

The

intercom
In Church and Community



Ministry Spotlight – Youth & Family Ministry Pandemic Reveals Ministry Imagination By Melissa Nesdahl, Director of Faith Formation, and John Schomberg, Director of Youth Ministry



When COVID-19 first changed daily life, OSL Children's and Youth Ministries immediately began to reimagine ministry in a new landscape. We—Melissa Nesdahl, Director of Faith Formation, and John Schomberg,

Director of Youth Ministry—leaned into the Holy Spirit, recognizing that the traditional way of doing things is not the only way for meaningful ministry connection to occur.

Four OSL Children's milestones on the calendar were transformed in a meaningful way to ensure that students could celebrate as a family at home as well as be lifted up publicly in worship. The Pre-Kindergarten Walk with Jesus video was shown, thanks to OSL's TV Ministry. Fifth-graders received a Hello Faith box, inspired by Hello Fresh, that included all the items for their memento ball and caring conversation questions to walk through highlights of their faith journey, leading them to their upcoming OSL Youth experiences. A compilation video of the Lord's Prayer lifted up first-graders as leaders. And you, generous OSL members, graciously submitted

your favorite scripture verses via email to insert in Connect Bibles so third-grade students could feel remembered and wrapped in community even when physically distanced.



Understanding that parents were overwhelmed with a new distance-learning format for school, the team got to work creating ministry opportunities that students could enjoy independently or with their parent alongside. Matthew Tylutki, OSL Principal Organist, together with Rosie Linsner, the rotation Sunday School Music and Movement leader, brought to life Freddy the Flamingo, whom we've all come to adore. Freddy, who can be found on OSL's Facebook page every other Tuesday, teaches songs and actions utilized in worship so students can actively participate from home. Coupling with Matthew and Rosie's focus, Melissa introduced Thursday Faith Formation in the Home videos, which dig into a short scripture, spark wonder, and suggest an activity that connects students' faith to everyday life. Individuals have chalked their walk with faith messages, made bird feeders, painted their windows to look like stained glass, grown

Ministry Spotlight – OSL Youth & Family Ministry

grass out of their head like hair as one of God's people bringing the Kingdom of Heaven near, and more. Between Freddy's music and the story-plus-activity, every element of Sunday School was easily delivered into homes in a new fun and friendly way. Much to our joy, individuals of all ages connected to these opportunities.

Aware that we could use items from within our homes to lift up the Bible story, Melissa invited rotation students to Ministry Moments with Melissa. Using the story they were learning—Jesus Calming the Storm—students showed up on each other's screens, sharing their comfort items when life feels scary to them and discussing how Jesus loves each of us through all the storms of life, bringing calm to our hearts.

Zoom-ing in with the older kids became a meaningful connection. A fourth-grade small group continued to meet beyond the education year, lending itself to added biblical awareness. And, during an online mini-retreat, John invited fifth-grade students into middle-school youth group. Meeting online weekly with both middle-school and high-school students, John continued to innovate, finding games that could be played together from within their homes to maintain excitement while seamlessly weaving ways to discuss their experiences and stresses, and how they are feeling through this pandemic. From the computer screen, a safe space for

students to both share and find understanding emerged, congruent to that which they'd always felt in the Youth Room. Students logged on each week, eager to see their church family.



the broader church. They are using biblical encouragement, providing purpose, loving the neighbor, and nurturing confident faith inside homes that will have ripple effects for years to come.

As we move towards autumn, the OSL Youth and Children's team continues to be moved by the Spirit, inventing and dreaming and being excited about all that is to come. God is on the move, and we are delighted to be part of the unfolding story. ♦

In this time when there is so much we can't do, OSL Children's and Youth Ministries continue to reimagine and innovate. We continue to faithfully steward meaningful ministry for students, families, and

A celebratory graphic for OSL Game Night July 12. The background is purple with falling confetti. At the top, a white banner reads "OSL Game Night July 12". Below it, three purple podiums display the top teams. The first-place team, "Konznormous", is on the highest podium, wearing yellow circles with "hoo". The second-place team, "Nesdominators", is on the middle podium, wearing grey circles with "Ka". The third-place team, "Schomberg Girls", is on the lowest podium, wearing orange circles with "t!". Each podium shows the team's score and the number of players out of 39. Below the podiums, a dark purple banner reads "Runners-up". In the top right corner, a video call window shows several participants, including Paul Konz and Hrdlicka T.

Rank	Team	Score	Players
1st	Konznormous	41076	26 out of 39
2nd	Nesdominators	39424	28 out of 39
3rd	Schomberg Girls	37570	26 out of 39

Runners-up



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 *intercom* August 2020

In Church and Community

A Publication of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Worship Services

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

Sunday Morning

Celebrate Worship – 8:45 A.M., Celebrate Center

Festive Worship – 10:15 A.M., Sanctuary

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)

Facebook Live, 8:45 and 10:15 A.M.

Website: oslchurch.com

Social Media

twitter.com/oslchurchsf · facebook.com/oslchurchsf ·

youtube.com/oslchurchsf

Cover banner photo by Atte Grönlund on Unsplash • Offering plate photo via Backgrounddownload

Faithful, Hopeful, Loving Generosity

Your support of OSL's mission to proclaim Christ and nurture faith that connects to everyday life is life-changing, both for you and for those whom our ministry reaches. Thank you! May God bless your faithful, hopeful, loving generosity.

Ways to Give

First Fruits Giving –

electronic contributions

Text Giving – text *sharing* to
73256 and follow the link

My OSL – keep current, and
quickly set up scheduled and
one-time giving

Learn more at oslchurch.com/giving