



Pastor's Corner - *Turn Again: A Season of Returning*

Each year, Lent arrives quietly but insistently—like a gentle knock at the door of our lives. It is not a season meant to shame us or wear us down, but one that invites us to slow our pace, take a breath, and *return*.

You may notice that our worship space has shifted into purple for these weeks. Purple is an ancient color of Lent, often associated with repentance and reflection—but also with depth and intention. It is not a harsh color. It is a waiting color. A remembering color. Purple reminds us that Lent is not about rushing toward Easter, but about allowing God to meet us honestly where we are, in all our complexity, fatigue, hope, and longing.

This year, our Lenten theme is “**Turn Again: A Lenten Journey of Returning.**” That phrase—*turn again*—comes straight from Scripture. Again and again, God’s invitation is not “try harder” or “do better,” but simply: *return*. Return to what matters. Return to what gives life. Return to the God who never stops moving toward us.

Throughout the weeks of Lent, we will focus on returning—one step at a time:

- **Return to Dust**

We begin by remembering our humanity. We are finite, fragile, and deeply loved. Naming our limits is not a failure—it is an act of truth.

- **Return to Mercy**

Lent invites us to release the stories we tell ourselves about earning God’s love. Mercy is not something we achieve; it is something we receive.

- **Return to Neighbor**

As we turn toward God, we also turn toward one another. Lent widens our vision, helping us see—with compassion—those we might otherwise overlook.

- **Return to Hope**

Even in wilderness seasons, hope is not absent. It often arrives quietly, taking root beneath the surface before we ever notice it.

- **Return to Joy**

Lent is honest, but it is not joyless. Joy is not denied—it is deepened. Joy reminds us that God’s delight in us has never gone away.

- **Return to Life**

At last, we remember that God’s final word is always life. Resurrection does not erase the journey—it gathers it up and makes it whole.

As part of this season, we will gather for **Wednesday evening Lenten worship at a slightly earlier time—6:30pm**. This gentle shift is meant to make space: space to come as you are, space to breathe, and space to enter the evening without rushing. Each service will be simple, prayerful, and reflective—designed to hold us, not hurry us.

We have also prepared a **printed Lenten devotion** to accompany this journey—something you can take home, return to throughout the week, and carry with you through the season. Whether you use it daily or simply when you need a moment of grounding, it is offered as a companion for your own returning.

Lent is not about perfection. It is about presence. It is not about proving our faith, but about practicing trust. Wherever you find yourself this season—tired, curious, hopeful, uncertain—you are welcome here.

May this Lent be a gentle turning for us all.
Again. And again.

Pastor Bunny



Youth News:

Reminder! We meet at 9 AM every Sunday in the large classroom downstairs!

All ages welcome!!!

All are welcome, visitors too!!

I need a little help please.

As many know, in addition to my job here at OSLC, I also work as an RN at St. Luke’s. This requires me to work many weekends and unfortunately this year, I have to work on Sunday, March 29th which also happens to be Palm Sunday. If you have been around for a little while, you know Our Savior’s favorite way to celebrate Palm Sunday is with PIE – a.k.a “Pies for Palms.” This is a youth fundraiser that is widely enjoyed each year, and I’d hate to see it go just because I cannot be here. With all that being said, I am looking for a few volunteers to help it continue! The work required is pretty easy and will be all laid out for you. I’d love 3-4 volunteers to help – please reach out to me if you are able to assist! I’m happy to answer any questions you may have! Thank you so much in advance!

Chili Cook-off and “SOUP”er Bowl

The OSLC annual Chili Cookoff will be Sunday, February 9th following the 10:00 AM worship service – plenty of time to get home for the Superbowl kick-off! If you are interested in making a chili to be judged, please sign up on the bulletin board by the office. Otherwise, bring your appetite and vote for your favorite chili! Rather than a free-will offering, we ask that you bring a can of soup (or any canned good) to be donated to the local food bank. There will even be an extra fun way to place your Superbowl bets! Reach out to Hannah with questions!

Future Cities of America

Korver Sindelar and his cousin, Roman Goldsberry, presented their Future Cities of America presentation at Iowa State University on Saturday, January 17th. Future City starts with a question – how can we make the world a better place? To answer it, students imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future that showcase their solution to a citywide sustainability issue. Korver and Roman represented one of only three Cedar Rapids Schools and placed 5th overall with an award for best essay!

Korver and Roman presented their city, “Vulca” which is built underground, beneath a volcano in Iceland. Their society functions on a zero-waste policy with a heavy focus on food security, limiting homelessness, and environmental protection. Rupert Sindelar also participated but could not compete at ISU as a 6th grader. Great job, boys! OSLC is so proud of you!



who?
Anyone who currently acolytes or is interested in becoming an acolyte

when?
Sunday, March 22nd 11:30 – 2:00

where?
Meet in the IMC

Lunch will be provided!

Youth Ministry Meeting

The Youth Ministry Team would like to invite anyone to a meeting after service on February 15th to gather ideas for potential upcoming events. It is a goal to do more fun, family-oriented activities and would enjoy hearing suggestions from others. Please plan to gather near the front of the sanctuary shortly after dismissal from service. If you have any questions, see Natalie or Rachel.

Submitted by co-chairs – Natalie Fiester and Rachel Sindelar.

Phil and Andy's Pantry



February brings us the Super Bowl and the beginning of Lent! Let's celebrate the month with continuing to collect personal hygiene products as well as cans of soups and chilis. Please consider donating soap, shampoo, combs and brushes, deodorant, mouthwash, toothpaste and toothbrushes as well as your favorite, yummy cans of soup. Those in need will appreciate anything we are able to share.



Thank you from your Stewardship Ministry Team.

Adult Bible Study Updates

The **Sunday Bible Study** is now exploring what our neighbors believe and how our own Lutheran identity helps us engage them with curiosity and respect. Join Us!

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Service is on February 18th at 6:30 PM. It is the beginning of Lent and a reminder of our mortality and to refocus on our Christian faith.

Likewise, every Wednesday through the Lenten season, there will be a Wednesday evening service at 6:30 PM

Lent Bingo!!



It's hard to believe but Lent is coming and we have a very fun way to celebrate this year! LENT BINGO! Bingo cards will be available starting Sunday, February 15th. Each BINGO will be awarded a prize – see Hannah once you get a BINGO to claim your prize! You can get as many as possible throughout the Lenten season. The last day to claim a BINGO is Sunday, April 5th (Easter Sunday). The goal is to have fun and encourage participation from all ages! Please reach out to Hannah with any questions!

Got 2 cents?

Our website is up for review. We are looking for your input (your 2 cents worth). Please go to our website: crsavivors.org and look for any improvements you can suggest, big or small. Anything out-of-date, something not very understandable, see a typo or think you have better wording, delete or include different image/graphic, etc. Submit your ideas and/or any comments by February 22nd to Mark Schmitt (schmittmark57@gmail.com) or Sue Clapp (sueclapp73@gmail.com) Please note page, paragraph, etc. to identify area of concern.

Also let us know if you if you would like be part of this “review” meeting to decide actions on the collected suggestions. Meeting time and date to be decided with interested volunteers after February 22nd.

Serving Our Congregation

Bunny Dillard – Head Pastor

Sue Clapp – Congregation President

David Sampson – Treasurer

Therese Plummer – Office Manager

Hannah Plummer – Children & Youth
Ministries Director

Forrest Green – Music Director

Terri Hodge – Bell Choir Director

Readers

February 1 – Sue Clapp
February 8 – Beth Anderson
February 15 – Karen Janney
February 22 – Therese Plummer

March 1 – Laurene Case
March 8 – Joann Kohl
March 15 – Eric Robinson
March 22 – Rachel Sindelar
March 29 – Lori Hayes

****Readers can pick up their reading in the “Reader” mailbox located between the offices in the back hallway.**

Acolytes

February 1 – Evy Fiester
February 8 – Korver Sindelar
February 15 – Mason Schmitt
February 22 – Parker Zeien

March 1 – Eric Strottman
March 8 – Evy Fiester
March 15 – Korver Sindelar
March 22 – Mason Schmitt
March 29 – Parker Zeien

Assisting Ministers

February 1 – Racel Sindelar
February 8 – Natalie Fiester
February 15 – Sue Clapp
February 18 – Nancy Greer (Ash Wed.)
February 22 – Hannah Plummer

March 1 – Rachel Sindelar
March 8 – Natalie Fiester
March 15 – Sue Clapp
March 22 – Hannah Plummer
March 29 – Nancy Greer

Ushers

Feb. 1 – Strottman’s
Feb. 8 – D. Sampson, M. Houg, T. Zuber
Feb. 15 – Mark & Suzanne Schmitt,
Ann Larson, Beth Anderson
Feb. 22 – Fiester’s

March 1 – Strottman Family
March 8 – D. Sampson, M. Houg, T. Zuber
March 15 – Mark & Suzanne Schmitt,
Ann Larson, Beth Anderson
March 22 – Fiester Family
March 29 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson,
Bob Sindelar, Rachel Sindelar

Prayer for Pastor

February 1 – Laurie Strottman
February 8 – Ann Larson
February 15 – Nancy Greer
February 22 – Derek Sindelar

March 1 – Lori Hayes
March 8 – JoAnn Kohl
March 15 – Arnold Strottman
March 22 – Karen Janney
March 29 – Natalie Fiester

Greeters

February 1 – Marv Gerjets
February 8 – Beth Anderson
February 15 – Ann Larson
February 22 – Therese Plummer

March 1 - Marv Gerjets
March 8 – Sue Clapp
March 15 – Al Johnson
March 22 – Rachel Sindelar
March 29 – Ardy Erickson

Children's Sermon

February 1 – Pastor Bunny
February 8 – Hannah Plummer
February 15 – Beth Anderson
February 22 – Pastor Bunny

March 1 – Beth Anderson
March 8 – Hannah Plummer
March 15 – Pastor Bunny
March 22 – Hannah Plummer
March 29 – Beth Anderson

Sunday School Teacher

February 1 – Natalie Fiester
February 8 – Hannah Plummer
February 15 – Rachel Sindelar
February 22 – Natalie Fiester

March 1 – Rachel Sindelar
March 8 – Natalie Fiester
March 15 – Hannah Plummer
March 22 – Hannah Plummer
March 29 – Rachel Sindelar

2026 Financial Update

Contribution results for the week ending 1/25/2026:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| General Giving: | \$1,910.00 |
| Total Giving: | \$1,978.42 |

Weekly averages through 1/25/2026 (4 weeks)

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Average Actual General Giving: | \$3,440.10 (\$13,760.41 YTD) |
| Average Actual General Expenses: | \$4,472.41 (\$17,889.63 YTD) |

The averages reported above are the averages of “actual” general giving and general expenses, not the forecasts.



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH
— ELCA —

Choir on 1-4-26



Choir on 1-11-26



Annual Meeting Minutes

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA and MINUTES

January 18, 2026

11:00 AM meeting

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

3634 First Avenue NE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

- A. **Call to Order** 11:07am
- B. **Devotions** – Pastor Bunny Dillard
- C. **Secretary's Report** - The secretary's report from the June 29, 2025 Semi-Annual meeting was included in the annual meeting packet distributed to the congregation. Therese Plummer moved to approve the secretary's report. Betty Goehring seconded the motion. All in favor. Carried.
- D. **Treasurer's Report** - The treasurer's report was included in the annual meeting packet distributed to the congregation. Dave Sampson stated the 2025 general fund ended the year \$900 short of general expenses. This shortfall is covered by the General Accounts Reserve Fund which has a balance of \$87,879 as of the end of the year. As shown in the Annual Report packet, The Designated Accounts balance at the end of 2025 was \$122,445. The Designated Accounts are those that carry over year to year and include memorial funds as well as many other special funds. A slide was shown that itemizes where the church's funds are invested. These include a checking account (\$99,147) and CD (\$77,306) at Farmer's State Bank, a brokerage fund at Edward Jones (\$36,056) and a payroll liability (-\$2,185). Questions from the congregation included; **Are the proceeds (e.g., dividends) from the Edward Jones mutual fund reinvested?** - The answer was yes, all funds generated by the mutual fund are being reinvested back into the mutual fund. **Do we get interest on our checking account?** - The answer was yes, but the interest rate is low, less than 1%. **Is there another type of fund available (either at Farmer's State Bank or somewhere else such as Collins Credit Union) that could give a higher return?** - The answer was that we have looked into other types of accounts but decided to invest in a CD instead. Dave will look into other banks/credit unions to see if they could provide a better return. **Could we put more of our checking account funds into a CD? It was suggested that \$25,000 could be moved from the checking account into a CD.** - The answer was that we certainly could and that we would discuss it at the next council meeting. **Is the church charged a fee for contributions made using electronic giving? Also, is there a fee when a debit card is used?** - The answer was that there are fees for using the electronic giving. The fees are smaller when given from a checking account than when paid by a credit card. Dave didn't know the exact amounts. He also didn't know if using a debit card would have the same fees as a credit card or the same as a checking account. Dave offered to give a refresher course on how to use egiving to anyone interested. Hannah Plummer moved to accept the treasurer's report. Chris Miessler seconded. All in favor. Carried.
- E. **Old Business**
- a. **Comments from Ministry Teams** – The annual report packet contains written reports from all ministry teams. Rick Rogness shared comments concerning possible upcoming projects including roof work and door replacement. Bob Sindelar questioned the status of the new

sign. The sign discussion appears in Other New Business. Lori Hayes asked about the planters and if she could help. Rick Rogness said the planters are Don Pliester's project and he could use help. Rick Rogness requests if anyone sees anything around the church property which appears to need attention to please let him know. Sue Clapp reported a special meeting of the congregation would be called to approve funds for large capital projects. There were no questions for the other ministry teams.

- b. Financial Practices Changes - After the audit report last June, we determined the need for a Financial Practice Review Team – Dorothy Medlang, Marv Houg and Betty Goehring worked to review current practice and offer suggestions to improve the processes. One change, to strengthen financial accountability, no individual handling both income and outgoing funds. It was also important to continue the practice of having 2 signers on disbursement checks other than payroll. Those handling incoming funds include the Financial Secretary and the 4 offering counters. The counters always work in pairs to assure accuracy and accountability. None of those handling incoming funds should also serve as check signers. Council approved Marcia Adix and Marcia Patterson as other authorized check signers to work with our treasurer, Dave Sampson, to review and sign all checks other than payroll checks. They do not handle any incoming funds. The team also made some recommendations on how cash offerings are handled. Cash collected at a specific event should be counted by 2 unrelated individuals and then document the amount and the purpose of the funds as which account should receive the funds. Place the money in an envelope with the information and place in a lockbox for the counters to add to the next Sunday offering deposits. Also suggested having another lock box more conveniently located for ease of securing mailed checks or cash donations. A new "suggestion box" has been installed outside Pastor's office. So, if you have money to be deposited or really have a suggestion, use this lockbox as it is opened each week by the offering counters. Finally, they wanted us to assure that any contribution, no matter how big or small, 1 time or weekly, that can be attributed to an individual is recorded and tracked on each donor's yearly statement. Are there any questions? none
- c. Other old business – none

F. New Business

- a. Approval of 2026 Budget – The proposed budget for 2026 presented by Dave Sampson. Dave noted giving to synod is 7%. Marv Houg questioned the housing allowance for Pastor. This amount was changed from last year since Pastor has purchased a home. There is no cap on the housing allowance per the synod. Sue Clapp noted the addition of two new budget line items. One for Youth/Christian Ed and the other for Evangelism. It was thought youth events should be financed by the church rather than through free will donations. Evangelism is looking forward to doing more community outreach. Ron Barth moved to approve the budget. Rich Greer seconded. All in favor. Carried.
- b. Synod Assembly Representative Selection – May 15th and 16th in Cedar Rapids – Pastor Bunny, Pastor Catherine Burroughs and Al Johnson have agreed to attend. Sue Clapp will serve as alternate. Hannah Plummer volunteer to go as the 4th attendee. Arnold Strottman moved to approve nomination of Pastor Bunny, Pastor Catherine Burroughs, Al Johnson and Hannah Plummer. Ann Larson seconded. All in favor. Carried.

- c. Nominating Committee Selection – The nominating committee is made up of 6 people. The committee is charged with finding people to fill open positions on council. There are 7 council positions up for consideration. The term for president, vice-president, Christian education/youth and property will expire. These council members are eligible to continue to serve another three year term. The positions of fellowship, stewardship and evangelism must be filled with new council members. Marv Houg, Lori Hayes, Catherine Burroughs, Cindy Fiester, Nancy Greer and Therese Plummer volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. Dave Sampson moved to approve Marv Houg, Lori Hayes, Catherine Burroughs, Cindy Fiester, Nancy Greer and Therese Plummer as members of the nominating committee. Al Johnson seconded. All in favor. Carried.
- d. Audit Committee Approval – It is time to plan for the annual audit. Our outside auditor, Reena Winkowski, will be performing the audit again this year. Our constitution addresses the audit committee as follows: "An Audit Committee of three voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. The term of office shall be three years, with one member elected each year. Members shall be eligible for reelection." We need to establish the committee with one serving three years, one serving two years and one with a single year term. Then each year going forward only one position will need to be filled. The following have volunteered to serve on the audit committee; Nancy Trout (3 year term), Marcia Patterson (2 year term) and Ann Larson (1 year term). The committee will be approved at the regular January meeting of the council.
- e. Stained Glass Window Celebration – April 26, 2026 marks the 40th year anniversary of the installation of our stained glass windows.
- f. Other New Business –Tom Zuber spoke of all the improvements made at the church over the years. These improvements include the narthex addition, Sunday school rooms, new organ, stained glass windows, communion table and rail, sound system and computers. The next improvement is an electronic sign along 1st Avenue. Tom and Al Johnson have been working with two vendors to determine the best product and design for the church. The new sign is fully funded through memorials and donations. Vendor drawings and pictures were shared with the congregation. Tom and Al are in agreement the church should purchase the best technology available today. Shooting to get this done this summer. Details are being worked out. Lori Hayes questioned the size of the sign to be sure the church name is visible. Karen Janney asked if the sign is impact resistant and would it be insured. Sign construction is made up of individual units approximately 1 foot square. Any damage can be easily replaced with new units. The church property insurance would cover the sign. Sue Clapp reported a special meeting will be called for the congregation vote on the project after council has approved. No other new business
- G. **Hannah's Youth Report** – Hannah Plummer's annual report is included in the OSLC Annual Report booklet. There were no questions or comments during the meeting.
- H. **Pastor Bunny's Report** – Pastor Bunny's annual report is included in the OSLC Annual Report booklet. There were no questions or comments during the meeting.
- I. **Adjournment** – Hannah Plummer moved to adjourn. John Fiester seconded. All in favor carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58am. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.