

OSL & MELO FAITH CONNECTION

JANUARY
2026

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

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

Page 6 & 7 — Calendar of Events, Celebrations & WELCA December meeting minutes

Page 8 & 9 — Council Meeting Minutes + Treasures Report + Servant Lists

Page 10 — Lessons and Sermon Topics for the Month

Pastor

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OSL Custodian

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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 Sjöberg's
Channel 13

Online

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



Candlelight Service at OSL.
Thank you to everyone who made
this event a wonderful success!

From the Pastor's Desk

"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'" - Revelation 21:5

Whenever we cross into a new year, there seems to be a big emphasis on making things new for ourselves: through setting goals or planning trips; through trying out new activities or planning new undertakings; through entertaining thoughts that "this year will be THE year, the best year yet."

When we hear God talking about bringing in the new, though, such as we find in the above verse from Revelation, God's focus is not on himself but on the world. God concocts ways to renew the face of the earth and to wipe away tears from all faces and to bring joy that makes gloom and hardship a distant memory. When God sets out to do something new, it is the world and his creation that he has in mind.

As we enter this new year, what could it look like for us to orient our plans and hopes and endeavors toward making things new for the world, as God is doing? Perhaps we could make plans to bring joy to our neighbors, or we could make goals that entail sharing God's love. Maybe we could try out speaking words that encourage and build others up instead of tearing them down, or we could look for different organizations to volunteer at. Such things could bring newness to the world, a bit of brightness to shine through the winter dimness.

Hoping that there will be an abundance of refreshing newness in this new year, for us and for the entire world.

*Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Amber Kalina*



December Ministry Highlights!



Bell Choir provided music at North Star Manor birthday party.

OSL Bell Choir performed at Candlelight Ser-



Melo and OSL Sunday School Programs were held on December 21st! Thank you to all the kiddos & Sunday School teachers, helpers & parents!



Lambs & Lions



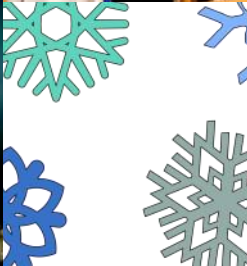
Youth group did a cookie baking event & provided treats at Candlelight Service on December 14. Thank you!

9th Grade Confirmation
Sunday, January 25th
TBD

Confirmation for
7th & 8th Grade
Resumes Wednesday at
5:45 PM on January 7th.
No class on January 28th

January Acolytes

- Jan 4** – Sophia Wurtzel & Ava Nybladh
- Jan 11** – Camdyn Carlson & Chandler Klassy
- Jan 18** – Emma Dahlman & Olivia Woinarowicz
- Jan 25** – Kaley Boe & Brinley Bring



OSL Sunday School
Christmas program
was awesome!
Great job!



Ministry On the Horizon!

RURAL REVIVAL JANUARY 18th at OSL

Pr. Melissa Pickering will be joining us again to present ideas for ways that we as OSL and Melo can be ministering to the people of Warren. There will be one worship service at OSL at 10:45 AM, and Pr. Melissa will give her presentation over lunch afterward.

Bell Choir!

If you are interested in joining bell choir please contact Bobbi Mischel! 218-201-0124



OSL quilters made 25 quilts that were donated to Marshall County Social Services at Christmas time and also 12 quilts to donated to Care & Share in Crookston.



Annual Meeting Info

Annual meetings at OSL and Melo will be held on **January 25th!** Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

If you have committee reports to turn in please do that ASAP.

Deadline is Friday, January 16th by end of the day.

HAPPY
New Year

Start the new year off By joining us for Monday morning Bible study!

ALTERNATING MONDAY MORNINGS:
BIBLE STUDY AT 10AM

SEE CALENDAR FOR SPECIFIC DATES.



JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			3	1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2	3
4 HOLY COMMUNION 9:00 AM Melo Worship NO OSL Sunday School NO Melo Sunday School 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:45 AM OSL Worship	5 6:00 P.M. Ed committee	6 1:00 PM Quilting	7 5:45-7PM 7th/8th Grade Conf.	8	9	10
11 9:00 AM Melo Worship 9:30 AM OSL Sunday School 10:00 AM Melo Sunday School 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:45 AM OSL Worship	12 10:00 AM Bible Study OSL Library W&E - TBD 7:00 PM OSL Budget Planning meeting	13 1:00 PM Quilting 7:00 PM Melo Budget meeting at OSL	14 5:45-7PM 7th/8th Grade Conf.	15	16	17
18 HOLY COMMUNION 9:30 AM OSL Sunday School NO Melo Sunday School 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:45 AM Joint Worship Service at OSL-Rural Revival with Pr. Melissa. Forum to follow worship and lunch..	19 7:00 PM OSL Council	20 1:00 PM Quilting	21 5:45-7PM 7th/8th Grade Conf.	22	23	24
25 Annual Meetings 9:00 AM Melo devotional with meeting to follow 9:30 AM OSL Sunday School 10:00 AM Melo Sunday School 10:15 AM OSL Coffee 10:45 AM OSL Worship & Sunday School Kids Sing. Meeting following worship. Noon: 9th Grade Confirmation - TBD	26 Pastor Amber away at continuing education	27 1:00 PM Quilting	28	29	30	

1 - Deborah Erickson
Kim Kostrzewski
Patti Myrfield
2 - Chris Bodell
3 - Kevin Hamrick
4 - Hollie Cheney
6 - Wyatt Bishop
7 - Madeline DuBore
Jim Folz
Alex Hamrick
8 - Preston Solberg
Hayden Sellers
Alice Swanson
9 - Shannon Hamrick
13 - Pam Wohlers
14 - Owen Wittman
16 - Madeline Wurtzel
17 - Virlynn Hanson
21 - Jackie Maurstad
Brooke Miller
24 - Julia Goroski
Joan Peterson
26 - Evan Mattson
28 - Ariana Hanel



Melo Custodian

Jan 4-25 - Pete & Sandra Solvik

*Thank
You*



1-Jeff & Pam Wohlers
13 - Dave & Mary Balzum
31- Jon & Ilene Slusar

*Best Wishes
and may
God Bless you!*

**If your birthday or anniversary
is incorrect or missing,
please notify the church office.*

WELCA Secretary's Minutes for December 4, 2025

The Executive Board of Our Saviors Lutheran WELCA connected by phone Thursday, December 4, 2025. The following board members participated: Deb Schmidt, Virlynn Hanson and Bobbi Mischel. Deb Schmidt, President, called the meeting to order. The Secretary's report was sent by phone and will be printed in the church newsletter. The Treasurer's report was sent by phone and will be put on file for audit.

Old Business: Deb reported that there was no old business except the Spring Supper had gone well and the profit on the supper was \$1,801.17.

New Business: There was a motion by Bobbi Mischel, seconded by Virlynn Hanson to give the same Christmas gifts as 2024. Motion carried.

There was a motion by Bobbi Mischel, seconded by Virlynn Hanson to give the same donations as 2024. Motion carried.

OSL WELCA donations and gifts for 2025: 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(OSL Pastor, Sec and OSL Custodian)

Dates for the WELCA events in 2026 were set and are as follows:

Spring Supper, April 22, 2026; Deliver meals on wheels in April; LWR pick-up in May; Executive Board meeting, March 4, 2026 @ 3:30PM; Executive Board meeting, June 3, 2026 @ 3:30PM; Executive Board meeting, September 2, 2026 @ 3:30PM; North Star Manor November Birthday Party, (be set by the North Star Manor,) The North Star Manor will provide food for the birthday party since regulations requires food be prepared in a licensed kitchen.); Executive Board meeting, December 2, 2026 @ 3:30PM

The next WELCA Board meeting will be Wednesday, March 4, 2025 at 3:30 pm at the Assisted Living Meeting room or by phone. The meeting was adjourned.

Virlynn Hanson, Secretary



OSL Council December 2025 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Betty DuBore, Brittney Palm, Donna Miller, Katie Benson, Wanda Gubrud, Pastor Amber Kalina. Absent: Dustin Marquis, Wayne Torgerson. Also attending: Amanda Liebersbach.

The meeting was called to order by President Katie Benson at 7:03 pm. Pastor Amber opened with sharing of the joy that people felt at the promise of the coming of Jesus, and invited sharing about what particular joy or anticipation of the season we're feeling.

Agenda & Previous Meeting Minutes: Donna moved to approve the previous minutes and this month's agenda with the addition of Christmas Bonuses to New Business; Brittney seconded; motion carried.

Reports

Treasurer's Report: Amanda reported the Ministry Growth Fund investment (\$275K) is now in the OSL account with the ELCA Foundation, and she's able to check the balance/activity online. She informed that the Minnesota Family Leave Act goes into effect in January and we're required to contribute a percentage towards the fund. All donations approved by Council for 2025 have been paid out. Brittney moved to approve the treasurer's report; Donna seconded; motion carried.

Worship and Evangelism: Cmte met to finalize plans for the Candlelight and Christmas Eve services. Battery powered candles will need to be checked.

Education & Youth: Cmte met Dec 1. Sunday School Christmas program practice is going well. Katie is lining up people to prepare the meal and will ask SS parents to make cupcakes and help serve/cleanup. Katie Jo has ordered some new costumes/headbands and will make up 60 goodie bags with popcorn balls contributed by Kristal Walen. Shelly will order gifts and the next Spark curriculum. Sharing tree gifts for three children will be purchased with the SS offering. Next meeting is Jan 5.

Property/Tech: New north and east entry doors were installed Nov 25. A kickplate was installed on the west door to cover rust spots. Holders for the center aisle candelabra were constructed and installed in the altar storeroom. The fire alarm system is completely online and a monitoring agreement with LSI is in place. A new commercial vacuum was purchased. Ducky plans to remove the grand piano during the holidays.

Stewardship/Outreach: Committee met Nov 24 to brainstorm ideas for future activities. They plan to organize an adult group to join with the youth at the Feed My Starving Children event in the spring.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Amber officiated at a wedding on Dec 6 and presided at two graveside services for Former Warren residents. She attended a Candidacy committee meeting with the Synod on Dec 11. She participated in several performances at the Candlelight service and is leading a study of Magnifying the Magnificat during Advent. She's preparing for the Christmas Eve service and the Annual Meeting and continues with homebound/hospital visits, teaching Confirmation and her many ongoing monthly activities.

Betty moved to approve the committee reports; Donna seconded; motion carried.

Ongoing Business

+Rural Revival: Pastor Melissa Pickering (NWMN Synod Rural Ministry Mission) will be conducting interviews with 12 OSL and Melo members & families in early January to learn who we are as a community of faith and will report on her findings on Jan 18. A meal of soup and bread will follow worship.

+ELCA Foundation Investment: Account has been established with \$275K from the General Fund in the Ministry Growth Fund of the ELCA Foundation. The balance will be listed in the monthly treasurer's report.

+Sanctuary Renovation: Diagrams with options for increasing sanctuary space, functionality and accessibility were shared with Council. A preliminary cost estimate was received and discussed. A diagram will be displayed in the narthex soon for the perusal of members and information will be shared.

+New Members: There are two individuals and two families who have expressed interest in becoming members of OSL. New Member Sunday is planned for Jan 11 (tentatively).

New Business

+New Council Members: There are one or two prospective members to join Council in 2026 and others are being sought to replace outgoing members.

+Christmas Bonuses: Pastor Amber left the meeting so that Council could set amounts for staff gifts.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Brittney moved to adjourn; Betty seconded; motion carried, and meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm. Next meeting: January 19, 2026, at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Gubrud

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT—NOVEMEBER 2025



General Account

Receipts

General Offering	\$ 7,690.50
Backpack Program	\$ 1,700.00
Project 2000/Building Fund	\$ 1,690.00
Endowment Fund	\$ 40.00
Missions	\$ 20.00
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$ 11,140.50</u>

Expenses

Backpack Mission	\$ 77.97
Salaries/FICA/Pension	\$ 14,617.14
Pastor's Mileage	\$ 315.28
Utilities/Phone/Internet	\$ 458.34
Church Repair/Maint.	\$ 197.25
Sunday School	\$ 59.99
Confirmation	\$ 107.65
Worship Supplies	\$ 529.53
Music & Choir	\$ 251.99
Office Supplies/Postage	\$ 308.24
Custodial Supplies	\$ 71.49
Bank Service Chg	\$ 3.00

<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 16,997.87</u>
<u>Net Ordinary Income</u>	<u>\$ -5,857.37</u>
<u>Net Income</u>	<u>\$ -5,857.37</u>

Other OSL Accounts

General Fund	\$ 81,711.38
Memorial Fund	\$ 23,191.54
Mission Fund	\$ 5,894.42
Bell Ringers	\$ 711.69
OSL Servant Group	\$ 11,163.31
Project 2000/Bldg Fund	\$ 95,872.76
Money Market	\$ 97,764.67
CD#1	\$ 258,749.25
CD#2	\$ 110,507.79
ELCA Endowment Fund	\$ 275,000.00
Total	\$ 960,566.81



OSL Members

If you are using numbered offering envelopes, please pick them up from the table in the narthex if you haven't yet done so. Of note, the envelopes are now not dated so boxes will last longer & members who were not using envelopes currently can choose to use our "generic" envelopes. These also are on the table in the narthex. If you use these and put cash in them, you must write your name on these envelopes.

Thank you!

If you are interested in online giving please contact Shelly in the office about our Simply Giving program.

January Servants

January 4th - Lector: None Coffee: Shelly Conely Usher: Bob Conely

January 11th - Lector: Ruann Deschene Coffee: Julie Dahlman Usher: Todd Dahlman

January 18th - Lector: Ruann Deschene Coffee: Breena Olson & Shelly Conely Usher: Bob Conely

January 25th - Lector: Ruann Deschene Coffee: Brenna Olson & Shawn Spidahl Usher: Bob Conely

Servant Groups

Servant groups need volunteers for 2026!

If you are willing to help serve more than one month, please contact the office.

We are also looking for a chair person for the months of June & December,

If you have ideas or suggestions involving the servant work groups, you can call Shelly in the office, 218-745-4478.

Thank you!

OUR SAVIOR'S & MELO
LUTHERAN CHURCHES

220 W JOHNSON AVE
WARREN MN 56762

www.oursaviors-melo.org

Lessons for January 2026

**Jan. 4 Jesus Says Come and
See**

Psalm 66: 1-7
1 Samuel 16
John 1:35-51

Jan. 11-Wedding at Cana

Psalm 104:10-15
2 Kings 4:1-7
John 2:1-11

**Jan. 18-Jesus Cleanses the
Temple**

Psalm 127:1-2
1 Kings 8:1-11
John 2:13-25

Jan. 25-Nicodemus

Psalm 139:13-18
Numbers 21:4-9
John 3:1-21

