



# The *intercom* In Church and Community

The Monthly Newsletter of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

## From the Senior Pastor Magnify!

It's not often in the Lutheran church that we turn our attention to Mary, the mother of Jesus. But Advent seems to lend itself to reflecting on Mary's experience and witness, especially as we prepare once again to celebrate Christmas.



When we stop to think about Mary's circumstances, it's easy to become awestruck by her example of faithfulness. Likely she was a teenage mother-to-be, unwed but engaged when it became known that she

was pregnant. Yet when she went to visit her relative Elizabeth, who herself was pregnant in her old age, she was anything but shy, timid, or reserved. Instead she burst into song, praising God's surprising activity in the world and within her own body.

This song, known today as Mary's *Magnificat*, relates both the joy she felt in that moment and her overflowing praise as a response to what God has done, both for her personally in granting her the admiration of all future generations and for God's more encompassing salvation, which would be worked out through the son she would bear into the world. She sings of God's capacity to act, God's holiness, and God's mercy.

Woven throughout the song, however, is a strong socioeconomic tone as Mary sings of God's

praiseworthy actions. In this regard, it's not unlike the Song of Miriam in Exodus 15 and the Song of Deborah in Judges 5. Mary's song gives voice to the marginalized and relatively powerless segments of society. If she were singing today, it would be as though she is singing about Nicaraguan peasants, the marginalized people of Sudan, or any other number of groups of people who live on the margins of life.

But even though she sings of God's reversal of fortunes, her song is not intended to be a call to violent resistance or a drive to render the wealthy powerless. Indeed, Mary's song functions in Luke's Gospel as an exhortation to the well-off to deal with their wealth in a way that brings them into a positive relationship with the poor so that folks across the socioeconomic spectrum may participate equally and fully in God's promised salvation.

As such, it seems that Mary's song is worth taking a closer look at, especially in this day and age, and especially as we make preparations for Christmas. So join us for worship this Advent, both on the weekends and on Wednesday evenings as we gather under the *Magnificat*-inspired theme "Magnify." May this be for

us a time to find our own praise voices even as we reflect on our relationships with those who are traveling through life on a different rung on the ladder of society than we are. And, through the rhythms of repentance and forgiveness, may our worship lead us to live lives that magnify God's grace and mercy in a broken and hurting world.

Advent blessings to you and to all,

*Randy*

Pr. Randy Gehring

## Advent and Christmas at OSL

Here are some scheduling notes for the next several weeks:

- December 6 – Weekly Advent worship services, "Prayers around the Wreath," will begin, from 6:40 to 7:15 P.M., Celebrate Center
- December 23 – No Saturday evening Festive worship service
- December 24 –
  - 2:00 P.M. – Family service, Celebrate Center
  - 4:00 P.M. – Celebrate and Festive worship services (Festive worship will be televised on KTTW)
  - 6:00 P.M. – Festive worship service
  - 10:00 P.M. – Festive worship service
- December 25 – Festive worship service, 10:00 A.M.

*Regular worship service schedule on December 30 and 31.*

**In Memory of Lyle McKichan**

Margie Barr  
Joe and Mary Colby  
Elsie Enger  
LeRoy and Armena Green  
Donald and Joyce Helberg  
Russ and Connie Hirsch  
Ron and Jan Hybertson  
Jean Kracht  
Eleanor McMahan  
Eldon and Pauline Nelson  
Margaret Novak  
John Severson  
Bert Schroeder

**In Memory of Michael Pearson**

Margaret Novak

**In Memory of Kristen Thie**

Arlen Viste

**In Honor of Pr. Ray Engh's Birthday**

Michael and Susan Engh  
Frances Kilen  
Don and Coryll Weeg

**In Honor of Almira Pederson's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Don and Toady Weeg

**Baptisms**

**October 22, 2017**

Sydney Erin Hendrixson, Matthew Allan Beck, and Michael James Johnson, the children of Erin Fox.

**November 4, 2017**

Jacob Maynard McKinney, the son of Josh and Samantha McKinney.

**November 5, 2017**

Louis Jerome Larson, the son of Chris and Krista Larson.

**November 5, 2017**

Norah Raelynn Keller, the daughter of Tony and Stephenie Keller.

**November 11, 2017**

Josephine Sue Pederson, the daughter of Mark and Erin Pederson.

**November 19, 2017**

Alex Thomas Wolfe, the son of Jesse and Melissa Wolfe.

**Flowers**

**October 29, 2017**

Flowers given by the family of Dorothy M. Larson, a charter member of OSL who would have turned 100 this year.

**November 19, 2017**

Flowers given to the glory of God in praise and thanks for the life and music of Mary Helen Schmidt, by an anonymous OSL friend.

**Opportunities to Serve: Boards at Our Savior's**

The Nominating Committee is responsible for recruiting members to serve on OSL's ten boards, filling officer positions, and selecting nine members to serve as voting members to the South Dakota Assembly. Most of the committee's work is done in November through January, prior to the annual meeting of the congregation.

Each of the boards has nine members, one of whom is the chair and a Congregational Council representative. Boards meet once per month at various times. Each board works with a pastor and/or other staff member. Let's take a quick look at what each of these boards does:

- **Caring Ministries** supports a holistic health ministry for the congregation, working with the Faith Community Nurse. They are involved in health and well-being education.
- **Church in Society** aids the congregation in serving human needs in local and global communities. They encourage support of ELCA programs for missions and hunger.
- **Congregational Life** plans monthly activities for members such as Game Night, OSL Dining Out, new member orientation, and Midnight Madness.
- **Deacons** work with the pastoral staff to provide spiritual growth opportunities, and also administer the distribution of sacraments.
- **Education** plans Sunday and Wednesday School activities and curriculum, and organizes children's summer activities.

- **Finance** is chaired by the congregation's treasurer as they create the operating budget, manage finances, and work with the auditor.
- **Outreach** promotes and publicizes activities and ministries of the congregation and oversees the broadcast, print, and electronic media. They also develop ideas to recruit new members.
- **Property** reviews facility budget and oversees the maintenance of the church property.
- **Senior Ministries** plans programs to inform and entertain senior members and encourage their walk in faith. Birthday cards are delivered to members age 80 and over.
- **Stewardship and Benevolence** develops, plans, and leads the annual campaign for operational support, and determine how benevolence dollars should be spent.
- **Worship and Arts** works with staff and pastors to assist and improve the worship experience, enhance the aesthetics of worship spaces, and plan worship schedules.
- **Youth** works with the Youth Director to plan year-round programs and spiritual growth for youth. They also provide recognition of accomplishments such as confirmation and graduation.
- **Nominating** is a committee, not a board, so the chair does not sit on the Council. Members are recruited to serve on the Nominating Committee during the same time as other boards.

Consider how you can offer your interests and talents as a member of one of these boards! You will meet new people and be part of an exciting adventure serving your congregation!

Contact a member of the Nominating Committee to learn more: Pam Hanneman and Carol Oakland, co-chairs; Barb Vogel, Tom Berkeland, Dean Buckneberg, Jackie Payne, Jerry Tieszen, Chris Fischer, and Monica Mauer.

**Telecasts**

**October 29, 2017**

Telecasts sponsored by Shirley and Luverne Vehle in memory of their son, Billy.

**November 19, 2017**

Telecasts sponsored in memory of Martin and Alma Reinecke and Harold and Arlen Guthmiller, by Margaret Novak.

**November 26, 2017**

Telecasts sponsored by Sharon Weber.

## Art of Marriage:

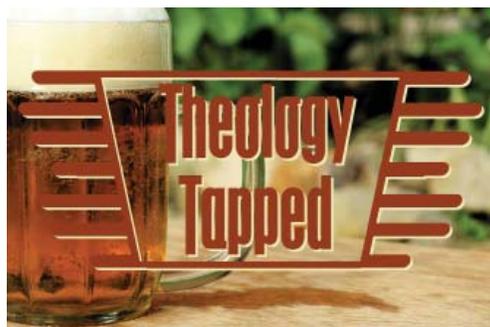
### A Follow-Up

The small-group series the Art of Marriage: A Biblically Centered Study of God's Design for Marriage met for seven weeks in October and November. Participants—newlyweds through “seasoned” married couples—viewed videos designed to spark discussion. Laura Wong facilitated the series, and offers these items of feedback from a couple of participants:

I have appreciated meeting with our marriage group. It is nice to be able to look at marriage issues that many people go through from different perspectives. I think it is important to take time to work on our most important relationships, with God and with our spouses. This has been very helpful and I have enjoyed the fellowship. —*Kristen Steen*

My husband and I have thoroughly enjoyed our time in the marriage class. We have been able to connect with other couples in a small group setting, giving us an opportunity to get to know others at OSL. In addition, the material and discussions, with couples who have been married for a few years or many years, have been both thought-provoking and enriching, giving everyone in the class a chance to discuss the wonderful complexities of marriage in a positive, faith-centered environment. —*Gretta Melstad Van Schepen*

The Art of Marriage could be offered again, if there is sufficient interest. Contact Laura Wong, 582-4212.



### Theology Tapped

If you're looking for engaging conversation on matters of faith and life in a fun, informal setting, join Pr. Randy for Theology Tapped on Thursday, December 28, from 8:00 to 9:30 P.M., at Monk's House of Ale Repute, 420 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St.

## Call Accepted!

The Rev. Justin Kosec has accepted OSL's call to serve as Pastor of Outreach and Communication, and will come on board after the first of the year. OSL members voted unanimously to extend the call at a congregational meeting on October 15.

Earlier in November Pr. Justin and his wife, Susanne, were in Sioux Falls finalizing the purchase of a home. The Kosecs and their infant daughter, Amariah, have been living in Smithtown, N.Y., where Pr. Justin served as pastor at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church.

The Kosecs are originally from this region. Pr. Justin received his B.A. at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisc., and an M.A. at Luther Seminary. He also holds a master's degree from Creighton University in Omaha, and an M.Div. from Yale Divinity School. Pr. Justin had been active in ministry for several years before pursuing ordination.

In a ministry statement prepared for the call committee and shared with the congregation via PowerPoint, Pr. Justin emphasizes several goals, including fellowship in worship, preaching from passion, faithfulness through honesty, teamwork before individualism, humor despite pain, and grace beyond shame, among others. In describing his areas of expertise and strength, he lists volunteer coordination, Christian education, developing interpersonal climate, innovation,



and creativity. “I love motivating people to find their gifts for ministry and engage in meaningful service,” Pr. Justin shares in a statement. “I love planning worship and presiding at the altar, which is a profound experience of humble hospitality.” (You'll find the PowerPoint presentation and more information about Pr. Kosec at [oslchurch.com/about/call-process](http://oslchurch.com/about/call-process).)

The OSL community looks forward to welcoming the Kosecs in person in a few weeks. Please continue to keep the Kosec family in your prayers as they undertake their relocation to Sioux Falls.



## A Note of Thanks

*From the South Dakota Synod office staff:*

Dear Our Savior's,

Thank you for your generous donation toward the Reformation 500 worship service. We are grateful for your gifts as we commemorate this milestone in our church's history.

Blessings to you as you continue to proclaim and live the Good News of Jesus Christ in your congregation.

Yours in Christ,  
The South Dakota Synod, ELCA



This communion set was one of 40 used at the South Dakota Synod's Reformation 500 worship service on November 1. Congregations were invited to purchase a set for use during the service and to keep afterward as a memento of the milestone. OSL's set is currently in the Chapel.

## Another Note of Thanks

*Church on the Street is an ELCA mission development among the homeless community of Sioux Falls and one of OSL's mission partners. Earlier this autumn, an OSL women's Bible study group organized the assembly of snack bags for COTS to distribute to those they serve. This comes from Rebel Hurd, COTS Mission Developer:*

Dear Our Savior's Women's Bible Study Group,

I pray today that this finds you healthy, happy, and grounded in keeping the Word of God central to all we do.

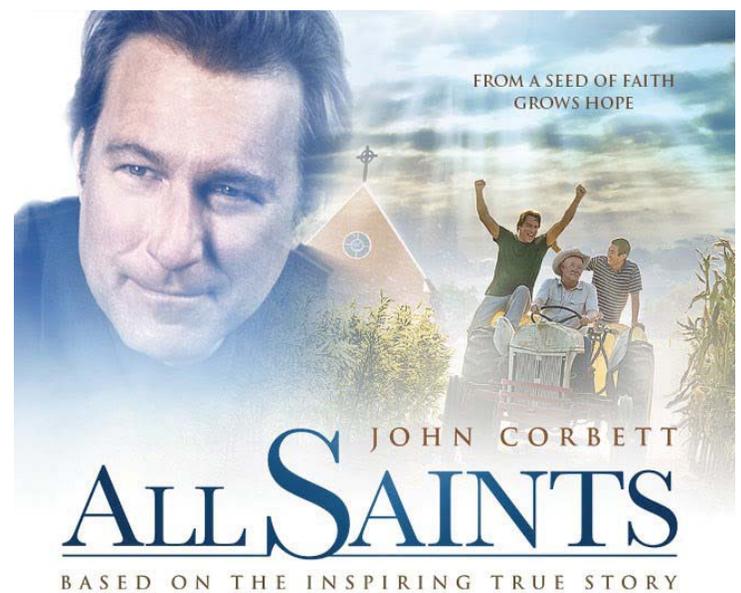
Thank you so much for caring for the least of these, our brothers and sisters on the streets. Your energy to lead such an amazing project for COTS, your gifts of time, and your trust and commitment to God through the blessing of the gifts—wow! Thank you very much.

We are truly blessed to be blessed by you!

Cheerfully in Christ,  
Rebel Hurd

## Upcoming LifeGroup Opportunity

Coming in January, Our Savior's will offer a new worship series based on the inspiring movie *All Saints*. The series will start the weekend of January 21–22 and run through February 10–11. You may then take that experience to the next level by participating in a LifeGroup small group study based on the sermon series. Watch for more information after Christmas.



## Men of God: Combined Men's Program Begins in December

Beginning this month, Men's Bible Breakfast will no longer meet on the first and third Friday of each month. Instead, it will join together in fellowship and Bible study with OSL's Lutheran Men in Mission group on the First and Third Saturday of each month, at 8:30 A.M. in the Conference Room. Combining these two groups will provide more opportunity for conversation around faith and life as we grow in our understanding of what it means to be Men of God in the world each day. The first meeting together will be held on December 2, at 8:30 A.M. in the Conference Room. Men of all ages are invited to attend this one-hour Bible study. A continental breakfast is provided by members of our group each time we gather. For more information, contact Pr. Tim Lemme, 336-2942, ext. 19, or [tlemme@oslchurch.com](mailto:tlemme@oslchurch.com).

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Savior's Prayer Shawl Ministry reaches out to those in need with a shawl made with prayer and love, to comfort, console, and strengthen OSL's family of faith.

The shawl is a tangible reminder of God's promise to always be with us. They are called *prayer* shawls because the making of the shawl is a spiritual practice for the crafter. A prayer is said as the shawl is begun and then many prayers are added with the stitches. Each shawl is a blend of prayers, talents, gifts, and grace. Shawls are knitted or crocheted in various patterns. They are freely given with no strings attached. They are not for sale. They are gifts of love. Recipients may be known or unknown to the crafter.

Our Savior's has two Prayer Shawl Ministry Groups: one meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, the other meets on the second Saturday of the month; each group meets at 9:30 A.M. in the Sonshine Room. If you wish to participate in this ministry but cannot attend these meetings, instructions for prayer shawls and pocket shawls are located at the Information Center and via [oslchurch.com/ministry/adults](http://oslchurch.com/ministry/adults).

## Start the Conversation

Anyone who has seen their doctor recently likely has been asked if their Advanced Care Plan or Directives are on file in the Electronic Medical Record. All medical clinics and hospitals are seeking this information in case you experience a sudden event (like a car accident or illness) and could not make your own decisions.

It is extremely important to have a trusted friend or relative know your wishes in case they need to make decisions for you. While you are with your loved ones this holiday season, take time to Start the Conversation. Whether or not you complete the legal forms, it is important to take these first steps:

- ◆ Who would you name as your "decision maker" or "health care agent"?
- ◆ What would you want them to know so they can carry out your wishes?

Do you need assistance in having these discussions or filling out the paperwork? Keep in mind that I am trained to assist individuals, families, and groups in this process, and have forms in my office that both Avera and Sanford utilize. If you have done this process but it has been more than ten years, or you have had changes in your health, it may be time to review and update your directives. I can help with this as well. Contact me for an appointment or invite me to speak at your social group or club. I am happy to help!

Michelle Anderson, RN  
Faith Community Nurse; 336-2942, ext. 28;  
[mianderson@oslchurch.com](mailto:mianderson@oslchurch.com)



Friendship Club will be going to Nora, S.D., on December 12. The group will meet at OSL for lunch at noon, then board the bus at 12:45 for a 1:00 departure. The group will be back at OSL by 4:00. Register by December 8 at the Information Center on Sundays or in the Church Office during the week. The bus ride will cost \$12 All are welcome!

For more information, contact Pr. Tim Lemme, 336-2942 or [tlemme@oslchurch.com](mailto:tlemme@oslchurch.com).

## Health Ministries

Our Savior's has a number of ongoing health ministries that meet on a weekly or monthly basis. Feel free to join any of the following sessions. For more information, contact Michelle Anderson, Faith Community Nurse, 336-2942, ext. 48, or [mianderson@oslchurch.com](mailto:mianderson@oslchurch.com).

### Footcare Clinic

Cost is \$25 per person. Thursday, December 7, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Call the Church Office, 336-2942, to schedule your appointment.

### Hope for Living with Illness or Cancer

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, contact Michelle Anderson, 336-2942, ext. 48, or [mianderson@oslchurch.com](mailto:mianderson@oslchurch.com).

### 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, December 13 and 27, 9:30 A.M., Sonshine Room.  
2nd Saturday Knitters, December 9, 9:30 A.M., Sonshine Room.

### Good Grief

Every Thursday at 10:00 A.M. in Room 103. This group is for anyone dealing with loss and crisis in life.

### Memory Care Support Group

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

### Pickleball

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

## We Will Not Fear

by Erin Kaiser

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.” Psalm 46:1–3

Fear seems to be growing more and more these days. Fear comes from many directions: the news, test results, death, money issues, and so on. This fear can over take lives.



stephen  
MINISTRY

Yet we come together, as a community of believers. Each of us has our own fear, whether stated out loud or buried deep in our hearts. Regardless of the story of how we got that fear, there is one person that can remove it: Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, Stephen Ministers are sent out to listen to your stories of fear, helplessness, despair, or any other feelings that you are encountering. Stephen Ministers are there to walk beside you in the darkness, into a light that comes through Christ. Through the worst of things, God is and will continue to be our refuge and strength, regardless of what the demands of this old world will throw at you.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry at OSL, contact Pr. Tim Lemme (336-2942, ext. 19, or tlemme@oslchurch.com); Deb Harlan, Caring Ministries Director (336-2942, ext. 48, or dharlan@oslchurch.com); or Michelle Anderson, Faith Family Nurse (336-2942, ext. 28, or mianderson@oslchurch.com). A new Stephen Ministry training class will begin next month.



## Opportunity to Learn, Opportunity to Serve, Opportunity to Heal

The next Stephen Ministry class will begin in January. With God's help, we will train a sufficient number of Stephen Ministers to meet the needs of OSL members and friends who are going through a period of crisis—

loss of a loved one, chronic illness, unemployment, divorce, and other life difficulties. A Stephen Minister's care consists of reflective listening and the use of Christian resources. A Stephen Minister is not a counselor; he or she is trained to listen and empathize, not to tell people what to do.

God's work.  
Our hands.



Become a  
Stephen Minister  
at Our Savior's!

Stephen Ministers normally meet with their care partners for about an hour a week. They work under the direction of trained Stephen Leaders with the support of the pastor. Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders meet twice monthly for peer supervision in which they support and encourage one another and hold one another accountable for their ministry.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry: those receiving care can be sure that their identity and what goes on in the caring relationship will remain private.

If you would like to share your gifts for compassionate listening to and journeying with others, or if you know someone who could benefit from the care and encouragement of a Stephen Minister, or if you yourself feel you could use the Christian help of an OSL Stephen Minister, talk with Pr. Tim Lemme (336-2942, ext. 19, or tlemme@oslchurch.com); Deb Harlan, Caring Ministries Director (336-2942, ext. 48, or dharlan@oslchurch.com); or Michelle Anderson, Faith Family Nurse (336-2942, ext. 28, or mianderson@oslchurch.com).

—Deb Harlan

## Some Extra Help

Caring Ministries staff and volunteers frequently encounter folks from the OSL congregation who need a little extra help. They often come to us with their needs, and we do our best to connect them with others who can help them. The tasks may be as simple as changing a light bulb, getting a few groceries, or putting a load of laundry in the washer or dryer—easy for most of us, but for some of our members these tasks become overwhelmingly difficult.

Sometimes the help is temporary, for a few weeks, until a family member can resume helping. Sometimes it's long-term. (When there's a need for a more permanent, paid caregiver, OSL makes referrals to local agencies who provide these professional caregivers.)

Caring Ministries staff would love to be able to connect willing OSL members with those who could use a helping hand. If you would like to learn more about these opportunities to love and serve—or if you yourself are in need of a helping hand—contact Pr. Tim Lemme (336-2942, ext. 19, or [tlemme@oslchurch.com](mailto:tlemme@oslchurch.com)); Deb Harlan, Caring Ministries Director (336-2942, ext. 48, or [dharlan@oslchurch.com](mailto:dharlan@oslchurch.com)); or Michelle Anderson, Faith Family Nurse (336-2942, ext. 28, or [mianderson@oslchurch.com](mailto:mianderson@oslchurch.com)).

## OSL Woodshop Ministry

The OSL woodshop team meets every Wednesday evening, from 6:00 to 8:00, and again on Saturday mornings, from 8:00 to noon, to work on various projects for Our Savior's and its members. The team's main project is to build Faith Chests to give to newly baptized children, but there is always a variety of other woodworking projects for OSL, too.

You don't have to be a skilled carpenter or woodworker to be part of the woodshop team—and you don't need to be a man, either: Woodshop Ministry is for women as well as men! All you need is a willingness to learn and a willing heart to serve. And yes, the team always takes time for coffee, fellowship, and fun!

For more information on how you can be part of OSL's Woodshop Ministry team, contact Pr. Tim Lemme, 336-2942, ext. 19, or [tlemme@oslchurch.com](mailto:tlemme@oslchurch.com), or just show up at one of the scheduled work times and visit with crew members in the shop, which is located in the southwest corner of the lower level.

## Joy to the World!

by Tami Skorczewski

"Every year we celebrate the holy season of Advent, O God. Every year we pray those beautiful prayers of longing and waiting, and sing those lovely songs of hope and promise". —Karl Rahner

**Bible Study.** This Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Jesus, whose birth calls all creation to joy and wonder at God's love. The word "Advent" means arrival or coming. (Source: [gathermagazine.org](http://gathermagazine.org).)

Women of the ELCA  Opening Prayer:  
*Holy God, open our hearts to bear your*

*Word in this season of hope and expectation. Like the magi who wondered at and worshiped the baby Jesus in the manger, may we allow ourselves to be vessels for joy, full of wonder at the gift of life made complete in your Son.*

This month, the devotion focuses on four meditations:

- ♦ The Joy of Giving: "Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be complete" (John 16:24).
- ♦ The Gift of Presence: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).
- ♦ Toward the Light: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).
- ♦ Room for Our Celebration: Christmas is about the joy we can feel because of God's promise and God's action—God's extraordinary act of love for humanity.

**WELCA's First Gathering of the New Year.** January Social, Saturday, January 13, at 10:00 A.M., in the Friendship Room. There will be a short Bible study and fellowship, installation of officers, 2017 final budget report and 2018 proposed budget, introduction of 2018's Unit Wide Mission Projects, and WELCA directories handed out, including 2018 programs and luncheons. WELCA board members will provide light refreshments. There will be no charge for this event.

**Communication.** Copies of WELCA's monthly Circle newsletters are located on the literature rack between the Church Office and Caring Ministries doors. Stay connected with WELCA!

"The Presence of Christmas," William Arthur Ward

Christmas is not just a season,  
Christmas is not just a day,  
Christmas is more than a reason  
For parties, presents and play.  
Christmas is truly the essence  
Of joy that the Savior brings;  
Christmas is surely the presence  
Of Jesus, the Kings of Kings!

## Chorus-pondence from Gene LeVasseur

OSL's Advent and Christmas theme this year is "Magnify," and the Worship and Arts teams at Our Savior's are working hard to "Magnify the Lord" (as usual!). In order to "Magnify the Lord" we need to get closer, spend time with, and pay attention to God. The musicians and technicians who come in during the week for rehearsals have time to ponder, as Mary did, God's Word. What a joy it is to be serving Our Savior's while we are growing in our faith and magnifying the Lord!

The Festive choirs are preparing a medley of songs with dramatic reflections of Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Gabriel, to be presented in Festive worship on December 10. Combining the biblical texts that refer to these four and how they point us to Jesus has been a rewarding experience. The heart of this presentation is Mary's song of praise in Luke 1:46–55, which is often called *Magnificat*. Thousands of composers have set this text or parts of this text to music. For me, it is a song of hope and blessed assurance that God is with us, in all ways and always. Again, this will be on December 10.

OSL's *really* great Wednesday and Sunday school children will present "Really, Really, Really Good News" on December 17, at the 8:45 Celebrate and 11:00 Festive worship services. Melissa

Nesdahl, OSL's *really* awesome Director of Faith Formation, and I are leading the *really* super-talented children. With so many worldly distractions to the "Really Good News"—*Jesus Christ is born*—this script and music is *really* good for the children (and the adults); they are rehearsing for the *really* big Christmas musical and learning the true meaning of Christmas while they do it. It's a fun way for the children to "Magnify the Lord." *Really!* Check it out on December 17.

Midweek Advent worship services will be on Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20, in the Celebrate Center, from 6:40 to 7:15 P.M. Wednesday School is from 6:00 to 7:15, and this worship time will allow the classes to check in and then gather with the congregation to "Magnify the Lord" in worship. Wreaths are a wonderful Christmas symbol and we will worship around the wreath in the Celebrate Center. Yes, actually in the round! These services will be a wonderful time to slow down, get closer to God, spend time with God, and pay attention to God.

Here's some more "Really, Really, Really Good News": Our Savior's will be hosting three Lutheran College/University Choir Concerts this winter. On December 1, 2, and 3 we will host Augustana University's Vespers. On Saturday, February 3,

we will host Gustavus Adolphus College Choir for a 7:00 P.M. concert. On Saturday, February 10, we will host Nordic Choir from Luther College for a 7:00 P.M. concert.

Our Savior's is responsible for providing housing for both the Gustavus and Luther student musicians. Please consider hosting two or more students, taking them to your home after the concert, providing a bed for them to spend the night, and bringing them back to OSL the next morning. I've done this many times and every time it's been a joy and a blessing for every family that opens their hearts and homes to these young people. Prayerfully consider this wonderful opportunity, and God bless you and your families.

"SING" *cereley*,  
Gene

### OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF DIRECTORY

Church Office: (605) 336-2942 • [oslchurch.com](http://oslchurch.com)

**Maribeth Anderson**  
Visitation Minister (PT)  
336-2942 (Church Office)

**Michelle Anderson, ext. 28**  
Faith Community Nurse  
[miaanderson@oslchurch.com](mailto:miaanderson@oslchurch.com)

**Stella Curry, ext. 10**  
Office Manager  
[scurry@oslchurch.com](mailto:scurry@oslchurch.com)

**Randy Gehring, ext. 11**  
Senior Pastor  
[rgehring@oslchurch.com](mailto:rgehring@oslchurch.com)

**Deb Harlan, ext. 48**  
Caring Ministries Coordinator  
[deharlan@oslchurch.com](mailto:deharlan@oslchurch.com)

**Nancy Heesch, ext. 42**  
Nursery Director  
[robertheesch@yahoo.com](mailto:robertheesch@yahoo.com)

**Barb Haugan, ext. 23**  
Business Administrator  
[bhaugan@oslchurch.com](mailto:bhaugan@oslchurch.com)

**Duresa Kabato**  
Custodian  
336-2942 (Church Office)

**Sami Johnson, ext. 12**  
Pastor of Youth and Family  
[sjohnson@oslchurch.com](mailto:sjohnson@oslchurch.com)

**Don Lehmann**  
Pastor of Visitation (PT)  
336-2942 (Church Office)

**Tim Lemme, ext. 19**  
Pastor of Caring Ministries  
[tlemme@oslchurch.com](mailto:tlemme@oslchurch.com)

**Gene LeVasseur, ext. 40**  
Director of Worship  
[glevasseur@oslchurch.com](mailto:glevasseur@oslchurch.com)

**Deb Merxbauer, ext. 25**  
Library Coordinator  
[dmerxbauer@oslchurch.com](mailto:dmerxbauer@oslchurch.com)

**Nicole Mindt, ext. 33**  
Youth Coordinator  
[nmindt@oslchurch.com](mailto:nmindt@oslchurch.com)

**Loretta Nelson, ext. 14**  
Congregational Life  
Coordinator  
[lnelson@oslchurch.com](mailto:lnelson@oslchurch.com)

**Melissa Nesdahl, ext. 17**  
Director of Faith Formation  
[mnesdahl@oslchurch.com](mailto:mnesdahl@oslchurch.com)

**Lloyd Olson**  
Custodian  
336-2942 (Church Office)

**Bill Reynolds, ext. 15**  
Director of Communications  
[breyolds@oslchurch.com](mailto:breyolds@oslchurch.com)

**Marilyn Schempp, ext. 31**  
Organist and Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts  
[mschempp@oslchurch.com](mailto:mschempp@oslchurch.com)

**Debbie Theis, ext. 43**  
Food Coordinator  
[dtheis@oslchurch.com](mailto:dtheis@oslchurch.com)

**Deanna Wehrspann, ext. 37**  
Music and Worship  
Professional  
[dwehrspann@oslchurch.com](mailto:dwehrspann@oslchurch.com)

**Lavada Woods, ext. 49**  
Financial Assistant  
[lwoods@oslchurch.com](mailto:lwoods@oslchurch.com)



## Faith Formation Notes

Stop by the OSL Angel Tree to pick up the name of a local child who otherwise would not receive a gift this Christmas. Sunday, December 3 is the final Sunday to select a name. Thank you in advance for making someone's Christmas extra special!

OSL children will present their "Really Really Really Good News" Christmas Program on Sunday, December 17, at both the 8:45 Celebrate and 11:00 Festive services. Families with children involved are asked to make sure one parent stays at the December 16 practice. Different age groups will practice at different times on December 16; you will have received email, paper notes, and post cards with your child's time. Contact Melissa if you have questions: 336-2942, ext. 17, or mnesdahl@oslchurch.com.

Enjoy your Christmas break! Sunday and Wednesday School will not meet on December 24, 29, or 31.

## Play and Pray

Life as a mom or caregiver for children of any age can be joyful and fulfilling, but also hectic and isolating. Play and Pray is a ministry for moms and caregivers who gather to support one another, laugh and cry together, and grow deeper in relationship with God and one another. All while the children, from birth through preschool, enjoy supervised play in the Nursery. Play and Pray meets on Thursdays at 10:00 A.M., in Room 102, next to the Sanctuary. Contact Pr. Sami, sjohnson@oslchurch.com or 336-2942, ext. 12, with questions.

## Youth Notes

Second Sunday Fun Day will be on Sunday, December 10. Middle School Youth Group (MSYG) is invited to stay for lunch after 11:00 A.M. worship, and then we'll caravan to a senior facility to enjoy some Christmas cheer with the residents.

Something new is coming to OSL's Christmas Eve worship schedule: All are invited to enjoy a new 2:00 P.M. worship service option, which will feature caring conversation, interactive storytelling, a prayerful activity, and carols. This service will engage all of your senses and draw you into the telling of the Christmas story.

OSL youth are putting together care packages for college students in time for Valentine's Day. Make sure you or your student is included by sharing your address with Pr. Sami (sjohnson@oslchurch.com) or by filling out a slip at the Youth Info Table in The Gathering Place.

Questions about OSL Youth Ministry? Contact me, Pr. Sami Johnson, 336-2942, ext. 12, or sjohnson@oslchurch.com.

## An Easy Way to Support OSL Youth Ministry

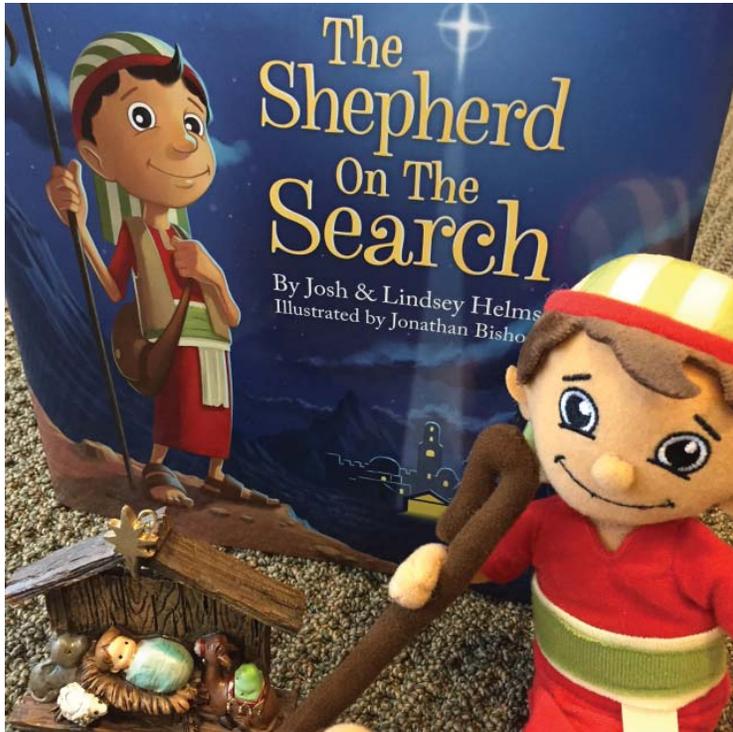
When you purchase gift cards at the OSL Youth Ministry table on Sunday mornings, for yourself or to give to others, you support youth programs while receiving full value for your purchase—the amount rebated to Youth Ministry comes from the retailer!



Hy-Vee and Fareway cards are available for purchase on Sunday mornings; cards from many other stores (Barnes and Noble, Best Buy, Kohl's, Bed Bath & Beyond, etc.) are available to order, at the Youth Ministry table or in the Church Office. Cards ordered by 2:00 P.M. on Monday will be available for pick-up on Thursday. Check out the Youth Ministry table in The Gathering Place for details. And remember—Christmas is coming!

## Shepherd on the Search to Help Children “Magnify”

To help children discover the joy of searching for the Christ Child during the Advent season, children who visit the Library on Sundays and Wednesdays, through December 24, and find one of the 12 nativity figures hidden on the shelves will receive a treat and a prize. Be sure to visit the Library and encourage your child to follow the shepherd’s search for Baby Jesus.



## Magnify Your Advent Season

Be sure to visit the Library’s Advent and Christmas book displays for children, youth, and adults. To make your selection easy, a large number of books are on separate displays, one for children and youth and one for adults.

### OSL Library Hours

Sunday	8:15 A.M.–12:15 P.M.
Monday	9:00 A.M.–noon
Tuesday	9:00 A.M.–noon
Wednesday	9:00 A.M.–7:30 P.M.
Thursday	9:00 A.M.–noon
Friday	Closed
2nd Saturday of the Month	10:00 A.M.–noon and 4:30–6:30 P.M.

## Stick Together Mosaic Keeps Growing

Over 1,900 stickers have been placed on the mosaic for the OSL Library’s fall reading program, Stick Together. One sticker is placed on the mosaic for each item you check out. Together we are building a mosaic to reveal one of God’s many blessings. Be sure to come view the mosaic—can you guess what the image will be?



## Second Saturday Movie

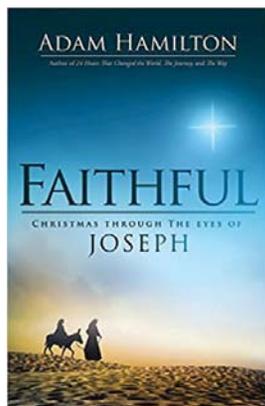


*Christmas on Salvation Street* will be the Second Saturday Movie, on December 9 at 2:30 P.M. in the Holy Word Theatre. Noah Davis is a pastor in an affluent community. Depressed after losing his wife to illness, he is contacted by an old friend who has opened a mission in a rough inner-city neighborhood. With Christmas approaching, Noah packs up and, with his two daughters, moves into Salvation Street Mission. With a lot of faith, belief, and elbow grease, the impossible starts to become very much a possibility, until a local gang threatens violence. Despite all the challenges, there is a glimmer of hope for the future of the neighborhood, just in time for Christmas.

Make a day of it with the movie, followed by worship at 5:00 and dinner afterward!

## New Books for Adults

### *Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of*



*Joseph* by Adam Hamilton. From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us.

Hamilton examines Christmas through the eyes of Joseph. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity.

As you read this book, you will understand how Joseph's story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would never have chosen for ourselves. At times it can be tempting just to walk away. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

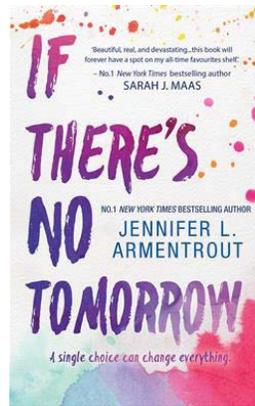
Exchange your doubt for courage this Advent and Christmas season. The story of Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand, and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

#### Additional New Titles for Adults

- *The Rooster Bar* by John Grisham
- *The Deal of a Lifetime* by Fredrik Backman
- *Without Warning* by Joel C. Rosenberg

## New for Middle- and High-School Youth

### *If There's No Tomorrow* by Jennifer L.



**Armentrout.** Lena Wise is always looking forward to tomorrow, especially at the start of her senior year. She's ready to pack in as much friend time as possible, to finish college applications, and to maybe let her childhood best friend Sebastian know how

she really feels about him. For Lena, the upcoming year is going to be epic—one of opportunities and chances.

Until one choice, one moment, destroys everything.

Now Lena isn't looking forward to tomorrow. Not when friend time may never be the same. Not when college applications feel all but impossible. Not when Sebastian might never forgive her for what happened. . . for what she let happen.

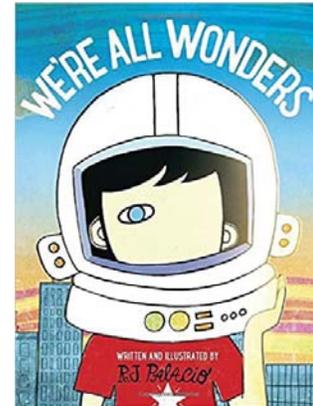
With the guilt growing each day, Lena knows that her only hope is to move on. But how can she move on when her and her friends' entire existences have been redefined? How can she move on when tomorrow isn't even guaranteed?

#### Additional New Titles for Middle- and High-School Youth

- *The War I Finally Won* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *The Raft* by S. A. Bodeen
- *Trapped in a Video Game 4* by Dustin Brady

## New Picture, Early Reader, and Chapter Books

### *We're All Wonders* by R. J. Palacio.



Over six million people have fallen in love with *Wonder* and have joined the movement to "Choose Kind." Now younger readers can meet Auggie Pullman, an ordinary boy with an extraordinary

face, and his beloved dog, Daisy. With *We're All Wonders*, Palacio makes her picture-book debut as both author and artist, with a spare, powerful text and striking, richly imagined illustrations. Palacio shows readers what it's like to live in Auggie's world—a world in which he feels like any other kid, but he's not always seen that way.

*We're All Wonders* may be Auggie's story, but it taps into every child's longing to belong, and to be seen for who they truly are. It's the perfect way for families and educators to talk about empathy and kindness with young children.

#### Additional New Picture Books

- *Everyday Angels* by Mark Kimball Moulton
- *There's Nothing to Do* by Dev Petty

#### New Early Readers

- *The Magic School Bus Fights Germs* by Kate Egan
- *Big Digger Helps Out* by Sue Graves

#### New Chapter Books

- *Christmas in Cooperstown* by David A. Kelly
- *O Bethlehem* by Joan Petersen Tietz

## Monthly Book Club for Adults

Because of the Advent and Christmas season, the Book Club for Adults will not meet in December. Join this exciting community of readers when they resume on January 25! The group meets at 7:00 P.M. on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Library to discuss the novel selected for that month. A list of the monthly selections is available in the Library.



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

OUR SAVIOR'S  
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# The *intercom* In Church and Community

December 2017

The Monthly Newsletter of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

### *Worship Services*

Saturday Evening – 5:00 P.M., Sanctuary

Sunday Morning

Festive Worship – 8:45 and 11:00 A.M., Sanctuary

Celebrate Worship – 8:45 and 11:00 A.M., Celebrate Center

### *Wednesday Advent Worship Services*

“Prayers around the Wreath,” 6:40 P.M., Celebrate Center

### *Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Services*

See Front Cover

### *Television and Internet*

Celebrate: 9:00 A.M., KTTW (cable channel 9; channel 7.1)

Festive: 1:00 P.M., KSCB (cable channel 30; channel 53)

Website: [oslchurch.com](http://oslchurch.com)

Social Media: [twitter.com/oslchurchsf](https://twitter.com/oslchurchsf) · [facebook.com/oslchurchsf](https://facebook.com/oslchurchsf) ·

[youtube.com/oslchurchsf](https://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 October 31

Annual Giving

Pledged	\$2,008,616
Received YTD	\$1,460,398
Remaining	\$548,218
Projected YTD	\$1,513,598
Ahead/(Behind)	(\$53,200)