

# **2025 Annual Report**

## **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

1845 Cambria Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073

Ministers: The people of Our Saviour

**Pastor: the Rev. Joel W. Antley**

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The mission of Our Saviour Lutheran Church is  
to serve God's **community**  
through **worship, outreach, and fellowship**

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## **2025 Annual Report from the Council President**

This report is a joy to submit to you. This has been an incredible year for our congregation and surrounding community. We have had highs and lows, wonderful events and sad losses. Through it all, the congregation has continued to follow our mission of Serving God's Community through Worship, Outreach and Fellowship.

We continue to look forward while remembering the past. We celebrated the long history of Lutheran worship and music in a service where we used parts of hymnals from the past. We continue to incorporate some of these elements into our regular worship thanks to the leadership of Pastor Joel Antley, Ethan Stinson our Director of Music and the Worship and Music Committee. Worship is meaningful, celebratory, penitential and appropriate for each season and holy day.

OSLC continues to re-evaluate our structure of how we function. We chose to move to a committee framework that best fits our needs at this time. This will continue to evolve as needed. We created a booklet of our ministries and have identified leaders of each so that we can share information. We hope this helps everyone to know what the church is doing and how each person can find something they want to do among the lists.

I invite you to read through this Annual Report to see all the things we have done and hope to do in the future. Feel the love and caring in each report. We share our wealth of time, talents and other contributions with each other and so many in our communities, near and far. We support our local community with so many things as we continue to learn what those needs are – food, clothing, a warm place to stay, and most of all, our prayers and our time. We support missionaries and those who travel to distant lands to share God's Word. Each of us contributes as we are able and each of us makes a difference locally and globally!

This has been such an interesting year and I am so excited to see where this congregation goes in the next year! Thank you to each one of you for all that you do to further our mission and to be God's Work through Our Hands!

*Peace be with you!*

**Cindy Whitehead**

*2025-2026 Council President*

## Pastor's Report for 2025



OSLC Family,

We find ourselves in a much different place this year than last. Over the past 12 months we have instituted the new ministry teams structure here at OSLC. This framework has allowed for ministry teams to better function and be empowered as small groups to create change and work for the betterment of the congregation. I give thanks for your buy-in to this model of ministry and for your work in making this structure flesh out and become a more productive and vibrant embodiment of the ministry we have been and will be doing here in this place.

We have so much to be proud of. We have once again reached beyond the scope of our proposed ministry spending plan and thanks to that generosity have been able to touch more lives and love our neighbors more than before. Our comfort clothes ministry has contributed hundreds of pounds of clothing to the needs of those in mental health crises. We have contributed literal tons to the community and area schools by way of food for children and families in need. We have provided for the littlest ones amongst us, providing a faithful foundation in the Lord, through supporting our PMO program, Easter egg hunt, Christmas Program, VBS, and our monumental Fall Festival. We cared for the sick, grieving, and those in need of community and love through To Our House, our Thanksgiving Meals, our Congregational Care Team, Caroling. We have fostered community and worshipful gathering through Eklesia Youth Fellowship, Lord's Acre Sale, ecumenical worship Services, ecumenical partnerships, Currents Young Adult Ministry, Book Club, Bible Study, MCEAP volunteering, God's Work Our Hands, Gathered in Grace Potlucks and Events, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Easter Sunrise Worship, LT2, Dialogue On Race, Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, Nineveh worship partnerships. The list can go on and on and on...

The reality is we are doing very well. And we are doing things the right way as a community. Loving neighbors and loving God because that is what we are called to do. Not for return on investments. Not for fuller pews. We work and love because it is what we are about. It is what we do well. I am so grateful for that fact. And I am grateful for YOU. As we turn the page to 2026, we do so with excitement for what lies ahead.

### The Year Ahead

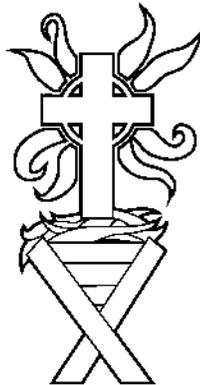
As we look at this year with hope and dreams of what all it will bring, I pray that you will continue the faithful work we have started in the last two years. It is still an exciting time at OSLC. This energy we carry shows itself through our expressive worship and through your faithful acts of service to God and love of neighbor. This year we strive to continue heaping fresh coals on the fire, finding ways to bolster the collective vitality we have found in the last two years. We now push forward in our dreaming as a congregation as to who we are and what we hope to be. It takes all of us working together through our many gifts of the Spirit to continue to grow as a community and to continue to do the faithful work of caring for our neighbors near and far. I hope the fervor and excitement will burn within you, as it does in me, as we seek to further our ministries to new heights in 2026.

### My Personal Life

In the last year a lot has happened personally. Natalie and I have added a new puppy into our little fuzzy family. Gracie Belle adds so much energy and fun to our days and keeps Riggs and Ollie on their toes! Our family mourned the loss of my sister-in-law, Kristen Antley. We appreciated the support in our time of grief and as we nurtured my brother and his girls through such a tough time in SC. We made it to Death Valley for a Clemson football game, Natalie's first. We retreated at Oak Island for a brief respite in the Summer with the dogs for what was Ollie's first time ever at the beach. Natalie and I celebrated a couple firsts as well; Our first anniversary and first ordination anniversary.

We feel so blessed to call this place home and to get to be part of this community. Your energy and love serve as blessings to our life together in this place. We look forward to the year to come and all that it brings!

*Peace and Blessings Always,  
Pastor Joel Antley*



## Director of Music Report

This past year marked my first full cycle of ministry at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, and I give thanks for how faithfully God has sustained and enriched our music and liturgical life. It has been a season of renewed commitment to excellence in the Church's worship.

Our parish choir is growing in membership, confidence, and liturgical awareness, especially after a period of low participation. Each season brought new repertoire, blending the best of the Lutheran choral tradition with hymns and settings that draw deeply upon the Church's historic, catholic forms. The choir's dedication through midweek rehearsals, Sunday responsibilities, and feast-day services has been both inspiring and humbling. Their willingness to learn, to pray through song, and to elevate worship with reverence has truly blessed the congregation.



Beyond musical performance, this has also been a year of formation. Music in the liturgy is never mere ornamentation; it is part of the Church's teaching ministry. In keeping with the ancient principle *lex orandi, lex credendi* ("the law of prayer is the law of belief"), what we sing and how we sing it forms what we believe. Our sung prayers, hymns, and anthems shape the heart of the Church's faith more deeply than the notes and words on the page. When the congregation joins in the Church's musical prayers, theology and doxology meet, and faith becomes something experienced as well as confessed. As St. Augustine once said, "To sing is to pray twice."

This is why ongoing education in liturgical disciplines remains so vital. A well-informed parish, musically and liturgically, worships more fully, listens more closely, and participates more richly in the sacred mysteries. My goal in the coming year is to continue nurturing not only musical skill but also theological understanding: helping singers and congregation alike to see how each chant, hymn, and response declares the Gospel. As we continue learning together and growing in appreciation for the Church's inherited beauty, our unity and devotion are strengthened.

I also wish to thank those who came to support my graduate recital at Radford University this past December. Your presence and encouragement meant more than words can express. I look forward to sharing another musical opportunity with you in the spring as part of my continuing work in musical composition.

I am profoundly grateful for the encouragement of our Pastor and congregation, who value the Church's musical heritage and support its growth. It is a privilege to serve Christ's Church through this ministry, and I look forward to the continued flourishing of our choir and the ongoing enrichment of our shared worship life.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Ethan D. Stinson  
*Director of Music/Organist*

## Commissioned Lay Ministry

Nathaniel Porter continues to serve the Virginia Synod of the ELCA as a Commissioned Lay Minister and Lay Preacher. He preached multiple services at both OSLC and New Mount Zion and participated in the Baptized for Life lay ministry retreat hosted by the synod, as well as leading a workshop at Power in the Spirit and serving as lay delegate for the New River Conference to Virginia Synod Council. OSLC Council affirmed a decision to have Nathaniel preach at OSLC each fifth Sunday during the year, as a way of supporting his gifts in ministry and growth in discernment.

Contact Nathaniel or Pastor Joel if you sense you may be called to deeper service through commissioned lay ministry.

In Christ,  
*Nathaniel Porter*



### Congregation Council members:

Pastor Joel Antley	<a href="mailto:oslcpastor@oslc-cburg.org">oslcpastor@oslc-cburg.org</a>
Cindy Whitehead, President	<a href="mailto:cindy.whitehead83@gmail.com">cindy.whitehead83@gmail.com</a>
John Hess, Vice-President	<a href="mailto:jlhess@vt.edu">jlhess@vt.edu</a>
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Fred Rencsok	<a href="mailto:rencsok@verizon.net">rencsok@verizon.net</a>
Ciel Yalowitz-Correa, Youth Representative	
Treasurer: Carol Cox	<a href="mailto:oslctreasurer@oslc-cburg.org">oslctreasurer@oslc-cburg.org</a>

## 2025 PARISH STATISTICS

	Baptized	Confirmed
Members Reported, beginning 2025	185	163
Associate Members Reported	0	0
<b>Total Members Reported</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>163</b>
Members Received, 2025		
by Baptism - adult	0	0
by Baptism - child	0	0
by Affirmation of Faith	1	1
by Transfer	1	1
<i>by Confirmation</i>	0	0
by Associate Membership	0	0
<b>Total Members Received, 2025</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Members Removed, 2025		
by Transfer	0	0
by Request	0	0
by Death	2	2
by Council Action — inactive status	0	0
<b>Total Members Removed, 2025</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Members Reported, end of 2025	185	163

Communing Members, 2025	155	* Best estimate
Confirmed Communing		
Unconfirmed Communing		

Baptism	Confirmation	Death
0	1	2

Funerals
0

## Finance Committee

I'd like to send some HUGE "Thank yous!" to:

- + Kris Waite, who has answered questions, questions, and more questions (some multiple times).
- + Allan Bookout, who has expertly led us through compiling the Ministry Spending Plan for sooooo many years.
- + John Bissey, who agreed to take on the role of Financial Secretary, being a part of the Finance Committee too!  
but also to:
- + The Members and Friends of OSLC, who make all our programs possible by being faithful in your support of our ministries both financially and also with your time and talents.

OH MY! Where to start in describing 2025? I think the key word would be "Change!" Jack Pickering was Treasurer at the beginning of 2025 and continued through April/May, when he trained John Bissey and I to take over when he and Laura moved to NC. We switched things up a bit when John took on the position of Financial Secretary that had been unfilled for a long time. Fulfilling the role of Treasurer has been quite the learning curve for me, but we have made it through 2025.

We hit the ground running in January and have not slowed down! Both here in the Christiansburg community and reaching further out to the flooding situation we have supported Farmer's Hay and the extended community with Comfort Clothes.

We expanded our music ministry including VBS and choir camp; "Thank You! Ethan and Co." Pastor and others have led events that included a number of Christian churches in our community: VBS, Confirmation, Interfaith Justice Revival meeting, God's Work Our Hands projects, Gathering in Grace presentations, Fall Festival and hosting To Our House. We began a 5-year plan to raise funds for capital improvement projects.

At the end of 2025, we had contributed \$ 257,219.44 or 104% of what we budgeted for 2025.

This includes:

- \$1000 to St Stephen Church in memory of Pastor's sister-in-law,
- \$1750 towards the purchase of a van for the Ukrainian ministry,
- \$1100 for a new sound system,
- \$2800 to light our sign and  
a whopping \$ 18,305 for the Food Ministry!

We supported Pastor's Discretionary funds to help those who show up at our door. We supported Parents' Morning Out (PMO), MCEAP, To Our House (TOH) and Habitat for Humanity.

Wow! We should be proud, BUT NOT TOO PROUD because there is still work to be done!

As we move forward to 2026, we will switch from Quicken to QuickBooks as our bookkeeping system; we will continue to be as clear and thorough as possible in communicating with you about our finances. I hope each of you will take time to understand the Ministry Spending Plan (MSP) and that you will ask questions if you don't understand. I want to remind you that this is a plan, unlike our home budgets...this plan is built on the faithfulness of the OSLC community. And with the beginning indicated by the pledges made in November, I have no doubt that we will continue to support our community, grow in our faithfulness, and continue to do God's Work with Our Hands!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Carol Cox, Treasurer*

## Financial Report

In 2025 OSLC set another record in offerings, which is becoming a very favorable trend thanks to our collective generosity and increasing commitment to the mission and ministries of OSLC. While 2024's offerings of \$242,292 seemed amazing last year at this time, \$257,219 in offerings for 2025 is also well beyond our expectations and led to a strong net positive funding surplus of \$27,543. Our combined checking and savings balances declined slightly to \$78,422 at year-end 2025 from \$82,695 at year-end 2024, but the 2025 balances are net of \$2,677 in checks written, but not cleared, whereas this adjustment was not made for 2024.

As an update on the church's mortgage, the balance at year-end was \$215,247, down from nearly \$600,000 initially in 2011, and at the current payment and interest rate the mortgage will be paid off in July 2031, or 5½ years from now.

The financial health of OSLC continues to be favorable, but can we rest on our laurels? Absolutely not. Is there more to be accomplished? Absolutely. Major capital expenditures will need to be funded in the next few next years to replace our roof and recap our parking lot. And this does not include new capital projects and new ministries that will unfold. Yet, we are blessed to be in the financial condition we are in, to be experiencing growth and abundance when so many mainline churches are struggling.

Special thanks are due to Carol Cox for stepping up to serve as our Treasurer, John Bissey for assuming the role of Financial Secretary, and for all our tellers who sacrifice fellowship time to post our offerings.

We thank God and we glorify Him for all the mustard seeds of faith we have among us through His grace.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Allan Bookout, Finance Team*

## 2025 MSP Performance and Approved MSP for 2026

	Approved 2025 MSP	Total EOY 12-31-25	% of MSP
<b>INCOME</b>			
40000 · Current Income			
42000 · Building Use		\$0.00	
43000 · Offerings	\$235,000.00	\$257,219.39	
45000 - Parents' Morning Out *Anticipated Donation		separate entity	
46040 · Savings/Memorials		Not Income	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$235,000.00</b>	<b>\$257,219.39</b>	<b>109.5%</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
60000 · Expenses			
61000 · Mortgage			
61200 · Mortgage Payment - Regular	\$42,929.64	\$42,929.64	
61000 · Mortgage - Other			
<b>Total 61000 · Mortgage</b>	<b>\$42,929.64</b>	<b>\$42,929.64</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
62000 · Benevolence			
62100 · Synod Mission & Ministry	\$13,800.00	\$13,800.00	
62200 · Pastor's Discretionary Benevolence	\$500.00	\$398.77	
62300 · Missionaries - Billingsley	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
62400 · Pastor's Discretionary Benevolence: Other	\$250.00		
62500 · Food Ministry	\$7,000.00	\$18,218.04	
<b>Total 62000 · Benevolence</b>	<b>\$24,550.00</b>	<b>\$35,416.81</b>	<b>144.3%</b>
63000 · Education			
63100 · Devotionals	\$100.00	\$179.89	
63110 · <i>Living Lutheran</i> magazine	\$0.00		
63120 · Other Devotional			
63200 · Faith Formation Curriculum (SS, Bible Stud	\$500.00	\$123.85	
63230 · Confirmation Curriculum	\$150.00	\$73.03	
63250 · Vacation Bible School	\$200.00	\$248.40	2024 VBS
63260 Bible Study Materials			
63280 Lutheran Study Bibles			
63290 Special Events			
63300 Retreat			
63000 · Other			
<b>Total 63000 · Education</b>	<b>\$950.00</b>	<b>\$625.17</b>	<b>65.8%</b>
64000 · Evangelism			
64100 · Web Site	\$50.00	\$46.38	
64110 · Community Engagement & Advertising	\$2,200.00	\$565.69	
64120 · Advertising (Special Events)		\$352.00	
64130 - Name tags	\$200.00	\$39.80	
64140 - Other			
<b>Total 64000 · Evangelism</b>	<b>\$2,450.00</b>	<b>\$1,003.87</b>	<b>41.0%</b>
64500 · Shepherding	\$100.00	\$104.93	
<b>Total 64500 · Shepherding</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$104.93</b>	<b>104.9%</b>

Continued on next page

## 2025 MSP Performance and Approved MSP for 2026, continued

65000 · Fellowship				
	65100 · Weekly Fellowship	\$200.00	\$12.98	
	65200 · Event Fellowship	\$300.00	\$47.46	
<b>Total 65000 · Fellowship</b>		<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$60.44</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
66000 · Finance				
	66100 · Checks & Deposit Slips	\$50.00	\$96.50	
	66200 · Accounting Fees (Ministry Works Payroll fo	\$450.00	\$586.08	
	66300 · Bank Fees (incl. Tithe.ly)	\$700.00	\$1,171.95	
<b>Total 66000 · Finance</b>		<b>\$1,200.00</b>	<b>\$1,854.53</b>	<b>154.5%</b>
67000 · Stewardship				
	67200 · Stewardship Supplies	\$150.00	\$94.38	
	67300 · Stewardship Sunday Meal	\$200.00		
	67400 · Stewardship Postage	\$250.00		
<b>Total 67000 · Stewardship</b>		<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>\$94.38</b>	<b>15.7%</b>
68000 · Worship				
	68100 · Altar Supplies	\$200.00	\$304.09	
	68300 · Flowers	\$150.00	\$153.99	net cost
	68400 · Seasonal Worship	\$200.00	\$289.15	
	68600 · Worship Planning Resources	\$800.00	\$762.95	
	68700 · Virtual Worship (AV-Live Stream)	\$250.00	\$33.94	net cost
	68800 · Supply Pastor	\$2,500.00	\$1,251.60	
	68900 · Supply Organist	\$600.00	\$600.00	
<b>Total 68000 · Worship</b>		<b>\$4,700.00</b>	<b>\$3,395.72</b>	<b>72.2%</b>
69000 · Music				
	69100 · Choir Robe Cleaning	\$0.00		
	69200 · Choir Music	\$200.00	\$14.03	
	69300 · Piano Tuning & Maintenance	\$550.00	\$310.00	
	69900 · Choir Director	\$0.00		
	69800 · Organist Salary	\$0.00		
<b>Total 69000 · Music</b>		<b>\$750.00</b>	<b>\$324.03</b>	<b>43.2%</b>
70000 · Youth Group				
	70100 · Youth Group	\$1,500.00	\$1,778.10	
	70200 · Synod Youth Events/Mission	\$2,500.00	\$1,461.73	
<b>Total 70000 · Youth Group</b>		<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,239.83</b>	<b>81.0%</b>
71000 · Synod Assembly/Power in the Spirit				
	Pastor & 2 delegates	\$1,000.00		
<b>Total 71000 · Synod Assembly/Power in the Spirit</b>		<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,951.90</b>	<b>195.2%</b>
72000 · Office				
	72100 · Copier Maintenance	\$2,400.00	\$2,707.91	
	72200 · Postage	\$100.00	\$87.56	
	72300 · Office Supplies	\$500.00	\$721.84	
	72310 · Office Equipment	\$100.00	\$689.84	
	72400 · Telephone & Internet	\$2,400.00	\$1,749.45	
	72600 · All Tithe.ly Church Management Systems	\$0.00	on MSP 2x	
<b>Total 72000 · Office</b>		<b>\$5,500.00</b>	<b>\$5,956.60</b>	<b>108.3%</b>

## 2025 MSP Performance and Approved MSP for 2026, continued

73000 · Property				
	73100 · Custodial Supplies	\$500.00	\$670.72	
	73200 · HVAC Maintenance Contract	\$1,350.00	\$1,253.00	
	73250 · Inspections (Fire, Plumbing)	\$1,000.00	\$750.00	
	73300 · Maintenance & Repairs	\$1,500.00	\$4,451.48	
	73350 · Capital Improvements		\$845.38	
	73400 · Mower	\$500.00	\$147.00	
	73410 · Brush Hog	\$600.00	\$675.00	
	73500 · Snow Removal	\$500.00	\$500.00	
	73600 · Insurance (property & liability)	\$4,250.00	\$4,960.72	
	73700 · Electricity	\$9,000.00	\$11,749.75	
	73800 · Water	\$1,700.00	\$1,233.52	
	73900 · Mulch	\$400.00	\$273.00	
<b>Total 73000 · Property</b>		<b>\$21,300.00</b>	<b>\$27,509.57</b>	<b>129.2%</b>
74000 · Staff				
	74100 · Church Office Administrator	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	
	74120 · Cleaning Service	\$8,750.00	\$2,880.00	
	74200 · Pastor Salary	\$36,503.00	\$27,811.52	
	74200 · Pastor Salary - housing	\$17,880.00	\$2,550.60	
	74250 · Pastor Salary - SECA	\$8,092.00	\$7,932.00	
	74300 · Pastor Benefits-Portico	\$23,250.00	\$23,846.76	
	74400 · Pastor- Professional Expenses			
	74410 · Pastor - Mileage	\$1,500.00	\$317.80	
	74420 · Pastor - Book Allowance / Other	\$0.00		
	74425 · Pastor - Mobile Phone	\$1,200.00	\$221.08	
	74426 · Pastor - Call Expenses	\$0.00		
	74430 · Pastor - Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$107.33	
	74501 · Supply Pastor Mileage			in worship
	74550 · Vice-Pastor Supply Pastor	\$0.00		in worship
	74600 · Worker's Compensation Insurance (2x yr)	\$700.00	\$541.50	
	74710 · Director of Music	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	
<b>Total 74000 · Staff</b>		<b>\$136,875.00</b>	<b>\$105,208.59</b>	<b>76.9%</b>
<b>total expenses excluding parking lot savings</b>		<b>\$247,404.64</b>	<b>\$229,676.01</b>	<b>92.8%</b>
75000 · Savings Expenses				
	Capital Improvements/Parking Lot (held in savings	\$10,000.00	\$16,000.00	
<b>Total 75000 · Savings Expenses</b>				
80000 - In/Out		\$0.00		
<b>Total 80000 · In / Out</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>		
			<b>\$245,676.01</b>	
<b>Net Income (Deficit) -Year to Date - excluding parking lot savings</b>			<b>\$27,543.38</b>	

## Approved MSP for 2026

32 pledges for a total of \$210,160		2026 MSP
<b>INCOME</b>		
	41000 - Offerings	\$245,000
	43200 - Building Use	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$245,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
_____ - Expenses		
<b>62000 Benevolence</b>	62100 - VA Synod Mission & Ministry	\$15,000
	62200 - Pastor's Discretionary Benevolence	\$1,000
	62300 - Missionaries - Billingsley	\$3,000
	62500 - Food Ministry	\$9,000
	62600 - Pastoral Care	\$250
	<b>Total 62000 - Benevolence</b>	<b>\$28,250</b>
	<b>64000 Staff Payroll</b>	64110 - Office Administrator
64120 - Pastor Salary		\$63,695
64121 - Pastor Salary - housing		
64122 - Pastor Benefits-Portico		\$23,984
64123 - Pastor- Professional Expenses		
64124 - Pastor - Mileage		\$750
64125 - Pastor - Mobile Phone		\$1,425
64126 - Pastor - Continuing Education/Books		\$1,000
64127 - Gathering of the Ministerium		\$950
64130 - Director of Music		\$18,540
64140 - Cleaning Service (contract)		\$3,000
64200 - Tax Liabilities		\$3,500
64210 - FICA - SECA		
64300 - Worker's Compensation Insurance (2x yr)		\$325
<b>Total 64000 - Staff Payroll</b>		<b>\$139,269</b>
<b>Mortgage</b>	60100 - Mortgage Payment - Regular	\$42,930
	60110 - Mortgage Payment - Interest	
	_____ - Mortgage - Other	
	<b>Total _____ - Mortgage</b>	<b>\$42,930</b>
<b>60000 Property</b>	61010 - Electricity	\$7,200
	61020 - Water	\$1,800
	61100 - Maintenance & Repairs	\$3,000
	61110 - HVAC Maintenance Contract	\$1,400
	61120 - Inspections (Fire, Plumbing)	\$1,100
	61130 - Custodial Supplies	\$600
	61210 - Mower Expenses	\$500
	61220 - Brush Hog Services	\$700
	61230 - Snow Removal Service	\$500
	61240 - Mulch	\$300
	61300 - Capital Improvements	\$15,000
	61410 - Insurance (property & liability)	\$5,000
	<b>Total 60000 - Property</b>	<b>\$22,600</b>

<b>63000</b> <b>Office</b>			
		- Copier Maintenance	\$600
		63100 - Office Supplies	\$850
		63200 - Postage	\$300
		63300 - Telephone & Internet	\$1,800
		63500 - Subscriptions	\$600
		63700 - Copier Lease	\$2,400
		63900 - Office Equipment	\$200
<b>Total 63000 - Office</b>			<b>\$6,750</b>
<b>65000</b> <b>Finance</b>			
		65100 - Accounting Fees ( <i>Brotherhood Works Payroll</i> )	\$600
		65200 - Bank Fees (incl. Tithe.ly)	\$700
		65300 - Checks & Deposit Slips	\$50
<b>Total 65000 - Finance</b>			<b>\$1,300</b>
<b>66000</b> <b>VA Synod</b>			
		66100 - Synod Assembly (Pastor & 2 delegates)	\$1,000
		66200 - Power in the Spirit	\$400
<b>Total 66000 - VA Synod Adult Events</b>			<b>\$1,400</b>
<b>70000</b> <b>Education</b>			
		70100 - Devotionals	\$200
		70300 - Faith Formation Curriculum (SS, Bible Study)	\$500
		70400 - Confirmation Curriculum	\$150
		70500 - Vacation Bible School	\$200
<b>Total 70000 - Education</b>			<b>\$1,050</b>
<b>71000</b> <b>Evangelism</b>			
		71100 - Special Community Music Events	\$1,000
		71200 - Community Engagement & Advertising	\$2,000
		71400 - Name tags	\$200
<b>Total 71000 - Evangelism</b>			<b>\$2,200</b>
<b>72000</b> <b>Fellowship</b>			
		72100 - Weekly Fellowship	\$200
		72200 - Event Fellowship	\$300
<b>Total 72000 - Fellowship</b>			<b>\$500</b>
<b>73000</b> <b>Shepherding</b>			
		73000 - Shepherding	\$100
<b>Total 73000 - Shepherding</b>			<b>\$100</b>
<b>74000</b> <b>Stewardship</b>			
		74100 - Stewardship Supplies	\$100
		74200 - Stewardship Sunday Meal	\$100
<b>Total 74000 - Stewardship</b>			<b>\$200</b>
<b>75000</b> <b>Worship</b>			
		75100 - Altar Supplies	\$200
		75200 - Flowers	\$100
		75300 - Seasonal Worship	\$200
		75400 - Supply Pastor & mileage	\$1,600
		75500 - Worship Planning Resources	\$800
		75600 - Virtual Worship (AV-Live Stream)	\$250
		75700 - Supply Organist	\$600
<b>Total 75000 - Worship</b>			<b>\$3,750</b>
<b>76000</b> <b>Music</b>			
		76100 - Choir Robe Cleaning	\$0
		76200 - Choir Music & Software	\$200
		76300 - Piano Tuning & Organ Maintenance	\$600
<b>Total 76000 - Music</b>			<b>\$800</b>

<b>Savings Account</b>	
Unrestricted Savings	\$39,679.95
<b>Dedicated Savings</b>	
Capital Improvements-Parking Lot (held savings)	\$13,500.00
Fine Arts Fund	\$3,951.02
Designated Memorials	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Dedicated Savings</b>	
	\$19,951.02
<b>Total Savings</b>	
	\$59,630.97

<b>77000</b> <b>Youth</b>	77100 - Youth Group	\$1,500
	77200 - ELCA & VA Synod Youth Events/Mission	\$500
	<b>Total 77000 - Youth</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$253,099</b>
<b>Net Income (Deficit) - Year to Date</b>		<b>-\$8,099</b>

## Church Property Report for 2025

**Lawn maintenance:** The congregation recognizes Dave Hrdlicka for his dedication over many years to mowing the lawns at OSLC and maintaining the equipment. His steadfast, faithful investment of time and energy ensured that the property was properly groomed and welcoming. Jeff Crowder has skillfully cared for mowing at the end of the growing season. In 2026 we will establish a mowing team to care for our lawns.

**Capital Investment:** The bids we received on roof replacement estimate costs (\$70,000) similar to those for repaving the parking lot. At the recommendation of the Property Team and Congregation Council the congregation approved establishing a Capital Investment Fund to be used for large capital expenses rather than designating funds for particular projects, to provide flexibility on how these reserves can be invested in upgrades to the property.

**New Assets:** Memorial funds made it possible to provide illumination for the church sign in front of the property based on state-of-the-art LED lamps designed for outdoor use. Members installed, the gift from the Antley family of a life-sized nativity display to the congregation during Advent and Epiphany. Adequate storage of these figures in the “organ chamber” provides needed protection during the remainder of the year.

The team is responsible for updating the assets inventory of the congregation

**Maintenance:** Projects requiring professional contractors included operation of the parking lot lights, repairing locks, sealing cracks in the concrete at the entrance, cleaning up the damaged cherry tree in the back acreage of the property (now scheduled for early 2026), bush hogging the area twice, snow removal and garbage and recycling service with the Town of Christiansburg. Wanda Patrick is employed to care for the regular, routine cleaning the interior of the building. Volunteers from Virginia Tech (Big Event) assisted with the spring clean-up and placing mulch in April. Members completed the fall cleanup focusing on the interior of the church in November after four weeks of hosting To Our House guests. Members repaired damage to the floor and entry to the storage shed and spray cleaned the exterior. Painting in the nave restored areas that were damaged or repaired. Throughout the growing season members worked to weed gardens, trim shrubbery, and introduce new plants. Jo Burroughs highlighted, at the Ministry Fair, benefits from the native plant garden with the success of hosting Monarch butterflies. Her dedication to these insects was shared with the children in the Parents Morning Out program.

**Team Members:** Jo and Fred Burroughs, Jeff Crowder, John Hess (chairperson), Dave Hrdlicka (deceased), Fred Rencsok, Robert Rue, Dave Rundgren, Karen Snape, Kris Waite, and John Wiggert.

## Mutual Ministry 2025

Dear Pastor Joel,

We want to express our sincere appreciation for your leadership and ministry at Our Saviour Lutheran Church. It has been a year filled with thoughtful engagement, creative approaches to worship and outreach, and a steady commitment to building relationships both within and beyond our congregation.

Your “build it and they will come” mindset and desire to foster community is inspiring. From initiatives such as GIG and age-related groups (young adults and elementary age) to baseball games and Iron Tree gatherings, you are facilitating ways for us to be in fellowship with one another. This has breathed new life into our community’s engagement. These moments remind us that stepping outside traditional patterns can lead to meaningful and memorable experiences. Please continue to pursue these creative directions.

We’re also particularly encouraged by your efforts to foster ecumenical connections. From the Thanksgiving and Longest Night services to upcoming plans for a fall event with Lifeline Church and Cambria Baptist, your work in building relationships across denominations is not only admirable but deeply needed in today’s church landscape. Your leadership in this area is helping OSLC serve as a bridge and beacon in the community.

We respect and appreciate your intentional approach to change—choosing to learn and observe before making significant shifts. It reflects both humility and wisdom. We recognize that change can be subtle and gradual, and we encourage you to feel comfortable taking small steps forward in areas where your vision aligns with the church’s evolving identity.

We’re also grateful for your desire to make better use of our building and grounds, inviting our wider community to utilize this space aligns with our mission and values. Your ability to view our facility from a visitor’s perspective and draw our attention to spaces that need some attention and TLC continues to challenge us to be more welcoming and aware.

As a congregation, we know we are still in the process of discerning who we are and where we are called to go. Your presence is instrumental in that journey. We look forward to your continued guidance as we clarify our collective identity and set priorities for the future.

We have witnessed your gift of meeting people where they are and honoring their humanity. It encapsulates the grace-filled way you approach ministry. That same grace is evident in your teaching. Your Bible studies, particularly the Revelation series, have been exceptionally well received. We are thrilled to see non-members participating, and we appreciate how you make even the most complex texts accessible and meaningful.

Through it all, your spirit of forgiveness and grace shines clearly. It is a defining quality of your leadership and a gift to all who walk through our doors.

You give so much to OSLC—your energy, time, and heart—and we recognize the importance of rest and renewal. Please know we support your well-being and want you to feel fully empowered to recharge as necessary.

In closing, we are incredibly grateful to have you serving as our pastor. Your faith, creativity, compassion, humor, and dedication are gifts to our community. We look forward to the year ahead with joy and anticipation for what God will continue to do in and through your leadership.

With appreciation and respect,

*Mary Osgood, Coreen Bookout, Amy McPherson and Jeff Crowder*  
*OSLC Mutual Ministry*

## OSLC Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee currently consists of Coreen Bookout, Charles McPherson, and Paul McKeag, who succeeded Chris Herman in July 2025.

We serve as a liaison between the congregation and the staff at Our Saviour Lutheran Church which includes Ethan Stinson, Kris Waite, and Wanda Patrick. We are available for support, concerns, and feedback as needed, and we maintain contact at least quarterly. Additionally, we conduct annual contract reviews in accordance with council guidelines.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Coreen Bookout*

## Stewardship

*Team members: Allan Bookout, Jan Jackson, Amy McPherson, and Pastor Joel*

The Stewardship Team planned our annual Fall stewardship appeal to support the 2026 ministry spending plan around the theme of Grace in Giving. This was based on 2Corinthians 9:8:

*"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*

We recalled the 3 ministry initiatives that we increased funding for in 2025:

- Expanding our music ministry.
- Increased ecumenical engagement in our community.
- Starting a capital plan to pave the parking lot in 2029.

With the help of church council, we identified 3 ministry initiatives for increased support in 2026:

Capital improvement fund - The property committee identified items other than the parking lot pertaining to our building and grounds that would require longer term plans to raise the funds needed. We transitioned the parking lot fund to a capital improvement fund and increased the annual allocation from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

We have provided funding of \$1,000 for special community music events.

We increased the annual allocation to the food ministry an additional \$2,000. This will continue the transition from designated giving to an intentional budget and help with increased food costs.

We had a terrific response, with 32 households returning estimates of giving cards for 2026 totaling \$201,160 annually. This is an increase of \$28,000 from 2025!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Stewardship Team*

# Fellowship

*Committee Members: Ann Hess, Kay Johnson (chair), Bernadette McBride*

Fellowship navigated the welcome change from a team management to a committee organizational model this year, seeking and receiving feedback from Pastor Joel and the congregation. At the beginning of the year, Fellowship attendees were invited to write or draw “What Fellowship Means to Me” on large sheets of paper and presented along with other feedback on March 23 at a Fellowship Meeting. Four action items were generated:

1. Kay Johnson was officially installed as Chair of Fellowship.
2. Fellowship will hold monthly potlucks.
3. The Fellowship blog will be reactivated.
4. A list of point people to help volunteers will be compiled.

Full notes from the meeting are available at:

<https://oslccburgfellowship.blogspot.com/2025/04/march-23-2025-fellowship-meeting-notes.html>

The first and fourth action items were met, but the second and third action items were only partly met. The committee networked with Fellowship Attendees at the Ministry Fair on June 8, where we provided information, hosted games, and gave great prizes, including beautiful Ann Hess Pottery! Fellowship events included regular Sunday Fellowship, potlucks, leftovers, and treats and games Sundays. Potlucks followed semiannual congregational meetings, and were held during Gathered in Grace (GIG) educational events after Sunday worship. Some of the celebrations we were pleased to host or cohost included:

- ◆ Easter Breakfast — April 20
- ◆ Pastor Joel’s first anniversary at OSLC — May 25
- ◆ Kyle Yalowitz-Correa’s Confirmation — June 8
- ◆ Isabel Queen’s high school graduation — June 22
- ◆ Parents Morning Out Sunday — September 21

Fellowship is everyone, and we thank all of you who have hosted Sunday Fellowship, served as a point person, cleaned tables, loaded the dishwashers, contributed to potlucks, and helped where you can. You know the challenges and rewards of hosting a weekly event, and the committee looks forward to working with you to plan and improve Fellowship in 2026.

More than 30 folks are staying to share fellowship each Sunday. Congregation members have welcomed visitors, inviting them to also stay for fellowship. This has been very welcomed by the visitors. The ministry that happens between folks at these events is OSLC at its best! All are welcome! Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

*Kay G. Johnson (kgretchen@gmail.com)*

*January 24, 2026*

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20).*

## **Congregational Care Team 2025**

We have 19 members who have offered their contact information and giving of their gifts for ministry in the following areas and who have been working and caring for the members of the congregation well this past year;

### Transportation

For community members who have specific and critical/temporary transportation needs such as to a doctor visit or ride to and from surgery.

### Card Ministries

This ministry sends out cards celebrating events in the lives of those at OSLC such as anniversaries and birthdays.

### Lay Communion

This group visits members in need of home communion as an extension of the table the larger group shares on Sunday mornings. This ministry connects those with the church community in a way that brings worship, love, and community to them wherever they may be.

### Parish Care

This group is able and willing to help in the case of needed first aid on the church premises during events and services and maintains the first aide resources.

### Care Calls

This group offers calls to members as an extension of pastoral care and relationship building at the church. They call once or twice a month to members to check in and provide valuable connections to the broader community.

### Mental Health and Disability Resources

This group has formal training or experience in the mental health and disability services realm. They are able to provide resources and knowledge on these issues to those who may have inquiries or needs.

### Meal Train

This group provides temporary meal needs to help those recovering from surgery, those experiencing crisis or grief, or those who may have extenuating circumstances or need as brought to the Congregational Care Team.

### Grief Care

This group has formal training or experience with walking with and talking with those who are experiencing grief in their life. They are able to provide grief resources and work in tandem with Pastor Joel in times of need.

### Community Visits

This group is willing and available to visit those in the community who may be in need of a visit from a friendly church family member.

This team and its roles provide a vital extension of care to OSLC in ways that help the entire community connect on a deeper level and in a way that fosters love and care for our neighbors in need. The Care Calls team has shown incredible development in the past year and has been a crucial part of care for our members here at OSLC. We give thanks for everyone who participates in any of these areas and thank you for your love of neighbor.

### The Year Ahead

This coming year Pastor Joel looks to develop the grief care component of this ministry team. This development looks like regular grief gatherings, intentional quarterly grief worship, more applicable grief resources available to the community, and more in depth involvement from key persons to help facilitate this important component to the health and vitality of the congregation. Pastor Joel will also look to add a continuing ed component for the entire Congregational Care Team as a workshop endeavor as we approach May to June. As this blossoming level of grief care takes root and develops shape and as this team continues to find ways to serve the community well, I invite you to pray for this team's work and for those it will seek to render care.

Peace and love,

*Pastor Joel Antley*

## **Audio/Visual Team**

The A/V team manages sound in the sanctuary and church building during worship and live streams and videos via YouTube. We have 5 volunteers who work in the booth (2 per service) and around 5 additional volunteers who take turns preparing slides for the video broadcast. In 2025, we published 70 videos (Sunday services, midweek services, and special events) to YouTube, our content was viewed 2954 times for a total of over 471 hours of watch time. Sermons posted to Facebook were viewed for at least a minute 382 times. This ministry reaches shut-ins, those affected by injury or weather, those with timing conflicts, those traveling, folks who just want to revisit the message, and new visitors, who frequently mention having viewed worship services online before coming in person.

We are actively recruiting additional volunteers to run audio or video in the booth during services, no experience necessary.

In Christ,

*Nathaniel Porter, A/V Team*

## Community Outreach

Active ministries in 2025:

### Little Free Pantry

Our Little Free Pantry, (LFP), has been serving the community since 2022 as an emergency assistance resource by providing food and some personal care items for anyone that is in need. The pantry is a part of the OSLC Food Program run by Larry Schoff. Food items are purchased weekly to support the LFP, along with any weekly donations by the congregation. The pantry is so well established in the neighborhood that we have several visitors a day, with some leaving food items. Volunteers are assigned a day of the week and place food in the pantry that day each week. If you would like to help, please contact Jan Jackson. Thank you to all the volunteers that keep the LFP stocked every day!

### To Our House

To Our House, a program that provides overnight winter shelter to homeless adults in the New River Valley, was housed in OSLC for the first 4 weeks of the season, from November 1, through November 29. This marks the 15th year of the program, with OSLC participating every year.

During the four-week period that we had guests staying in OSLC:

- 21 guests (4 females) were provided 345 bed nights and 1,035 meals were offered.
- Six guests were receiving social security upon entry and three got jobs while in the program.
- Two elderly and disabled guests reconnected and decided to share expenses and self-pay at a hotel.
- Two guests (a couple) found permanent housing and their apartment will be available in January.
- Two guests did not return for unknown reasons.
- Three guests left because they did not like the rules.
- Holy Spirit Catholic Church hosted the first week. Volunteers from the Newman Center at VT came during that week and some of those volunteers continued to come for the next two weeks (lots of fellowship and game playing).
- OSLC provided all meals and volunteers for the second and third weeks. St. Thomas Episcopal Church helped us host by providing four of the evening meals.
- OSLC provided overnight volunteers for the two weeks that we hosted. Overnight volunteers are a HUGE help to the staff, especially in the morning.
- Volunteers provided a laundry service for our guests during the two weeks that we hosted.
- Three separate families, Asbury UMC, and the Montgomery County Democrats all provided support the last week
- The guests were allowed to stay in the church on Thanksgiving Day, and a Thanksgiving meal was prepared for them. The Worship and Music team provided all the side dishes for the meal.
- There was \$500 in designated giving to the TOH program. We also had \$500 in Thrivent grants. \$300 was spent to buy twenty \$15 McDonalds gift cards for the guests. This was after consultation with Carol Johnson. The gift cards give the staff flexibility to help guests at their discretion. The other \$700 of TOH funds went toward food and other supplies.
- At least 45 people from our congregation helped with the program in November.

Whether it was providing meals, staying overnight, helping to set up at the beginning, clean up at the end, do laundry, provide financial support, or some of all the above, the commitment of OSLC to this ministry is amazing!

Respectfully submitted,

*Jan Jackson, To Our House coordinator*

## OSLC Parents Morning Out

Our second year, 2025, of OSLC Parents Morning Out has been a rewarding and successful program.

### Education:

We continue having Sanctuary Time where the children have learned some basic elements of our faith. They have learned that the Sanctuary is where we go to remember Jesus. They enjoy singing and playing instruments to familiar songs of praise. They know that the altar is where communion is served and they point out and name the baptismal font. They have learned that the stories and verses shared at Sanctuary Time come from the Bible. The students end Sanctuary Time with their hands in prayer.

For the three-year-old class, we offer a more structured component in classroom 1 for part of the morning. This involves language arts lessons with an emphasis on oral language, crafts, and an introduction to simple math concepts.

### Building a sense of community:

The parents have learned to know one another during drop off and pick up and are very welcoming to each other.

PMO provided dinner for To Our House on November 19. We had a good number of parents that participated with supplying food and helping to serve.

The parents are “spreading the word” about the program. Many of our students have joined the program based on recommendations from current parents.

### PMO programs:

OSLC hosted PMO Sunday on September 21. The students stayed in the sanctuary through children’s sermon. Then they went to the nursery to make a craft related to the sermon. After worship service, students enjoyed refreshments including cake in the fellowship hall.

The PMO Christmas program, “A Very Special Journey,” was held at 10:30am on December 18, in the sanctuary. Cake and refreshments were served afterwards in the fellowship hall. The congregation, families, and friends were invited and the event was well attended.

An outdoor storage bin was purchased with PMO funds to store playground toys: bikes, trampoline, wagons, etc.

All of the necessary inspections were completed during the fall, and we received our validation letter from the Virginia Department of Education on December 9 for the upcoming year, 2026. Lorin Crowder, Nikki Gibson, and Brittany Smith took a course during the fall, to update certifications in first aide and CPR.

Thanks to our teachers for their dedication and patience: Brittany Smith and Nikki Gibson, and our substitutes - Lauren Black, Betsy Alden, Amy Greer-Knowles, and Jeanette Wiggert.

Current enrollment: 14 children

Hours: T, W, Th 9:00 - 12:00

Respectfully submitted,

*Lorin Crowder, PMO Director*

# OSLC Food Program Report

## Scope of OSLC's Food Ministry Program - thru 2025

OSLC Food Ministry Program, in its current form/scope began with the COVID outbreak in 2020 and the construction of the Little Free Pantry on the church grounds. Currently, the program total congregation donations equal \$117,000+ since 2020 and the total weight of food items is over 45.5 tons. In the past year, 2025, the program provided food items to MCEAP food pantry and to 195+ special need students in enCircle (formerly known as Lutheran Family Services) schools (known as Minnick) in Roanoke, Lynchburg, Wytheville, Bristol, Big Stone Gap and Grundy, along with 20 special needs adults in seven group homes in Salem/Roanoke and Bedford areas. This is in addition to those supported by the Little Free Pantry at the westerly edge of the church parking lot. I have renamed it "The Little House on the Prairie."

*Larry Schoff*

### **Thanksgiving meals**

Through donations from the congregation, we created complete meals of ham, beans, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy, pie crust, pie filling, biscuits, oil and more for family dinners. These were distributed to the community.

### **Change 4 Change (Noisy offering)**

During the year, \$744.07 was collected through the Noisy Offering, now re-christened as Change 4 Change to reflect its purpose to support the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help those who come to the church for material needs.

### **Fall Festival**

The Fall Festival returned on Saturday, October 11, engaging the community from 10am-2pm.

### **Little Free Library**

The Little Free Library group is Joanne Jackson, Kay Johnson, and Barbara King, with Joanne taking the lead and doing an excellent job on managing the library. Book contributions and book users are steady. The congregation is encouraged to continue to contribute books, which can be left on the book donation shelving in Classroom 3.

### **Comfort Clothes Ministry**

Goal: to organize an ongoing clothing drive to supplement clothing supply to St. Alban's.

Why? Clothes that patients are wearing when they are admitted may sometimes be marked with signs of addiction, suicide attempts, or other aspects of mental illness, and seeing this can be distressing to the patients later in their stay.

When? At this time, we are delivering clothes once per season.

During 2025, we delivered pick-up truck loads of clothing to St. Alban's on:

February 14, April 24, July 8, and October 17.

Our next delivery will be the week of January 26, 2026.

Donations to Comfort Clothes:

PMO January, - \$505.86

PMO March 26, - \$473.58

MCEAP offers 50% discount on clothing purchased for Comfort Clothes

Thanks to congregants for the generous donations of clothing

*Committee members: Lorin Crowder, Jeff Crowder, Brenda Ryan.*

## **God's Work Our Hands Sunday**

By the Numbers:

- 100 care kits packed
- 8 tie blankets made
- 47 Teddy Bears Blessed and Prayed Over

Additional Items Gathered to be Donated:

- 25 lbs. of Soap
- 20pairs of Socks
- Small bag of Feminine Hygiene items
- 10 additional care kits from Nineveh to be used in our food pantry
- 36 rolls of toilet paper donated
- 36 boxes of Kleenex
- 11 Fleece Blankets
- A prayer chain with 40 personal prayers lifted as part of our liturgy in honor of God's Work Our Hands. 4 hours of work were done at Habitat Restore in an efficient Lutheran 2 hours!

Nearly 40 people participated from the 3 parishes (Nineveh, OSLC, Shiloh) who helped at each event this weekend!

Thank you to everyone who gave of your time and donations towards what was an awesome God's Work, Our Hands Weekend!

Our Donations have been delivered to:

- Project Hope
- MCEAP
- To Our House
- The Women's Resource Center of the NRV
- The Market at Virginia Tech
- The Volunteer Fire Department of Christiansburg

## **Red Cross Blood Drives**

We have partnered with the Red Cross in providing regular blood drives at OSLC for the past five years. In 2025, we had six blood drives. Our total goal for the six blood drives was 129 units, and we collected 130.

- Every 2 seconds someone in America needs blood.
- Each blood donation can help save up to 3 lives.
- The Red Cross must collect 14,000 units of blood each day.
- Blood collected by the Red Cross helps patients in over 2,400 hospitals across the country.
- 80 percent of blood donations are collected at blood drives hosted by organizations like ours.

Thank you to everyone at OSLC who has donated or volunteered in past blood drives. Whether you support our drive by donating blood, volunteering your time to make our drive a success or just help spread the word about our drive through social media, you help save lives.

Blood drive dates so far in 2026:

February 19    April 30    June 25    Aug 26    October 22

*Jan Jackson*

*Blood drive coordinator*

## Christian Education

**Adult Sunday School:** Meeting from 8:45-9:00 am, five to ten participants studied, *Following Jesus*, by N. T. Wright, in the spring. In the fall, we were guided by Brueggeman's, *Praying the Psalms*, to challenge our engagement with Psalms and the range of emotion the psalmist brings to this literature. Sessions were led by Ann and John Hess Cheryl Perdue, and Fred Rencsok

**Bible Studies:** Pastor Joel led Bible study on the lectionary readings for the week with 6-12 participants. Particularly he provided insights how Hebrew words illuminate the texts of the Old Testament and Greek the New Testament with a consistent focus on God's covenant with and care for us.

In Lent, Pastor Joel led a Monday evening study of Revelation. This time provided opportunity for Bible study by up to 20 persons many for whom study on Sunday is not possible. In Advent, Pastor Joel lead a study on Romans also on Monday evenings.

**Men's Bible Study:** A group of 4-10 men, from Luther Memorial Lutheran Church and Our Saviour Lutheran Church meet online at 8:00 am on Friday during the spring and fall. This lay-led study uses three commentaries to guide exploration of the Gospel reading for the following Sunday. John Hess gathers the commentaries and sends them to participants prior to our meeting.

**Confirmation:** Pastor Joel coordinates confirmation education in partnership with Luther Memorial Lutheran Church and St. Michael Lutheran church. Students prepare for Affirmation of Baptism with the congregation, celebrating this affirmation with Kyle Yalowitz-Correa on Pentecost Sunday.

**Vacation Bible School:** OSLC participated in a community vacation Bible school with Park Methodist Church, St. Paul United Methodist (site of the event), and Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, from July 14-17. Enrollment of 50 students, kindergarten through junior high, shared the theme on Being Kind. Each congregation rotated responsibilities for teaching, class assistants, food preparation and serving. Ethan Stinson led music each evening as the students learned a song, which he composed for the school.

## Learning to Live Together – LT2

Learning to Live Together, LT2, is an inclusive group that encourages participants to engage in community awareness by providing a safe place to share history, accurate information, and informed expectations. Five to ten participants gathered for six, two-hour meetings. Using the tools of print and video media the group discussed Jim Crow legislation, Elitism, Competitive Authoritarianism, Rural Urban Divide Initiative (RUBI), and several aspects of Religious Nationalism. Participants shared related personal experiences through the Story Circle format, which contributes to understanding and strengthens community. Leadership for the sessions rotated among participants. We shared information about LT2 at the congregational Ministry Fair in August.

*Reported by John Hess*

# **Eklesia Youth Fellowship Annual Report**

## **6th-12th Grade Ministry**

Eklesia Youth Fellowship is founded on the Greek word ἐκκλησία meaning church, community, a place of gathering.

That is what Eklesia provides for our youth; a safe place to be together where we learn about ourselves, ask questions about our faith, and grow together as a community of love and grace.

### **How do we do what we do?**

We meet at least twice a month for intentional fun, food, and devotional time. We share of our lives and seek to build up the kingdom of God through the kindom we find amongst one another.

### **Rooted in Scripture:**

#### **The Feeding of the 5000**

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

- John 6:1-14

We gather together in community, as the Eklesia, to sit together and be fed by the words, love, and grace of our Lord. The little that we bring is more than enough. We come as we are and we are loved for who and whose we are! Everyone has a place in Eklesia to be themselves and know how much they are loved and provided for by our God. We do this work together. Working through our questions, talking about life and the Word, and leaning into our community for support.

### **Want to get involved? Contact:**

Angela Correa-Yalowitz / [acorrea@vt.edu](mailto:acorrea@vt.edu)

Pastor Joel Antley / [oslcpastor@oslc-cburg.org](mailto:oslcpastor@oslc-cburg.org)

## Worship and Music

*Worship glorifies God and gathers us together where we are transformed by words, baptism, and communion; and thus prepared to serve.*

2025 was a year of 'settling in' for Worship and Music, with new leadership in the pulpit and at the organ. We are blessed with very strong guidance and direction in both of those roles. Thanks be to God!

The W & M Planning team tracks dates of each service and considers any special needs or activities to make those services proceed as smoothly as possible; provides training for the myriad Worship Servers involved with making a Sunday service happen; decides the liturgies we follow on Sunday mornings for each season; helps with planning for special services like Wednesday services during Advent and Lent, and Ecumenical services for Epiphany and Thanksgiving; recruits helpers for prepping the sanctuary for special services and seasons; and more!

The number of people and hours required to make special services (i.e: Christmas and Easter) happen is understandably large, but the number of people and hours required to have a service on a 'regular' Sunday morning is more than most people envision.

Thank you to the Altar Guild (who set up, help serve, and clean up after communion each week; change the paraments and banners; maintain the candles - oil and wax; fill the Eucharistic Ministers communion kits; and bake the communion bread to name a few of the tasks they undertake each week), Ushers/Greeters, Tech Team, Worship Servers (Acolytes, Crucifers, Lectors, Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants), Musicians, and Bell Ringers for all that you do!

The Eucharistic Ministry is still very active and makes sure that our housebound members are receiving communion at least once each month.

The W & M Team wants to extend a very special Thank You to Pastor Joel's father, Rev Barry Antley, for his very generous gift of the handmade, life-sized Nativity Set for our churchyard. This gift was a blessing to the OSLC community and the greater Christiansburg community during this past Advent and Christmas season - and will be for many years to come!

Music gives us a chance to express what words cannot. Music touches our emotions, so that we are literally able to feel our communication with God.

This fall has been a challenging one for the Adult Choir portion of our Music Ministry at Our Saviour Lutheran Church. While there have been moments of genuine beauty and dedication in 2025, including the addition of our half-day Choir Camp, it was becoming more difficult to sustain a healthy and effective choir program due to low rehearsal attendance. Our rehearsal time was adjusted after Easter 2025, but average attendance did not experience positive growth before our break for the summer. In mid-December, choir practice was moved to Thursday evenings from 6:15 to 7:30 PM. Since then, to kick off 2026, we have had as many as 15 people rehearse with us!

Efforts to create additional opportunities for engagement, including the ad-hoc OSLC Conchords men's choir (which began on Reformation Sunday 2025) are still developing.

Many, many thanks to those who served on the Worship Team in 2025 - Joanne Hrdlicka, Melissa Obenhaus, Mary Osgood, Kris Waite, Cindy Whitehead, along with Pastor Joel and Ethan Stinson - and to the many others of you who helped along the way! Your support has made it possible to plan meaningful worship services and music activities during 2025. As you can see, it takes a village . . .

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Osgood*  
*Worship Committee Chair*

*Ethan Stinson*  
*Director of Music*

## **OSLC Book Club**

OSLC Book Club meets one Wednesday of each month from 1:30 – 3:30 pm. We currently have many people participating. Members of the book club suggest titles to read.

Book topics include both fiction and non-fiction. Subjects have included historical fiction, history, biography, inspirational, travel, classics and current best sellers.

If you enjoy reading and are interested in broadening your horizons, join us!

Please contact Marilyn Zeckoski to join.

## **Memoir Club**

The OSLC Memoir Club launched in 2025. We read two books, *Once Upon a Nightmare*, by Pastor Rebecca J. Craig (who joined us on Zoom for a special meeting) and *On the Spectrum: Autism, Faith, and the Gifts of Neurodiversity* by Daniel Bowman, Jr. Twelve people participated in one or both studies. Our books are selected to help understand the lived experience of folks with disabilities, mental illness, and/or neurodiversity and their communities so that we can build empathy, compassion, and collaboration across boundaries within and beyond the OSLC community.

In Christ,

Nathaniel Porter

## **OSLC Crafters**

This group has enjoyed fellowship, crafts and lunching together this year.

OSLC again hosted the Lord's Acre sale, which we participated in along with several other churches in the community, and one at OSLC in December.

Thank you for your support!

