

OSLC 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Index	Page
Annual Meeting Agenda	2
2025 Congregational Officers, Committees, and Staff	3
Our Savior Lutheran Voters Meeting, October 19, 202	4 – 6
Financial Secretary Report	7
Dorcas Society Annual Treasurer’s Report	7
Official Acts – 2026	8
Annual Statistical Report	9
2025 Salary Aad Wages Report	10
2026 LCMS Convention Nominations	11

Annual Meeting Agenda

Opening Devotion or Prayer

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Pastor's Report

Elders' Report

Trustees' Report

Board of Christian Education Report

Board of Financial Oversight Report

Comfort Dog Report

Additional Committee Reports (as needed)

Additions/Corrections

Voter Approval of the Above Reports (as given or as amended)

Old Business
OSLC Security

New Business
2026 LCMS Convention Nominations
2026 Budget

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

[Click Here to go to Index](#)

2025 CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, AND STAFF

PRESIDENT Justin Lavicka (2024-2026)

RECORDING SECRETARY Courtney Rieches (2024-2026)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY Gretchen Brown (2025-2027)

BOARD OF ELDERS Neil Rieches, Chair (2024-2026)
Justin Schroeder (2025-2027)
Rich Rieches (2024-2027)
Jim Winder (2026-2028)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Landon Ruetter, Chair (2025-2027)
Darren Bakken (2025-2027)
Ethan Morts (2026-2028)
Doug Benner (2026-2028)

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Courtney Rieches, Superintendent (2024-2026)
Jan Lavicka (2024-2026)
Laurie Lingley (2024-2026)
Patty Bruens (2024-2026)

TEAM MAHLAH Jane Henrichs, Top Dog
Courtney Rieches, Treasurer

BOARD OF FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

Justin Lavicka, Pastor Minton, Neil Rieches, Landon Reutter, Gretchen Brown, Courtney Rieches, Renee Minton, and Kendra Morts.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Justin Lavicka, Pastor Minton, Neil Rieches, Landon Reutter, Gretchen Brown, Courtney Rieches, Renee Minton, and Theta Lee.

Staff Pastor Doug Minton
Renee Minton, Church Secretary
Dave Lucht, Webmaster
Courtney Rieches, Custodian
Linda Kellerhals, Organist
Theta Lee, Organist

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School, Sunday mornings at 10:30 am
Adult Bible Class, Sunday mornings at 10:30 am
Jr. Confirmation, Wednesday at 3:15 - 4:45pm
Wednesday Bible Study, Wednesday at 10:00am

[Click Here to go to Index](#)

Our Savior Lutheran Voters Meeting October 19, 2025

Pastor Minton opened the meeting at 10:30 AM with (30) members present. Pastor Minton followed with prayer.

The **Secretary's report** was read by the Secretary and reviewed by the members present.

The **Treasurer's report** was reviewed by the members present.

Pastor's Report

Kiera Wright completed her hybrid confirmation studies and was confirmed in August.

4 students are in confirmation currently: Jaylin Lavicka, Avery Schroeder, Hailey Schwartz, and Sophie Billingsly.

Transfer of Craig and Kelly Smith back to Good Shepard in Hoopston, IL.

Elder Report

Neil Rieches, Head Elder, present.

No report.

Trustee Report

Landon Reutter, Head Trustee, not present.

Pastor shared Doug Benner submitted an application for funding from Schaumburg trust for continued work on the parking lot.

Board of Education Report

Courtney Rieches, Board of Christian Education Superintendent, present.

The Board of Christian Education met for an in-person meeting on Thursday, October 16th, 2025. Sunday School attendance is holding steady at 13 students average per week.

This year's Sunday School Missions is Nyimbo za Watoto (Children's songs). For every \$5.00 given, one song book is printed for children in Africa.

Youth Group

Brenna Schroeder and Jan Lavicka are the OSLC leaders for the newly established Iroquois County Lutheran Youth Group; Pastor is also actively involved. 1st gathering was held in September, 40+ kids in attendance; they ate nearly 80 hotdogs.

Christmas Program

The 2025 Christmas program will be performed on Sunday, December 21st, beginning at 9:00 AM. This year's Christmas Program is titled, "Symbols of Salvation".

The church will purchase chocolate Advent calendars again this year for all Sunday School aged kids.

Additionally, Pastor and Renee will purchase water reveal water activity books as a special gift for all of the younger children both in Sunday School and nearing the Sunday School age.

[Continue to next page](#)

Team Reach

Sunday School communications are posted in the app!

Board of Financial Oversight

Gretchen Brown, Financial Secretary, not present.

Justin Lavicka, Courtney Rieches, and Kendra Morts shared CD adjustment updates with the voters.

Council agreed to reallocating the general fund CD totaling \$30,514 into two separate CDs: one for \$5,000 with a 3-month term at 3.6%, and another for \$25,514.14 with an 11-month flex term at 3.75%.

Council agreed reallocating the building fund CD totaling \$12,200.02 into an 11-month flex CD at 3.75%. Following the council meeting, due to banking rules, the reallocation had to be adjusted; however, agreed to via text message by the council.

General fund, no change: \$5,000 placed into a 3-month CD at 3.6%, and another for \$25,514.14 with an 11-month flex term at 3.75%.

Building fund, changed: \$12,239.00 rolled-over into a 6-month CD.

Mahlah Comfort Dog

Courtney Rieches, Treasurer, present.

Mahlah passed away early September, 2025. There has been much discussion regarding the balance of Mahlah's account with Jayne Henrichs (Top Dog), Pastor Minton, the Elders, and Mahlah's Treasurer.

Courtney shared a heartfelt letter written by Jayne Henrichs, Top Dog, with the voters expressing her deep appreciation for the Mahlah Comfort Dog program and advocating for the funds to be split between two congregations; the first in Idaho and the other in New York. Both are scheduled to receive their comfort dogs next summer.

Council agreed to the distribution of Mahlah's account balance of \$12,414.49. \$1,000 will be allocated towards a memorial, with the remaining balance to be split between Christ the King in Coeur d'Alene, ID and First Trinity in Tonawanda, NY to support the development of their comfort dog programs, as both churches are scheduled to receive their dogs next summer.

Funds will be distributed directly to the churches, not through LCC.

Dave Lucht made a motion to accept all reports discussed above. Patrick Teig seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

Pastor shared that the flood damage repairs in the parsonage basement have been completed. He expressed his many thanks to the congregation members who assisted with the repair.

Continue to next page

[Click Here to go to Index](#)

New Business

Election of officers:

Jim Winder agreed to a 2nd term as elder.

Doug Benner agreed to an additional term as trustee.

Ethan Morts agreed to a 2nd term as trustee.

Landon Reutter will continue in his role as head trustee.

Election of officers placed to vote. Motion carried.

2026 Salaries:

Pastor Minton and Renee proposed freezing the 2026 salaries. The council appreciated the thoughtfulness of the recommendation and expressed their support.

Theta: The organist has requested to return to a rate of \$50.00 per Sunday, rather than the previously agreed \$60.00 for 2025.

Neil Rieches and Patrick Teig recently attended an intruder response seminar in Lafayette, IN. Following the seminar, they're proposed establishing a security team at OSLC. As part of the immediate enhanced safety measures, the back door of the congregation will be locked beginning the first Sunday in November.

Phil Radatz affirmed that locking the back door is a wise decision.

Patrick Teig has expressed interest in serving as Head of Security at OSLC, pending voter approval. He shared insights from the seminar, including specific tactics and strategies discussed. Connie Langellier requested that a formal plan be developed to outline the structure and implementation of the proposed security program.

Connie Langellier made a motion to appoint Patrick Teig as Head of Security effective immediately, with a formal assessment of the program to be presented at the next voters meeting. Dave Lucht seconded. Motion carried.

Dennis Selk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Winder seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Justin Lavicka closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully, Courtney Rieches, Secretary.

[Click Here to go to Index](#)

Financial Secretary Report

Contribution	Level Number*	Percentage of Total
\$15,000 plus	2	2%
\$10,000-14,999	1	1%
\$5,000-9,999	6	5%
\$4,000-4,999	5	4%
\$3,000-3,999	1	1%
\$2,000-2,999	4	3%
\$1,000-1,999	14	12%
\$500-999	8	7%
\$100-499	7	6%
\$1-99.99	2	2%
\$0	66	57%

Number of Contributors * 50

*Based on envelope usage and other recordable contributions of members age 18 and older.

If you need a statement from the Church or would like to learn more about getting your contributions recorded, please contact Gretchen Brown.

[Click Here to go to Index](#)

Dorcas Society Annual Treasurer's Report

CHECKING ACCOUNT (Citizens State Bank)

Balance forward from January 1, 2025 \$ 935.34

Receipts

Dues	\$240.00	
Mites	\$268.32	
Reed Dinner	\$150.00	
Total Receipts		<u>\$ 658.32</u>
Balance plus receipts		\$1,593.66

Expenses

LWML CID 2024 Mites	\$249.89	
LWML CID 2025 Membership	\$204.00	
Central Illinois LWR Ingathering	\$ 25.00	
Total Expenses		<u>\$ 478.89</u>

Checking book balance December 31, 2025 \$1,114.77

Linda L. Kellerhals, Treasurer

[Click Here to go to Index](#)

Official Acts - 2026

CONFIRMATIONS:

4/13/2025 – Junior Confirmands – Ruth Harms, Jackson Lavicka, Evelyn Morts, Ellie Schwartz
8/17/2025 – Confirmand – Kiaria Wright

WEDDINGS:

10/10/2025 – Wedding of Joshua Harms and Natalie Merritt

DEATHS:

4/6/2025 – Arlene Hines; Born 8/17/1932; Died 4/6/2025; [Funeral Service was held on April 8, 2025 at Knapp Funeral Home with Rev. Brent Zastrow; Interment at Maple Grove Cemetery in Milford, IL.]

FUNERALS:

2/11/2025 – Roger Reed; Born 12/21/1943; Died 2/5/2025; Interment at Sugar Creek Cemetery in Stockland, IL.
12/12/2025 – Melvin Rieches; Born 11/7/1926; Died 12/6/2025; Interment at Maple Grove Cemetery in Milford, IL.
12/15/2025 – Dorothy Knake; Born 3/15/1929; Died 12/10/2025; Interment at Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery in Cissna Park, IL.

NON MEMBER FUNERAL:

12/2/2025 – Donald Estes; Born 10/1/1942; Died 11/25/2025; Graveside service and Interment at Sugar Creek Cemetery in Stockland, IL

TRANSFER OUT:

3/24/2025 – Glen and Shelle Franke to Immanuel Lutheran in Batavia, IL.
4/14/2025 – Con and Kathy Campbell to Trinity Lutheran in Columbia, MO
9/10/2025 – Craig and Kelly Smith and family to Good Shepherd in Hoopeston, IL.

RELEASE:

1/20/2025 – Josh and Sara Seyfert and family to St. John Lutheran, Schwer, IL by their request.

	Baptized	Communicant
	Brought Forward	
Release of Seyfert Family	211	176
Death of Roger Reed	206	173
Transfer out of Franke Family	205	172
Death of Arlene Hines	203	170
Junior Confirmands	202	169
Transfer out of Campbell Family	202	172
Confirmation of Kiaria Wright	200	170
Transfer out of Craig Smith Family	200	171
Death of Melvin Rieches	195	169
Death of Dorothy Knake	194	168
	193	167

Annual Statistical Report

Membership	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baptized	216	218	211	193
Confirmed	182	182	176	167
Membership Gains				
(Communicant)				
Junior Confirmands	4	0	2	3
Adult Confirmands	0	1	0	1
Profession of Faith	0	0	0	0
From LCMS Churches	0	0	0	0
(Baptized Only)				
Baptized at Our Savior	1	2	1	0
Transfer from LCMS Churches	0	0	0	0
Transfer from other Churches	0	0	0	0
Membership Losses				
Deaths	5	2	5	4
Released	32	0	2	5
Transfers	6	0	1	9
Attendance - Monthly Averages				
January	77	78	71	70
February	80	79	79	70
March	91	93	90	74
April	119	97	81	99
May	85	82	83	67
June	88	76	66	60
July	74	81	74	61
August	74	74	77	67
September	79	79	81	73
October	83	79	67	64
November	89	80	80	65
December	78	90	77	71
Yearly Average	84	83	77	70
Attendance - Special Services				
Lenten Average	61	51	45	45
Advent Average	31	37	33	29
Christmas Eve	12	27	45	40
Christmas Day	64	51	51	43
Percentage of Membership				
Attending Weekly	39%	38%	36%	36%

2025 SALARY AND WAGES REPORT

	Pastor	Mileage (IRS Rate is \$0.70/mi)	Secretary	Custodian	Linda	Theta	Benjamin	
January	\$ 5,413.62	\$ 797.30	\$ 600.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 385.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 55.00	
February	\$ 5,413.62		\$ 555.00	\$ 302.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 60.00		
March	\$ 5,413.62		\$ 540.00	\$ 302.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00		
April	\$ 5,413.62	\$ 489.77	\$ 615.00	\$ 302.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 240.00		
May	\$ 5,413.62		\$ 675.00	\$ 302.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 180.00		
June	\$ 5,413.62		\$ 427.50	\$ 302.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00		
July	\$ 5,413.62	\$ 656.50	\$ 480.00	\$ 302.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	
August	\$ 5,413.62		\$ 480.00	\$ 302.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	
September	\$ 5,413.62		\$ 405.00	\$ 302.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 120.00	
October	\$ 5,413.62	\$ 1,029.00	\$ 405.00	\$ 302.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00		
November	\$ 5,413.62		\$ 502.50	\$ 302.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00		
December	\$ 5,413.62		\$ 390.00	\$ 302.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	Organists
Total	\$ 64,963.44	\$ 2,972.57	\$ 6,075.00	\$ 3,597.00	\$ 2,305.00	\$ 1,310.00	\$ 355.00	\$ 3,970.00
Budget	\$ 64,963.37	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 3,624.00				\$ 4,020.00
Pct Used	100.0%	99.1%	90.0%	99.3%				98.8%

2026 LCMS Convention Nominations

Current Synodical Leadership

Synodical President – Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison

President Harrison has served as the Synodical President since 2010. Previously, he was the Executive Director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

First Vice President – Rev. Peter Lange

Vice President Lang has served as First Vice President of the Synod since 2019. Previously, he served as the Kansas District President from 2015 to 2019.

Central Regional Vice President – Rev. Benjamin Ball

Vice President Ball has served as the Central Regional Vice President of the Synod since 2019. He has also served as the Senior Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hamel, IL since 2012.

Recommendations for Nominations

Synodical President – Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison

First Vice President – Rev. Nabil Nour

Rev. Nour has served as the Great Plains Regional Vice President since 2013. He has also served as the Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hartford, SD since 2016.

Central Regional Vice President – Rev. Benjamin Ball

[Click Here to go to Index](#)

*OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 ANNUAL REPORT
(1/18/2025)*



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
209 W. JONES ST
PO BOX 188
MILFORD, IL 60953
(815) 889-4121
SECRETARY@OURSAVIORLUTHERAN.COM