

# The Intercom

## In Church and Community



### From the Senior Pastor It's Time to Vote



Nearly a year ago, we voted to pilot a revised governance structure at Our Savior's that both empowers and engages living out the mission we share at OSL to proclaim Christ and nurture faith that connects with everyday life. We anticipated giving the new structure at least a year to prove itself an effective improvement over our former structure. The time has come for us to evaluate whether that trial period was sufficient to give us the information we need to vote to ratify the Interim Bylaws, or if we need additional time.

As a way of preparing for that conversation, I offer this month a very brief summary of the governance structure we've been trying out for the last year or so.

**Governing Board Replaces Congregation Council.** The Governing Board is comprised of the president, vice president, immediate past president, secretary, treasurer, one at-large member, and the senior pastor. Members are elected by the congregation at the annual meeting, except the immediate past president and the senior pastor, who serve by virtue of their respective positions.

Previously, the congregation council included four officers, four at-large members, and 12 board representatives, all elected by the congregation. The pastors and the president of the Women of the ELCA attended council meetings as non-voting members.

**Standing Committees.** Three standing committees appointed by the Governing Board assist the board.

- **Finance.** Chaired by the treasurer and comprised of three to five members including the senior pastor, the Finance Committee prepares an annual ministry plan (budget), reviews and monitors monthly financials, provides for annual reviews or audits, develops and oversees debt and risk management strategies, and provides leadership and oversight in other aspects related to the financial management of the congregation.
- **Policy and Leadership Development.** Comprised of three to five members including a member of the Governing Board and the senior pastor, this committee identifies and trains future leaders, reviews and recommends changes to existing policies and governing documents, and recommends new policies related to governance.
- **Stewardship Development.** Comprised of five to seven members including a member of the Governing Board and the



*Photo by Element5 Digital on Unsplash*

senior pastor, this committee is responsible for developing a culture of stewardship and relationship development that creates an ongoing spirit of giving and generosity, coordinates and conducts the annual stewardship appeal, provides ongoing

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stewardship education to the congregation, and centralizes all church appeals, financial and in-kind, for awareness and coordination.

**Core Ministry Teams Replace Boards.** Five Core Ministry Teams led by staff/pastors provide key leadership to the ministry of the church.

- **Worship.** The Worship Core Ministry Team provides leadership and vision to the worship ministry of the congregation.
- **Faith Formation.** The Faith Formation Core Ministry Team provides leadership and vision to the faith formation ministry of the congregation. The scope of focus for this core ministry team is members and friends of Our Savior's from the time they are born through high-school graduation.
- **Discipleship.** The Discipleship Core Ministry Team provides leadership and vision to the adult faith formation ministry of the congregation, focusing on members and friends of Our Savior's age 19 and older. Areas of ministry developed and managed by this core ministry team may include education, small group ministry, fellowship, spiritual gifts discernment, new member integration, and others.

- **Spiritual Care.** The Spiritual Care Core Ministry Team provides leadership and vision to the spiritual care ministry of the congregation. Areas of ministry developed and managed by this core ministry team may include spiritual growth, caring ministry, senior ministry, and others.
- **Love in Action.** The Love in Action Core Ministry Team provides leadership and vision to the outreach ministries of the congregation. Areas of ministry developed and managed by this core ministry team may include marketing, hospitality, social ministry, Christian service, missions, evangelism, and others.

A fuller description of this pilot governance structure is contained in the Interim Bylaws, available in the church office and at [oslchurch.com/our-saviors-interim-bylaws/](http://oslchurch.com/our-saviors-interim-bylaws/). I encourage you to become familiar with this information in anticipation of the annual meeting scheduled for January 26, when we will consider a resolution to ratify the interim bylaws.

As always, thank you for the partnership we share in mission and ministry.

In Christ's love,

*Randy*

Pr. Randy Gehring

## A Note from Pr. Sami Johnson

As most of you know, when I was extended this call, it was with the understanding that when it was time for my husband, Josh, to begin his active duty service in the Navy, I would be going with him. After four and a half wonderful years—more time than we would have expected, with more joy and genuine connection than we would have ever expected—that time has come.

Josh will begin training at the end of January and will complete his call at East Side Lutheran on Sunday, January 12. The good news is that I will be staying here at Our Savior's at least through April before moving on to meet him wherever we are called together.

I will admit it is a strange thing to give you four months' notice. But I wanted to make sure that you heard this from me.

If you have any questions about how this will affect the ministry here, or what our future will look like, please direct them to me.

I cannot say enough how formative this time with you has been. We truly feel like Sioux Falls has become our home, and that's in large part because of you. The way you have embraced me, and my daughter, has been such an absolute gift.

However, it's not time to say goodbye yet, we have a lot of time for a lot of good work ahead of us.



## Memorials and Honoraria November–December 2019

### In Memory of Lois Ahrendt

Mary Child  
Ron Hybertson  
Fran Kilen  
Margaret Novak  
Scott and Juli Peterson  
Betty Pfeifle and Walt Leyse

### In Memory of Phil Miedema

Mike Castle  
Ron Hybertson  
Karen Kratochvil  
Roger White  
Glenn and Cindy Wika

### In Memory of Ed Sessler

Harold and Grace Farrand  
Ken Iseminger  
Jan Sherman  
Julie Simpko

## Baptisms

### November 30

George Daniel DeBerg, whose parents are Matthew and Elizabeth DeBerg. Sponsors are Emily Rieck and Ella Wesenberg.

Jacob Earl Rieck, whose parents are Seth Rieck and Rebecca Carnicle. Sponsors are Emily Rieck and Ella Wesenberg.

### December 21

Jordan Jon Cook, whose parents are Jacob and Betsy Cook. Sponsors are Clint and Crystal Pulk.

## Flowers

### November 10

Celebrate Center flowers are given in loving memory of Stella Curry, whose birthday is November 11, by Steve and Jane Sahly

## Telecasts

### November 24

Sponsored by Margaret Novak, in memory of and thankfulness for family and friends.

### December 1

Sponsored by Bryan Peters and Safe-N-Secure Security Equipment, in memory of Marilyn Peters.

# Congregational Life

## Connecting Faith and Life

We need to talk about racism; our faith compels us to do so. The truth of it, though, is that it is one of the most difficult conversations we can engage. Emotions can often derail our best efforts and we end up feeling stuck and frustrated, if not like a failure as a follower of Jesus.

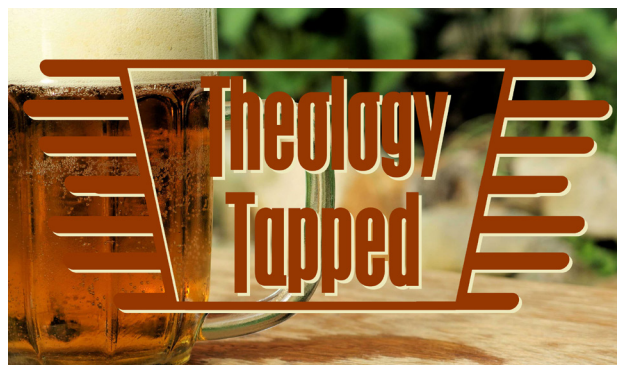
**DIA  
LOG  
UES**

— ON —  
**RACE**

Beginning on January 8, Pr. Randy will be leading a seven-week session of Connecting Faith and Life, using the resource *Dialogues On: Race*, so that we can engage this work together as people of faith. The book, which covers issues around race, the Bible, whiteness, African American and Native American experiences in the United States, the role of women in racial justice movements, and more, will equip participants with insights and action steps leading to engagement in the work of racial justice. What's more, the conversation we will have with each other will likely be transformative, for ourselves

and for the communities in which we live.

The class, open to all who are interested, will be held on Wednesday evenings, from 6:00 to 7:00, in the Friendship Room. A donation of \$15 per person or \$25 per couple will help cover the cost of materials. Books may be picked up in the Church Office in advance or when class begins.



## Theology Tapped

Start off the New Year with some engaging conversation on matters of faith and life in a fun, informal setting! Join Pr. Randy for Theology Tapped on Thursday, January 30, from 8:00 to 9:30 P.M. at Monk's House of Ale Repute, 420 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St.

## Tune in to OSL!

You'll find recent videos of worship services and special events at [oslchurch.com/media](http://oslchurch.com/media), but in addition you'll want to subscribe to OSL's YouTube channel, where videos are archived for easy access. Visit [youtube.com/oslchurchsf](http://youtube.com/oslchurchsf).

*Photo by Joshua Ness on Unsplash.com*

*Annual*  
**Meeting**



**OUR SAVIOR'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Connecting Faith to Everyday Life*

**Sunday, January 26 • 12:30 P.M.**



## New to the OSL Community

Welcome these new members, who were received into the OSL church family in November. The next new member orientation will be later this spring. For details contact the Church Office, 336-2942, or check [oslchurch.com](http://oslchurch.com).



From Top Left:  
Jay and Bev Hertel  
Jakob Hertel  
Pam Putnam  
Rich and Mavis Petersen  
Steven Unzicker



## Angel Tree Success!

Thank you, OSL, for your Angel Tree generosity. Because of you, Christmas joy came to 295 students in the community!

Here's a look at *some* of the gifts that came through the Church Office prior to the Christmas distribution. See what a tremendous impact your generosity has on the community!



## Advent Fair Fun

OSL kicked off Advent with the 2019 Advent Fair. Two hundred and seventy-two meals were served, and a few hundred people partook in the creative-crafting, lefse-eating, and cookie-decorating fun. Thank you to all who came, and to OSL's amazing volunteers who made the evening possible!



## Have Something to Eat!



*Photo by Katherine Chase, on Unsplash.com*

**OSL Food Ministry** serves breakfast on Sundays in The Gathering Place, starting at 9:30, and Wednesday supper starting at 5:00. All are welcome!

OSL Food Ministry is entirely supported by freewill donations. Thank you for your \$6 contribution to cover expenses. Here are the January menus (subject to change):

### Sunday Breakfasts

- 5 – Scrambled eggs, bacon, roasted potatoes, yogurt, donut holes, coffee, and orange juice
- 12 – Egg bake, yogurt, donut holes, coffee, and orange juice
- 19 – Scrambled eggs, bacon, roasted potatoes, yogurt, donut holes, coffee, and orange juice
- 26 – Cheese omelets, sausage patties, yogurt, donut holes, coffee, and orange juice

### Wednesday Suppers

- 8 – Taco bar with all the trimmings
- 15 – Tater Tot casserole, buns, Jell-O, tossed salad, and dessert
- 22 – Garlic herb chicken breast, wild rice, carrots, buns, tossed salad, and dessert
- 29 – Scalloped potatoes and ham, buns, Jell-O, tossed salad, and dessert

# Caring Ministries

Dr. Philip Thompson, from Sioux Falls Seminary, will be the guest at this month's Friendship Club, speaking on Lutheran and Baptist theologies.

Friendship Club will meet on January 21, at 10:30 A.M., in the Friendship Room. As usual, there will be lunch afterward in The Gathering Place. And also as usual—bring a friend to Friendship Club!



## New Year's Resolution or Not?

by Joan Bacon

Happy New Year! Have you made a New Year's resolution? With good intentions, a clean slate, and convenient denial of last year's resolution fizzle-outs, we resolve to do more, do better, or do different(ly)! The fodder feeding our resolutions includes our judgments of what's good, what's bad, and what's badly in need of a good fixin'. Bottom line: something or someone better change!

But judging, fixing, and changing are not what Stephen Ministers do. A recent Facebook meme sounded like it came right out of the Stephen Ministry training manual: "It's not our job to fix people, change people, or judge people. It's our job to love people. The rest is in God's hands." Here's that same concept from the Stephen Ministry training manual: "Stephen Ministers are the caregivers; God is the cure-giver."

On January 7, OSL's Stephen Ministry Training Series will begin. Participants will attend 50 hours of training, revolving around the Stephen Minister Caregiver's Compass. With Jesus at its center, the Compass's quadrants are skilled, faith-filled, compassionate, and confidential. The training goal is to help participants reflect these characteristics as they provide quality Christian care to members experiencing difficult times.

If 2020 finds you still looking for a New Year's resolution, here's a suggestion: Pray for the Stephen Ministry Training Class participants during January, February, and March. And if 2020 brings difficult times or challenging life transitions, contact Pr. Tim Lemme (336-2942, ext. 19, or tlemme@oslchurch.com) or Deb Harlan (336-2942, ext. 48, or dharlan@oslchurch.com) to find a Stephen Minister to walk with you.



## Walk It Off!

After a brief break for Christmas, Walking Workout Wednesdays will resume, on January 8, with a fun, easy way to burn off holiday calories: Start in the Hub at 10:00 A.M. with the DVD *Just Walk: Walking off the Pounds*, followed by a walk through the building. Don't miss it!

## 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, January 8, 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 Caring Ministries. 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). Wednesdays, January 8 and 22, 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., in the Conference Room. For caregivers of those Office with Alzheimer's and dementia, a place to share and to receive understanding and empathy. Contact Caring Ministries, 336-2942, for information.



## Are You Playing Enough Mah-Jongg?

Mah-Jongg, an ancient game from China that is played with tiles, gained popularity in the United States in the 1920s, and is enjoying a resurgence today.

New social research suggests that Mah-Jongg might provide people more than just a fun gathering with friends: According to research conducted by a team at the University of Georgia, Mah-Jongg players who regularly break out their tile sets enjoy reduced rates of depression (among middle-aged and elder). Per research, this game of skill is a challenging hobby that can help keep your brain sharp—and the social aspect might improve holistic mental health overall. The team found that those participating in a blend of different social activities on a regular basis had stronger mental health compared to those who did not.

So what are you waiting for, an invitation? Okay, here: Catch up with OSL's Mah-Jongg players on Wednesdays at 1:00 P.M., in The Gathering Place! All skill levels are welcome!

## Roll with It

Once again, OSL will be collecting toilet paper in January for Necessities for



Neighbors, a program that provides certain necessities that can't be bought with Food Stamps.

Bring packages to the donation area, near the south entrance, for the February 2 distribution.

Also, consider volunteering to help with the distribution that Sunday, at Peace Lutheran. Look for the sign-up sheet at the Information Center.



## Men's Bible Breakfast

Our Savior's Men's Bible Breakfast meets on the first and third Saturday of each month, at 8:30 A.M., in the Conference Room. A continental breakfast is provided by members.

Men of all ages are invited to attend this one-hour Bible study when it meets on January 4 and January 18.

For more details, contact Pr. Tim Lemme, [tlemme@oslchurch.com](mailto:tlemme@oslchurch.com) or 336-2942, ext. 19.

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## We Are Called! by Jodie Nielsen

*Gather Magazine's* next Bible study will be a four-part study on vocation by Kathryn A. Kleinhans. Kathryn states in her introduction, "we will explore vocation in many contexts. As we learn more about how our



ancestors in faith heard and responded to God's call, we will reflect on our own lives and callings." She goes on to state that while our callings may be personal, they are never private. "We are called in the midst of community, and we are called to keep building community, wherever we are."

**January/February Bible Study:** "We Are Called!" by Kathryn A. Kleinhans. Session one: "Hearing God's Voice." Theme Verses: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Isaiah 6:1-8; 2 Kings 22:8-20 or 2 Chronicles 24:14-28; Judges 4 and 5; and Jeremiah 1:1-8 (source: [gathermagazine.org](http://gathermagazine.org)).

**WELCA's First Gathering of the New Year.** The January Social will be held on January 11, from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M., with light refreshments provided. Scheduled items include fellowship, installation of officers, and the 2019 final budget report and 2020 proposed budget. We also will distribute the 2020 WELCA Directories. There will be no charge for this event.



## OSLC Foundation

### The Work Continues

*The Work of Christmas* by Howard Thurman

“When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.”

For me, Howard Thurman's words are not only inspirational, but also a stark reminder of the challenges that lie ahead of us. All of us have a part to fulfill as we live out our faith in everyday life. The singers sing, the teachers teach, the cooks cook, the custodians maintain, the preachers preach, and we are grateful for all of their efforts.

### 2020 OSL WELCA Schedule of Events:

- January Social – Saturday, January 11
- Sweets for Your Valentine Fundraiser – Sunday, February 9
- Annual Mother/Daughter Luncheon – TBD
- Group Activity – Wednesday Night, July, TBD
- Fall Gathering – Thursday, September 10
- Lefse Making – November, TBD
- Pie and Lefse Sale Fundraiser – TBD
- Christmas Luncheon – Saturday, December 12

### 2020 Slate of Officers:

- President – Nancy Krueger
- Vice President – Open
- Treasurer – Open
- Secretary – Karen Zimbeck
- Missions – Sherry Roth
- Advisor – Jodie Nielsen

Please prayerfully consider joining the board and filling one of the open positions.

**WELCA Board Members:** Nancy Krueger, President; *open*, Vice President; Karen Zimbeck, Secretary; *open*, Treasurer; Sherry Roth, Mission Action; Jodie Nielsen, Advisor

The Our Savior's Lutheran Church Foundation continues to serve in its role as a financial booster of the life of the congregation. The Foundation receives funding by you, the giver. Whether it is by memorials or unrestricted contributions or by including OSLC Foundation in your long-term planning, it all adds up. Thanks to all who help build this part of our ministry.

And so, as we begin another calendar year and count down the days to spring, let us heed Howard Thurman's words and get to work. And let us visit more about how *you* can be a part of the ongoing work of the OSLC Foundation. You may contact me, Jon Oien, [joien@sio.midco.net](mailto:joien@sio.midco.net), at your convenience.

I look forward to seeing how, together, we can continue the work of Christmas!



# OSL Youth and Family

## OverBOOKed Moms

by Melissa Nesdahl

With November's worship and preaching series, *Belong*, came a new opportunity for moms of kids through grade 12.

*Belong* invited us to think about who we are and about how we feel about who we are. One of the coolest things about my work is not only getting to help influence the faith of children and empower parents in their homes, but also to hear your stories and your concerns and your heart-aches, and the things that you celebrate. And that is really holy ground for me, to hear from you and share with you.

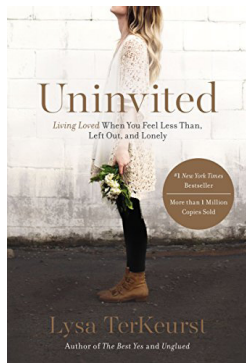
I think the common tie that binds is that, a lot of times, in quiet, I hear, "I'm not enough." We all want to be a better mom. We want to have a cleaner home. We want to Uber our kids to more places. We wish we could be a better employee, a more patient wife, you name it. And so we feel not enough. Yet we have this God who says, "Though you feel imperfect, I am perfect, and you are perfectly loved." So the common tie that binds all of us is that we

belong together. That God loves us. That we can safely create a space to talk about this and be real with one another, and find solidarity in our feelings and our experiences.

Thus was born OverBOOKed Moms, an online book club in a private Facebook group, which eliminated the struggle to find the perfect time to meet—since we know that, with our varying schedules, such a time does not exist. This virtual living-room allowed all of us to read in our homes and touch base, through online reflection, whenever it worked.

Our first selection was *Present over Perfect* by Shauna Niequist. The response was immediate. Forty-five moms of kids through grade five are part of this thriving space, and in addition to shared reflection, we've laughed together over mama's Monday mood gifs, prayed over each other, and offered input on helps for home repairs. Community has helped individuals in the congregation become friends and deepen relationships.

OverBOOKed Moms will begin its second selection, *Uninvited* by Lysa Turkeurst, in January. In a time of year that is dominated by New Year's resolutions and focus on who we think we should be, this read is a confident reminder of who we are in Christ. It'll help you recognize the lies of the world and affirm that you are deeply loved. Find copies in the OSL Library or online.



If you have a child through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, join us! Use this QR code to get you to the Facebook page. I'm so excited to go through it with all of you!



## OSL Youth Notes

### Okoboji Winter Retreat

OSL high-school youth are headed to Okoboji for their retreat on Friday, January 24, 7:00 P.M., through Sunday, January 26, 5:30 P.M.

The Okoboji Winter Retreat will be a great weekend of bonding, growing in faith, and fun. We will stay at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp and attend

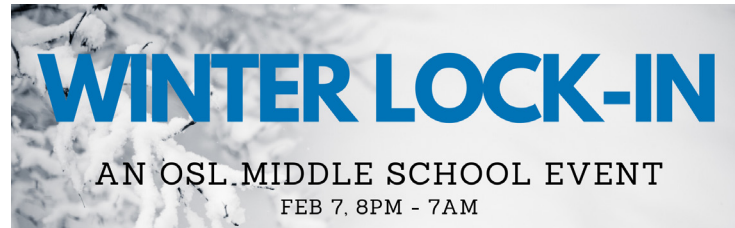
**OKOBOJI WINTER RETREAT**  
**JAN 24 @ 7PM TO JAN 26 @ 5PM**

the Okoboji Winter Games on Saturday, go out to dinner, spend time together in the retreat center, attend worship at a local Lutheran church, and spend a few hours at Boji Splash Indoor Waterpark.

The cost for students is \$15, plus money for dinner. The \$15 includes two nights' lodging, the retreat center, two lunches and two breakfasts, snacks, and Boji Splash water park admission. An anonymous adult in this congregation, who cares about you and is excited to help you all have this experience, has paid for the majority of the expense of this retreat! Sign up at [oslchurch.com/youth-family](http://oslchurch.com/youth-family).

### Middle School Winter Lock-in

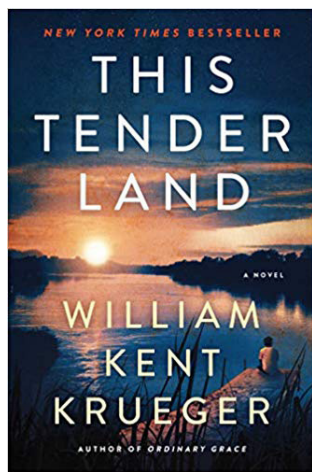
Middle-school youth are invited to join in a night of fun from 8:00 P.M. on Friday, February 7, to 7:00 A.M. on Saturday, February 8. We'll be back



at OSL for this Middle School Lock-In, and it is sure to be a blast. Come celebrate winter with themed games, great food, and the opportunity to stay up all night with your friends! The cost for this lock-in is \$5, and, as always, friends are welcome! If you are an adult interested in helping for all or part of the night, contact John, 336-2942, ext. 35, or [jschomberg@oslchurch.com](mailto:jschomberg@oslchurch.com).



## Winter One Church One Read



The Library committee has selected *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger as its Winter One Church One Read title. Copies are available for checkout in the Library, and the discussion is scheduled for 10:00 A.M. on March 22 in the Office Conference Room.

*This Tender Land* is a magnificent novel about four orphans on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression. In 1932, the Lincoln School in Minnesota is a pitiless place where hundreds of Native American children, forcibly separated

from their parents, are sent to be educated.

It is also home to an orphan named Odie O'Banion, a lively boy whose exploits earn him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee, he and his brother Albert, their best friend Mose, and a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own.

Over the course of one unforgettable summer, these four orphans will journey into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. With the feel of a modern classic, *This Tender Land* is an enthralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

## Second Saturday Movie



This month's Second Saturday Movie, on January 8, will be *The Art of Racing in the Rain*.

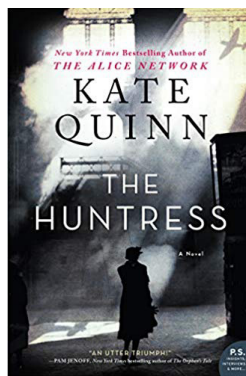
Based on the best-selling novel by Garth Stein, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is a heartwarming tale narrated by a witty and philosophical dog named Enzo (voiced by Kevin Costner). Through his unique insight into the human condition, Enzo helps his owners—racecar driver Denny Swift (Milo Ventimiglia), his wife, Eve (Amanda Seyfried), and daughter,

Zoe—navigate life with a refreshing perspective on friendship, family and unconditional love.

Make a day of it with the movie at 2:30 in the Holy Word Theatre, followed by worship at 5:00 in the Sanctuary, and dinner afterward in The Gathering Place!

## 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 book. The January 24 selection will be *The Huntress* by Kate Quinn.



Bold and fearless, Nina Markova always dreamed of flying. When the Nazis attack the Soviet Union, she risks everything to join the legendary Night Witches, an all-female night bomber regiment wreaking havoc on the invading Germans. When she is stranded behind enemy lines, Nina becomes the prey of a lethal

Nazi murderer known as the Huntress, and only Nina's bravery and cunning will keep her alive.

Transformed by the horrors he witnessed from Omaha Beach to the Nuremberg Trials, British war correspondent Ian Graham has become a Nazi hunter. Yet one target eludes him: a vicious predator known as the Huntress. To find her, the fierce, disciplined investigator joins forces with the only witness to escape the Huntress alive: the brazen, cocksure Nina. A shared secret could derail their mission unless Ian and Nina force themselves to confront it.

In this immersive, heart-wrenching story, Kate Quinn illuminates the consequences of war on individual lives, and the price we pay to seek justice and truth.

Join this exciting community of readers! A list of 2020 selections is available in the OSL Library.

## Warm up With a Good Book

Be sure to visit the snow and winter book and movie displays in the OSL Library. To make your selection easy, a large number of items are on separate displays, one for children and youth and one for adults.

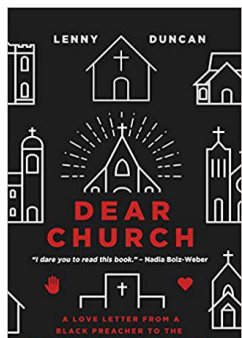


Photo by Gui Avelar on Unsplash



## New for Adults

***Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the***



***Whitest Denomination in the U.S.* by Lenny Duncan.** Lenny Duncan is the unlikeliest of pastors. Formerly incarcerated, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make all the headlines, but Duncan sees something else at work—drawing a direct line

between the church's lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. He discusses that the problems the ELCA faces are theological, not sociological, and so are the answers.

Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, *Dear Church* offers a bold new vision for the future of Duncan's denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. *Dear Church* rejects the narrative of church decline and calls everyone—leaders and laity alike—to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice.

It is time for the church to rise up, dust itself off, and take on forces of this world that act against God: whiteness, misogyny, nationalism, homophobia, and economic injustice. Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus.

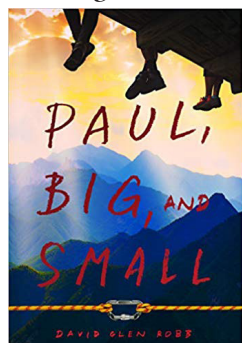
*Dear Church* also features a discussion guide at the back—perfect for church groups, book clubs, and other group discussion.

### Additional New Titles for Adults

- *The Woman I Was Before* by Kerry Fisher
- *Finding Chika* by Mitch Albom
- *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes

## New for Middle- and High-School Youth

***Paul, Big and Small* by David Glen Robb.** Paul Adams has always



been short, but he's an excellent rock climber and his small size means he can hide from the bullies that prowl the halls of his high school.

Top on his list of "People to Avoid" are Conor from his Language Arts class, Hunter, who hangs around the climbing gym, and Lily Small, who happens to be the tallest girl in school. He might be able to be friends with a new kid from Hawaii who insists that everyone call him "Big." He's got

a way of bringing everyone into his circle and finding the beauty in even the worst of situations.

When the three of them—Paul, Big, and Small—are assigned to the

same group project, they form an unlikely friendship. Paul realizes that maybe Lily isn't so bad after all. He might even actually like her and maybe even more than like her.

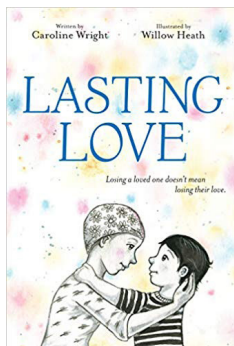
Paul and Lily team up for a rock-climbing competition, but when Lily is diagnosed with leukemia, Paul ends up with Conor on his team. When Paul learns that Conor is dealing with bullies of his own—as well as some deep emotional pain—he realizes that the bullying in his school has got to stop.

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

- *Guinness World Records 2020* by Guinness World Records
- *On the Come Up* by Angie Thomas
- *Wings of Fire: The Poison Jungle* by Tui Sutherland

## New Picture, Early Reader, and Chapter Books

***Lasting Love* by Tony DiTerlizzi.** When a family member or



other loved one becomes ill, one of the scariest aspects of their sickness is the way they may change, both physically and in spirit. The feeling of loss can come so early as the person becomes more difficult to recognize.

It's a hard thing for anyone to understand but especially for a child. This book offers a helpful visualization of a sick person's essence as a friendly creature who remains strong and warm, even as the illness progresses. The sick person

is always around and never tries to cheer up the child, but only serves to keep them company.

Caroline Wright and Willow Heath clearly understand that, like the sick person, a book cannot "fix" a painful situation or even make it a little better. Instead, the authors simply reflect the pain of loss back to the reader and help them understand that they are not alone.

### Additional New Picture Books

- *A Little Spot of Kindness* by Diane Alber
- *When Pencil Met Eraser* by Karen Kilpatrick and Luis O. Ramos Jr.

### New Early Reader Books

- *Old Friends, New Friends (Toy Story 4)* by Natasha Bouchard and Disney Storybook Art Team
- *Tyrannosaurus Rex* by Storybots

### New Chapter Books

- *A Dog Called Homeless* by Sarah Lean
- *Billy and the MiniMonsters: Monsters on the Loose* by Zanna Davidson



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## January 2020

### 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)

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[youtube.com/oslchurchsf](https://youtube.com/oslchurchsf)

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## Your Offering Makes a Difference

Your generosity is making a real difference in people's lives through the mission and ministry of OSL. Thank you for your faithful and passionate commitment to God's work through this congregation. Your generosity helps Our Savior's fully fund its ministry of connecting faith to everyday life.

### Ministry Support through November 30

	Annual Giving
Projected Contributions	\$1,969,580
Received YTD	\$1,646,949
Remaining	\$322,631
Projected YTD	\$1,781,510
Ahead/(Behind)	(\$133,561)