



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Creating Faith in Everyday Life

The *intetc.com* In Church & Community

Keeping Current

A special meeting of the OSL congregation was held on July 24 in The Gathering Place. Despite the fine summer weather outside, more than 100 people either stayed after the Celebrate worship service or came early before the Festive service to be part of the meeting.

Congregation president Anne Rieck McFarland called the meeting to order and outlined

the purpose of the meeting—simply to keep OSL members informed about the status of the congregation's finances, given that the year began with a negative budget. She then introduced a video report from Senior Pastor



Randy Gehring, who was out of town for a family commitment. Pr. Randy stressed that throughout these challenging times he has been impressed by OSL's members' commitment to ministry and "great capacity to overcome obstacles" as well as God's faithfulness to OSL and his enabling this congregation to live into its mission.

Expressing his belief that OSL is in "pretty good shape" financially, Pr. Randy gave the congregation a new challenge: to raise an additional \$100,000 by year-end, a "wholly achievable" goal that will cover the deficit and put OSL finances on more solid ground, making it easier for the congregation to live out its mission statement: "Our Savior's is a people forgiven in Christ whose mission is to proclaim Christ and nurture faith that connects with everyday life." To that end, Pr. Randy outlined some new ministry opportunities that are emerging from the strategic plan adopted earlier this year: a new worship experience at the 11:00 A.M.

Celebrate worship time; expanded Milestones and children's music ministry; LifeGroups, which will launch as a pilot program in September; and new adult-education opportunities this fall and spring.

Following the video, congregation treasurer Jaysen Stevenson reported on the current financial picture, indicating that revenues are ahead of schedule and that the congregation is on target with the budget. Because of the "enormous success" of the ongoing Mission: Possible campaign, OSL has realized a savings of approximately \$15,000 in interest on the re-amortized mortgage. Jaysen also stressed that

meeting the \$100,000 challenge presented by Pr. Randy would pay back the deficit. He mentioned as well that OSL will be working with a consultant to explore new ways to fund mission and ministry.

A handful of questions from members followed the financial report—how much of the budget is for personnel, and how does that compare to the "industry standard"?; should OSL sell its rental properties?; how is the amount of benevolence to ELCA and other missions calculated?—each of which require further research and exploration by the congregational council, which will be undertaken and reported on in the future.

The general mood of the meeting was upbeat and positive, with several members afterward reporting they were glad not only to hear good news about OSL's finances but also to be kept informed about the financial picture, and that they hoped another update would come this fall.

LifeGroup Ministries



Our Savior's members are encouraged to "Do Life Together," connecting faith with everyday life. One of the ways members can do this is through a new ministry starting this fall: in September OSL will be piloting LifeGroups—Living in Faith Everyday.

This pilot ministry will begin in conjunction with a change to OSL's 11:00 A.M. Celebrate worship service. Beginning on September 11, the later Celebrate service will feature a three-to-four-week sermon series. Each series will have its own study material for LifeGroups to engage in and study together. (LifeGroups will be open to everyone, regardless of the worship service you typically attend.)

LifeGroups are small groups of eight to 12 people who gather regularly in the members' homes to connect relationally and grow spiritually by participating in a discussion-led Bible study. Groups are encouraged to gather weekly for this time of study and fellowship. Each group is encouraged to commit to one another for a set period of time. After an initial commitment of four weeks, the school year is a good guideline for a minimal commitment.

If you are interested in being a part of the LifeGroup pilot, contact Pr. Jared Rakness (336-2942, ext. 44, or jrakness@oslchurch.com) or Kathy Nelson (336-2942, ext. 21, or knelson@oslchurch.com).

Register Now for Women's Fall Retreat 2016

The Women's Fall Retreat, "Prayer Practices and Spiritual Relationships," facilitated by Norma Jean Strommen, will take place on Friday, September 16, and Saturday, September 17, at Living Waters Retreat Center, Lake Poinsett, Arlington, S.D. Starting at 6:00 P.M. on Friday and concluding at approximately 3:00 P.M. on Saturday, the weekend also will feature Jodie Nielsen leading worship and song throughout the retreat. Here's the tentative agenda:

Friday
6:00 P.M.: registration and room assignments

7:00: Prayer Practices with Norma Jean
8:15: Social time, campfire, conversation, and s'mores

Saturday
8:00 A.M.: Breakfast
8:45: Opening music and worship
9:30: Spiritual Relations with Norma Jean
12:00: Lunch
1:20: Norma Jean
2:30: Group song and ending worship

Register online at oslchurch.com. For more information or questions, contact Loretta Nelson, lnelson@oslchurch.com or 336-2942, ext. 14.

OSL Women of the ELCA



The Heart of the Matter: Seeking God

by Tami Skorczewski

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

Bible Study. In August, we continue the theme "The Heart of the Matter: Seeking God," from *Gather* magazine (gathermagazine.org). In this session, we are to think about how conflict can be a place where we find God.

Upcoming Events

- Fall Luncheon – Saturday, September 24, at 11:00 A.M., in The Gathering Place. The program will be "The Golden Years," presented by the Center for Active Generations. Tickets will go on sale on September 4.
- Annual Pie & Lefse Sale Fundraiser – Sunday, November 20. Supports WELCA's 2016 Unit Wide Mission.
- Christmas Luncheon – Saturday, December 3, at 11:00 A.M., in The Gathering Place. All ages are welcome

to this multigenerational event—preschoolers on up! The program will be "The Greatest Gift," presented by Tom Roberts, author and storyteller. Tickets will go on sale on November 13.

Ongoing Project: Sleeping Mats (made from plastic bags). By crocheting strips of plastic bags, volunteers are making sleeping mats to donate to groups that go out to feed the homeless. Mats will keep moisture away from body, conserve heat, and be soft to sleep on. Each mat needs 500 to 700 supermarket bags. WELCA is accepting clean plastic bags, which may be placed in the labeled bin by the OSL Library. For additional information, contact Lori Tandler, lorit@sio.midco.net.

Blessings,
Tami Skorczewski
OSL WELCA President



In Memory of Arlen Guthmiller (brother of Margaret Novak)

Vern and Sharon Bultje
Julie Day
Mary Erkonen
Margaret Novak
Owen and Delaine Shay
Elvin and Carol Thomsen

In Memory of Edna Olson

Gary and Darlene Murra

In Memory of Glen Peterson

Eloise Elmen
Marsha Millage

In Memory of Harold Rehder

Gary and Darlene Murra

In Honor of Anne Anderson

Don and Toady Weeg

In Honor of Chuck Havelaar

Don and Toady Weeg

In Honor of Joyce Kaatz

Don and Toady Weeg
Kenneth and Laurice Iseminger
Eloise Elmen

Baptisms

June 26, 2016

Dawson Ronald and Maddox Charles Gerdes, the children of Nate and Jennifer Olinger-Gerdes.
Charlee Catherine Gribble, the daughter of Chris and Tracy Gribble.

Addison Betty-Jean and Aidan Carla-Fae Holzapfel, the children of Alan and Amber Holzapfel

July 3, 2016

Zada Corrine Carlson, the daughter of Andy and Elizabeth Carlson.

July 10, 2016

Jack Hayden and Marley Lucia Aris Hooper, the children of Brett and Wendy Hooper.
Colsen Karl Schilling, the son of Dustin Schilling and Stephanie Scott.

Flowers

July 3, 2016

Flowers given by Dave and Donna Krueger in celebration of James and Angela Krueger's 11th wedding anniversary on July 8.

Noah's Ark Party

Three-year-olds and their families will be welcomed to Sunday and Wednesday School for the first time with the Noah's Ark Party on Sunday, August 28, from 9:30 to 10:30 A.M. Stop in before or after worship to meet their Sunday and Wednesday School teachers and classmates, enjoy some treats, and have a little fun to celebrate this faith milestone. Meet in the Heavenly Hangout—three year-old classroom on the Education Level, downstairs. For more information contact Melissa Nesdahl, Director of Faith Formation, 336-2942, ext. 17, or mnesdahl@oslchurch.com.

Backpack Sunday is August 28

As summer winds down, all teachers and students (preschool through post-grad) are invited to receive a blessing and an age-appropriate gift at all worship services on August 28, in preparation for the new school year. Bring your backpack, laptop, tablet, briefcase, etc., if you like, as a symbol of your return to your vocation as a teacher or student.

Back to School!

OSL Sunday School will resume on September 11 at 10:00 A.M.; Wednesday School will resume on September 14 at 6:00 P.M. Registration—for children from age three through entering grade five—is available online at oslchurch.com/children or at the Information Center. The same material is taught on Sundays and Wednesdays, so choose whichever day works best for your family. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children to the opening of Sunday and Wednesday School and are invited to visit their classrooms as well.

An Opportunity to Share

Are you looking for ways to pass on your faith? To engage more deeply in ministry? Are you ready to let the children of OSL shape your faith? Become a Sunday or Wednesday School teacher! You will be provided with a curriculum, support from the Youth and Family Staff, and at least one co-teacher in the classroom with you. If you are interested or wish to recommend someone, contact Melissa Nesdahl, 336-2942, ext. 17, or mnesdahl@oslchurch.com.

Confirmation Mentor Opportunity

A cornerstone of OSL's confirmation ministry is mentor groups, which consist of six to eight students, separated by gender and class, and one or two adult mentors. These mentors are often parents of confirmation students, but not necessarily. Anyone who is willing to be authentic, available, and affirming to these sixth-grade youths is eligible to be a leader in this rewarding ministry. Mentors will receive discussion guides for the small-group time, and will attend training in August, but are encouraged to be creative in instituting traditions and other opportunities for building relationships and faith among the youth. Contact Nicole Mindt, nmindt@oslchurch.com, with questions or to volunteer.

The Last Summer Blast

The season's final OSL Summer Blast will be on Wednesday, August 17, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. Come and enjoy the meal, worship, and fun Olympic-themed games and activities for kids and kids at heart.

LET'S COMMUNICATE! OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF DIRECTORY

www.OSLCHURCH.com

Church Office:
(605) 336-2942

MARIBETH ANDERSON
PT Visitation Minister
336-2942 (Church Office)

MICHELLE ANDERSON:
Ext. 28
Faith Community Nurse
manderson@oslchurch.com

AMANDA BORK: Ext. 42
Nursery Director
abork@oslchurch.com

AARON BUCHHOLZ: Ext. 38
Facility Manager
abuchholz@oslchurch.com

ELISE CHESLEY: Ext. 35
Director of Youth and Family
echesley@oslchurch.com

STELLA CURRY: Ext. 10
Office Manager
scurry@oslchurch.com

NORRIS EINERTSON
PT Pastor of Visitation
336-2942 (Church Office)

RANDY GEHRING: Ext. 11
Senior Pastor
rgehring@oslchurch.com

DEB HARLAN: Ext. 48
Caring Ministries
Coordinator
dharlan@oslchurch.com

BARB HAUGAN: Ext. 23
Business Administrator
bhaugan@oslchurch.com

SAMI JOHNSON: Ext. 12
Pastor of Youth and Family
sjohnson@oslchurch.com

TIM LEMME: Ext. 19
Pastor of Caring Ministries
tlemme@oslchurch.com

GENE LEVASSEUR: Ext. 40
Director of Worship
glevasseur@oslchurch.com

DEB MERXBAUER: Ext. 25
Library Coordinator
dmerxbauer@oslchurch.com

NICOLE MINDT: Ext. 33
Youth Coordinator
nmindt@oslchurch.com

KATHY NELSON: Ext. 21
Outreach and
Communications
Coordinator
knelson@oslchurch.com

LORETTA NELSON: Ext. 14
Congregational Life
Coordinator
lnelson@oslchurch.com

MELISSA NESDAHL: Ext. 17
Director of Faith Formation
mnesdahl@oslchurch.com

JARED RAKNESS: Ext. 44
Pastor of Outreach and
Communication
jrakness@oslchurch.com

BILL REYNOLDS: Ext. 15
Director of Communications
breyolds@oslchurch.com

MARILYN SCHEMP:
Ext. 31
Organist and Associate
Director of Music
and Fine Arts
mschempp@oslchurch.com

DEBBIE THEIS: Ext. 43
Food Coordinator
deekhoff@oslchurch.com

DEANNA WEHRSPANN:
Ext. 37
Music and Worship
Professional
dwehrspann@oslchurch.com

LAVADA WOODS: Ext. 49
Financial Assistant
lwoods@oslchurch.com

The Stephen Series: Caregiving for the Church of the Present and the Future



Editor’s Note: This article includes an adaptation of resources from Stephen Ministries headquarters in St. Louis. They are pertinent to OSL Stephen Ministry recruitment, which begins in September. OSL Stephen Ministry training will begin in January.

Pastors and church leaders sometimes face the challenge of helping congregation members move past the mistaken notion that only ordained clergy are called and gifted for ministry. When people act on the belief that God has uniquely gifted them for ministry, the church becomes the living body of Christ—members serve one another and reach out to the world with Christ’s love. With this visionary focus, faith becomes active, people are empowered, ministry is multiplied, and the church moves safely and confidently toward the promise of the future.

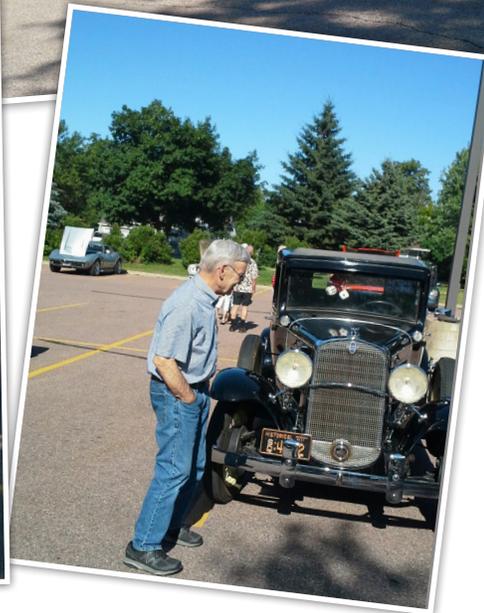
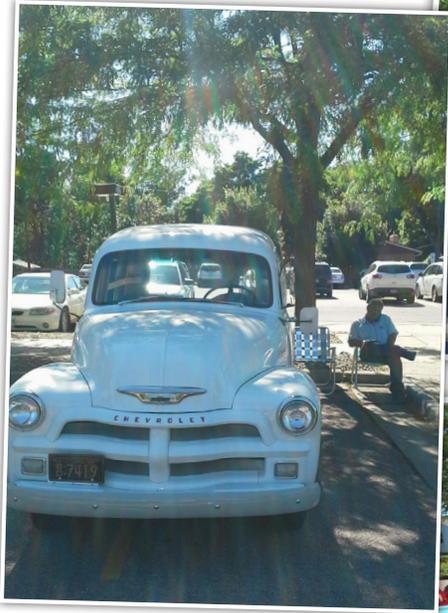
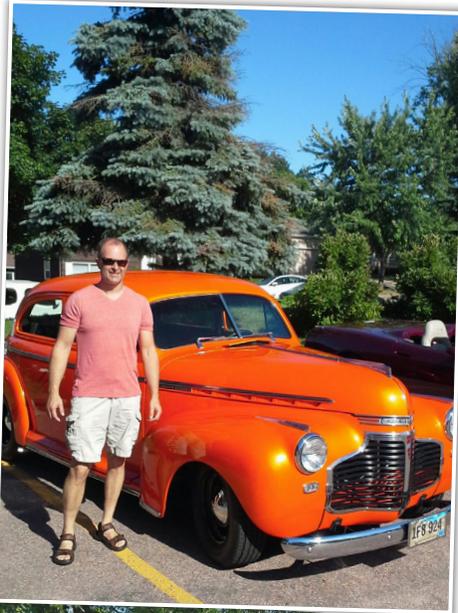
Here are some ways that the Stephen Series can help congregations move away from the mindset of the church of the past (ministry limited to pastoral staff) and toward becoming the church of the future (ministry that incorporates a Stephen Ministry program):

Traditional Church of the Past	Church with Stephen Ministry
The congregation’s caregiving ministry begins and ends with the pastoral staff.	Trained laypeople expand the amount of quality caregiving pastors and congregations can provide.
Laypersons are asked only to do tasks such as financial management, facility maintenance, serving dinners, etc.	Trained laypersons are entrusted with significant relational ministry to those who need care.
Certain spiritual gifts are reserved for clergy and other professional church staff.	Members realize that the Holy Spirit lavishes spiritual gifts upon all believers as God chooses, without regard to a believer’s position in the church.
The pastor ministers; laypeople receive ministry. The pastor is the only or the main “player.” Laypeople watch from the sidelines.	The pastor is a “player-coach,” both ministering to and equipping laypeople for ministry.
Involving others in ministry means more work for pastors. It’s easier for pastors to just do all the work themselves	Equipping laypeople multiplies ministry and gives pastors more time to focus on those ministries that only pastors can do.
Church work is drudgery, and laypersons do it out of a sense of obligation.	Laypersons who are equipped for ministry find it energizing and are highly motivated to serve.
If somebody volunteers, the job is his or hers. Never say no to a volunteer.	Members appreciate guidance in finding ministries that match their gifts.
It is difficult to find volunteers. Pastors and lay leaders resort to arm-twisting and guilt trips in order to motivate members to serve.	The Holy Spirit moves people to respond eagerly and willingly when they are offered meaningful opportunities to use their spiritual gifts to serve God.
In order to recruit enough laypersons to do church work, the work must be easy and little must be expected of them.	Laypersons who answer God’s call to serve will aim high and give it their all.
Laypeople tend to view church work as unpleasant tasks that must be done, but that are frequently found to be unsatisfying.	Laypeople who answer God’s call to serve experience great satisfaction and spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth.
Laypeople will never accept the ministry of a fellow layperson. They expect the pastor to provide all the caring ministry that happens in the congregation.	Laypeople come to value the ministry of other laypeople when the pastor and other trusted leaders clearly explain the biblical basis for ministry and publicly support the ministry of laypeople
Pastors who equip laypeople to do caring ministry are just trying to avoid doing caring ministry themselves.	Pastors who equip laypeople for ministry care deeply and honor God’s design for the church. By equipping others, they can reach even more people with Christ’s care.
Laypersons see themselves as second-class citizens in the church; they believe their caring will always be inadequate and second-rate.	Gifted laypeople, when trained and organized, can team with pastors as partners in providing high-quality, distinctively Christian care.
Congregation members who are facing a difficult time often tough it out alone because asking for help is a sign of weakness.	Congregation members bear one another’s burdens and willingly give and receive care—which is just as God intended the church to be.
Quality ministries revolve around an extremely dynamic leader. When the leader leaves, the ministry dies.	Effective training of lay leaders allows ministry to continue and even thrive through leadership transitions.
There is scant biblical evidence for laypersons being involved in the church’s ministry.	The Bible casts a vision in which all believers employ their gifts in significant ministry for God’s kingdom.

First Annual OSL Car Show a Success

Among all of the regular food, fun, and worship, the June OSL Summer Blast featured Our Savior's first-ever Classic Car Show! OSL members brought over 22 cars as well as stories to share with attendees. Another highlight was OSL's own "Car Talk": "God Talk," with Peter and Paul. A wonderful time was had by all! Thank you to those who brought cars to show, those who cooked, helped with games, and led worship, and everyone who came to make this a fun night together!

The season's final Summer Blast will be on Wednesday, August 17.



HEALTH MINISTRIES

Our Savior's has a number of ongoing health ministries that meet on a weekly or monthly basis. Please feel free to join any of the following sessions. For more information, call Deb Harlan, 336-2942, ext. 48.

Footcare Clinic

Cost is \$25 per person. Wednesdays, August 3, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Call the Church Office, 336-2942, to schedule your appointment.

Living with Chronic Illness

Every Tuesday at 2:00 P.M. in the Friendship Room. People and their families who have or are experiencing the challenge of cancer are welcome. If you cannot attend, but would like to be on our prayer and devotional mailing list, call 336-2942, ext. 48.

Knitting/Crocheting Ministry

Learn how to knit or crochet prayer shawls (to be given to people to remind them of God's presence and love in their lives) and mittens and scarves (for missions).

Wednesday, August 10 and 24, 9:30 A.M.,
Sunshine Rm.
2nd Saturday Knitters, August 13, 9:30 A.M.,
Sunshine Rm.

Good Grief

Every Thursday at 10:00 A.M. in Room 103. Offers support to anyone dealing with loss and crisis in their lives.

Pickleball

OSL-sponsored Pickleball: Mondays, 8:00 A.M. to noon and 5:00 to 9:00 P.M., Gym
Tuesdays, 8:00 A.M. to noon, Gym
Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Thursdays, 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

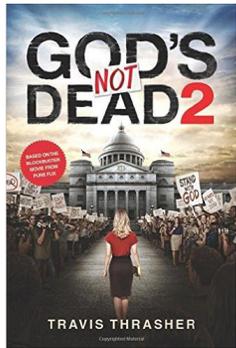
Memory Care Support Group

Saturdays, 10:00 to 11:00 A.M., Room 103.
For caregivers of those with Alzheimer's and dementia, the group is a place for caregivers to share and to receive understanding and empathy. Contact Caring Ministries, 336-2942, for information.

Friendship Club

Friendship Club will resume on September 20, at 10:30 A.M., in the Friendship Room. The program will feature Jim Knutson, with a presentation about famous mountain men. Lunch will be served following the program, in The Gathering Place. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

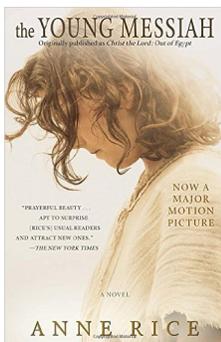
One Church One Read Summer Title Available



Stop in the Library, check out a copy of *God's Not Dead 2* by Travis Thrasher, and join the discussion on September 25 at 10:00 A.M. in the Friendship Room. In *God's Not Dead 2*, high-school student Brooke Thawley asks her history

teacher, Grace Wesley, whether similarities exist between the teachings of Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., and those of Jesus. Because Grace answers Brooke's question by reciting some of Jesus' words from the Bible, the school district suspends her. The book explores what genuine faith really means as Grace, her attorney, and others fight to save Grace's job and avoid a court decision that could cripple the free-speech rights of all Christians.

New Fiction for Adults

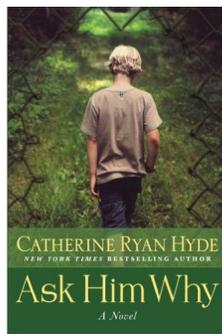


***Young Messiah* by Anne Rice.** With the Holy Land in turmoil, seven-year-old Jesus and his family leave Egypt for the dangerous road home to Jerusalem. As they travel, the boy ponders the mysteries surrounding his birth.

Anne Rice's dazzling, kaleidoscopic novel, based on the gospels and the most respected New Testament scholarship, summons up the voice, the presence, and the words of Jesus, allowing him to tell his own story as he struggles to grasp the holy purpose of his life.

***Ask Him Why* by Catherine Ryan Hyde.**

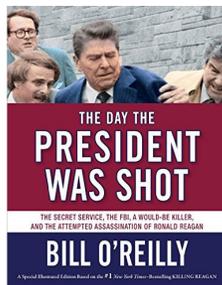
Ruth and her little brother, Aubrey, are just teenagers when their older brother ships off to Iraq. When Joseph returns, uninjured, only three and a half months later, Ruth is happy



he is safe but also deeply worried. How can it be that her courageous big brother has been dishonorably discharged for refusing to go out on duty? Aubrey can't believe that his hero doesn't have very good reasons. Yet as the horrifying details of the incident emerge, Joseph disappears.

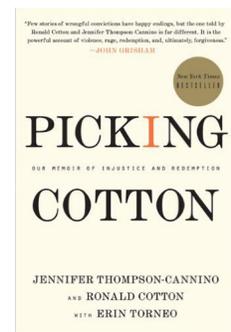
In their attempts to find him, Ruth and Aubrey discover he has a past far darker than either of them could imagine. But even as they learn more about their brother, important questions remain unanswered—why did he betray his unit, his country, and now his family? Joseph's refusal to speak ignites a fire in young Aubrey that results in a disastrous and public act of rebellion.

New Nonfiction for Adults



***The Day the President Was Shot* by Bill O'Reilly.** The year was 1981. Just two months into his presidency, Ronald Reagan was shot after leaving a speaking engagement in Washington, D. C. The quick action of the Secret Service and medical professionals saved the president's life. Mere days after his near-death experience, Reagan's personal strength propelled him back into his presidential duties. Adapted from O'Reilly's historical thriller *Killing Reagan*, this story explores the events of the day Reagan was shot.

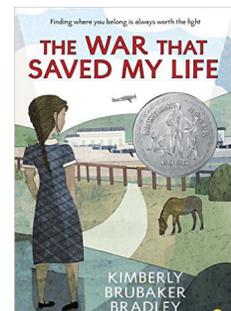
***Picking Cotton* by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino.** Raped at knifepoint by a man who broke into her apartment while she slept, Jennifer Thompson was able to escape and eventually positively identified Ronald Cotton as her attacker. Cotton insisted she was mistaken, but Thompson's positive



identification was the compelling evidence that put him behind bars.

After 11 years, Cotton was allowed to take a DNA test that proved his innocence. He was released after serving more than a decade in prison for a crime he never committed. Two years later, Cotton and Thompson met face to face and forged an unlikely friendship that changed both of their lives. In their own words, they unfold the harrowing details of their tragedy and challenge our ideas of memory and judgment while demonstrating the profound nature of human grace and the healing power of forgiveness.

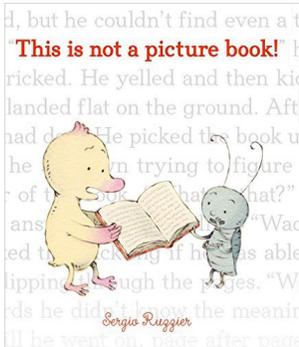
New for Middle- and High-School Youth



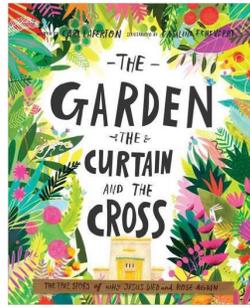
***The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley.** Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. When her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him.

So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take in the two kids. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. In the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

New Preschool Picture Books

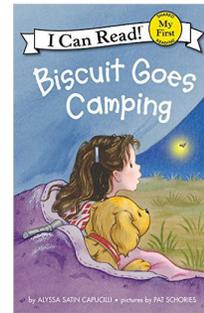


This Is Not a Picture Book by Sergio Ruzzier. In this quirky yet sweet picture book about the joy and power of reading, Duck learns that even books without pictures can be fun. While he and his friend Bug may struggle at first to decipher their book, they stick with it, and before long they discover that not only can they read it, but it deserves a place on the shelf with all their favorite picture books.

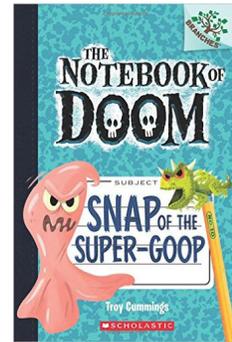


The Garden, The Curtain, and The Cross by Carl Laferton. This beautifully illustrated hardback book takes children on a journey from the garden of Eden to God's perfect new creation. Hearing the Easter story through a Bible overview, children will discover that "because of our sin, we can't go in" but because of Jesus' victory on the cross, an even better garden awaits us...

New Chapter Books and Early Readers

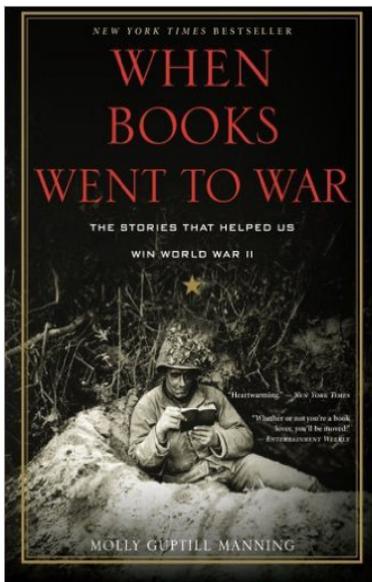


Biscuit Goes Camping by Alysa Satin Capucilli. Biscuit can't wait to go camping. From tents and flashlights to frogs and fireflies, there are so many new things to discover when you're sleeping outdoors. Are those rain clouds in the sky? How will Biscuit go camping now?



The Notebook of Doon: Snap of the Super-Goop by Troy Cummings. In this tenth book, Alexander keeps seeing monsters that the S.S.M.P. has already defeated, but his friends Rip and Nikki think he is going crazy. Could there be zombie monsters on the loose or is there a monster that can turn into anything? Alexander will have to protect the town—and the notebook—from Stermont's latest monster.

Monthly Book Club for Adults



The Book Club for Adults meets at 7:00 P.M. on the fourth Thursday of each month in the OSL Library to discuss that month's novel. The August 25 selection will be *When Books Went to War* by Molly Guptill Manning. When America entered World War II in 1941, we faced an enemy that had banned and burned 100 million books. Outraged librarians launched a campaign to send free books to American troops and gathered 20 million hardcover donations.

In 1943, the War Department and the publishing industry stepped in with an extraordinary program: 120 million small, lightweight paperbacks for troops to carry in their pockets and rucksacks in every theater of war. These Armed Services Editions were beloved by the troops and are still fondly remembered today. Soldiers read them while waiting to land at Normandy, in hellish trenches in the midst of battles in the Pacific, in field hospitals, and on long bombing

flights. They helped rescue *The Great Gatsby* from obscurity and made Betty Smith, author of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, into a national icon. *When Books Went to War* is the inspiring story of the Armed Services Editions, and a treasure for history buffs and book lovers alike.

Join this exciting community of readers! A list of the 2016 selections is available in the Library.

Library Hours

Sunday	8:15 A.M.–noon
Monday	9:00 A.M.–noon
Tuesday	9:00 A.M.–noon
Wednesday	9:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.
Thursday	9:00 A.M.–noon
Friday	Closed
2 nd Saturday of the month	10:00 A.M. - noon and 4:30–6:30 P.M.



909 West 33rd St.,
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Phone: (605) 336-2942
www.oslchurch.com



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The *intercom* August 2016 In Church & Community

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday Evening

Festive Worship - 5:00 P.M.

Sunday Morning

Celebrate Worship - 8:45 A.M.

Festive Worship - 10:00 A.M.

Celebrate Worship - 10:30 A.M.

TELEVISION & INTERNET:

Celebrate: 9:30 A.M., KTTW (cable channel 9; channel 7.1)

Website: www.oslchurch.com

Social Media: twitter.com/oslchurchsf · facebook.com/oslchurchsf · youtube.com/oslchurchsf

Your Offering Makes a Difference

Your generosity is making a real difference in people's lives through the mission and ministry of OSL. The pages of this newsletter tell that story in more depth. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving and your passionate commitment to God's work through this congregation. Your continued generosity helps us reach our congregational goal of fully funding our ministry of connecting faith to everyday life.

Ministry Support through June 30

Pledged	\$1,768,616
Received YTD	\$926,511
Remaining	\$842,105
Projected YTD	\$954,419
Ahead/(Behind)	\$(27,908)