

O S L MESSENGER

MAY 2026
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3



Congratulations to the following young people for partaking in their first communion during the Maundy Thursday service.



Front Row: Kasen Fossler, Huntley Fossler, Judson Frerichs, Briggslee Dieter
Middle Row: Karlee Dieter, Kynley Allington, Kasen Allington, Jaxson Mailahn
Back Row: Trevin Dorn, Pastor Gary
Not Pictured: Addi Kostal & Leighton McKeever

PASTOR:

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SECRETARY:

Pam Gerdes
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President: Josh Schmidt
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Vice President: Chavonn Mailahn
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Secretary: Rachel Frerichs
402.239.0466

At Large Members:

Roger Henrichs
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Erin Saathoff
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Jodi Wegner
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from Pastor Gary's Desk

Some of the advice that Paul gives in passages like 1 Corinthians 7 may seem strange to us. Why would Paul be so lukewarm or even negatively disposed toward marriage? Why does Paul not really care whether a person is a slave or free? Why is Paul so ready to reject worldly things? Most scholars think the answer is that Paul believed the end of the world was imminent. Jesus could be returning any day. They would experience tribulation, vindication, and eternal glory. Did worldly, legal liberation really matter if Christ could be coming back tomorrow?

We might say that Paul was simply wrong here. We need to find a way to navigate the world because we are in it for the long haul. It's been nearly two thousand years, and Christ hasn't returned yet. We need to get married and have families. We should be concerned about legal, political, and economic liberty. We need to engage in the buying and selling of worldly things. We need to run businesses and keep the lights on in our churches. Paul was simply wrong to reject the concerns of the world so firmly.

And yet, I can't help but think that Paul may have been on to something that we have lost. During my undergrad, I went on a seminary visit to Luther Seminary. My favorite part was getting the chance to sit in on a New Testament class, and I still remember one fascinating thing I learned from that lecture. The professor talked about "the structural always-to-comeness of the Messiah." And this just goes to show that I could never really be a seminary professor, despite whatever academic ambitions I have. If ever I was expected to stand in front of a group of people and use phrases like "the structural always-to-comeness of the Messiah," I would go crazy. Seminary professors are a special kind of person.

But what did he mean by this phrase? Built into the identity of the Messiah is that they are always coming, but never quite here. We've been waiting for Jesus for almost two thousand years, and the Jews have been awaiting the Messiah even longer. Always just around the corner, but never arriving in our time. Every generation believes it is living through the end times, but the world goes on. If you met the Messiah on the street and they correctly identified themselves as such, you wouldn't be able to believe them. The Messiah doesn't just show up

on the street. They are always on the way, always to come.

I'm very thankful that before I took this trip to Luther Seminary, I read the play *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett. It's a bizarre play, but I encourage anyone who gets a chance to read through it sometime. I think it is all about "the structural always-to-comeness of the Messiah." The two main characters seem to be living in an absurd, abstract, dystopian nightmare, but they have hope. Someone named Godot is coming to meet with them and will help them get out of this mess. Godot will give them a future. Throughout the first act, they talk about how hard and, again absurd, things are, but whenever one falls into despair, the other reminds him that things will be better when Godot comes. At the end of the first act, a messenger from Godot arrives to tell them that Godot is unable to meet with them today but will certainly visit them tomorrow.

Act two seems to take place months later, in an entirely different season. The two characters are drowning even deeper in despair. They consider ending it all, but they remind one another of Godot, who was supposed to come yesterday but will certainly arrive today, and the audience is left to imagine that Godot had sent that messenger promising to come every day since the first act. Every tomorrow, Godot would arrive, but every today, he would delay. At the end of the entire play, as you may have guessed, Godot sends the messenger again, telling them that he will be delayed but looks forward to meeting them tomorrow.

Godot is not a character in the play. No one plays Godot. His character is manifested purely through his absence. And we may grow frustrated with Godot. How can he keep leading these two on like this, giving them hope only to disappoint them. But the more you think about it, the more you realize: they are alive not because Godot has arrived, but simply because of the hope that he will arrive. Tomorrow, Godot will come, so we can face any trouble today, even the disappointment of his delay.

Maybe Paul was genuinely wrong about when Christ was returning, but maybe his wrongness is truer than our realism. What if we lived every day as if Christ would come tomorrow? I'm not suggesting that we sell our houses and camp out at church waiting for the end. I'm not saying we need to sell businesses or walk away from family or refuse to get married or stay in a terrible job. But maybe, if we acted as if Christ were coming tomorrow it would get us through the despair of today. We could survive the turmoils of our time.

But it isn't just survival. If we were certain that Christ would come tomorrow, maybe we would have the moral courage to do the right thing more often. Sure, maybe you won't give away your life savings to the poor, but maybe you will forgive your father, mother, brother, sister, son, or daughter with whom you are estranged. Maybe you will forgive yourself. Maybe you will let go of some of the meaningless grudges you bear. Maybe you will be able to weather disagreements. Maybe you will make time for the things in life that matter most. Maybe you will have the courage to love, to really love, to give your heart to other people even if they don't love and appreciate the delicate gift. If Christ is coming back tomorrow, the sting of a broken heart is bearable today.

I'm not suggesting that Jesus is never coming back. I do believe Christ will return and finally bring the kingdom of God to fruition on earth and reign over a peaceful paradise. But we shouldn't fling that into the distant future even if that is when it will ultimately come. The reason "the structural always-to-comeness of the Messiah" is able to impact our lives is because we are always expecting him with our next step and eagerly leaping forward with vitality and courage to meet him. Tomorrow, God will come, so we can face any trouble today.

Pastor Gary is still wanting to set up visits with the congregation members to become more acquainted with everyone. He is available to meet on Sunday and Thursday afternoons. It can be at your home, the church, or another place of your choice.

Please contact a Council Member to set up a time.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 29th - Faith Formation End of Summer Bash @ Shirley's-
Meet at OSL @ 5:30 p.m. - Will return to OSL by 7:00 p.m.
Parents are welcome to attend.

April 29th - Confirmation Class @ OSL 6:00 p.m.

April 29th - Joint Council Meeting @ OSL - 7:00 p.m.

May 7th - Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

May 10th - Assistant Minister Training after church service.
All youth 7th - 12th grades are encouraged to attend.

May 21st - Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

May 21st - Council Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

May 24th - Confirmation Sunday - Enjoy fellowship and
congratulate the confirmands after service

May 29-31st - Synod Assembly in Kearney. Pastor Gary,
Council President Josh Schmidt, and Vice President Chavonn
Mailahn will be attending.

SAVE THE DATE!

**VBS will be held July 7-9th this year. Watch OSL facebook &
next month's newsletter for more info.**

REMINDER:

There are sign up sheets on the table in the entryway for the
classes that Pastor is offering to the congregation. If you are
interested in any of these, please sign up. There are also
descriptions of each class beneath the sign up sheet.

Please have any announcements for the bulletin to Pam by
Wednesday noon each week. You may text or call her at
(402) 239-2715 or send an email to the church at
oursaviorslutheranwymore@gmail.com.

Thank you.



MAY

BIRTHDAYS

03 - KINSLEE FRERICHS
03 - JOEY TRAUERNICHT
07 - KAIDEN ALLINGTON
13 - ERIN SAATHOFF
15 - DRAKE ADAMS
15 - MAXINE TRAUERNICHT
18 - ELLA BENINGHAUS
21 - LAINEY TRAUERNICHT
24 - KAREN KLOVER
27 - TYLER DIETER
29 - KAYLEE KLOVER



MAY

ANNIVERSARIES

02 - JEFF & CHAVONN MAILAHN
02 - JOHN & CARMEN MCKEEVER
05 - REESE & DANI (MICHAELIS)
BENINGHAUS
07 - TYLER & KELLY DIETER
07 - PAUL & JANET MEINTS

Thank You!

to Betsy & Kinslee Frerichs for planting flowers
& Jodi Wegner for putting down the mulch.



LYF had a busy April!

April 19th we collected approximately 100 pounds of trash between the Blue Springs Cemetary, through Blue Springs, and along the River Road. Thank you to everyone who participated!

April 26th we enjoyed bowling at Manes Lanes.



Our Saviors Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

February 19, 2026

Present: Josh Schmidt, Chavonn Mailahn (via phone), Rachel Frerichs, Roger Henrichs, Erin Saathoff, Jodi Wegner, Pastor Gary, Pam Gerdes

Absent: None

Meeting called to order by: Pastor Gary and opened with a prayer.

Approve Agenda - Motion to approve amended agenda by Erin, seconded by Jodi

Approve Previous Month's Meeting Minutes - Moved by Roger, seconded by Chavonn

Financial report - Pam reviewed the financial report. Motion to approve by Jodi, seconded by Chavonn

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor reported confirmation has been going well. He would like to continue to meeting the members at their homes, add that to the announcements

Old Business:

- Date for next council meeting will be February 19, 2026 @ 7:30
- Ushers/Service leaders
- Electronic Sign bids - Erin emailed contact information to Council. Electricity is a concern. Go off of Presbyterian Church for sign size
- Seasonal Maintenance- Pam called terminex, lining up someone to clean
- Pam reported we received \$500 from Vaughn & Tina Wright Grant Fund for the Ardys Philippi Memorial which will be put in the memorial fund. Kathleen Remmers has requested that her future contributions be designated for a specific project. Grant Update - Chavonn reported we received the Morris Grant. Bibles have been ordered, costumes, new rugs and weather stripping purchased, Chavonn mentioned the purchase of an additional laptop.
- The Church Annual meeting was held on February 1, 2026 after service.
- Lenten Services - Ash Wednesday services will be at Filley at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Our Savior's. All other services will be held at Our Savior's at 7:00 p.m. & led by the Council. Maundy Thursday & Good Friday services times will be discussed during the Quarterly Parish Meeting with Filley. Faith Formation held their soup supper on Ash Wednesday.
- Electronic Slides - Pam has cut down on printing the number of bulletins & will continue to print song and announcement sheets. The amounts used were documented this last month.
- Our Savior's Directory has been completed, sent out and printed.
- Music and Worship Committee-SOS-March 8th, LBW audio files and cost. A sign up was created for anyone interested in joining the Music and Worship Committee
- Robert's Rule of Order

New Business:

- Date for next council meeting will be Thursday, April 16, 2026

Closed meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Council Members' emails:

rbhenrichs@diodecom.net (Roger Henrichs)

rfrerichs@bpsnebr.org (Rachel Frerichs)

chavonn@cottonwoodhospice.com (Chavonn Mailahn)

emsathoff03@gmail.com (Erin Saathoff)

jschmidt1283@gmail.com (Josh Schmidt)

garygrinvalds@gmail.com (Pastor Gary Grinvalds)

jodigaillpn@gmail.com (Jodi Wegner)

Our Saviors Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

March 19, 2026

Present: Josh Schmidt, Chavonn Mailahn, Rachel Frerichs, Roger Henrichs, Jodi Wegner, Pastor Gary, Pam Gerdes

Absent: Erin Saathoff

Meeting called to order by: Pastor Gary and opened with a prayer.

Approve Agenda - Motion to approve amended agenda by Roger, seconded by Chavonn

Approve Previous Month's Meeting Minutes - Moved by Rachel, seconded by Jodi

Financial report - Pam reviewed the financial report. Moved by Jodi, seconded by Chavonn

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor asked for everyone to please be patient with him as Lent Season is very busy.
- First Communion retreat in Filley, all day on Saturday March 21, 2026. All are welcome.

Old Business:

- Ushers for April Services updated on Google Calendar
- Newsletter - pictures of Lenten Services for Erin to use
- Electronic Sign - Precision Signs & Graphics was contacted. Josh will be meeting with the owners to get a quote. There is power but we need to find where it is located.
- Grants - Items from last Morris request (Laptop, Bibles iPad for SOS?) Blue Springs/Wymore area grant opened and is due by April 15.
- Seasonal Maintenance - Josh installed the new weather stripping on doors. The A/C unit will need to be cleaned and possibly a new draining tube (Lauby's). Dorothy Skeens was hired to clean starting on April 1.
- Music & Worship - The committee met and has music selected through Easter. Alice and Sandy are planning on playing one Sunday a month each. Looking to use SOS the other Sundays they are not playing. The piano is needing to be tuned, Josh was going to see when Scott Kerns was going to be in the area to get on his list.

New Business:

- Date for next council meeting will be Thursday, April 23, 2026
- Easter Egg Hunt to be held on Sunday, April 5 after Easter Service.
- Located wooden Cross to be used at Good Friday service and for the congregation to place stones at the Cross before leaving.

All business concluded, Moved by Pastor, seconded by Chavonn, to adjourn.

Closed meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Council Members' emails:

rbhenrichs@diodecom.net (Roger Henrichs)

rfrerichs@bpsnebr.org (Rachel Frerichs)

chavonn@cottonwoodhospice.com (Chavonn Mailahan)

emsaathoff03@gmail.com (Erin Saathoff)

jschmidt1283@gmail.com (Josh Schmidt)

garygrinvalds@gmail.com (Pastor Gary Grinvalds)

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