



Operation Christmas Child

This was our third year as a drop off location for Operation Christmas Child on November 17-24. Renae Hoernemann and Anne Frank organized collection week and led the many wonderful volunteers. We had drop-off times every day with **26 people who volunteered 85.5 hours**, including some help from Troop 409. Everyone was greeted, and prayed for and the boxes were prayed over every step of the way. We collected **854 shoe boxes** that were packed from community, Our Savior members, groups and area churches! Thanks to everyone who dropped off their shoeboxes.



Shoe Box Packing Party

Renae and Anne had been busy for several months sorting, counting and organizing in preparation for our shoebox packing event on Wednesday, November 19 that began with a chicken dinner. We served around 120 people for dinner and it was a great time of fellowship before the packing began.



We had approximately **150 people** who helped pack **250 shoeboxes**, including school families and American Heritage Girls. We also had over **27 volunteers**, helping out with the meal and assisting while packing. Thank you to all those who donated, packed and served that night! In total, we had **383 boxes** that our church and school provided to Operation Christmas Child.

Our prayer is that they are a blessing to the children who receive them. Most importantly, we are grateful for the opportunity to send these boxes that share the greatest gift of all, Jesus, with those who have not leaned about Jesus before.

We have already started collecting items for boxes next year. Watch for clearance toys after holidays, Amazon deal days, and school supply sales. They are great times to grab a few extra items for shoeboxes.

Immanuel — God With Us

Advent and Christmas are a wonderful time of year, as we look forward to and anticipate the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. It's the season when we rejoice in the incarnation — God coming to dwell among us. During this time, I am struck by the many names given to our Savior: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Yet the name that resonates with me most deeply is Immanuel — God with us.

This name means so much to me because it reminds me that God came to live among us as a man over 2,000 years ago, and that He continues to dwell with us even today. This is a promise I often need to cling to — and I believe every believer does as well — because there are times in life when we feel alone or forgotten. There are seasons when we struggle and wonder if God even cares. But when we remember that God came to be one of us, and that He still remains with us, we find strength to endure life's greatest difficulties and hope that can never be taken away.

As we enter this wonderful season, let us remember and hold fast to the truth that God is with us, and to find our joy in this season, in the reality that He came to dwell among us long ago, and He remains with us now — no matter our circumstances.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Adam

Weekly Communion

This past summer, we began the practice of celebrating Communion every Sunday. This has been a great blessing to us as a congregation, as we now have the opportunity each week to receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith.

This change has also shaped how the rest of our Sunday mornings look and flow. In the coming month, we will be sending out a short congregational survey to gather your feedback on our Sunday worship experience. Your input will help us continue to grow together in faith and fellowship.

In the meantime, we want to offer a heartfelt thank-you to our Altar Guild and all our Communion setup volunteers for their faithful service. Your dedication and care make it possible for us to celebrate the Lord's Supper each week with reverence and joy.



Christmas Worship



This is Christmas

Celebrating the Heart of Christmas

Choir Cantata
Wed, Dec 3 at 6:30pm

Sanctuary Door #2 or #3  **Our Savior**
LUTHERAN
Excelsior, MN

Advent Worship
Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Dec 10: Christmas Hymn Sing
Dec 17: Holden Evening Prayer

Christmas

Christmas Eve:
3:00 & 5:00pm

Christmas Day:
10:00am



His Name Shall be Called

A Christmas Program presented by Preschool-8th Grade

Sunday, Dec 21 at 9:45am

Birthday cake for Jesus to follow

 **Our Savior**
LUTHERAN
Excelsior, MN

23290 Highway 7, Excelsior
Doors #2, #3

They shall call His name Immanuel
(which means, God with us). Matthew 1:23b

His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6b.



Sunday, December 28

Please note that there will be a single 10:00am service after Christmas on December 28.



Single Rally Day Worship
Sunday, Sept 7, 2025
10:00am Outdoor Worship
Potluck Lunch to Follow





Youth & Children's Ministry

As we look back over the past few months, we have so much to celebrate! This fall has been full of energy, faith, and fun. Each of the Sunday morning Bible studies and Confirmation classes was a time to come together and learn about Jesus and our faith.

October 11, our youth attended **Youth Day at Concordia University, St. Paul**, joining hundreds of students from around the MN South District in worship, games, and small group sectionals. It was a great reminder that we are remade in Christ through our baptism (2 Corinthians 5:17).

On October 25, our church parking lot was filled with laughing, young children dressed in fantastic costumes, and of course, candy during our annual **Trunk or Treat** event. Thank you to everyone who decorated trunks, donated candy, and welcomed families from our church, school and community. It was a joy to see so many smiling faces.

We also hosted our semi-annual **Scrapbooking Fundraiser** on November 11, where our youth set up the room, provided meals, and served those who had purchased space to spend the day working on scrapbooking projects. Those who attend love supporting our upcoming youth events. A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped make the event a success!

Growth Groups

Pastor Fred, along with a committee of four, has been blessed to see the Growth Group ministry expand this fall from four to 11 groups. We now have 99 adults participating in Growth Groups. As our fall study, "Every One His Witness," wraps up, the groups will find new Bible Studies to continue to grow in faith, serve and encourage one another.

If you are interested in joining a Growth Group either as a participant or a facilitator, please contact Pastor Fred. They are a great way to grow closer together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

1 Thess. 5:11 *"Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."*

Ensuring the Safety of Our Savior

Over the past few months, we have witnessed several tragic acts of violence directed toward schools and churches across our nation. These events remind us of the importance of being proactive in protecting our congregation, students, and staff.

Two months ago, we began discussions with Kingswood Security Consulting—a company that partners with nonprofit organizations—about conducting a security assessment. After much conversation with Kingswood, as well as thoughtful consideration among our staff and Board of Directors, we made the decision to move forward and engage their services.

Kingswood Security Consulting assessed our current safety measures and provided recommendations to ensure our campus is as secure as possible, both during the week and on Sunday mornings. Our goal is to provide a safe environment for everyone who gathers here to worship, learn, and serve.



Sunday Volunteers

Our Savior has numerous volunteer opportunities each Sunday morning at worship. You may have noticed ushers, greeters, readers, acolytes, sound, slide, and camera operators. We also have faithful choir and chime members, Praise Team participants, Altar Guild members, and fellowship hosts.

If you are not serving in one of these roles already, please consider your gifts and talents and how you could begin participating. Contact Pastor Fred at Fred.Limmel@oslcs.org and he can get you started.

Our Savior School

Infant: 8

Toddler: 14

Preschool (3 yr olds): 10

Preschool (4 yr olds): 17

Kick Start Kindergarten: 9

We plan on opening a second toddler aged room in the fall of 2026. We currently have one room with students 16 months-33 months. With the addition of a second classroom, one will be 16 -24 months and the other would be 24-33 months.

Some recent and upcoming events include:

- ◆ Field Trip to the Minnetonka Apple Orchard
- ◆ Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Event November 19
- ◆ A Christmas Program on December 17
- ◆ Field Trip to Stages Theater in January to see "Giraffes Can't Dance"



TRUNK OR TREAT

October, 26
4:30-6:00pm



Town Hall Meeting

There will be a Town Hall Meeting on **Sunday, December 7 at 9:30am** in the Fellowship Hall. We will hear the results of the Pre-Campaign Feasibility Study from Cargill and Associates.



Christmas Un-decorating

What goes up, must come down. Please consider helping take down the Christmas decorations on **Saturday, January 10 beginning at 9:00am**

GriefShare

If you or someone you know are grieving due to the death of a loved one, prayerfully consider attending a new session of GriefShare. A new session will begin on **Sunday, January 25 from 1:00-3:00pm** with Lori Kroll and Lorraine Johnson facilitating these conversations. You will be encouraged and blessed through this caring ministry.

Harvest Pack Servant Event

Join us on **Wednesday, January 28** for dinner at 5:30pm. At 6:00pm there will be instructions for packing healthy vitamin enriched oatmeal packs that are given to our local food shelves. Join us in helping to feed our neighbors. This is a great opportunity to be hands-on as we serve together.



Parent's Night Out

Parents, drop off your kids (ages 9 months+) on **Friday, February 6 from 6:00-8:30pm** for a night of games and fun in the gym with the Our Savior Youth while you enjoy an evening out!



Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026

Bible Studies

In the new year, please consider joining a Bible study to deepen your relationship with Jesus and with one another. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Sunday Bible Study—**Promises** at 9:30am, Room B06 with Pastor Fred

Sunday Men's Bible Study—**Sharing Jesus without Fear** at 9:30am, Room B04 with Roger Martin, Randy Christy, Bentley Graves

Monday—*NEW* An in-depth look at **Hebrews** at 3:30pm, Conference Room with Sandy Blumenschein

Tuesday Women's Bible Study—Stand alone sessions on the theme of **Equipping to Serve** from 1:00-2:30pm will resume on March 3 in the Fellowship Hall with Elaine Tagatz

Wednesday **Zoom** Bible Study—10:00am with Pastor Fred

Thursday **Online** Bible Study—9:00pm with Pastor Adam

Friday Men's Study—**Angels** at 6:15am at Perkins in Chaska with Pastor Fred. Stay for Breakfast afterwards!

Prayer Requests

You are invited to fill out a yellow prayer card and put it in the offering plate on Sundays. From there, the cards are shared with the Our Savior Prayer Chain. This group of 77 dedicated prayer warriors prays for your requests along with other prayers received at Prayers@oslcs.org.



A Time for Prayer

On Thursdays at 11:00 am, we host a weekly Time for Prayer on Zoom. We encourage you to pray with us. We pray over the congregation, its ministries, the yellow prayer cards, and other prayers that arise throughout the week. If you would like to join us, please reach out to Pastor Fred.

Christian Care

Jesus desires to use the gifts He has given to you in time, talent, and treasure in the support of those in our midst at Our Savior. Over the past quarter, members of this church have served in various capacities, including chauffeurs, meal preparation, and movers. If you would like to be a part of the care needs of this congregation, please contact Pastor Fred, and he can share upcoming opportunities.



Operation Christmas Child
SHOEBOX PACKING EVENT



Wednesday, Nov 19
5:30pm Supper
6:15pm Packing





December	
3	Christmas Choir Cantata 6:30pm
5	God's Guys Christmas Fellowship 6:00pm
7	Town Hall Meeting: Building Campaign Feasibility Study Results at 9:30am Pre-8th Christmas Program Practice 9:30am
8	Cribbage 6:30pm
10	Advent Worship: Christmas Hymn Sing 6:30pm
14	Advent Bible Study 9:30am Pre-8th Christmas Program Practice 9:30am 6th-12th Gr Youth Christmas Party
16	Elders Hands Only CPR
17	Early Childhood Center Christmas Program Advent Worship: Holden Evening Prayer 6:30pm
21	LWML Cookie Sale for Missions Pre-8th Christmas Program 9:45am (No SS, Conf or Bible Study)
24	Christmas Eve Worship 3:00 & 5:00pm
25	Christmas Day Worship 10:00am
26	~ Church & School Closed ~
28	Single Holiday Worship Service 10:00am
29	Red Cross Blood Drive 1:00-7:00pm 

January	
10	Christmas Un-Decorating 9:00am
12	Cribbage 6:30pm
16	Women's Painting Party ... 6:30pm
25	Our Savior School Kids Singing
28	Harvest Pack Servant Event 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Instructions and Packing

February	
1	LWML "No Bake" Bake Sale
6	Parents Night Out 6:00pm 8th-12th grade lock-in Begins 6:00pm
7	Women at Feed My Starving Children 9:00am
10	Cribbage 6:30pm
18	Ash Wednesday Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: Youth)
25	Lenten Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: TBD)

March	
4	Lenten Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: TBD)
7	LWML Prayer Service at Victory Lutheran 9:00am
8	Omelet Breakfast Youth Fundraiser No Sunday School, Confirmation or Bible Study
9	Cribbage 6:30pm
11	Lenten Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: AHG)
18	Lent Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: Women's Ministry)
25	Lenten Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: TBD)
28	Red Cross Blood Drive 9:00-3:00pm 
29	Palm Sunday

April	
2	Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30pm
3	Good Friday Readings and Prayer 12:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service of Darkness 7:30pm
4	Community Easter Event
5	Easter Sunday