



THE REPORTER

*So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three,
but the greatest of these is love.
(1 Corinthians 13:13)*

The calendar turns to a new year. 2026. Another new year with bright possibilities and noble goals to achieve. As we roll into January 1, all these possibilities appear the brightest. All our goals seem achievable.

As we consider New Year's Resolutions, they typically fall into the same categories every year. Lose weight. Eat healthy. Exercise more. Spend more time with family. All of these are great and noble resolutions to make and may even extend your life by abiding by them.

What about spiritual resolutions? What about the things that carry on beyond this life? What about faith, hope, and love - the three cardinal virtues? These are the things that abide after everything else is burned away on the Last Day.

Let us resolve together to strengthen our faith, hope, and love in 2026. This comes when we bind ourselves to God's Word in study and devotion. We pray in the Service of Prayer & Preaching:

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life.

There are many plans available online to read through the Bible in one or two years. If you need help finding one, I am more than happy to point you in the right direction. Reading God's Word is the easiest way to grow your faith, anchor your hope, and love your neighbor.

This spiritual resolution is one that can be easily renewed year after year. As long as we are on this side of Heaven, we continue to be in the devil's territory. We need God's Word to strengthen and equip us to wrestle with all the theologies that surround us every day. As Luther wrote,

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
and bring to naught all He has done. (LSB #655.1)

In Christ,

Rev. Doug Minton

Men's Bible Breakfast

We will begin studying Lutheran history through the video study *Martin Luther* on January 10. Dean L will be our host. This month, we start with the question "Who was Martin Luther?"

Women's Bible Study

We will resume our Bible Study on Tuesday, January 20 and 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin our new study "A New Song: Save Me, O My God." In preparation of our time, please work through the first week - Psalm 3. If you have decided you would like to join us, I still have 2 books left. Cost for this study is \$5. Talk to Renee to get your copy of the book.

Quarterly Church Council and Annual Voters Meeting

Thursday, January 15 - Church Council meeting at 7:00pm

Sunday, January 18 - Annual Meeting following service.

Please have any reports to Renee by January 12 to be included in the booklet.

Small Church Summit

The Small Church Summit for Winter 2026 will feature a presentation by SID President Heath Curtis titled "The Small Town Lutheran Church." Sectionals will be on "Shepherding our Strays," technology in small churches, and safety standards.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lexington – on Feb. 21 or (if weather is bad then) Feb. 28

Sign-in will be at 9:30 a.m., opening devotion will commence at 10:00, and closing prayer will be at 2:30 p.m.

Register by January 3, 2026 at <https://forms.gle/eujwE5hmRC48wF7MA> If you think your church is small, YOU are invited. And everyone is welcome!

Dinner Thanks!

Over the past few weeks, Our Savior has shown its love for Mel and Dorothy and their families in many ways. However, I would like to especially thank the MANY persons who communicated with members, brought food and helped with the preparation, serving and clean up of the dinners following the services. There were many compliments and words of appreciation for all. Your selflessness and caring are truly a blessing. THANK YOU!!

- - May God Bless! Theta

Texting

If you are not set up to receive texts from the church and would like them, please talk to Renee. I will send you the email with the link and explain the process. We use texting for cancellations and random other announcements and reminders through the year. We try our best to limit the texts so we do not "bug" everyone.

Remember those unable to be with us on Sunday Morning

Dianne Estes	Heritage Health, 423 N Dixie Hwy
Delmer Henrichs	IMH Residents Home, 200 E. Fairman Ave
Sara Janssen	Autumn Fields, 325 E Orange
Mary Kamin	Prairieview Lutheran Home, 403 N 4th St
Joanne Sloan	2364 E 900 North Rd
Brenda St. Peter	Prairieview Lutheran Home, 403 N 4th St
Barb Teig	Autumn Fields, 325 E Orange
Julie Towers	Heritage Woods, 577 Martin Ave
Joyce Williams	Autumn Fields, 325 E Orange



Hoopeston, IL 60942
 Watseka, IL 60970
 Hoopeston, IL 60942
 Danforth, IL 60930
 Milford, IL 60953
 Danforth, IL 60930
 Hoopeston, IL 60942
 Watseka, IL 60970
 Hoopeston, IL 60942

Installation of Officers

Installation of Officers for 2026 will be Sunday, January 11 during the service.

January is Life Month!

Women's Care Clinic in Danville continues to care for those faced with an unexpected pregnancy. They provide pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counsel, and prayer to many in our community. As we have done in the past, please pick up a Baby Bottle from the narthex to fill with money during the month of January. You can also donate baby items – diapers, wipes, lotions, sleepers, etc. Please return filled bottles and items by Sunday, February 8, 2026.

As you shop the post holiday sales, prayerfully consider turning your purchases into PURPOSE by helping support families that are choosing life. You can purchase baby items from their Amazon Wish List to fill their Baby Market with essentials that moms can earn by completing their educational goals. Visit <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/W8GZQPHS8E9T> to view and make purchases. Thank you for helping!

2026 Directory

It is time again to send in any updates of your contact information. This helps your fellow church members to be able to get in touch with you when needed. During the month of January, I will be updating the church directory.

Please look over your information and any other members of your family listed. Send me any changes or corrections to your address, phone number, or email address by January 28. If you have tried to call someone using the information in the directory and it no longer works, please let me know that as well. Thanks for helping me keep information up to date.

House Blessing

It is traditional to invite the Pastor to your home to bless your house in the Epiphany season. This is part of our spiritual warfare as Christians, and house blessings can be done at any time of year. Pastor will gladly visit you and bless your home. This is as simple as going through the home and praying in each of the common rooms. Call, email, or text him to set up a time.

Weekly Bible Verse Challenge for January *(Can be done as a family)***Week of January 4, 2025****Psalms 37:23-24**

The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand.

Week of January 11, 2025**Ephesians 1:7**

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

Week of January 18, 2025**1 John 2:2**

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Week of January 25, 2025**Leviticus 19:18**

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.



Our Savior Lutheran Church
209 West Jones St
PO Box 188
Milford Illinois 60953

Phone: 815-889-4121
E-mail: secretary@oursaviormilford.com
Facebook: OurSaviorLutheran

Worship Service 9:00 am
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class
10:30 am

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER REPORTER

**Join Us Every Sunday Morning for Service
starting at 9:00 am**

**Our Savior Lutheran Church
209 West Jones Street, Milford
or listen to the service live on the radio
on WIQI 95.9 FM or WHPO 100.9 or
listen to a live audio stream on our website**

**Email - secretary@OurSaviorMilford.com
Website - www.oursaviormilford.com
Facebook - OurSaviorLutheran**