

The *intercom* In Church and Community



From the Senior Pastor Treasures of Darkness



Most of us avoid darkness, or we at least prefer light over darkness. Darkness can be scary. Total darkness—the absence of all light—can be downright unsettling. Without the ability to identify by sight our surroundings, we easily succumb to fear, afraid of threats, both real and imagined.

Our faith leads us to remember, and take comfort in, the promise of God to be with us especially in the darkest times of our lives. The hymn “In Deepest Night” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, No. 699) helps us remember that promise:

In deepest night, in darkest days,
when harps are hung, no songs we raise,
when silence must suffice as praise,
yet sounding in us quietly
there is the song of God.

When friend was lost, when love deceived,
dear Jesus wept, God was bereaved;
so with us in our grief God grieves,
and round about us mournfully
there are the tears of God.

When through the waters winds our path,
around us pain, around us death:
deep calls to deep, a saving breath,
and found beside us faithfully
there is the love of God.

“The song of God,” “the tears of God,” “the love of God”—these are treasures that God provides us especially in our darkest times, gifts to which we cling as we feel our way through the night, eager for the dawn to come, gifts that even allow us to linger in the dark in ways that teach us lessons we otherwise would never learn.

We will gather for worship at OSL under this theme this Advent on Wednesday evenings at 6:40. The Celebrate Center will become darkened throughout worship. Even so, we will be invited to experience that darkness as a safe place filled with a treasure all its own, the treasure of being in community with fellow followers of Jesus and the treasure of the promised presence of the Holy Spirit.

I hope you join us for what promises to be a very special Advent journey here at OSL. And while you're at it, why not make plans now to celebrate the joy of Christmas here at Our Savior's as well?

“In Deepest Night”: text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953; text © 1995 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Advent and Christmas at Our Savior's

Here are some scheduling notes for the next several weeks:

December 5 – Weekly Advent worship services will begin, from 6:40 to 7:15 P.M., Celebrate Center

December 24 –

2:00 P.M. – “Christmas GIFT” (Generations in Faith Together) family worship, Celebrate Center

4:00 P.M. – Celebrate and Festive worship services (Festive worship will be televised on KTTW at 9:00 P.M.)

5:00 P.M. – Christmas Eve Meal, Friendship Room

6:00 P.M. – Festive worship service

10:00 P.M. – Festive worship service

December 25 – Festive worship service, 10:00 A.M.

A Treasure of Darkness



Once again, Our Savior's member Gary Gaede has created an evocative work of art to share with the congregation.



Gary's illustration for "Treasures of Darkness," this year's Advent theme, represents a

number of emotions, hopes, and expectations. The dove is black, indicating darkness. The gold behind the dove, Gary says, "suggests prayers in the fading light." Blue evokes the darkening winter sky. "And the cross shape suggests the coming of Jesus." Thank you, Gary, for sharing your gift with the OSL community.

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF DIRECTORY

Church Office: (605) 336-2942 • oslchurch.com

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

Michelle Anderson, ext. 28
Faith Community Nurse
miaanderson@oslchurch.com

Stella Curry, ext. 10
Office Manager
scurry@oslchurch.com

Denny Gale, ext. 39
Celebrate Band Coordinator
dgale@oslchurch.com

Randy Gehring, ext. 11
Senior Pastor
rgehring@oslchurch.com

Deb Harlan, ext. 48
Caring Ministries Coordinator
dharlan@oslchurch.com

Nancy Heesch, ext. 42
Nursery Director
robertheesch@yahoo.com

Barb Haugan, ext. 23
Business Administrator
bhaugan@oslchurch.com

Sami Johnson, ext. 12
Pastor of Youth and Family
sjohnson@oslchurch.com

Duresa Kabato
Custodian
336-2942 (Church Office)

Justin Kosec, ext. 44
Pastor of Outreach and Communication
jkosec@oslchurch.com

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

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

Loretta Nelson, ext. 14
Congregational Life Coordinator
lnelson@oslchurch.com

Melissa Nesdahl, ext. 17
Director of Faith Formation
mnesdahl@oslchurch.com

Lloyd Olson
Facilities Manager
336-2942 (Church Office)

Bill Reynolds, ext. 15
Director of Communications
breyolds@oslchurch.com

John Schomberg, ext. 35
Director of Youth Ministry
jschomberg@oslchurch.com

Debbie Theis, ext. 43
Food Coordinator
dtheis@oslchurch.com

Matthew Tylutki, ext. 31
Organist and Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts
mtylutki@oslchurch.com

Deanna Wehrspann, ext. 37
Music and Worship Professional
dwehrspann@oslchurch.com

Lavada Woods, ext. 49
Financial Assistant
lwoods@oslchurch.com

Memorials and Honoraria October 2018

In Memory of Delores Doss
Darrell Spielmann

In Memory of Lois Eiesland
Don and Toady Weeg

In Memory of Janet Hybertson
Ellen Aadland
Donald and Sarah Abbas
Lowell and Sally Almen
William D. Anderson
Pauline Buckstead
Robert and Kathleen Codner
Chuck and Linda Eisenbeis
Thomas and Mary Frederick
Donald and Joyce Helberg
Stanley and Ruby Hippe
Elaine Isaacson
Harlan and Carol Knutson
JoAnn Kovach
Lloyd and Maxine Leaders
Orren and Carole Lee
Dale and Karen Leslie
Jean Lounsbery
Glen Nelson
Susan J. Olson
Garry and Gloria Scott
Bert Schroeder
Wayne and Norma Steinocker
Lowell Stelter
Ione Svendsen
Jarold and Karen Swangel
Roger White
Daryl and Joan Witt

In Memory of Carol Peterson
Bruce and Carol Christiansen
Rita Elmen
Karen Kratochvil
Virginia Stadum
Mary Swenson
Don and Toady Weeg

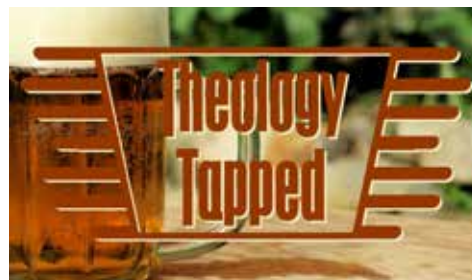
In Memory of Joyce Schmidt
Donald and Syndi Bohnet



Christmas Blessings from the OSL Staff!

Thank you for your partnership in the mission we share at Our Savior's! May your Christmas be joyous, safe, and restful!

Pictured above: 1. Stella Curry; 2. Pr. Sami Johnson; 3. Debbie Theis; 4. Nicole Mindt; 5. Melissa Nesdahl; 6. Duresa Kabato; 7. Loretta Nelson; 8. Barb Haugan; 9. Deb Harlan; 10. Deb Merxbauer; 11. Pr. Randy Gehring; 12. Matthew Tylutki; 13. John Schomberg; 14. Michelle Anderson; 15. Gene LeVasseur; 16. Deanna Wehrspann; 17. Pr. Justin Kosec; 18. Bill Reynolds; 19. Denny Gale; 20. Pr. Tim Lemme. Missing that day but still pictured (inset): Lavada Woods, Lloyd Olson.



Theology Tapped

Theology Tapped will take a break in December, but will be back next month with engaging conversation on matters of faith and life in a fun, informal setting. Join Pr. Randy for Theology Tapped on Thursday, January 24, at 8:00 P.M., at Monk's House of Ale Repute, 420 E. 8th St.

Baptisms

October 27, 2018

Nicholas Paul, Zachary Thomas, Joshua John, and Andrew Blake Zingler, the children of Steven and Kirsten Zingler.

Flowers

October 28, 2018

Flowers are given in memory of Janet Hybertson by Bob and Mary Eisenbraun and Les and Carolyn Svendsen

Telecasts

October 14, 2018

Telecasts are sponsored in memory of Joyce Schmidt by her family.

A New Chapter for Old Friends

Longtime OSL members Ray and Joyce Engh recently moved to Minneapolis to be closer to family. Ray served as pastor at Our Savior's from 1965 to 1974, and he and Joyce have been members here for nearly 50 years; at right they're pictured at a little going-away gathering with their friends from the Hope for Living with Illness or Cancer group. (Ray and Joyce are second and third from the left, respectively.)

As they begin this new chapter of their lives, you are invited to shower them with a little OSL love by sending them a greeting at their new address: 3700 Cedar Lake Ave., Apt. W 210, Minneapolis, MN 55416.



GIFT Generations in Faith Together

Share the GIFT!

Come share in OSL's second Christmas Eve GIFT (Generations in Faith Together) worship service, on Monday December 24, at 2:00 P.M., beginning in The Gathering Place

This worship service will celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus through interactive storytelling, song, caring conversation, creative expression, and a child-safe Silent Night ritual. All who attend can expect to encounter the Christmas story in a new and unforgettable way.

Advent Music Series

If you are an instrumentalist or vocalist, come share your talents in preludes, postludes, and special music in Festive worship on Saturdays and Sundays throughout December. You are welcome to share one song or many, or you and a friend could sing/play a duet. The purpose is to create more diversity in the ways we hear about the coming of Jesus this Advent season. All ages, instruments, and voices are welcome! Sign up at the Information Center or online at goo.gl/forms/FbN1wwIrTjLUOOhmQ2. Questions? Contact Matthew Tylutki (mtylutki@oslchurch.com).



OSL Food Ministry serves breakfast on Sundays in The Gathering Place, starting at 9:30, and Wednesday dinner starting at 5:00. All are welcome! Thank you for contributing to the freewill offering to help cover expenses.

December Menus (subject to change)

Sunday Breakfasts

- 2 – Scrambled eggs with cheese, bacon, roasted potatoes, orange juice, yogurt, and donut holes
- 9 – Scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, and donut holes
- 16 – Eggs, bacon, roasted potatoes, orange juice, yogurt, and donut holes
- 23 – Egg bake, orange juice, sweet breads, yogurt, and donut holes
- 30 – Christmas vacation – no Breakfast

Wednesday Dinners

- 7 – Scalloped potatoes and ham, green beans, warm dinner rolls, tossed green salad, and dessert treat
- 14 – Indian Tacos with all the fixins
- 21 – Pork chops, stuffing, gravy, baked beans, applesauce, bread, tossed green salad, and a sweet treat
- 28 – Christmas vacation – no meal

OSL Women of the ELCA

Fear Not! by Jodie Nielsen

Fear Not is the title of this month's devotion.

- Fear Is Universal
- Facing Our Fears
- Jesus Is with Us in our Fear
- Witnesses of Joy Greater than Fear

At Christmas we celebrate anew—Christ has already won the victory!

Women of the ELCA Board Position Opening for 2019.

We still have one opening for the 2019 WELCA Board and we would love to hear from you. Please prayerfully consider putting your name in for either the secretary or mission action position. If you have any questions regarding these openings, please let me know: jodie.nielsen@gmail.com.

When you see any of these WELCA board members, please thank them for faithfully serving God with their service on the OSL WELCA Board: Valorie Maher, Secretary; Sandy Fischer, Mission Action; and Toni Levasseur, Treasurer.

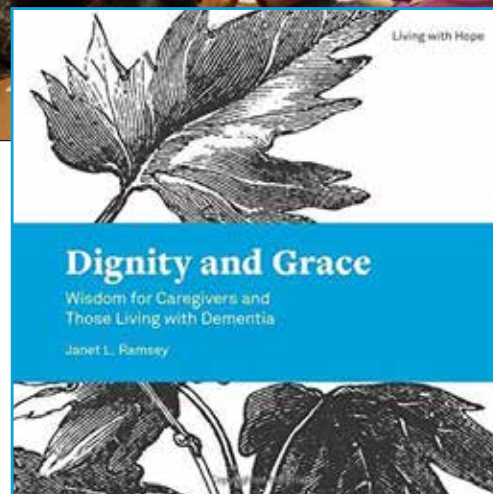
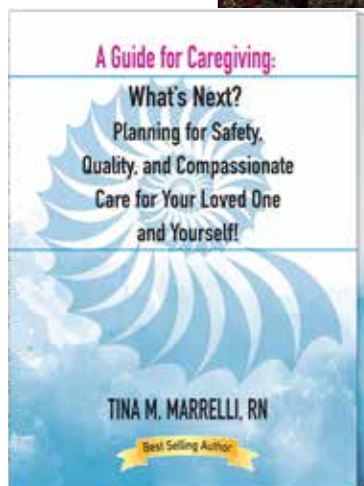
WELCA's First Gathering of the New Year. The January Social will be held on January 12, from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M., with light refreshments.

Caring Ministries

Communicating with Joy

The workshop *Communicating with Joy: When Your Loved One or Friend Has Dementia*, for anyone who cares for someone with dementia, was held at OSL on November 3. Turnout was remarkable. Attendees discovered new ways to turn challenging situations into moments of joy; learned about brain changes that occur when a person has dementia; and identified practical skills for better communication and how to enhance caregiving, resilience, and joy. A variety of local agencies and vendors offered resources and tools to help caregivers and others who care for people with dementia.

Copies of the books *Planning for Safety, Quality, and Compassionate Care for Your Loved One and Yourself* by Tina M. Marrelli, R.N., and *Dignity and Grace: Wisdom for Caregivers and Those Living with Dementia* by Janet L. Ramsey, which were featured at the workshop, are available from Caring Ministries, for \$12 and \$8.50, respectively.



Scheduled agenda items include fellowship, installation of officers, 2018 final budget report and 2019 proposed budget, and the introduction of 2019's Unit Wide Mission Project. We will also distribute the 2019 WELCA directories. There will be no charge for this event.

Unit Wide Mission Project for 2018 is #kidsareGod'sgift, focusing on children. We will be wrapping up this mission project and moving on to next year's soon, so if you know of an organization that focuses on children and would like that organization to be considered as one of our Mission Project recipients, let me know soon: jodie.nielsen@gmail.com. We welcome your input.

The Christmas Story. Isaiah 7:14, 9:4–7, 11:1; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 2:1–20; Matthew 2:1–12.

WELCA Board Members: Jodie Nielsen, President; Michelle Schuknecht, Vice President; Valori Maher, Secretary; Toni LeVasseur, Treasurer; Sandy Fischer, Mission Action Chair; Tami Skorczewski, Advisor.



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.

Footcare Clinic

Cost is \$25 per person. Wednesday, December 5, 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.

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 12, 9:30 A.M., Sonshine Room.

Recent Loss Group

Wednesdays, from 5:30 to 6:30 P.M., in the Chapel. Contact Michelle Anderson, 336-2942, ext. 28, or mianderson@oslchurch.com, to preregister. OSL Community Supper is available before the meeting, at 5:00 in The Gathering Place.

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., 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 meets on Mondays, 8:00 A.M. to noon and 5:00 to 9:00 P.M., in the Gym.

Caring Ministries

Loads Versus Burdens

By Joan Bacon

One of the things that stuck with me from Stephen Ministry training was the difference between loads and burdens. Our loads are the normal responsibilities we carry out: we brush our teeth, do some work, maintain relationships, and generally navigate life. Loads vary at each stage of life; we don't expect kids to carry the same loads as adults; we don't expect the elderly to shoulder as much as younger folk. Of course, we all experience overload, either by our own overzealous yes-saying or out of true necessity. But overall, our loads are fair, and they balance out.

Burdens are different. Burdens are problems with no "easy" button: loss of loved one, health problems, fractured relationships, financial crises, gnawing guilt or anxiety. While it's fair to expect people to carry their loads, burdens should

not be carried alone. Unfortunately, we try to do just that, especially during the holidays when "merry" seems to reign. We go at it alone, hiding burdens, toughing it out. This gives burdens even more power to rob us of health, peace, or even faith.

The author Karen Salmansohn writes, "Sometimes you just need to talk about something—not to get sympathy or help, but just to kill its power by allowing the truth of things to hit the air."

If you need a Stephen Minister to listen to your "truth of things" hitting the air, and to help kill the power of a burden you are carrying alone, contact Pr. Tim Lemme, Deb Harlan, or any Stephen Minister.



stephen
MINISTRY



The tradition continues!

For the past several years, OSL's Friendship Club has traveled to Nora, S.D., to enjoy the old time country sights and sounds of Christmas—and this year will be no exception!

You are invited to Friendship Club's visit to Nora via motorcoach on December 18. The fun will begin with a delightful Christmas lunch at OSL, at noon. Then the coach will depart for Nora at 1:00, returning to OSL at around 4:30. Cost for transportation is \$15 per person (lunch will be a freewill offering, as usual). Sign up to reserve your spot on the bus at the Information Center, or call the Church Office, 336-2942. Questions? Call Pr. Tim Lemme, 336-2942.

A traditional holiday favorite of many, the Nora Store hosts a variety of Christmas traditions—singing holiday favorites around a beautifully restored vintage pipe organ, hearing stories from Christmases long ago, and cider, coffee, and treats around the wood-burning stove. Holiday and antique decorations fill the room as friends gather around to celebrate this holiday tradition together.

You won't want to miss this fun event! Be sure to tell your friends!

The Buddy Bench

What exactly is a Buddy Bench, you ask? The idea first came to my attention while attending a Sanford Health Ministry Conference on loneliness. Many people deal with feelings of loneliness each day, in our society, at church, even in our own homes. How we provide support and care for these people comes in a variety of ways, one of which is the Buddy Bench Ministry.

The idea began one day when a grade school student on a playground noticed some of the kids didn't have anyone to play with. This student had compassion for them, and decided that she wanted to be a friend to those who looked lonely. She would sit on a bench at recess and wait for those who were alone to sit with her, then she would offer to go play with them, or to just sit and talk and be a friend to them for a while. Soon there were news stories about this compassionate caregiver of the playground, and the concept of the Buddy Bench began. Since then, the idea has taken off, with schools, hospitals, and churches putting Buddy Benches in the buildings and on their

grounds. From this one little act of compassion and kindness, a whole movement began.



The Caring Ministries Team decided that we too wanted to provide a Buddy Bench for our congregation, and through the generous support of the grandchildren of Warren Jensen, this dream has become a reality. Given in memory of Warren, who was a buddy to everyone

he met, the OSL Buddy Bench now sits in front of the Church Office windows, just off The Gathering Place. If you are in need of a buddy, come sit on the bench. If you would like to be a buddy to someone, come and sit on the bench. Together, enjoy the support and love that come from spending time with a friend!

—Pr. Tim Lemme

Left: The Buddy Bench, outside the Church Office. Below: Floyd Prouty, Jim Nelson, and Pr. Tim Lemme test the Buddy Bench to make sure it works properly. (It does.)



OSLC Foundation

Over and Over and Over Again

At the risk of being redundant, I am once again thanking the members of the Our Savior's Lutheran Church Foundation's Jubilee Society. You may have read their names in the bulletin announcements for November 4. Numbering more than 100, these members have made gifts of all sizes to the foundation's endowment. Some have made current gifts, some had made provisions for leaving a legacy. Their resolu-

tions and actions have come together to serve the congregation in a multitude of ways. Once again—thanks to all.

So what about 2019 and beyond? You might already be making resolutions that you won't keep. You know them, we've all made them: Get in shape; lose weight; read more; sleep more or sleep less; volunteer more; travel more... the list goes on and on. You can add as many as you like to the list, and then it is up to you to keep them or address them again in 2020!

One resolution and eventual action I am suggesting is to go through the process of joining the Jubilee Society. It is a process that will allow you to think about where you've been and how you got here. Then, equally as important, it will allow you to dream about the impact you can have about tomorrow and the days after that.

So there's your invitation—make that resolution and then keep it! I know you'll be delighted with the results. To begin the conversation—or perhaps continue one we've already started—contact me, Jon Oien, joien@sio.midco.net.

An Artist's Life Revealed

“Robert J. Aldern: An Artist's Life Revealed” is on exhibit at Piper, 1825 S. Minnesota Ave., through Dec. 29. The exhibit features rare, never-before-exhibited liturgical designs, landscape drawings and oil paintings, and watercolor and graphite figure studies by Robert Aldern, whose liturgical artworks enhance each of the three worship spaces at OSL. Additional works are also included, many previously only available as reproductions. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Robert Aldern Art Scholarship at Augustana University. For more information, contact Piper, 339-0346.

Bob Aldern's work is well-known to the OSL community: His first major piece of liturgical art was the Ascension Mural on the Chancel wall of the Sanctuary. The mural, oil on brick, was designed and painted by Aldern, assisted by R. P. Child; the lettering is by Herm Griller. The mural wall rises 45 feet from floor to the ceiling. The Christ figure is 22 feet high; the gold-leaf halo is 81 inches in diameter. The mural depicts Jesus' physical ascension into heaven. The hair of the two “spiritual beings” to Jesus' right and left is swept by the wind of the Holy Spirit into the Christ figure.

Aldern's work also enhances the worship experience in the chapel. The Chapel Mural, imagined as a teaching tool for Sunday School students as well as everyone who worships here, depicts the seasons of the church year: Annunciation, Nativity, Epiphany, Lent,



Anderson. The center panel depicts Christ blessing and bestowing God's grace upon the worshipers, and the choir in the background singing to the glory of God. The left panel depicts the sacraments, Baptism and Holy Communion, while the right panel depicts Christ healing the afflicted.

Bob Aldern died in 2011, leaving a legacy of beautiful works that live on to glorify God.



Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, Trinity, Visitation, Transfiguration, and Pentecost. It was completed in 1974.

The artist's last major commission was the triptych “God of Grace and God of Glory,” which previously was displayed in the south entrance but which now graces the Celebrate Center. Designed and executed by Aldern and Noreen Aldern Groethe, the triptych—stain on red oak flooring—was commissioned for the 60th anniversary of Our Savior's and given in memory of Brooke Anderson Joniak by her parents, Lynn and Diane



OSL Youth and Family

Faith Formation Notes



OSL Children's Christmas Program, "Crazy, Busy, Peaceful Holy Night," will be presented on December 16 at the 8:45 Celebrate and

11:00 A.M. Festive services. Come and enjoy what the students have prepared! Students with special speaking roles and dancers will have

practice on December 15, from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. All other students age four through fifth grade will practice from 10:00 to 11:00.

Wednesday School is now on the Advent schedule: December 5, 12, and 19. Students will meet from 6:00 to 6:35 P.M. Parents, please pick your child up on time so that you can worship together afterward.

OSL Children's Ministry will be on Christmas break from December 23 through. Wednesday School will resume on January 3. Have a blessed holiday!

Youth Ministry Notes



Youth Group
Middle School Youth Group. Students in grades six through eight are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings, from 10:00 to

10:50, in the Youth Room. Grow in faith through games, activities, and opportunities to serve, all while learning about God and having a lot of fun.

High School Youth Group. All students in grades nine through 12 are welcome to join us on Wednesday nights, from 7:00 to 9:00, in the Youth Room. Youth Group is a little different each week, as we explore various topics through worship, study, prayer, and service, as well as games, activities, and off-campus activities such as bowling, trampoline parks, hayrides, mall scavenger hunts, and much, much more.

High School Girls' Bible Study meets on Sundays, at 10:00 A.M., in the Oasis Room. High-school girls are invited to join Elle, Takara, and Katie to work through different books of the Bible while having opportunities to talk about life and create lasting relationships.

Confirmation

Confirmation class for sixth- through eighth-graders meets every Wednesday, from 6:00 to 7:15 P.M. Start in Fellowship Hall for large-group time with Pr. Sami and John, then head to your small groups for a time of reflection and fun. For questions or to register, contact Nicole Mindt, 336-2942, ext. 33, or nmindt@oslchurch.com.

Youth Events

Serve at the VOA Dakotas Youth Center on December 12, from 4:30 to 6:00 P.M. Since 1999, Volunteers of America, Dakotas has provided afterschool and academic supports to students in our community in a safe and nurturing environment. This is OSL's High School Youth Group's opportunity to show care for these students and grow in faith by simply playing games and hanging out with the youths there.

Middle School Christmas Games and White Elephant Gift Exchange on Sunday, December 16, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. The fun will begin with a meal and then move on to Christmas Games in the Gym.



High School Youth Group Progressive Dinner & White Elephant Gift Exchange

High School Progressive Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange. On December 19, the High School Youth Group will meet in the Youth Room at 6:45 P.M. to set off on our first annual Progressive Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange. We will head out into the neighborhood to eat three courses at different locations, ending at Tré Ministries for dessert and our gift exchange. How the gift exchange works: Each youth is asked to bring a wrapped gift. See the Winter Newsletter or email John (jschomberg@oslchurch.com) for more information.

Parents: We are looking for people to donate desserts for this event. If you are able to help please email John, jschomberg@oslchurch.com.

High School Okoboji Winter Retreat. High School Youth will head to Okoboji on January 26 and 27 for a fun weekend of bonding, growing in our faith, and fun. We will stay at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp and attend the Okoboji Winter Games, go to dinner, spend time bonding in the retreat center, attend services at a local Lutheran church, and spend a few hours at Boji Splash Indoor Waterpark. Cost for students is \$30, plus money for dinner. The \$30 includes lodging, retreat center, three meals (two lunches and a breakfast), snacks, and Boji Splash Waterpark admission. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, January 9. Contact John, jschomberg@oslchurch.com, for more information. **Parents:** Want to attend with your youth to provide supervision and transportation? Contact John, jschomberg@oslchurch.com.

—John Schomberg,
Director of Youth Ministry
jschomberg@oslchurch.com,
336-2942, ext. 35

“Shepherd on the Search”

To help children discover the joy of searching for the Christ Child during the Advent season, the OSL Library is again sponsoring “The Shepherd on the Search.” Each Sunday and Wednesday in Advent, patrons who find one of the 12 nativity figures hidden on the shelves in the Library 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.



Local Author Tom Roberts at OSL

Sioux Falls author and storyteller Tom Roberts will be at Our Savior’s all morning on Sunday, December 9. He will read his sixth and newest book, *On That One Christmas Eve*, during KidTalk at Celebrate and Festive worship services. *On That One Christmas Eve* is a poetic tale about a young college student who is home for Christmas and decides that he no longer believes in the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. But an encounter with a cluster of birds sets in motion a realization that a compassionate God does exist...



Tom will be available to sign his books, which sell for \$20 each, with 100% of proceeds going to support the programs and services that Children’s Home Society provides throughout South Dakota.

Monthly Book Club for Adults

Because of the Advent and Christmas season, the Book Club for Adults will not meet in December. Catch up with this exciting community of readers when they meet again on January 25, at 7:00 P.M. in the Library!

Advent Joy

Add joy to your Advent season by checking out books on display for children, youth, and adults in the OSL Library! You’ll find a large number of Advent and Christmas book and movie items on separate displays, one for children and youth and one for adults. Stop by and check it out!

Second Saturday Movie

This month’s feature, on December 8, will be *The Last Straw*.



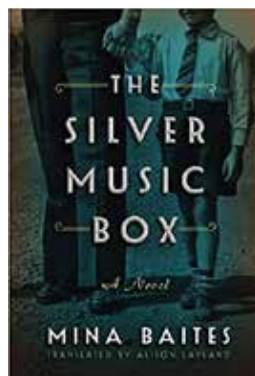
It’s Christmas break at the McDonald house, but silent nights and days are nowhere to be found because of the children’s constant bickering. Mom remembers an old tradition of building a soft bed for Baby Jesus one straw at a time. Each time someone secretly does something nice for another family member, he or she gets to add a single straw to the manger. Inspired by a true story, *The Last Straw* may forever change the way your family

celebrates Christmas.

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

New for Adults

The Silver Music Box by Mina Baites is a cross-generational novel about a Jewish family divided by World War II and an inheritance with the power to bring them back together.



1914. For Paul, with love. Jewish silversmith Johann Blumenthal engraved those words on his most exquisite creation, a singing filigree bird inside a tiny ornamented box. He crafted this treasure for his young son before leaving to fight in a terrible war to honor his beloved country—a country that would soon turn

against his own family.

Half a century later, Londoner Lilian Morrison inherits the box after the death of her parents. Though the silver is tarnished and dented, this much-loved treasure is also a link to an astonishing past. With the keepsake is a letter from Lilian’s mother, telling her daughter for the first time that she was adopted. Too young to remember, Lilian was rescued from Germany in the grips of the Holocaust. Now only she can trace what happened to a family who scattered to the far reaches of the world, a family forced to choose between their heritage and their dreams for the future.

Additional New Titles for Adults

- *Sold on a Monday* by Kristina McMorris
- *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *Endurance: A Year in Space, a Lifetime of Discovery* by Scott Kelly

New Picture, Chapter, and Early Reader Books

***Secret Santas and the Twelve Days of Christmas Giving* by**



Courtney Petruzzelli is a heartfelt story that will start a new Christmas tradition in your family. Children everywhere are learning how to become part of the real-life “Secret Santa Team.” With every page turned comes an exciting new adventure about how they can spread kindness and cheer through the magical and fun-filled Christmas tradition that is sweeping the nation.

With dazzling, vintage-inspired illustrations depicting the nostalgia of yesteryear, and delightful rhyming verses that leave you inspired and touched, *Secret Santas and the Twelve Days of Christmas Giving* finds itself alongside such classics as *The Night before Christmas* and *The Giving Tree*.

Additional New Picture Books

- *Mouse's Christmas Gift* by Mindy Baker
- *Snowy Nap* by Jan Brett

New Chapter Books

- *The Case of the Weird Blue Chicken* by Jane O'Connor
- *Press Start! Game Over, Super Rabbit Boy!* by Thomas Flinham

New Early Reader Books

- *I Lost My Tooth!* by Mo Williams
- *Hi! Fly Guy* by Tedd Arnold

OSL Library Online Catalog

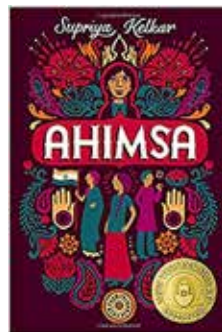
Anyone may access the OSL Library's online catalog, OPAC, to search for items, see a carousel of new books, read snapshots of featured books, access tutorials for using OPAC, view Library news and messages, and more. If you've provided your e-mail address, you may view your personal OPAC account to reserve and renew items, develop watch lists, and more. See Library staff for log-in details.

Visit OPAC by going to oslchurch.com/library and clicking the button, or scan the QR code below.



New for Middle- and High-School Youth

***Ahimsa* by Supriya Kelkar.** In 1942, when Mahatma Gandhi asks



the people of India to give one family member to the freedom movement, ten-year-old Anjali is devastated to think of her father risking his life for the freedom struggle.

It turns out he isn't the one joining: Anjali's mother is. With this change comes many more adjustments designed to improve their country and use “ahimsa”—non-violent resistance—to stand up to the British government.

First the family must trade in their fine foreign-made clothes for home-spun cotton, so Anjali has to give up her prettiest belongings. Then her mother decides to reach out to the Dalit community, the “untouchables” of Indian society. Anjali is forced to get over her past prejudices as her family becomes increasingly involved in the movement.

When Anjali's mother is jailed, Anjali must step out of her comfort zone to take over her mother's work, ensuring that her little part of the independence movement is completed.

Inspired by her great-grandmother's experience working with Gandhi, New Visions Award winner Supriya Kelkar shines a light on the Indian freedom movement in this poignant debut.

Additional New Titles for Middle- and High-School

- *As You Wish* by Chelsea Sedoti
- *Crush* by Svetlana Chmakova
- *Louisiana's Way Home* by Kate DiCamillo

OSL Library Hours

Sunday	8:30 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
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

(605) 336-2942
www.oslchurch.com

INTERCOM (USPS311210)

Published monthly by:

Our Savior's Lutheran Congregation

909 West 33rd Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Periodicals Postage Paid at Sioux Falls, South Dakota

POSTMASTER:

Please send address change to INTERCOM,
909 West 33rd Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

The

December 2018

intercom

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

Wednesday Advent Worship Services

6:40 P.M., Sanctuary

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

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

youtube.com/oslchurchsf

Cover banner photo by Madison Kaminski on Unsplash.com

Ministry Support through September 30

Annual Giving

Pledged	\$1,849,306
Received YTD	\$1,367,166
Remaining	\$482,140
Projected YTD	\$1,331,121
Ahead/(Behind)	\$ 36,045

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.