

OSL & MELO FAITH CONNECTION

Our Savior's & Melo Lutheran Churches

SEPTEMBER
2025

In This Issue.....

Page 2 & 3 — From the Pastor's Desk + Summer Highlights

Page 4 & 5 — Lambs & Lions News + Ministry on the Horizon

Page 6 & 7 — Calendar of Events, Servant Lists, Celebrations

Page 8 & 9 — Council Meeting Minutes + Treasurer's Report

Page 10 — Lessons and Sermon Topics for the Month

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
10:45 am OSL Worship

Television

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

Online

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



**In July, OSL Youth event
planned to help clean at the
museum to prep for the
Marshall County Fair!
Thank you to the youth who
volunteered and
Pastor Amber & Heather.**

Schools that are impacted

EGF Head Start (ages 3-5)
EGF - New Heights Elementary & South Point
Elementary (Preschool-5th Grade)
Riverside Christian (Preschool-5th Grade)
Fisher & Climax Elementary (Preschool-5th
Grade)
Warren Elementary (Preschool-5th Grade)
Thank You for helping to keep our kids warm
& dry!! Totes will be picked up around
Nov. 1st & delivered to the schools. For any
questions, please contact Cindy Barrett 701-
741-1651 or email clbarrett360@gmail.com.
Please make check donations to Cindy to
purchase the items, not Thrivent.

Keeping our school kids warm

It is that time of year to help the area Elementary Schools,
keep our kids warm & dry thru the winter, with supplies that
they run short of. Cindy Barrett is in charge of this project along
with help from Thrivent Financial. She works with many area
churches to fill this need for area schools!

Ways to help

Bring the needed items to your church & fill the tote left at your
church. You can also help by donating money & we will
purchase the items needed.

Supplies needed

****Waterproof mittens (size med-Large) & Warm hats****

unisex black stretch pants

Black stockings size 0-10

**Boys & girls underwear (due to
bathroom accidents) size 3-10**



From the Pastor's Desk

The program year is almost back, and we've got work to do!

This fall, both OSL and Melo are going to be participating in a program called Rural Revival, which is run by the NWMN Synod. It is a program devoted to enhancing the general health and resiliency, as well as innovation and vitality, of congregations with special attention on small-member rural congregations like us. We will be guided in discernment of who we have been, who we are, and how God may be calling us to join him in his work in the wider community of Warren and beyond.

Leading this process will be Pr Rebel Hurd, the NWMN Synod's Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) as well as the Associate to the Bishop for Mission, and Pr Melissa Pickering, who is a colleague of mine and a Mission Developer. They have really helped congregations in our neck of the woods to think creatively and respond faithfully to God's calling, and I am excited to hear the perspectives they'll bring for us to consider.

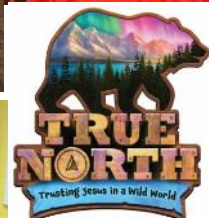
I see this program as a great way to help us consider how we are being called to live into our mission of "striving to Seek God, Share God's Gifts, and Love God's People." I hope you'll join in the conversations and help us to keep moving forward as communities of faith, saved by God's grace.

*Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Amber Kalina*

Ps. A note about being wary of scams: Scammers love to pose as pastors and other church staff members, hoping to capitalize on the trust we have built with each other. Over the summer, our office got an email from someone posing as me (Pr Amber), asking our office manager to buy gift cards and then list the gift card codes in a response email. Pretending to be a pastor or church leader to get gift cards or bank information are common scams carried out against churches and church goers. Please know that a true staff member or leader at OSL/Melo will never ask you to make such purchases or ask for your personal credit card or banking information. If you ever get suspicious messages like these, do not respond to them. Instead, call the church office or me to report the scam attempt. This way we can help keep each other informed and safe.

Summer Ministry Highlights!

**ABSOLUTELY AWESOME
TIME AT VBS!!**



**VBS
FUN!**

Thank you to all who made
this event a success~organizers,
decorators, volunteers, etc.
You all are appreciated. A job
well done!!



Lambs & Lions

Melo Sunday School Note

Due to personal scheduling and our current numbers we have decided to do every Sunday with singing after church and rotate every other Sunday with adding a lesson after singing. If it says "singing" we are just singing those days. If it has "singing/lesson" we will also do a lesson. We go off the schools "no school". So if there is a Monday without school we will not have Sunday school that Sunday before. We will also follow the churches standing when it comes to weather. Thank you for understanding and if you have questions please reach out to either one of us.

Thank you, Miranda & Kelli



Rally Sunday September 21, 2025

*Sunday School starts!

9:30 at OSL & 10:00 at Melo!

*During worship Pastor Amber will be blessing the backpacks.

*Kids Will Sing during worship at OSL



CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE!

7th & 8th Grade
will meet most Wednesdays
At 5:45 PM -7:45 PM
Starting September 17th

9th Grade
Will meet Sunday
September 21st at Noon

10th Grade
Will meet Sunday
September 14th at Noon



Confirmation
Parents
Meeting!!

Sunday, September 7th at
5:30 PM at OSL

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

9/7 - Macey Boe & Kenley Marquis

9/14 - Malley Maurstad & Nora Ottersetetter

9/21 - Rielly Clark & Leo Johnson

9/28 - Macey Boe & Olivia Woinarowicz

Ministry on the Horizon

RURAL REVIVAL SUNDAYS

SEPT 28th, Pr. Rebel Hurd,
Associate to the Bishop of the NWMN
Synod, will be joining us for worship to
talk about the program.

SAVE THE DATE - OCTOBER 12

Pr Melissa Pickering, Mission Developer,
will be with us to start us on the process of
discernment. Stay tuned for information
about the forum(s) she will be leading.

Lydia-Phoebe Circle
At North Star Manor
Wednesday, September 10th At
1:30 PM



Bible Study!

Sept. 8th & 22nd at 10 AM at
OSL!

All are welcome, please join us!

Drawn to the Word, September 28th

Come and be part of this amazing, artistic worship
experience, where we will see the words of scripture
come to life on the canvas. As we join in worship,
Artist and Pastor Paul Oman will be painting a
captivating mural for our fellowship hall right before
our eyes, based on the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000
with his disciples. You won't want to miss this!

Come and see!

5:00pm – Soup Supper

5:45pm – Worship with Paul Oman

Quilting!

OSL/Melo Quilters meet on Tuesdays from
1-4 PM at OSL, starting Sept 16th!
All skill levels are welcome to join in on the fun!

FREE WILL OFFERING
MELO LUTHERAN CHURCH



FALL
Dinner

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
SERVING FROM 11AM - 1PM

HAM, SCALLOPED POTATOES, CORN,
DINNER ROLL & DESSERT
COFFEE, WATER, LEMONADE

CRAFT & BAKE SALE



September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 LABOR DAY! Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6
7 Holy Communion Melo Fall Dinner 11-1 10:45AM OSL Worship 5:30 PM Confirmation Parents Meeting at OSL	8 1 10:00 AM Bible Study OSL Library TBD - W&E meeting 6:00 PM Ed Committee meeting	9	10 1:30 PM Lydia-Phoebe Circle at NS Manor 7:00 PM -Meeting with Financial Advisor	11	12	13
14 9:00 AM Melo Worship 10:15 OSL Coffee 10:45AM OSL Worship Noon- 10th Grade Confirmation	15 Pastor Amber at Fall Theological	16 1:00 PM Quilting at OSL	17 5:45-7:00 PM 7th/8th Grade Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir at OSL	18	19	20
21 Holy Communion Rally Sunday/Blessing of Backpacks 9:00 AM Melo Worship 9:30 AM OSL Sunday School 10:00 AM Melo Sunday School 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:45AM OSL Worship Noon - 9th Grade Confirmation	22 10:00 AM Bible Study OSL Library	23 1:00 PM Quilting at OSL	24 5:45-7:00 PM 7th/8th Grade Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir at OSL 7:45 PM Bell Choir	25	26	27
28 Pr. Rebel Hurd, Associate to the Bishop of the MWMN Synod, preaching 9:00 AM Melo Worship 9:30 AM OSL Sunday School 10:00 AM Melo Sunday School 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:45AM OSL Worship 5:00 PM Soup Supper 5:45 PM Worship with Paul Oman (Drawn to the Word)	29 7:00 PM OSL Council Meeting	30 1:00 PM Quilting at OSL				

September

Happy Birthday!!!!

9/1 - Ashley Vongroven
 9/2 - Layla Nybladh
 9/5 - Jesse Kilen
 Herb Maurstad
 Traci Pollestad
 9/6 - RuthAnn Johnson
 9/7 - Sarah Lura
 Grant Peterson
 9/10 - Wayne Torgerson
 9/11 - Easton Johnson
 Mason Wang
 9/12 - Bev Clausen
 9/14 - Tony Johnson
 9/15 - Mike DuBore
 Dean Chandler
 9/17 - Mike Flaten
 Carol Kilen
 9/18 - Ava Nybladh
 Shirley Vansickle

9/19 - Elva Bustrack
 9/20 - Lola Vongroven
 9/22 - Arlys Trudell
 9/23 - Casey Pierce
 9/26 - Julie Dahlman
 9/27 - Roger Mischel
 Bruce Nelson
 9/28 - Jared Wohlers
 9/29 - Linda Conely
 Don Stinar
 Loren Zutz



Happy Anniversary!

9/3 - Randy & Wanda Gubrud
 9/4 - Todd & Kathy Kleinvachter
 9/8 - Mylo & Marlene Carlson
 9/12 - Robert & Gail Hamrick
 9/15 - Pete & Virlynn Hanson
 Matt & Ally Linder
 Ed & Jodi Gulden
 9/17 - Maynard & JoAnn Laymon
 Dustin & Katie Jo Marquis
 9/20 - Ken & Jennifer Palm
 9/25 - Rick & Bette Solberg
 9/26 - Jim & Patti Myrfield
 Ben & Kiley Hamrick
 9/27 - Tim & Bonnie Howard
 9/29 - Dan & Carie DeLisle
 9/30 - Aaron & Brenna Olson



September Servants

September 7

Lector:

Usher: Open

Coffee: Paused-start next week

September 21-Rally Sunday

Lector: Mike Miller

Usher: Mike Miller

Coffee: Donna Miller

September 14

Lector: Open

Usher: Open

Coffee: Laura Nyblad &
 Lonna Nyblad

September 28

Lector: Ron Leverington

Usher: Ron Leverington

Coffee: Jean Leverington



Melo Custodians: Aug 31- Sept 7 John Halsa / Sept 14-21 Ben Hamrick/ Sept 28-Oct 5 Donnie & Linda Hamrick

OSL Council August 18th, Meeting Minutes

Members present: Betty DuBore, Donna Miller, Katie Benson, Wanda Gubrud, Wayne Torgerson, Pastor Amber Kalina. Absent: Brittney Palm, Dustin Marquis.
The meeting was called to order by President Katie Benson at 7:00 pm. Pastor Amber opened with devotions from an adaptation of Psalm 84.

Agenda & Previous Meeting Minutes: Pastor Amber asked to add 'Northlands Mission' to New Business. Wayne moved to approve the minutes and agenda with the addition; Betty seconded; motion passed.

Reports

Treasurer's Report: Income included a \$5K donation from the Warren Food Shelf in support of the Backpack program. CD #2 matures on Aug 26. Betty moved to renew the CD plus the interest earned (\$110,507.79 total) for 5 mo. at 4.05%; Donna seconded; motion passed. Donna moved to approve the treasurer's report; Wayne seconded; motion passed.

Worship and Evangelism: Committee met on Aug 11. Altar guild for Sept-Oct: Bev and Joan; Nov-Dec: Darby Boe. Pastor and Joan will pick hymns for September. Joan will attend a Poppler's music workshop on Aug 13. Confirmation Sunday is Oct 26 (Reformation Sunday). The Candlelight service will be on Dec 14 and the community will be invited to participate. The Christmas Eve service will be at 4:30 pm on Dec 24. The summer worship evening service has had very low attendance and next summer it may be moved to Monday evenings 1x per month.

Education & Youth: VBS was held on Aug 4-7 and went very well, with about 50 kids attending. Guests helping out were: Gladwin Lynne (lesson on bears), Brian Wurtzel (lesson on how to build a campfire) and a co-worker of Jeremy Woinarowicz from the DNR brought animal pelts and shared information. Sts. Peter & Paul borrowed decorations for their VBS. Parents of eight Sunday school families have agreed to teach 1x per month. Printed lessons from the Spark lectionary will be used instead of the online lesson plan. Rally Sunday is set for Sept 21, with plans for a meal following worship. Confirmation begins Sept 17 from 5:45-7 pm. The Sunday School Christmas program will be on Dec 21. Katie Jo and Katie have plans to clean and organize the rooms and supplies. A large second-hand conference table was purchased and will provide more room for lessons and crafts. The committee is looking at purchasing some new prints for the hallway.

Property & Mgmt/Tech: Miller Electric will be meeting with LS Integrators to test the fire alarm system and bring online. Narthex benches were reupholstered and valances were recovered with the new fabric. A new rinse aid pump for the dishwasher has been sourced and Joel will install it. Shades for the narthex north windows will be installed soon so we have the option of lowering them when desired. Joel installed a lever from the basement sump pit to enable switching the drainage to the storm drain; this completes the drainage project. Randy sowed grass seed where the lawn was torn up and is watering.

Stewardship/Outreach: Committee didn't meet; Betty will organize a meeting in September.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Amber attended the ELCA church-wide assembly Jul 28-Aug 2 and voted on the election of a new Bishop, whom she was acquainted with as an instructor of hers at seminary. She informed that she helped lead VBS, did 10 homebound/hospital visits, presided at one wedding and one funeral. She'll conduct the final summer evening worship on Aug 18. Pastor Amber has been planning Confirmation activities and will host a parent meeting soon. She'll take vacation Aug 25-27. She continues with planning and leading a book study on the Building Bridges committee. Ongoing activities: begin teaching Confirmation, attend several monthly meetings, visit homebound/hospitalized, conduct Sunday worship services and Monday morning bible study, continue working with the Pathways/Camp Emmaus board, and crafting facebook posts. Activities she's leading and we're moving along with are listed in Ongoing Business.

Wayne moved to approve the committee reports; Betty seconded; motion passed.

Ongoing Business

+Drawn to the Word: Pastor Paul Oman is scheduled to come on the evening of Sunday, Sept 28. He will paint a canvas to be installed on the south basement wall. Council decided on a theme of 'Feeding the 5000' and 48" x 72" for the size of the painting. We will need to assemble the canvas, plan a service and advertise.

+Rural Revival: Pastor Rebel Hurd (Assistant to the Bishop) will preach on Sunday, Sept 28 to introduce the subject and describe the process at both Melo and OSL. Pastor Melissa Pickering will join worship on Sunday, Oct 12. Following the service there will be a forum to explain the program and she will do some interviews. We may provide a simple meal for attendees.

+WAO School Summer Meal Program: The program is wrapping up. There are funds remaining and Katie is conferring with Supt. Hackbarth on how we want to proceed; possibly they can carryover the funds for next summer's meal program or use them in another way for feeding children at WAO.

+Church Financial Planner: Pastor Amber reached out to Rebecca Palmgren from the ELCA Foundation who specializes in providing info/guidance on how to manage funds over and above what's required to keep in reserve for church operations. Council will meet with her in Sept to discuss ideas, inviting the Endowment Cmte and a few members with a

July Treasurer's Report

General Account

Receipts

General Offering	\$ 16,647.57
Backpack Program	\$ 5,000.00
Endowment Fund	\$ 40.00
Project 2000/Building Fund	\$ 440.00
Missions	\$ 20.00
Youth Group	\$ 150.00
Total Income	\$ 22,297.57

Expenses

Salaries/Pension/FICA	\$ 11,246.34
Pastor's Mileage Expense	\$ 400.26
Utilities/Phone/Internet	\$ 566.99
Church Repair/Maint.	\$ 1,951.20
Worship Supplies	\$ 268.90
Music & Choir	\$ 51.95
Office Supplies/Postage	\$ 230.28
Office Repair/Maint.	\$ 204.12
Pulpit Supply	\$ 245.65
Custodial Supplies	\$ 87.84
Groundskeepers	\$ 1,040.00
Sunday School Expense	\$ 958.50
Staff Development	\$ 290.00
Bank Service Chg	\$ 8.50
Total Expenses	\$ 17,550.53
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 4,747.04

OSL Accounts

General Fund	\$ 439,168.25
Memorial Fund	\$ 22,681.93
Mission Fund	\$ 5,891.96
OSL Bell Ringers	\$ 711.40
OSL Servant Group	\$ 10,920.41
Project 2000/Bldg Fund	\$ 95,858.19
Bremer MM Fund	\$ 97,520.22
CD #1	\$ 254,429.87
CD#2	\$ 107,432.29
Total	\$1,034,614.52

Your Giving Makes an Impact Beyond Us!

Did you know that OSL & Melo donate money each year to support the work of the NWMN Synod? Through supporting our synod, we participate in being Church together, not just church by ourselves. Our support helps out other congregations that are just getting started, ministries that serve students and people facing poverty, and initiatives that spark new ideas and equip new leaders (just to name a few). Just another way to show how our generosity makes an impact!



OSL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED:

background in finance/financial planning to attend the meeting.

+Sanctuary Renovation: Paster Amber sent pictures of the sanctuary to Brian Henning, a designer of religious spaces, but he hasn't responded since the initial email. She then contacted Comstock Construction who are experienced in church sanctuary renovation and willing to assist us. We're looking at options for increasing space and functionality, particularly in the front of the sanctuary.

New Business

+Church Rental Fees: Fees haven't been adjusted for many years and we'll consider updating them, in particular rental by non-members. Council will look at the current amounts and discuss at the next meeting.

+Date of September Council Meeting: Pastor Amber will be attending a church function on Sept 15. We'll postpone the next meeting until Sept 29.

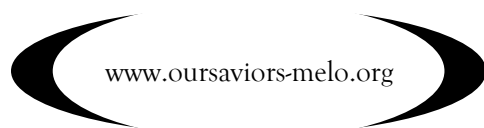
+Northlands Rescue Mission: Pastor Amber was approached by a member about the dire financial straits the Mission recently found themselves in. They have since received donations to keep operations going but are often in need of funding. A motion was made by Donna to give \$4K from the budgeted amount for Mission donations to Northlands Mission in support of their programming; Wayne seconded; motion passed.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Betty moved to adjourn; Donna seconded; motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. Next meeting: September 29, 2025, at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wanda Gubrud

OUR SAVIOR'S & MELO
LUTHERAN CHURCHES

220 W JOHNSON AVE
WARREN MN 56762



Lessons for September 2025

September 7- Creation by the Word

Psalm 8
Genesis 1:1-2:4a
John 1:1-5

September 14-Binding of Isaac

Psalm 40:4-8
Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14
John 1:19-23, 29

September 21- Jacob's Dream

Rally Sunday

Psalm 47
Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17
John 1:43-51

September 28-God's Name is Revealed

Psalm 5:1-6, 11-12
Exodus 2:12-25; 3:1-1-15; 4:10-17
John 8:48-59

