



OUR SAVIOR'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Consulting Pastors: Rev. & Mrs. John & Susan*

# The *intercom* In Church and Community

The Monthly Newsletter of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

## From the Senior Pastor A Vision for the New Year



And so a new year begins. Time marches on, and change is inevitable.

But when I stop long enough to think and reflect, I notice scripture rattling around in my head. Today it's remind-

ing me of treasures to which I cling when all else seems beyond my control:

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* Hebrews 13:8

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea... The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."* Psalm 46:1-2, 7

*"[Jesus]... rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm."* Mark 4:39

As we march along with all of creation into the new year while so much around us seems beyond our control, it's good for us to begin with a reminder of God's presence and God's faithfulness. Regardless of what the year will bring, we have God's promise to be with us always and to work for good in all things. We will no doubt experience peaks and valleys, joys and sorrows, and who knows how many days clad in routine and, dare I say, monotony. Yet God will be in the midst of those days, every one of them, shaping

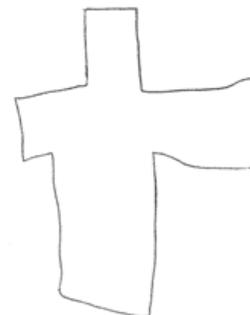
us into a people on a mission of love and mercy for the sake of the world.

As we marked the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation at OSL this past October, we were invited to do as Martin Luther did five centuries ago: share our hopes and dreams for the church. He did it, of course, by nailing a piece of paper to the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg; we did it by writing our vision for the church on sticky notes and posting them on a set of church doors we had erected for the occasion in The Gathering Place. Here's a sample of what was shared:

- To not feel like a number/stranger when you enter here;
- That the church may be one—in witness and in mission;
- Remember and reach out to the elderly;
- Keep inviting everyone;
- Unconditional love;
- Speak out on political issues;
- Practice, practice, practice to love your neighbor as you love yourself;
- Continue to take care of the most vulnerable in society;
- That we would be careful stewards of our resources;
- I pray for the day when the church, when our congregation reflects the diversity of our city and of the body of Christ.

Clearly God is forming within us a passion to serve the mission God has given us—to proclaim Christ and nurture faith that connects with everyday life. Of course, that can be interpreted in many ways, but the common theme expressed

in these Reformation posts is love for neighbor and ministry for the sake of the world. And while each of the posts expresses this theme beautifully in its own right, one outshines all the others in summarizing the vision for ministry God has given us. Though I don't know for sure, I'm guessing it was posted by one of our younger members, a simple drawing that says it all:



As we begin a new year together striving to serve God in all that we say and do, may the cross of Christ continue to shape us into a people whose deepest passion is to give ourselves away for the sake of the world.

A blessed New Year to you all,

Pr. Randy Gehring

# Memorials and Honoraria November 2017

## In Memory of Joan Bakke

Susan Hauff  
Shirly Hillgren  
Joyce Kaatz  
Dean Mann and Renae Hays  
Craig and Annette Miller  
Debra McIntyre  
Mildred Moser  
Betty Pfeifle  
Doris Reiners  
Ginger Smith  
Don and Coryill Weeg

## In Memory of Frank Cortez (the father of Alice Rud and Family)

Paul and Judith Rud

## In Memory of Don Dummermuth

Richard and Janice Boe  
Ruby McCormick

## In Memory of Jerry Kaufman

Arlen Viste

## In Memory of Lyle McKichan

Mark and Marcia Sterling

## In Memory of LeRena Ostrem (the mother of

Lynda Olson)  
Arlen Viste  
Glenn and Cynthia Wika

## In Memory of Irene Peterson

Glenn and Cynthia Wika  
Don and Coryill Weeg

## In Honor of Marilee Petersen's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Don and Coryill Weeg

## Baptisms

### November 19, 2017

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

### November 26, 2017

Cooper Orville Graham, the son of Jared and Jacquelyn Graham.

### December 3, 2017

Logan Kay Voelker, the daughter of Cody and Amanda Voelker.

### December 17, 2017

Ayva Marie Doohen, the daughter of Greg and Daisy Doohen.

## Flowers

### December 17, 2017

Flowers given in memory of Michael Pearson in honor of his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, December 20, by his family.

### December 24, 2017

Flowers given in loving memory of Ronald and Dorothy Anderson by their grandson, Brad Green. The Andersons would have celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 27.

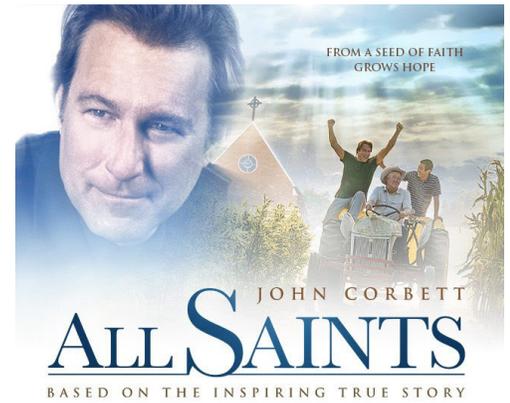
# Congregational Life

## New Worship Series and LifeGroup Opportunity

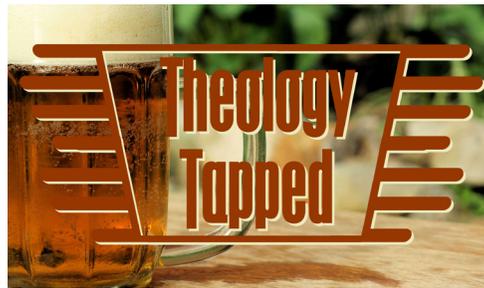
Starting this month, Our Savior's will offer a new worship series based on the inspiring movie *All Saints*. The series will start the weekend of January 21–22 and run through February 10–11.

*All Saints* is based on the inspiring true story of salesman-turned-pastor Michael Spurlock, the tiny church he was ordered to shut down, and a group of refugees from Southeast Asia. Together, they risked everything to plant seeds for a future that might just save them all.

You can take your experience in worship to the next level by participating in a LifeGroup study during this miniseries. Sign up to be part of a



LifeGroup at the table in The Gathering Place. If you're interested in serving as a LifeGroup Connector or would like more information, contact Trish Syverson, tsyvers1@gmail.com, or call the Church Office, 336-2942.



## 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, January 25, from 8:00 to 9:30 P.M., at Monk's House of Ale Repute, 420 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St.

## Prepare Yourself: Chili Cook-Off Returns!

Everyone had so much fun last year at the first OS� Chili Cook-Off that it's coming around again: Sunday, February 25, in The Gathering Place, immediately after the 11:00 A.M. worship services. Stay tuned for details as they develop!



### December 24, 2017

Telecasts sponsored by Bryan Peters and Safe-N-Secure Security Equipment in memory of Marilyn Peters.

## A Gift for Outreach

Recently, OS� received a generous donation from the estate of Donald and Leora Jensen, via their son, Lonnie Jensen: \$18,000 to be used as needed for Our Savior's weekly television broadcasts. Many thanks to the Jensen family for their gift to help OS�'s outreach ministry, and thanks be to God!

## Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice

For Study and Response  
Prior to September 30, 2018

## Adult Discussion Group

Connecting Faith and Life, an adult discussion and study group (a.k.a. Adult Confirmation), will begin meeting on Wednesday, January 3, from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M., in the Office Conference Room. Pr. Randy will lead a discussion of the draft social statement on Women and Justice published by the ELCA. Each participant will be given the opportunity to provide feedback to the ELCA regarding the content of the draft social statement. This feedback, along with that of other ELCA Lutherans around the country, will continue to shape the social statement that will eventually be voted on at the Churchwide Assembly in 2019. All are welcome to participate in the discussion.

## Footcare Clinics

OSL's Footcare Clinics are moving to the first Wednesday of each month, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., beginning on January 3. Call the Church Office, 336-2942, to schedule your appointment.

## Thanks for the Socks!

Once again this year OSL members came through with dozens of pairs of new socks donated to the SIGH (Stepping Into Good Health) Foot Care Clinic in downtown Sioux Falls. New socks is one of the most frequent requests of homeless people. Thank you for your generous concern for "the other" among us.

## Now Hear This

Hearing screenings by Audiology Specialty Clinic staff will be held at OSL on Wednesday, January 24, from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M. You may sign up for a free 15-minute appointment in the Church Office during the week, or at the Information Center on weekends. If a hearing loss is detected, you will be given information about next steps and determine what actions are best for you. Questions? Contact Michelle Anderson, RN, FCN, 336-2942, ext. 28, or mianderson@oslchurch.com.

## Recent Loss Group

The next Recent Loss Group series will meet on Wednesdays, February 28 through March 21, from 5:30 P.M., in the Chapel. Members may partake of OSL Community Supper before the meetings, at 5:00 in The Gathering Place. Also, members of the group are invited and encouraged to attend the Lenten Healing Service on March 28.

## Roll up Your Sleeve!

The Sioux Falls Community Blood Bank Blood Mobile will be back at OSL on Sunday, April 8, from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. At some point on that date OSL will hit its 1000<sup>th</sup> donation milestone, and you can help make that happen and help save lives to boot! Watch for sign-up details soon.

**BE THE DIFFERENCE DONATE BLOOD**



COMMUNITY BLOOD BANK  
THE LIFE BLOOD OF YOUR COMMUNITY

## Where to Find Yoga Classes?

Yoga is not currently available at OSL, but for those who wish to continue or begin yoga exercise, First Lutheran offers classes with certified instructors who integrate faith and exercise. Yoga at First Lutheran is offered on Monday evenings, from 5:45 to 6:45; Thursday afternoons (chair yoga), from 1:30 to 2:30; and Fridays, from noon to 1:00 P.M. Cost: a freewill offering (\$5 suggested). For information about Monday and Thursday classes, contact Jeff Nelson, 940-6008; for Friday class, contact Gretchen Borgum, (515) 421-5242.

## Shotokan Karate Meets at OSL

Karate is a way to physical well-being and health, stamina, mental focus, self-defense, character building, and self-confidence! Shotokan Karate meets at OSL, in the Labyrinth Room, on Tuesdays, 7:00 to 8:30 P.M.; Thursdays, noon to 1:00 P.M. and 7:00 to 8:30 P.M.; and Fridays, noon to 1:00 P.M. Classes are for students age eight and up.

Classes are not sponsored by OSL, but are led by Jeff Trammell, a Seventh Degree Black Belt holder with more than 45 years of experience and a Certified Instructor of the International Shotokan Karate Federation. Contact him (261-9003) for more details, including costs. OSL member and college/university rates are available. Visit [siouxfallshotokankarate.com](http://siouxfallshotokankarate.com) for more information.



OSL's Friendship Club will meet as usual on the third Tuesday of the month, at 10:30 A.M., in the Friendship Room. Lunch will follow the presentation. Details are still being worked out as *The Intercom* goes to press, but you can be certain that the January 16 presentation will be informative and the fellowship will be fun. Don't miss it! Bring a friend!

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. Wednesday, January 3, 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, January 10 and 24, 9:30 A.M., Sunshine Room. 2nd Saturday Knitters, January 13, 9:30 A.M., Sunshine 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.

## Magnify the Gifts You Have by Margot L. Nelson

As I write this, OSL is in the midst of Advent preparations, under the theme “Magnify!” In Mary’s song in the book of Luke, Mary indicates that her soul magnifies the Lord, reflecting the usual meaning of the term as glorifying, extolling, or praising the magnificence of God for the impending birth of our Savior.



stephen  
MINISTRY

Another meaning of the term magnify is to expand on or make more apparent, as with a magnifying glass. As we now

come away from our celebration of the birth of Christ—a celebration marked by gifts of various kinds—I suggest we also recognize, and, yes, even magnify our own gifts and the opportunities we have to share them. We can do this both personally and collectively as a congregation. Take some time in this quieter post-Advent season to ponder the ways in which you are aware of your gifts and talents and already share them at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church and elsewhere.

One of the ways in which I have recognized and chosen to share my gifts of compassion and presence—and to magnify them with others and in the presence of God—is through my Stephen Ministry. It is not only my gifts but the gift of God’s love and presence in our lives that I magnify. I am hoping that more of you in our congregation may choose Stephen Ministry as an opportunity to magnify the Lord as well as and affirm your own gifts. 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), to learn more

*“And Mary said: ‘My soul glorifies (magnifies) the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holly is his name.’”* Luke 1: 46–49



No one should hurt alone.  
That’s why we have Stephen Ministry.

## Multiple Meanings: Learning from Other Interpretations by Tami Skorczewski

Mark Allan Powell of Trinity Lutheran Seminary writes, “A hot topic in biblical studies these days is ‘polyvalence’—the technical term for ‘multiple meanings.’ Simply put, scholars are trying to find out why stories mean different things to different people and they are also trying to decide what we should think about this phenomenon: Is it good or bad, to be encouraged or discouraged?” We will delve into this topic for

the next four Bible studies.

Women of the ELCA 

**Bible Study.** Session one (January/February): Washing Hands with Distant Hearts (Mark 7:1–12); Session two: Prepare the Way of the Lord (Luke 3:3–17); Session three (March): The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30–37); Session four (April): The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–20). (Source: gathermagazine.org.)

*Prayer: God, we are connected to the story of your people, heard in different ways, across time, distance and culture. We ask you to open our hearts and minds to the different ways we bear your word. We ask this in Jesus’ holy name. Amen.*

**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.

### 2018 Slate of Officers

- President – Jodie Nielsen
- Treasurer – Toni LeVasseur
- Missions – Sandy Fischer
- Vice-President – open
- Secretary – Valori Maher
- Advisor – Tami Skorczewski

### 2018 WELCA Programs

- January Social – Saturday, January 13
- Sweets for Your Valentine Fundraiser – Sunday, February 11
- Annual Mother/Daughter Luncheon – Saturday, May 5
- Group Activity (Wednesday night) – July, TBD
- Fall Luncheon – Saturday, September 29
- Pie & Lefse Sale Fundraiser – Sunday, November 18
- Christmas Luncheon – Saturday, December 1

“Whether we want them or not, the New Year will bring new challenges; whether we seize them or not, the New Year will bring new opportunities.” —Michael Josephson

## Foundation Notes

Prepare to be amazed! The Our Savior's Lutheran Church Foundation has been working with you and for you to further the efforts, intentions, and mission of OSL. In 2017 the list is extensive and includes:

- Celebrate Center video upgrades
- New paper folder
- New Fellowship Hall flooring
- New computers
- Caring Ministries area upgrade
- New Youth Room furniture
- New projector bulbs
- New plant stands
- HVAC system software upgrade

All this "newness" is possible because, over time, members and friends of OSL contribute to the Foundation's endowment via memorials,

honoraria, outright gifts, and estate-planning gifts. This is indeed a living, growing process that reflects an understanding of one of OSL's core values, Generosity.

For those who have included the Foundation in their nest egg (estate planning), the Jubilee Society was formed and is growing as the congregation continues to think ahead to the next generations. Please consider joining the Jubilee Society to ensure that your Generosity will endure. Jon Oien, [joien@sio.midco.net](mailto:joien@sio.midco.net) or (605) 212-5261, is ready to meet with you and provide more information on how you can become a member. All are welcome!

Coming soon: More about Thrivent Choice Dollars and Action Grants and how they can assist in propelling the OSL mission forward!

## A Look Back

A few months ago, OSL Music Professional Deanna Wehrspann brought to a staff meeting a document, the likes of which we used to call a "computer printout"—run on a dot-matrix printer on tractor-feed paper (kids: ask your parents what all that means)—that was a set of notes made by Deanna's father, Don Levsen, of goings-on at OSL in the 1980s.

Just for fun, as 2017 draws to a close (which it is as this issue of *The Intercom* is being prepared), here's a look some of what was happening at Our Savior's 30 years ago, in 1987:

- ♦ Budget: \$771,000
- ♦ Baptized members: 4,500
- ♦ Steve Molin's farewell, February 1
- ♦ Devra Hanson begins as Shared Ministries Coordinator
- ♦ Lisa Brunick becomes editor of *The Intercom*
- ♦ Services were held on the south lawn during summer months and continued in Fellowship Hall, at 9:30 A.M., in the fall
- ♦ Julie Kahl begins as Pastor of Evangelism

- ♦ Members of the Senior Choir and others in the congregation travel through Europe singing and visiting Bach and Luther sites
- ♦ The Response Singers, Players, and Dancers is formed
- ♦ Sunday School enrollment passes 800
- ♦ Each Sunday morning, 600 cookies are served during the fellowship time between services
- ♦ Two brothers from Ethiopia are sponsored
- ♦ More parking is added to the west of the building through the cooperation of Augustana College
- ♦ The balcony is redesigned to allow for more flexibility
- ♦ The cross is cleaned and re-gilded
- ♦ Property is purchased on Prairie Avenue to be used eventually for increased parking
- ♦ The Library celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Look for more entries from Don Levsen's notes in upcoming issues of *The Intercom*!

## OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF DIRECTORY

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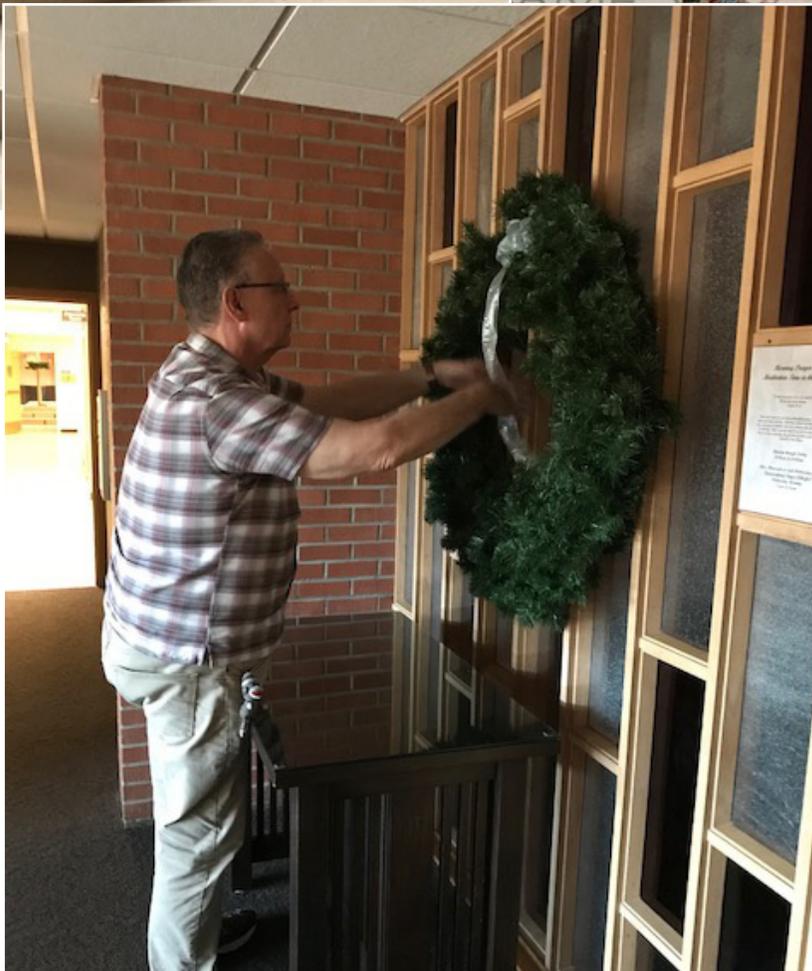
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## Preparing for the Holidays

As usual, OSL members and staff went above and beyond to beautify the space for Advent and Christmas, the better to enhance people's worship experiences and prepare them for the birth of the Savior.

On these pages, a crew readies the Sanctuary for the season. Special thanks to the Brietag and Conner families, and to Gene LeVasseur, for their dedication to decorating OSL for Advent and Christmas!





## Preparing for the Holidays, *cont'd*

The Celebrate Center also was made ready for worshipers to enjoy and find inspiration. At right and below are a couple of photos of Wednesday evening Advent worship, snapped by OSL member Jetty Duffy-Matzner. In keeping with the theme "Prayers around the Wreath," the Celebrate Center chairs were arranged in a circular formation for Advent worship services.



And finally, here (below) is *almost* the entire OSL staff, wishing everyone every blessing in the New Year. Back rows, from left: Maribeth Anderson, Michelle Anderson, Barb Haugan, Deb Harlan, Deb Merxbauer, Duresa Kabato, Melissa Nesdahl, Denny Gale, Deanna Wehrspann, Gene LeVasseur, Nicole Mindt, and Bill Reynolds; front row: Stella Curry, Pr. Tim Lemme, Pr. Randy Gehring, Pr. Sami Johnson, and Loretta Nelson.





## Faith Formation Notes

Sunday, January 7, will be the Baptism of Our Lord Milestone. Families of all who were baptized in the past year are invited to the Friendship Room at 10:00 A.M. for a special gift and family time with Pr. Sami.

Thank you to each of you who took a name from the OSL Angel Tree to help a local child's Christmas wish come true. Your generosity is appreciated!

Each of the students in the Christmas program did a great job! Thank you! They did a wonderful job of bringing the "Really, Really, Really Good News" to OSL. Special thanks to Gene LeVasseur for teaching the children music, and parents for helping your children at home and getting them to practice so they could be successful.

## 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](mailto:sjohnson@oslchurch.com) or 336-2942, ext. 12, with questions.

## 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.

## Youth Notes

Second Sunday Fun Day will be on Sunday, January 14. Check your email for more information about the activity, time, and location!

There will be a meeting for all students going on summer trips to Minneapolis and Houston, and their parents, on January 14 at 10:00, in the Youth Room. We will follow up on fundraising and the Silent Auction from the first meeting and share more details about the trips, and you will receive an update on your account status.

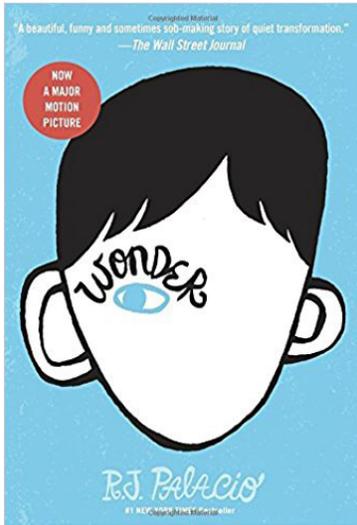
January 20 is Cross+Gen Sunday. In lieu of Sunday School, you and your child are welcome to come to Fellowship Hall from 10:00 to 10:50 for a make-and-take craft activity. Look for more details in your email and in the bulletin.

The Silent Auction, which is the fundraiser to support the 36 students going on mission trips and to the ELCA Youth Gathering, will begin on February 16 and will end on March 4. Be sure to check out the items on Saturday nights, Sunday mornings, and Wednesday nights, and bid on your favorites. Join us on Sunday, February 25, at 5:00 P.M. for the Silent Auction Banquet, complete with a meal, student talent, and entertainment, and a bonus opportunity to bid on items! On March 4, your breakfast ticket will go to support OSL youth as well. If you would like to donate items for the auction, bring them to Pr. Sami by February 4 with the completed form you will find at <https://tinyurl.com/ybcxdumf>.

Questions about OSL Youth Ministry? Contact me, Pr. Sami Johnson, 336-2942, ext. 12, or [sjohnson@oslchurch.com](mailto:sjohnson@oslchurch.com).

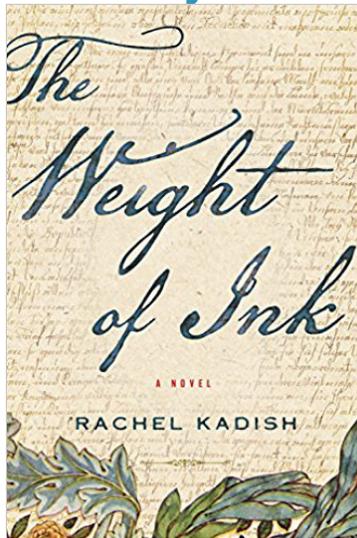


## Winter One Church One Read Selection



To help make adults aware of some of the outstanding junior novels available, and to encourage families to discuss junior titles, the OSL Library has selected *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio as its intergenerational Winter One Church One Read title. Copies of *Wonder* will be available for checkout beginning on January 21, with the book discussion scheduled for March 18, at 10:00 A.M., in the Office Conference Room.

## 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 January 25 selection will be *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish.

Set in London of the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, *The Weight of Ink* is the interwoven tale of two women of remarkable intellect, Ester Velasquez, an emigrant who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi just before plague hits the city; and Helen Watt, an ailing historian with a love of Jewish history. As the novel

opens, Helen has been summoned by a former student to view a cache of 17<sup>th</sup>-century Jewish documents newly discovered in his home during a renovation. Enlisting the help of Aaron Levy, an American graduate student as impatient as he is charming, and in a race with another fast-moving team of historians, Helen embarks on one last project: to determine the identity of the documents' scribe, the elusive "Aleph."

Electrifying and ambitious, sweeping in scope and intimate in tone, *The Weight of Ink* is a sophisticated work of historical fiction about women separated by centuries, and the choices and sacrifices they must make in order to reconcile the life of the heart and mind.

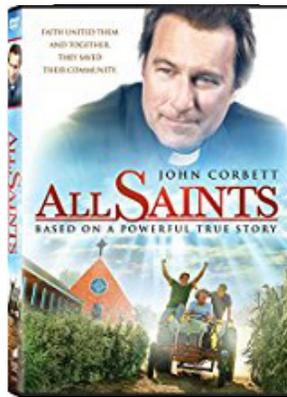
Join this exciting community of readers! A list of the 2018 selections is available in the OSL Library.

## Good Guess!

Libby Hintgen was the first to guess the picture in the OSL Library's Stick Together intergenerational mosaic: it's a picture of a dove. Over 2,700 stickers have been placed on the mosaic so far. Together we will complete the mosaic, which reveals one of God's many blessings—peace.



## Second Saturday Movie



*All Saints* will be the Second Saturday Movie, on January 13 at 2:30 P.M. in the Holy Word Theatre. (OSL will offer a new worship series based on this inspiring movie, starting the weekend of January 21–22 and running through February 10–11.)

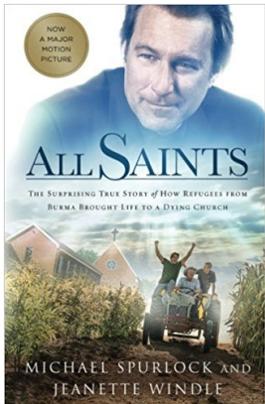
Newly ordained pastor Michael Spurlock's first assignment is to serve All Saints, a struggling church with 25 devoted members and a mortgage well beyond its means. When All Saints hesitantly risks welcoming a community of Karen refugees from Burma—former farmers scrambling for a fresh start in America—Michael feels they may be called to an improbable new mission.

Michael must choose between closing the church and selling the property, or listening to a still, small voice challenging the people of All Saints to risk it all and provide much-needed hope to their new community. Together, they risk everything to plant seeds for a future that might just save them all.

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

## New Books for Adults

**All Saints** by Michael Spurlock and



**Jeanette Windle.**

The Library has five copies of this true story, to help members prepare for the sermon series, which will begin on the weekend of January 20–21. Newly ordained pastor Michael Spurlock's first assignment is All Saints, a struggling church with 25 devoted members and a mortgage well beyond its means. The best option may be to close the church rather than watch it wither any further. However, All Saints hesitantly risks welcoming a community of Karen refugees from Burma—former farmers scrambling for a fresh start in America—and Michael feels they may be called to an improbable new mission.

Michael must choose between closing the church and selling the property or listening to a still, small voice challenging the people of All Saints to risk it all and provide much-needed hope to their new community. Together, they risk everything to plant seeds for a future that might just save them all.

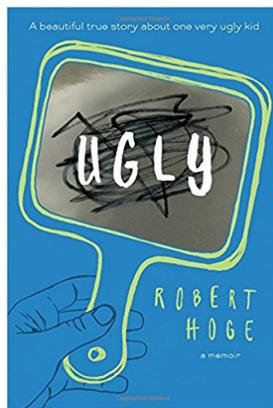
Discover the true story that inspired the film while also diving deeper into the background of the Karen people, the church, and how a community of believers rally to reach out to those in need, yet receive far more than they dared imagine.

### Additional New Titles for Adults

- *In This Moment* by Karen Kingsbury
- *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection and the Mission of the Church* by N. T. Wright
- *The Baker's Daughter* by D. P. Cornelius

## New for Middle- and High-School Youth

**Ugly** by Robert Hoge. When Robert Hoge



would never be the same.

Strangers stared at him. Kids called him names, and adults could be cruel, too. Everybody seemed to agree that he was “ugly.” But Robert refused to let his face define him. He played pranks, got into trouble, had adventures with his big family, and finally found a sport that was perfect for him to play. Robert came face-to-face with the biggest decision of his life, he followed his heart.

This poignant memoir about overcoming bullying and thriving with disabilities shows that what makes us “ugly” also makes us who we are.

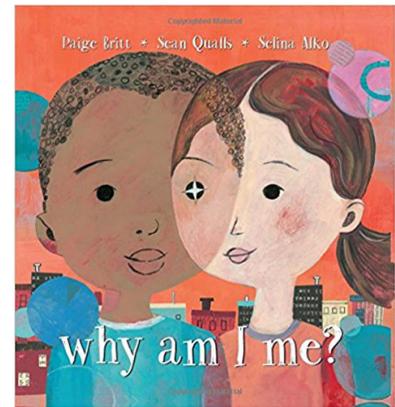
### Additional New Titles for Middle- and High-School Youth

- *The Stars Beneath Our Feet* by David Barclay Moore
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Getaway* by Jeff Kinney
- *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard* by Rick Riordan

was born, he had a tumor the size of a tennis ball in the middle of his face and short, twisted legs. Surgeons removed the tumor and made him a new nose from one of his toes. Amazingly, he survived—with a face that

## New Picture, Early Reader, and Chapter Books

**Why Am I Me?** by Paige Britt, Sean Qualls,



and Selina Alko. Presented as a thoughtful, poetic exchange between two characters who

don't realize they are thinking and asking the very same questions, this beautiful celebration of our humanity and diversity invites readers of all ages to imagine a world where there is no you or me, only we. If the first step toward healing the world is to build bridges of empathy and celebrate rather than discriminate, *Why Am I Me?* helps foster a much-needed sense of connection, compassion, and love.

### Additional New Picture Books

- *Most People* by Michael Leannah
- *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers

### New Early Readers

- *Morris the Moose* by B. Wiseman
- *Snug House Bug House* by Susan Schade and Jon Buller

### New Chapter Books

- *Dragon Masters: Roar of the Thunder Dragon* by Tracey West
- *The Critter Club: Ellie's Lovely Idea* by Callie Barkley

## 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.



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OUR SAVIOR'S  
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# The *intercom* January 2018 In Church and Community

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

### *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)