022!
Whether it was your time, your talents or financial generosity, it all made a difference in our churches. We look forward to an exciting year ahead. Growth in our community, updates in our buildings, equipment and exciting new opportunities lay ahead for OSL & Melo!
Together we will grow as a church in Christ.

thank you

Dec. Offering	Simply Giving	12/4/2022	12/11/2022	12/18/2022	11/24/2022	Total
General	\$ 2,810.00	\$1,597.00	\$ 5,560.00	\$ 22,521.00	\$ 55,002.20	\$87,490.50
Postage		\$ 410.00				
Thanksgiving		\$ 5.00				
Utilities				\$ 250.00		
Proj. 2000/Bldg	\$ 40.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
Endowment	\$ 40.00					
Missions	\$ 20.00					
Total	\$ 2,910.00	\$2,262.00	\$ 5,610.00	\$ 22,831.00	\$ 55,052.20	
Total to General Fund		\$87,490.50				

OUR SAVIOR'S & MELO
LUTHERAN CHURCHES

220 W JOHNSON AVE
WARREN MN 56762

www.oursaviors-melo.org



Lessons for February 2023

Feb 5-You are Light

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Psalm 112:1-9

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Mathew 5:13-20

Feb 19-Transfiguration

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2, 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

Feb 26-Temptations

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Feb 12—You Heard it Said

Deut 30:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

Feb 22— Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21