

From the Pastor's Desk:

December

*"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.'"
2 Corinthians 12:9*

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Even though I am not able to serve as your pastor during this time, I know that you are wondering how I am doing. First of all, I miss all of you and wish I could be back. As you know all the symptoms I had two years ago have come back and I even have symptoms I didn't have the first time. I have had a couple of weeks to rest, but the time off has not helped heal me. I have been receiving IV treatments which have been effective in the past. However the last treatment did not help me. I am having another IV treatment this week so I pray this one will help me maybe just a little.

I have met with my primary care doctor, and he has recommended two additional kinds of treatment. This first week in December I will be having consultations to set up a new treatment plan while continuing with the treatments I am already receiving. It is a very frustrating time for me, especially not knowing when my health will improve, but I am trying to be patient.

On a positive note, I am really enjoying being able to worship with my dad at Maine Presbyterian Church on Sundays. It is a real treat for me to go to worship with my dad and Lola (his beloved service dog). Each Sunday I am greeted by Lola barking and jumping up to kiss my face. We often go out for lunch following worship. It will be very good for me to be able to be with my dad over the holidays in a way that I wouldn't have been able to do if I was actively serving as a pastor. There are blessings even in our weaknesses and disruptions. Please continue to pray for my dad and my family as we go through this first holiday season without my mom.

As you know, I have spent years studying Paul and the early church. During this season I take comfort in that Paul too had some kind of thorn in the flesh. We are never told what exactly it was, but it was something that humbled him and made serving as a leader more difficult. I am comforted that I am in good company and that God uses people who are struggling with health issues and with life to serve the church. Which is what I hope to continue to do.

During this time, I am praying for my health to improve, but I am also praying for you. It is an uncertain time, and I wish I could tell you exactly what will happen, but I am uncertain as to what will happen as well. I cling to these words of God during these times, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." During this time of weakness, I am thankful for the guidance and support you are receiving from the presbytery and the synod. I am thankful that you have a very capable interim to help you through this time. I am thankful that God is leading you and leading me into the future God already has for us, whatever that might be.

I will miss leading worship in Advent and Christmas but know that I am resting and seeking treatment and trying to take care of myself. Wishing all of you a blessed Advent season and Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Paul Snyder

Four-letter words fill our vocabulary; Love is a four-letter word that should fill our hearts!

By El. J. Arntson SAM

Four-letter words **have** a bad reputation. I can remember my older sister rebuking me by threatening to **tell** my mother **that** I **used** a **four**-letter word. If the truth be known, I **have** in my time used a variety of **four**-letter words. I frequently in my **life** **have** **used** the word "**work**", sometimes as a positive and sometimes as a negative.

There are a variety of **four**-letter words **that** **come** to **mind** which scream positive messages. These are words which define our Christian faith. These **four**-letter words are at our **very** **soul**. We **know** **that** Christ's church was built on the **Rock** **that** was Peter. We **know** **that** we are called to be **kind** to the least of these our brethren. We **know** **that** we are to spend our **time** in communion **with** God and attempt to **live** His **word**. We are to **pray** ceaselessly. At our **core** is our faith **that** Christ **died** for our **sins**. We should **look** at **each** of these words as a **gift** **from** our **Lord** and Savior Jesus the Christ. 1 Corinthians 13 tells us **that** the greatest gift is a **four**-letter word, "**Love**." I hearken **back** to my Sunday school **days** **when** I **sang** God is **love**, God is **Love**.

This month we celebrate Christmas Day. We celebrate **God's** **gift** to us by sending gifts to those **that** we **care** about. When I was growing up we celebrated Christmas in our classroom by exchanging gifts. The **rule** was **that** you only **gave** a present to the student whose **name** you had drawn. The challenge you faced was whether you liked **this** person and **what** could you purchase for the set dollar limit. You also worried about who got **your** **name**. **From** previous experience you **knew** which child **gave** the **best** gifts and which child **gave** stockings or handkerchiefs. You wanted to **give** a **gift** **that** was appreciated but you didn't **want** to **give** anyone the wrong impression about **your** feelings for **them** and you didn't **want** to get stockings! **What** if you **drew** the **name** of someone of the opposite gender. Would **they** think **that** you actually liked **them**? **That** could be a tragedy.

Looking **back** giving a Christmas present to a classmate was an act of **love** **even** if it was mandated. Christ **calls** us to **love** everyone. While **that** may **seem** a daunting **task**, **that** is **what** we are called to do! Those who are hardest to **love**, **need** **love** the **most**. I don't **need** to **like** someone or **like** **what** **they** are doing to **love** **them** in my heart. The Bible **tells** us **that** God the creator was consistently disappointed by His human creations. God certainly didn't always **like** **what** humans did / doesn't always **like** **what** we do. Yet God's **love** has NO limit! God had so **much** **love** **that** He sacrificed His Son so **that** we can spend eternity **with** Him in His heavenly kingdom. The **song** **says** "**Love** is a **many** splendored thing." It is, but **Love** is **also** a **four**-letter **word**. It is the reason behind God's greatest **gift**. **Love** **came** to **life** at Christmas!

Who is this El. J. guy? I am the interim minister for the next two months while Pastor Paul is on disability. I'll be providing word and sacrament ministry to both congregations. I'll be preaching 3 Sundays a month, and helping with the confirmation class. I hope to spend parts of Wednesdays in each church so people can stop in and visit. I can be reached by email at el.arntson@arvig.net or on my cell 701-400-9954, which is the best option!

I am a SAM which means a Synod Authorized Minister. I've been involved with the church my entire life. I've served as a youth director at a church, worked for Lutheran Campus Ministry, was a member of the western ND GIFTS program, served as a Christian education coordinator, and recently completed 22 months as the interim minister at Grove Lake Lutheran Church near Pelican Rapids. I'm a retired teacher. My wife and I moved to the Battle Lake area in 2015.

December

2025 Newsletter Articles

Worship Times will continue to be First worship at 9:00 a.m. and OS-TML worship at 10:30 a.m. Our Facebook Live service will continue to be at 9:00 a.m. Service times will change in January.

Communion will be celebrated on December 7th in Ashby and both congregations on December 28th. We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper on December 24th at the OS-TML Christmas Eve Service and on December 25th at the First Christmas Day Service. We will receive Communion by continuous Communion in person and those watching online are encouraged to prepare elements in your homes. All are welcome to the table!

Coffeehouse Worship there will be no Coffee House Worship this month in either congregation as we will enjoy celebrating the Advent season in our beautifully decorated sanctuaries.

Confirmation class will meet Wednesdays, December 3rd and 10th. Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. and class will begin at 6:00 p.m.

W.O.W. will meet at 6:00 p.m. in Ashby on Wednesday, December 3rd and 10th. All children in grades K-6th are welcome to join us. Come join the fun!.

Shared Ministry W.O.W. Christmas Program/Hanging of the Greens Service will be held at First on Sunday, December 7th at 10:30 a.m. There will be no service at OS-TML this Sunday. W.O.W. will present a Christmas program and our Confirmation students will be leading the Hanging of the Greens Service. They will all practice at 9:00 a.m. Please join us for this special Sunday!



- **Session** will meet on Monday, December 8th at 6:30 p.m.
 - Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting on January 18, 2026.
- **Council** will meet on Monday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2026.
Worship service times will be switched so OSTML will be at 10:30am instead.

WELCA Potluck will take place on Wednesday, December 10th at Noon. Quilters will meet at 9 a.m. A raffle for a Christmas quilt will be held in December. Everyone is welcome!

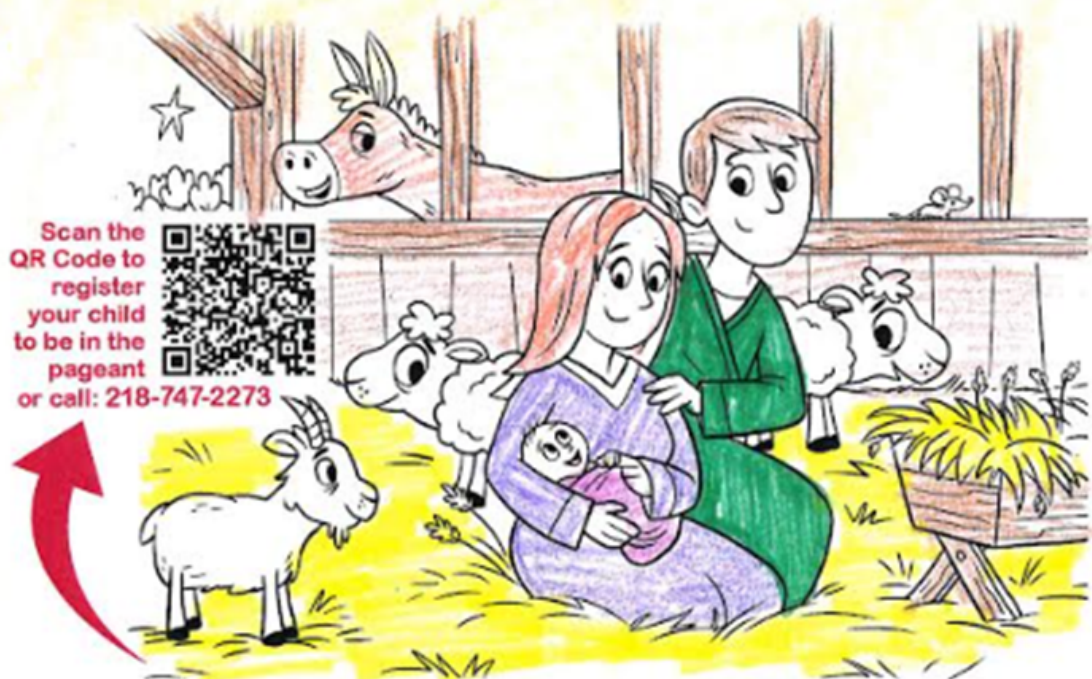
Dalton Christmas Fest will be taking place on Saturday, December 13th from 9am-3pm. Our Savior's-Ten Mile Lake is going to be serving lunch at the community center from 10am-2pm. They are looking for volunteers to provide bars or cookies and maybe help serve. There are signup sheets on the table in the back of the church.

Ashby Community Christmas Pageant will take place Sunday, December 14th at 5pm outside in the open lot by Peace with a supper served. There is practice Dec. 1st and 8th after school at about 3:15 if you are interested in participating.

ASHBY
COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT

Sunday, December 14 at 5:00PM

Experience an outdoor community pageant with live animals at Peace Lutheran followed by scalloped potatoes and ham with corn and a bun. Enjoy Jesus' birthday cake for dessert!



All kids in the community are welcome to join.
Practices will be at Peace Lutheran
on Mondays from 3:15-4:30PM on 11/24, 12/1, 12/8. Snack provided.

Joint Blue Christmas Service will be on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. at Our Savior's Ten Mile Lake with Peace/Grue Parish. Christmas is a usually a joyful time of year, but it can be a very sad time of year for families who are missing loved ones as they gather together to celebrate Christmas. At this service we will come together to lament—to bring our sorrow and suffering before God. Lament does not indicate a lack of faith; rather it is an essential ingredient to honest faith, in that we are asking God to be faithful and be present. So, we gather to share our hearts and seek comfort and strength from each other and from God. Please join us for this special service!

OS-TML Christmas Eve Worship will be at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24th at OS-TML. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. All are welcome as we celebrate our Savior's birth!!

First Christmas Day Worship will be at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 25th at First. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. All are welcome as we celebrate our Savior's birth!!

Food Shelf Donations There is now a donation box at Rylander Insurance Agency in Ashby to accept donations for Grant County Food Shelf.

Prayer Concerns: Cookie Williams, Cari Ripley, Rosie Nissen, Ashtyn Lill, Corlin (Debbie Wilke's brother), Trevor Schlosser, Karen Hansel, DeEtte Johnson, Eileen Rubish, Ron Breuer, Kristi Krause, Darcy Rylander, Lyle Skinnemoen, and Pastor Paul Snyder.



We're excited to invite you to join us for monthly revivals, a time of community worship and fellowship open to all believers.

Each month, we'll gather to lift up the name of Jesus, worship through music, and reconnect with God.

Watch the Facebook page for the next revival date and location!

"Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?" -Psalm 85:6

**Poinsettias that adorn
Our Saviors-Ten Mile Lake Lutheran Church
this Christmas season are given in loving memory of:**

Loved ones by Pat Boe
Loved ones by Jim and Bonnie Borgrud
Loved ones by Kyle and Christy Frigaard
Loved ones by Shirley Frigaard
Loved ones by Gene and Myrna Hanson
Loved ones by Joan Helgeson
Loved ones by Peggy Lien
Loved ones by Steve and Nancy Moss
Loved ones by Karen Nelson
Loved ones by Barb Ness
Loved ones by David and Mary Jo Schroeder
Loved ones by Debbie Thormodson
Marcia by Gaylan Thormodson
Loved ones by Steve and Debbie Wilke

Thank you



What's Cooking with El J

Frosted Grapes Salad

- 8 oz sour cream 8 oz cream cheese (softened)
- 1 cup powdered sugar 1 tsp vanilla
- 4 lb. seedless grapes – washed, drained, and removed from stems
- Whip together top 4 ingredients. Add the grapes. Stir to make sure all of the grapes are covered.
- Refrigerate and serve.

Notes:

- This is very easy to prepare and very tasty to eat.
- The salad keeps well in the refrigerator.
- The salad is perfect for holiday get togethers (red & green)
- This salad seems to magically disappear at pot-lucks.
- You may use strawberries instead of grapes.
- I have seen recipes that add pineapple tidbits to this salad.
- I prefer smaller grapes for the best ratio of topping to fruit.
- My oldest granddaughter says this recipe is really a dessert not a salad.
- Ingredients may be adjusted for a smaller size salad.
- The recipe is from the cook book of St. Edward's Catholic Church of Henning, MN.

Our Saviors Ten Mile Lake Church Council Meeting—November 10, 2025

Present: Pastor Paul, Julie, Danielle, Debbie, Jerry, Ted and Kyle

Absent: none

Devotions were given by Jerry on Philipians 4:6-7.

Secretary's Report for the October 20th meeting was reviewed. Motion made by Jerry to approve the minutes; Danielle seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Debbie. The beginning balance in the general checking account as of October 20 was \$4,125 with a total income of \$5,737 and expenses of \$6,280 leaving a balance of \$3,582. A payment of \$14,363 was made from the cemetery savings to Performance Paving for the cemetery driveway paving. Jaime has been added as a second signer on the general checking account. Motion was made by Julie to approve Treasurer's Report and seconded by Jerry. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul provided an update since our October 20 th meeting.

Trustee's Report: Work has been completed on the bell tower repair. Thanks go to Julie and Jerry for all their efforts surrounding this challenge. Kyle will contact Chris Ecker about possible repairs needed to windowsills in the narthex. Jerry will contact Kevin Fick about issues with heat in the two offices and conference room. Kyle mention that black dirt was spread and seeding completed along the outside of the cemetery paved driveway. Thanks to all who helped with completing that task.

Deacon's Report: Danielle will assist with the November 23rd communion.

Shared Ministry: The Shared Ministry council will meet on November 17th to set the 2026 budget and discuss the process for pastoral services while Pastor Paul is on disability leave. All session and council members are encouraged to attend this meeting. Members from the Presbytery and Synod will be in attendance.

Old Business: Continued discussion on the nominating committee for council. We currently have six council members. Three of these members terms end in January 2026. We continue to look for those who are willing to serve the church in this capacity.

New Business:

Decorating for Christmas will be on Sunday, November 23 following worship. There will not be a potluck lunch this year. The first Sunday of Advent is on November 30.

WOW Christmas program will be on Sunday December 7 th at 10:30 at First. This will be a joint worship service with communion.

The annual Dalton Christmas Fest craft sale is on December 13. Kyle will follow with Lynelle Hartman to see if they would like us to provide lunch at community center.

Worship service on December 21 will be upstairs to allow us to appreciate the Christmas season in the decorated chancel. No coffeehouse service that Sunday. Next coffeehouse worship will be January 18.

Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m.

Pastor provided an update on the November 2 session meeting. Time was spent discussing pastoral services and confirmation during Pastor Paul's disability leave. Pastor Dennis Preston, synod liaison for our conference, will be in contact with Kyle. Jaime will be the contact for pulpit supply and communicating with the interim pastor(s). The synod has provided names of some interim pastors who are available. We will know more details next Monday at the Shared Ministry meeting. Christy Frigaard has volunteered to teach confirmation classes, unless the interim position wants to be involved. There is no confirmation this week, November 19 th confirmation class was an already scheduled joint service project with Peace/Grue and there is no confirmation class the week of Thanksgiving. The 4 church joint services will go on as scheduled, with Community Thanksgiving service on Tuesday, November 25 at Grue and the December 17th Blue Christmas Service at Our Savior's – Ten Mile Lake.

Calendar Items:

- Sunday, November 16th Coffeehouse Worship
- Monday, November 17th Shared Ministry with both council and session
- Wednesday, November 19th Threshing Disbursements Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, November 23rd Communion followed by Christmas decorating
- Tuesday, November 25th Community Thanksgiving Service at 7:00 p.m. at Grue
- Wednesday, December 3rd WELCA Potluck Noon
- Sunday, December 7th Christmas Program at First at 10:30 a.m. with communion
- Saturday, December 13, Christmas Fest Luncheon, community center
- Wednesday, December 17th 4 Church Blue Christmas Service at OS-TML at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 p.m.

Next council meeting will be December 15th at 6:00 PM.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Debbie Wilke, Acting Secretary

Our Savior's-Ten Mile Lake Financial Review

Year to Date as of November 20, 2025

Income

Offerings	\$ 61,612.34	
Lenten Offering/Meals	772.00	
Easter Breakfast	288.00	
Coffee Money	688.50	
Transfer from Savings	30,709.42	
Minnesota Propane Assn - furnace rebate	200.00	
Donations	1,592.00	
Total Income		\$ 95,862.26

Expenses

Staff Ministry	\$ 58,571.35	
Missions	6,312.32	
Worship and Service	1,371.58	
Church Home	16,869.09	
Maintenance	16,950.37	
Miscellaneous	776.00	
Total Expenses		\$ 100,850.71

Account Balances:	Nov. 20, 2025
Checking	\$ 2,711.28
General Savings	133,841.95
Memorial Savings	1,744.54
Ellen & Pat Welch Scholarship Fund	538.31
Our Savior's Cemetery	66,206.91

Regular Session Meeting November 3, 2025

The regular Session meeting of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Ashby met at 6 PM on November 3, 2025 at the church. Those present: Moderator Rev. Dr. Paul Snyder, Ruling Elders: Gwyn Risbrudt, Troy Johnson, Donna Fay Grover, Janet Larson, Jim Risbrudt, and Barb Dewey, Clerk. Guests: Executive Presbyter Rev. Beth Buchwalter-Miller and Congregational Liaison Budd McCullach and Deb Lacy of the Grant Co Food Shelf. Absent with Excuse Kim Bailey.

The meeting was opened in prayer by the Moderator Rev. Dr. Snyder. Deb Lacey informed all about the Grant Co Food shelf program. A discussion followed by Pastor Snyder, Session and Executive Presbyter Rev. Buchwalter-Miller and Mr. McCullach and items of concern to the Session.

A quorum was present and docket voted approved.

Treasurer's Report: Checking: \$6,371.84, Savings \$17,495.06, Memorial: \$3,392.61, Music: \$8,529.69, Dishwasher: \$2,039.09, L&L Camp: \$1,484.12, Grover Bible: \$413.64, Building & Maintenance: \$7,671.74, Starner: \$2,763.84. Per capita has been paid. Report was voted approved. Minutes were corrected in wrong month (ie: December instead of November for Christmas program) listed and "out inserted by" of and voted approved.

Pastor's Report: Communion celebrated at 1st Presbyterian with Rev. Dr. Snyder at Sunday worship on October 17, 2025 with 31 communicants and at joint Shared Ministry service at Our Savior's Ten Mile Lake Lutheran with 50 communicants and those on Facebook Live. 4 health care visitations and 1 home visitation, led Bible Study at the Assisted Living, several Zoom meetings and participation in 125th Anniversary 1st Presbyterian service in Osakis.

Committee Reports: Shared Ministry: Joint 4 church Thanksgiving Service at Grue Lutheran on November 26 at 7 PM. WOW Christmas program Service at 1st Presbyterian service. Tree will go up November 30. Blue Christmas service with Peace/Grue, Wednesday Dec 17 at 7 PM at OSTML in Dalton.

Worship: Life of Faith Initiative series continues. Christmas Day service at 10 AM here in Ashby

Old Business:

Fall Supper was voted cancelled this year because of water damage situation and no one stepping forward to head up the committee. Will try for Soup/Sundae Bowl Sunday extras as quilt raffle and bake sale at that time.

New Business: Starner Fund Distribution: Session voted on the Local Missions receiving: Food Shelf: \$400, Ashby School backpack: \$280, Union Cemetery, Elbow Lake: \$250, Pelican Lake Cemetery, Ashby: \$250 and Lakeside Cemetery, Ashby: \$200 and World Missions: PEB (Pakistan Student) :\$400, Haiti Eye Mission: \$200 and Presbyterian Missions \$780 and designate towards Jamaica relief if possible.

Next meeting is 6:30 PM on December 8, 2025. The meeting was voted adjourned and closed with prayer.

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Paul Snyder

Barb Dewey, Clerk of Session

OS-TML Worship Leaders
December

Joan Helgeson

First Disciple Team
December

Ron & Marsha Bowman
Jim & Joyce Rylander

Altar Guild

Nancy Moss

December Birthdays

- 1 Teresa Akerman
- 2 Yvonne Breuer
- 2 Parker Ecker
- 4 Jim Rylander
- 15 Lochlann Stevens
- 19 Chris Ecker
- 23 Ellie Walvatne
- 25 David Schroeder
- 27 Julie Olson

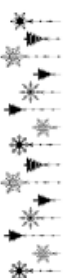


December 2025

9:00AM
FIRST

10:30AM
OSTML

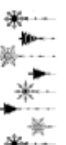
FACEBOOK LIVE AT 9:00AM



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Confirmation in Ashby 5:30pm Supper/6pm Class W.O.W. (K-6th Gr) 6:00pm in Ashby			Santa Day Ashby Legion 9:00-11:00am
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2nd Sunday of Advent (Purple/Blue) Communion W.O.W Christmas Program Hanging of the Greens Joint Service @ FIRST 10:30am	Session 6:30pm		WELCA Potluck Noon Confirmation in Ashby 5:30pm Supper/6pm Class W.O.W. (K-6th Gr) 6:00pm in Ashby			Dalton Christmas Fest 9:00am-3:00pm OSTML serving lunch 10am-2pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
3rd Sunday of Advent (Purple/Blue) Ashby Community Christmas Pageant 5:00pm by Peace	Council 6:00pm		Blue Christmas 4 Church Joint Service 7:00pm at OSTML			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
4th Sunday of Advent (Purple/Blue)			Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm at OSTML Communion	Christmas Day Service 10:00am at FIRST Communion		
28	29	30	31			
1st Sunday of Christmas (White) Communion						



WELCA Quilters meet
WEDNESDAYS
with coffee & treats





First Presbyterian Session Members

Barb Dewey – *Clerk of Session*
Jim Risbrudt – *Treasurer*
Donna Fay Grover
Kim Bailey
Troy Johnson
Gwyn Risbrudt
Janet Larson

Shared Ministry Council

Troy Johnson- *President*
Kyle Frigaard- *Vice President*
Jim Risbrudt- *Treasurer*
Kim Bailey- *Secretary*
Joan Helgelson
Debbie Wilke



OS-TML Church Council Members

Kyle Frigaard - *President*
Jerry Thormodson- *Vice President*
Debbie Wilke - *Treasurer*
Danielle Schroeder
Julie Walvatne
Ted Frigaard

Women of the ELCA President

Peggy Lien

Board of Education

Ashley Lee

Endowment Fund Board

Deb Thormodson
Julie Olson

Our Savior's Cemetery Board

David Schroeder, *Sexton*
Kyle Frigaard
Dean Thorsen
Gaylan Thormodson
Larry Sonmor

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
105 South Central
PO Box 158
Dalton, MN 56324
RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED



December

SHARED MINISTRY STAFF

Reverend Doctor Paul Snyder

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First Presbyterian Church: 747-2744 - 202 Nelson St, PO Box 14, Ashby, MN 56309

Office Administrator: Jaime Sorenson Cell: 507-276-8237

Office Email – sharedministryashbydalton@gmail.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September-December 2025

9:00am – First Presbyterian Worship

Holy Communion the 1st & 4th Sunday

3rd Sunday Coffeehouse Worship

10:30am – Our Savior's-Ten Mile Lake Worship

Holy Communion the 1st & 4th Sunday

3rd Sunday Coffeehouse Worship

ONLINE SERVICES live at 9:00am on Facebook