



The Messenger

February 2026



Have you ever decided to go all in for something? Maybe it was when you chose a profession or a partner. Perhaps you made the exciting but terrifying decision to become a homeowner. Maybe it was when you joined Our Savior's, or, if you came to faith later in life, when you decided to be baptized.

In Matthew 4, Jesus fasts for forty days in the wilderness, then confronts the testing of the devil. Responding to each temptation, he demonstrates the kind of savior he will become: deeply connected to God's people and God's creation; committed to cosmic saving power, not flashy tricks; filled with love for God and everything God loves. Refusing easy food, power, and dominion, Jesus goes all in on salvation on our behalf. When his life ends on Good Friday, his commitment will be total, emptied out in love dying on the cross and rising from the grave.

Jesus shows what it is like to be all in for the reign of God. It means being fully invested, deeply committed. There are no backup options. Everything is on the line.

As Christians, God calls us to a life of commitment and caring for our neighbors and our world, even when the cultures around us view our caring as naive and our commitment as pointless. The endless news cycle can be grim and optimism can be hard to find. It would be easier to detach from the need around us, to go numb and to care less as we try to guard our hearts and our expectations. But God calls us to deep engagement instead, to care more in a world trying to protect itself by caring less.

Those outside the church looking in sometimes see a community out of touch with the world around it. They wonder if the church is just for those too naive or too foolish to realize what is going on. But we know that the ancient gifts of our tradition are actually the perfect preparation for investing in the world beyond our church doors. We believe that our sanctuary, fellowship hall, and Sunday school rooms are the rehearsal space we need to practice what it takes to go all in. This Lent, as we learn about God's own commitment, we'll explore how the elements of our liturgy prepare us for active engagement in the world God so loves. Our preaching, prayer, and devotional time help connect us to our neighbors, to the planet we share, and to God.

Before we can go all in, though, God shows us the way. God knows that going all in for this beautiful broken world is a challenge, so God goes all in on our behalf first, revealing what it is like to bet it all on love. God invests in human beings, even though we have a track record of sin.

God invests in creation, even when we are bent on harming it.

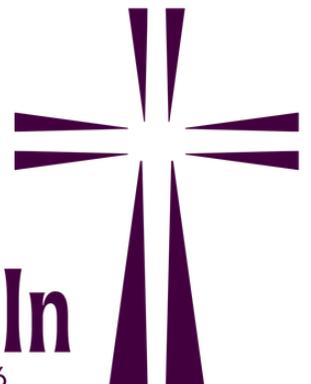
God commits to the unknown and to wonder when we want certainty and limits. God tends broken relationships.

God goes all in on all the highs and lows that life brings, from moments of transcendent beauty to the deepest hopelessness. And in Jesus, God pours out every last drop of love, all of it for the sake of a world that may never fully understand.

Pastor Luke

**This Lent,
God is all in for us.
Let's go all in
for God's love, too.**

All In
Lent 2026



#WalkingIndoors
You're WELCOME here any day!

♥ Rain - snow -
heat - sleet,
WHATEVER!
walk indoors
HERE at OSLG!



How far have you come?
Check the signs!



We know you can do it
READ the messages
on the walls!



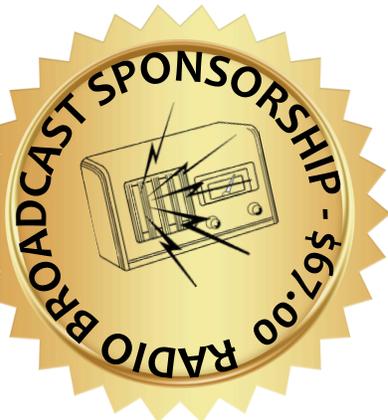
Follow the walking path signs

Rest on a
bench or
a chair



Follow the

Take a break!!



Body-mind-soul

It's a good time to
walk with God
another day



Invite a friend!



Special Thanks
to the anonymous donor
who dropped off
2 cases (15#!) of



Radio Broadcasts for January

- 1/11 Jan Larson in honor of Bruce's 70th Birthday on 1-6-26!
- 1/25 Dorothy Myre in celebration of granddaughter Laura Stahl Bergstrom's birthday!

Radio Broadcasts for February

- 02/01 Golden Sponsor Opportunity!
- 02/08 Katie Nisula in honor of Jerry's 88th Birthday and our 48th Anniversary!
- 02/15 Golden Sponsor Opportunity!
- 02/22 Golden Sponsor Opportunity!





Weekly Lenten Themes and Private Confession Times:

Lent begins on February 18th.

The theme for Ash Wednesday is *All In for Repentance*.

Private confession with Pr. Luke will be available after worship in the Chapel.

Week of February 22nd

All In for Creation.

Private confession with Pr. Luke will be available in the Chapel after worship on Sunday, Feb. 22nd and Wednesday Feb. 25th.

Week of March 1st

All In for the Unknown.

Private confession with Pr. Luke will be available in the Chapel after worship on Sunday, March 1st and Wednesday March 4th.

Week of March 8th

All In for Wonder.

Private confession with Pr. Luke will be available in the Chapel after worship on Sunday, March 8th and Wednesday March 11th.

Week of March 15th

All In for Relationship.

Private confession with Pr. Luke will be available in the Chapel after worship on Sunday, March 15th and Wednesday March 18th.

Week of March 22nd

All In for Letting Go.

Private confession with Pr. Luke will be available in the Chapel after worship on Sunday, March 22nd and Wednesday March 25th.

Holy Week.

All In for the Highs and Lows.

March 29th Palm and Passion Sunday

April 2nd Maundy Thursday Dinner Church

April 3rd Good Friday joint service at Our Savior's

April 5th Easter Sunday.

All in for the Resurrection!

Thank you!

A heartfelt *Thank you!* to all who supported renovation of the Fireside room.

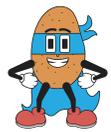
Your financial support and words of encouragement have been greatly appreciated.

A special thanks to Andy Elias of AEE.LLC Construction for his excellent advice and work on this project. He has been wonderful to work with.

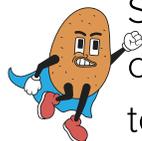
The Fireside Room Renovation Committee
Cindy Raun * Sherri Waller * Lisa Hecht



THE NOT COUCH POTATO AWARDS GO TO:



Ron Stahl and Curt Nelson for moving the big pieces of furniture out of the fireside room for the redux project.



Scott and Eric Elwood for moving EIGHT couches and make use of items, then out to shovel here at the church!

Happy Birthday

Feb 1

- Brad Tyman

Feb 2

- Sofia Breuer
- Tom Cawcutt

Feb 6

- April Thorp

Feb 7

- Thelema Crider
- Nancy Sobczak

Feb 8

- Annette Bryant
- Quinten Krohn
- Rachel Macaulay
- Jerry Nisula
- Jordyn Rahkola

Feb 10

- Lindsay Stephens

Feb 11

- Janessa Daigle

Feb 14

- Degan Johnson
- Val Zack

Feb 15

- Zain Krohn
- Ryker Kubat
- John Mykkanen

Feb 16

- Aleta Brule
- Cindy Haglin

Feb 17

- Joseph Bailey
- Kathie Sarkela
- Patsy Winger

Feb 18

- Gail Manisto

Feb 19

- Jerrod Daigle
- Lisa Hecht
- Jessica Unulock
- Thera Wiersma

Feb 20

- Laela Aasen

Feb 23

- Hoyett Hlava

Feb 24

- Corinne Campbell

Feb 25

- Randy Schmidt

Feb 26

- Doreen Hendrickson
- Bob McDonald

VISITING TEAM



When we visit, we are bringing a reminder that in the sharing of bread and wine, our church community remembers and prays for them.

These visits can be very meaningful to both the visitor and the visited.

If you would like to volunteer to be a visitor, please call me at the church office.

Training and support included!
Contact Shannon Matzdorf at 218-879-1535



Are you graduating in 2026?



If you are graduating from high school next spring, we want to hear from you!

Please contact the church office at 218-879-1535 or email@oursaviorscloquet.org

love love love

FOOD SHELF SUNDAY

The first Sunday of the month is designated as Food Shelf Sunday.

Monetary gifts collected help **BOTH** Second Harvest and  Cloquet Salvation Army.

Every \$1 donated ensures 3 meals for families, children, and seniors in need.

Let's share our blessings.
 Thank you from Katie Nisula, Irene Rudnicki, and Jen Behrens

Contributions 12-25-25 to 01-25-2026

\$2160.42

THANK YOU!

love love love

Present: Brad Browers (Worship, Arts and Music), Bob DeCaigny (Secretary), Jill Elwood (Youth), Roxanne Frederick (Christian Education), Connor Hecht (President), Linda Holmstrand (Fellowship), Pastor Luke Lekander, Shannon Matzdorf (Welcome), Kathy Rye (Past President, Palanca Deacons and Church in Society), Marty Rye (Properties), Sue Stahl (Stewardship), Deb Templeton (Treasurer)

Others in Attendance: Sarah Klyve

Unable to attend: Rob Macaulay (Vice President), NHCP, WELCA

1. Welcome and Sharing of Highs and Lows: Members shared as they desired.

2. Devotion and Opening Prayer: Christian Education – Centered on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and John 14:27.

3. Approval of December 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Jill made a motion and Kathy seconded to approve the minutes as written, the motion carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report/ Financials

- Deb presented the following information: for December income was \$33,505 compared to our budget of \$28,626 (\$4,879 above plan) and expenses were \$31,003 compared to our budget of \$24,064 (\$6,939 over plan) for a net loss of \$2,060. 2025 closed out at \$16,578 ahead of plan.

5. Pastor's Report

- Since our last meeting, I met with Sarah Bauer from Lakes and Pines Head Start. They are exploring space for their parent program. I also put her in contact with the NHCP group to see if there could be a potential partnership with the preschool.
- I led the monthly service at Interfaith. While there, I found out that they are indeed hiring a new chaplain. This is very good news for the residents.
- The Christmas services were wonderful. Thank you to everyone who makes those services so special.
- I took a week's vacation spending much of it with my father due to his increased needs.
- I was blessed to be able to join the men's annual ice fishing retreat. It was rejuvenating and fun.
- My clinical pastoral education unit begins this week with orientation in Duluth.
- I went on two visits and presided over one baptism.

6. Team Leader Reports

- Christian Education: The Christmas program went very well. Listening sessions will be held to determine a path forward for Sunday School.
- Church Properties: Dishwasher repaired, need to double check if it still has a small leak. Cloquet Service Center is waiting for the van ABS part and would insert the used part (w/o warranty). Awaiting a report from the energy audit. Have not heard back from Jason Kadelbach concerning a property survey, perhaps wait until spring. The boiler which had been offline has been repaired.
- Palanca Deacons: Nothing new to report.
- Welcome: We are welcoming ten adult members and four children on Sunday February 1st during the worship service, with a reception in the narthex to follow.
- Fellowship: Met with Pastor Luke January 13th to begin planning for a "Dinner Church" (explore scripture during a meal) experience on Maundy Thursday.
- NHCP: No report
- Stewardship Team: After some feedback, the Narrative Budget and 2026 Spending Plan was completed. It is now available for the congregation. Kristen has sent out the year end giving statements.
- Worship, Arts & Music: Christmas Eve services were successfully executed, a huge thank-you to all the various team members and groups that made it possible. Christmas Eve services were 3 and 5 p.m., no late-night service. Attendance with the two services was nearly identical to the three services offered last year at 454 people. Early comments from several folks that prepare and present the late service are that it was nice to be done early in the evening and not have to come back again for the late service. Further feedback will be requested. The team is now preparing for Lent and then Easter, which are fast approaching.





7. Team Leader Reports - continued

- Youth Ministry: The Christmas party went well. Middle School Youth Group (MSYG) continues to see between 18-22 kids each Wednesday afternoon. We have met twice since returning from Christmas Break and are learning about the Ten Commandments. The students are assisting in the creation of the bulletin board in the narthex. On January 28th Ron S., Roy O. and Curt N. will attend MSYG and teach us how to play dart ball. This will be an inter-generational activity and will focus on fun and fellowship.
- WELCA: Valentine get together on February 10th. Valentines to be written and addressed for individuals.
- Church in Society: Working on the blanket exercise.

7. Old Business

- Community of Hope: Dinners are on the second Sunday of the month, next one 2-8.
- Rental Space: Sarah Klyve's work is on hold until the NHCP Committee hears back from the architect.
- NHCP Steering Committee:
 - Further consideration to next steps will be given once the Preschool Steering Committee has presented their recommendation as the two strategies could conflict one another.
 - Preschool Steering Committee – Info and a drawing of the SW wing were received from the architect. Looking at possibilities of a preschool or renting to a daycare with a preschool embedded. Toured preschools in the area to see how they operate. Student enrollment has been declining and they are challenged to follow school district's calendars/hours. Parents are in desperate need of childcare that provides longer hours to match their employment schedule. A preschool with "wrap-around" childcare would be ideal. Families in our area need daycare for young children, especially infants. Unfortunately, day cares are governed by many more strict guidelines and regulations than preschools. A variety of professionals have been consulted and depending on final committee recommendations, physical changes would have to be made to rent the space. Even with those changes, finding a daycare provider to rent the space would be difficult since most day cares don't make a profit. Other uses for the space have been discussed.
- Establishing Core Values for Mission: The videos are complete and will be edited by Pastor Luke.
- Fireside Room redecorate: Connor gave an update. The furniture is due to be delivered January 23rd. Finances: total received \$16,315, spent to date \$10,280. Disbursements include all the furniture and half of the Elias Construction cost. As of now, we are on budget. The net balance in the redecorate fund is \$6,035. Receipts include \$8,242 from the endowment fund and \$8,073 from the congregation and other groups.
- Minnesota Power energy audit: Discussed in Properties Team report, item 6-Church Properties.
- Lutefisk dinner 2026 planning: The need for two to four coordinators to come forward and work with the committee developing the documentation necessary to produce the dinner in-house will be communicated 1-25 and 2-1 via a temple talk and in the February Messenger. PPC was asked for other ideas on how to fill the need.
- Vice President vacancy: Sarah discussed her education, ministry and work experiences. Sarah left the room for a few minutes while the Council discussed her qualifications. Shannon made a motion and Sue seconded to recommend the appointment of Sarah Klyve as the congregation Vice President, the motion carried unanimously.
- Property Line Issues: adverse possession and abandoned property
 - Fences, plowing – For detailed updates on these subjects see the emails dated 11-30-25 and 12-1-25 from Marty Rye. An email will be sent to the Weymouth's notifying them of OSLC's position (written by Pastor Luke and Connor—proofed by the CAT). If face to face communication is needed Connor will do that plus one other individual he selects (governing documents state President is to be involved with issues which may have a legality involved).
 - Parked cars – Will be addressed with item above. The previously discussed property survey may be postponed until spring.

8. New Business

- New member Sunday February 1st: Details above in the Welcome Team report.

10. **Next Meeting February 17, 2026, 6:30 p.m.:** Devotion and opening prayer--Sarah Klyve

11. **Closing Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer

12. **Adjournment:** Bob made a motion and Kathy seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m., the motion carried unanimously.

LUTE FISK Dinner Coordinators Needed

Your intrepid lutefisk committee members--Rich and Shannon Krikava, Curt Nelson, and Bob DeCaigny--have already met with Marketplace Catering to pick the 2026 lutefisk dinner date, November 14, 2026! It's a great time for fellowship, a wonderful meal, and the proceeds have helped fund thousands of dollars of worthwhile causes within and outside of the church.

2026 is going to be a year of transition as Scott and Sue Johnson of Marketplace Catering are retiring and this will be the last year they will be preparing the lutefisk dinner. But the tradition can continue - we have a plan. OSLC can produce the dinner in-house, just as in the past.

This is where we now need YOU! We need two to four people to step forward and commit as co-coordinators so we can share details with you and continue the transition. Come learn the great Lutheran lore and ways of the lutefisk dinner, just contact one of our committee members! Need childcare to be able to participate? We've got you covered. We're already planning to accommodate that need and have day care available for team members and volunteers during planning meetings, food prep days and the day of the dinner. Thank you.

May the piece of **COD** be with you 




2025 OSLC
Food Shelf Donations
\$10,498.15

Thank you for your generosity.



Women of the ELCA

Valentine Get-together



Tuesday, February 10, 2026
10:00 am in OSLC triple room

Bring 2 stamped valentine cards to address to shut-ins and others

Treats to share are welcome

Coffee, lemonade and fellowship provided!



Altar Guild

- 02/01 9:30 Rob Macaulay
- 02/08 9:30 Sherri Waller
- 02/15 9:30 Linda Boyd
- 02/22 9:30 Rob Macaulay

Readers

- 02/01 9:30 Gavin Painter
- 02/08 9:30 Linda Boyd
- 02/15 9:30 Connor Hecht
- 02/22 9:30 Sophia Krikava

Sound Board Operators

- 02/01 9:30 Terry and Sue Nanti
- 02/08 9:30 Randy and Amy Stahl
- 02/15 9:30 **HEAR NEED VOLUNTEER!**
- 02/22 9:30 Randy and Amy Stahl

Communion Servers (Palanca Deacons):

- 02/01 9:30 Ron Stahl, Linda Holmstrand, Denise Mykkanen
- 02/08 9:30 Jim Boyd, Roy Ober, Duane Buytaert
- 02/15 9:30 Denny Painter, Curt Nelson, Sherri Waller
- 02/22 9:30 Bill Schlenvogt, Kathy Rye, Rob Macaulay

Ushers

- 02/01 9:30 Hagen Family
- 02/08 9:30 Randall Family
- 02/15 9:30 Matzdorf Family
- 02/22 9:30 Linda and Jim Boyd; Sherri Waller

Video Booth Operator / Video Editor

- 02/01 9:30 **NEED OPERATOR / NEED EDITOR**
- 02/08 9:30 **NEED OPERATOR / NEED EDITOR**
- 02/15 9:30 **NEED OPERATOR / NEED EDITOR**
- 02/22 9:30 **NEED OPERATOR / NEED EDITOR**



Meets the third Thursday of each month at 7pm
 at Our Savior's in the Fireside room to discuss
 various books of interest for both men and women.
 For more information contact Jan Larson or Mary Krohn.
 The February book is "Wreck" by Catherine Newman.
 The March book is "My Friends" by Fredrik Backman.



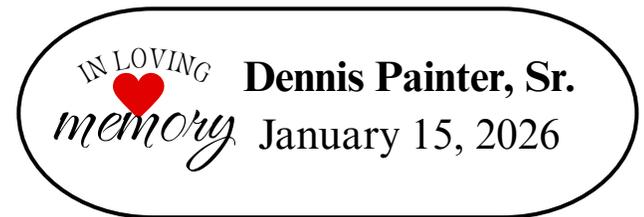
Quilting Group
 meets monthly at 9:00 am
 on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays
 in the quilting room.
 For more information, contact:
Irene Rudnicki at 218-879-4809

	<u>December 25 Budget</u>	<u>December 25 Actual</u>	<u>YTD 2025 Budget</u>	<u>YTD 2025 Actual</u>
Income	28,626	33,305	255,979	259,612
Expenses	24,064	31,003	255,979	243,034
2025 Net Income	4,562	2,502	0	16,578
2024 Net Income	4,893	4,945	0	39,329

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Offering Needed</u>
December 24	454	9,033	5,577
December 28	54	2,106	5,577
January 4	117	6,087	4,581
January 11	102	3,298	4,581
January 18	99	3,462	4,581
Totals	826	23,986	24,897

Gifts & Memorials:

- Christine and Andrew Korby in celebration of Max Korby's First Bell Performance to the General Fund
- Karen Dormanen in memory of Julie Lyytinen's sister Joan to the Roof Fund
- Sandra Rupp in memory of Kirsten Rupp Vance to the Second Harvest Food Shelf
- J. Sanford Dugan in appreciation of OSLC to the General Fund
- Lance Wuollet in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the General Fund
- The Hecht Family in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the Gift and Memorial Fund
- Martha and John Cozad in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the Gift and Memorial Fund
- Mary O'Hara in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the Gift and Memorial Fund
- Roy and Linda Ober in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the Fireside Room Project
- Lori and Robert Nelson in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the Gift and Memorial Fund
- Jodi Carlson in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the Gift and Memorial Fund
- Irene Rudnicki in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the General Fund
- Fleta Carol in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the Gift and Memorial Fund
- Family and friends in loving memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the General Fund
- Ray and Judy Wiles in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the Gift and Memorial Fund
- Dennis Morreim in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the Haiti Medical Mission
- Jane Oswald in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the Roof Fund



Date	Location	Main Course
02/01	Cloquet Senior Center	Sloppy Joe's
02/08	Our Savior's Lutheran Church	Lasagna
02/15	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Deli Sandwiches
02/22	Good Hope Church	Pulled Chicken Sandwiches



Lutheran Church
 615 12th Street
 Cloquet, MN 55720-2321
 oursaviorscloquet.org
 Office: (218) 879-1535
 email@oursaviorscloquet.org

<https://www.facebook.com/oursaviorscloquet>

Pastor: Pastor Luke Lekander (ext. 11)
 pastorluke@oursaviorscloquet.org

Visitation: visitation@oursaviorscloquet.org
 (218) 879-1535

Administrative Assistant: Kristen Adams (ext. 10)
 email@oursaviorscloquet.org

Accounting: Bruce Larson, Bookkeeper
 bruce@oursaviorscloquet.org

Sr Choir/Praise & Worship: Ryan Hanson, Director
 ryan.hanson77@gmail.com

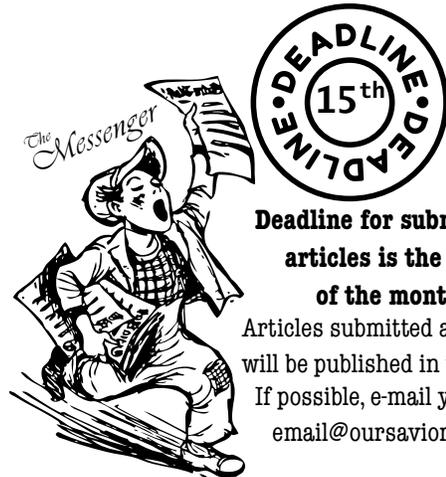
Church Website: oursaviorscloquet.org

Church Office Hours: Sat-Sun: CLOSED
 Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am - 2:30 pm
 Friday: 8 am - Noon

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the members of our congregation that are former or current military. Please contact the Church office for any other members we may have missed or if any of these names should be removed.

Tim Schlenvogt
 Tim Larson

Erika Blesner
 River Krikava



Deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of the month.

Articles submitted after the 15th will be published in the next issue. If possible, e-mail your article to: email@oursaviorscloquet.org.



Join us for Worship!

In Person and on **Sundays at 9:30am**

YouTube
 By 3:00 pm Sundays

Radio
 WKLK AM 1230
 @ 11:00am Sundays

CAT-7 Broadcast
 2:00pm - Tuesday
 3:30pm - Wednesdays
 3:30pm - The Following Sunday
 9:00am - Monday

Please remember the following friends below not always able to join us on Sundays:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Mabel Clemens | Carolyn Watson |
| Robert Fountain | Sharon Harney |
| Ray Manisto | Lyle and Candy Hultgren |
| Joan Essen | Carol Maki |
| Bob Fuller | Karen Splett |
| Donna Gillmor | Donna Redding |
| | Jeanne Brenna |

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
615 12th Street
Cloquet MN 55720
Phone: 218-879-1535

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Cloquet, MN
Permit 50



Address Service Requested
January 2026

Upcoming Events!

Get an e-copy of *The Messenger* too!

See all the colors; zoom in for easy reading.

Let the office you'd like to be added to the email list. You can even get the PRINT and the E-Version!

